

LEGION OF MARY

ARLINGTON REGIA

Maryland - North Carolina - Virginia - Washington, D.C. - West Virginia

1 April 2007

Dear Presidents of Attached Councils and Praesidia,

WORKING WITH CHILDREN AS A LEGION ASSIGNMENT


GENERAL: Each diocese/archdiocese has a program to protect children from sexual and other abuse. Many, if not all, of these programs require special training and a background investigation for all those who work with children. The various child protection programs have been in operation now for a couple years. Each parish has established procedures to insure that anyone involved with children in activities directly related to the parish, such as school teachers, coaches, CCD teachers, scout leaders, etc. are in compliance with the child protection program they are under. However, in many cases parishes do not monitor Legion of Mary activities as closely. There has been at least one instance where a junior praesidium was required to close for several months while the senior members came into compliance with the child protection program. This means officers from the praesidium on up, including me, were not doing their jobs.

This year, because there has now been sufficient time to become familiar with the requirement and because there is a need to focus attention at the level where compliance is necessary, the Regia will not require a report, but will hold each council president responsible for determining compliance by the council's attached praesidia and will hold all directly attached praesidia presidents responsible for determining compliance of their members who perform Legion work with children. While the president is responsible, this is a membership issue so it should be one of the duties of the vice president at each level.

ATTACHED COUNCILS: The best way to insure the compliance of attached elements is to make all attached elements aware of the requirement and identify who will be held responsible at each level. The best way to determine compliance is to make this a matter of review during visitations to attached curiae and praesidia, as the Arlington Regia will do on its visitations to councils. If a member, working with children as part of a Legion activity, is not in compliance, the member must cease such work immediately, and take immediate steps to get into compliance. At each parish there is one individual, frequently the parish secretary, who serves as central coordinator, and maintains a current certification list.

DIRECTLY ATTACHED PRAESIDIA: The president of each directly attached praesidium is responsible for determining compliance with the Diocese of Arlington child protection program (VIRTUS) for each member performing Legion work with children. The parish secretary will know who is in compliance or at least who knows who is in compliance. If a member, working with children as part of a Legion activity, is not in compliance, the member must cease such work immediately, and take immediate steps to get into compliance. This issue will be a matter of review during visitations by the Arlington Regia.

In the service of Our Lady,


Dennis G. Monroe
Regia President