

Arlington Senatus Meeting Newsletter



28th Arlington Senatus Meeting, January 4, 2026

All attached Councils: please distribute this newsletter to the officers in your attached Curia and Praesidia. Praesidia officers should send copies to all active legionary members.

I. Praesidium Reports

A. Our Lady Queen of Angels, Saint Michael Parish

1. Overview

- The Praesidium has eight active members and 69 auxiliary members.
- Attendance at weekly meetings is 81%.
- They have 69 auxiliary members, one is on probation, and seven are Adjutorian members.

2. Highlights

- Known Results: three marriage validations.
- They made 18 recruitment attempts for Active membership.
- Five members attended a Legion retreat; two attended other retreats.
- Four members consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary using the 33-Day De Montfort system.

3. Remarks from the Body

- Fr. Berghout is happy there is a Praesidium at Saint Michael's Parish.
- Br. Chris Revnek asked about reconsecration to the Sacred Heart. Br. Caruso explained that it is a renewal of a past consecration, signifying a fresh commitment to Christ's infinite love. Cardinal Burke strongly promotes devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, often linking it with consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
- Fr. Berghout really liked the Treasurer's report. You started with \$0 and are living with Divine Providence like Mother Teresa!

II. Council Reports

A. Fairfax Comitium

1. Overview

- They have 14 attached Senior Praesidia, one fewer than in their last report, and seven junior Praesidia, the same as their previous report.
- As of December 21, 2025, they have 227 (+42) active senior members and 24 (+5) probationary senior members, a total increase of 47 since their last report. They have 91 (-3) junior members, which represents a decline of 3 from their previous report. They have 25(- 2) members in the 18-40 age group, a decrease of 2.
- They have 1670 (+99) permanent auxiliary members, an increase of 99, and 342 (+1) probationary auxiliary members, for a total rise of 100 auxiliary members.
- The average attendance at their monthly Council meetings from July 22, 2025, to December 21, 2025, was 66% (down 2%) considering vacancies, and 50% (down 1%) excluding vacancies. This is below the previously reported attendance percentage.
- They have have three Patrician groups within the Comitium.
- One Curia reported that an attached Praesidium conducted an Exploratio Dominicalis, and another Curia reported that two Praesidia carried out Parish Evangelization Projects.
- There are 19 parishes in their area. Of these, 13 have a Legion presence. Six do not have an English-speaking Legion presence.

2. Highlights

- Known Results: Returns to the Church (4); Conversions (2); Marriage Validations (2); Baptisms (5); Reconciliation (1); Confirmations (17); First Communion (1); Returns to reception of Holy Eucharist (2)/
- **Shenandoah Curia, Our Lady of the Valley:**
 - A Muslim woman met during a visit is being catechized by Legionaries;
 - Four people are in OCIA, accompanied by Legionaries;
 - An Exploratio Dominicalis was held in Stephen's City;
 - Juniors perform skits about the Saints during nursing home visits, and a nurse there is returning to the church because of these visits;
 - The juniors also put up flyers for the Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart in local businesses that agree to.
- **West Virginia Curia, Mary Ark of the New Covenant:**
 - The Shenandoah Curia helped form their Curia at St. James the Greater Church in Charles Town, WV.
 - Two praesidia conducted PEPs.

- They held an Acies two months after establishing the Curia, with 55 Legion members attending.
- **Piedmont Curia, Our Lady Mystical Rose:**
 - Two praesidia conducted Exploratio Dominicalis;
 - Two praesidia conduct jail ministry;
 - Several praesidia are working with OCIA/OCIT candidates and classes.
- **Fairfax Comitium, Our Lady of the Rosary:**
 - One praesidium reported the conversion of a Hindu wife, which included a marriage validation, baptism, and the family's reception of the sacraments;
 - One praesidium organized three outreach events at fairs and outside a grocery store;
 - A staff member at a nursing home visited by an attached praesidium joined their work there and has become part of a young adult praesidium;
 - A praesidium reported a conversion that involved baptism, marriage validation, and a house blessing.
 - Another attached praesidium had members assist with extension for the Senatus and conduct officer training in Kentucky.

3. Remarks from the Body

- Sr. Earner congratulated the council on an excellent report and thanked Sr. Mary Bowes for her outstanding leadership. She commended their opening of a Curia in West Virginia.
- Sr. Earner said Saint James the Greater in Charles Town, West Virginia, is a terrific parish. Sr. Acosta noted after extension work at that parish, they opened two praesidia. The pastor provided great support.

B. Knoxville Curia

1. Overview

- Eight senior Praesidia, one fewer than in their previous report.
- Three junior Praesidia and no young adult Praesidia, same as the last report.
- As of December 21, 2025, they have 47 active senior members, unchanged from the last report; 4 probationary members (3 in Chattanooga and 1 in Knoxville), an increase of one; and 119 Auxiliary members, up by two. They have 44 junior members, up one from the previous report.
- There are no council officer vacancies. Four praesidia officer vacancies, which is two fewer than last time.
- The attendance of Curia officers at monthly meetings from May through December averages 80%, slightly down because data were collected over eight months instead of six. The Praesidia's average attendance for this

period is 81%, a slight increase from the last report. None (0) of their Praesidia conduct door-to-door visitation at least six months each year.

- The Knoxville Diocese includes fifty-one (51) parishes across 36 counties. Out of these, forty-four (44) have no Legion presence, a decrease of one since the last report.

2. Highlights

- Known Results: Returns to the Church (0); Conversions (0); Marriage Validations (0); Baptisms (0); Confirmations (4).
- Our Lady Mother of the Church praesidium in Chattanooga led a pilgrimage of eleven people to the Virgin of the Poor Shrine in New Hope, TN, in honor of the 2025 Year of Hope.
- The Swahili Praesidium, Our Lady of Kibeho, took part in the International Rosary at Holy Ghost Parish in Knoxville. They performed several songs in Swahili during the multilingual rosary for migrants and refugees.
- The Knoxville Curia held its first Congress October 18, 2025, at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Knoxville, TN. Thirty-four people attended. Everyone was invited to join the Curia meeting immediately afterward.

3. Remarks from the Body

- Fr. Berghout thanked Sr. Edwards and mentioned there are seven seminarians for the Diocese of Knoxville. Their Bishop, Most Reverend James Mark Beckman, is promoting a culture of vocations. He suggested that the Legion of Mary send a note to the diocesan vocation director and the Bishop, saying they will pray the rosary and incorporate our Marian spirituality for vocations to the priesthood.
- Sr. Earner congratulated Sr. Edwards and thanked her for her leadership, encouraged them to continue their good work in Knoxville, and expressed confidence they will grow.
- Sr. Moran congratulated them on an excellent report.
- Sr. Edwards said they are sending a list of all the parishes in their Diocese to their attached Praesidia and asking them to identify nearby parishes where they can approach the pastor about starting the Legion.
- Sr. Seggy asked Sr. Edwards to thank Fr. Orr as he has been so helpful and supportive of the LOM.

III. Allocutio

Fr. Peffley based his Allocutio on the reading on Spiritual Reading from the Legion of Mary handbook, Chapter 5, The Devotional Outlook of the Legion, #4 Mary, Our Mother.

Mary became our mother at the Annunciation when she said, “Yes!” to the Angel Gabriel. She became the Mother of God and of all of us. That was confirmed publicly at the crucifixion when Jesus said, “Woman, here is your son,” and to John, “Here is your mother.” When these words were spoken to Saint John, they were meant for all of us. Mary then became our spiritual Mother. The last paragraph states

that we must behave as Her children, dependent upon Her through our consecration, to be fed with the Eucharist, and to be guided by Her as the Mother of the Way, the Mother of the Truth, and the Mother of life. She teaches us, heals our ailments, consoles us in our grief, counsels us in our doubts, and calls us when we stray. Isn't that what the Legion does? We help bring people back to the sacraments, guide them back to church, teach them through OICA and catechism classes, comfort them in their ailments and grief, and perform other acts of spiritual mercy. Jesus is our Shepherd. There are many lost sheep out there. We are the best sheep dogs of the Church. Legionaries need to round up the lost sheep!

Fr. Peffley mentioned some helpful New Year's resolutions:

- Delve into the writings of Frank Duff: *Can We Be Saints?*, *Woman of Genesis*, *Victory through Mary*, *Walking with Mary*, *Mary Shall Reign*;
- Read *Frank Duff: Founder of the Legion of Mary* by Fr. Robert Bradford;
- Read about Edel Quinn: *Venerable Edel Quinn* by Leon-Joseph Cardinal Suenens. Fr. Peffley mentioned that his mother wrote a short book about her called *Woman of Faith: The Life of Edel Quinn* by Mary Peffley;
- Read about Alfie Lambe: *Alfie Lambe, Envoy Extraordinary*, by Hilda Firtel. He was a genius on extension work so pray to him when setting up new Praesidia;
- Read about Fr. Aedan McGrath: *Perseverance Through Faith: A Priest's Prison Story*;
- Keep reading the Legion of Mary Handbook;
- Do a Holy Hour;
- Go to Adoration;
- Learn and strive to do *The True Devotion to Mary*;
- Check out Fr. Peffley's website for talks from Fr. Aedan McGarth, Fr. Robert Bradshaw, Canon Francis Ripley;
- Consider Praetorian membership;
- Meditate on the Legion Promise. Cardinal Léon Joseph Suenens wrote the definitive book on the Legion of Mary Promise, titled *Theology of the Apostolate*;
- Subscribe to *Mariae Legionis*;
- Attend a Legion retreat this year or a day of recollection;
- Consider going on a PPC for a week or an Exploratio Dominicalis;
- Consider going to Ireland in September with Fr. Berghout, Deacon Gerard Anthony and other legionaries.

IV. Other Business

A. Acies

- March 24, 2026, at Queen of the Apostles Parish at 11:00 AM. Arrive with the Praesidium flag at 10:30 AM. The ceremony will start promptly at 11:00 AM, followed by the luncheon. Please bring an entrée or sides to share.

B. Bishop Reports to Councils

- Due February 1, 2026

C. Senatus Retreat

- Loyola on the Potomac Retreat Center, 9270 Loyola Retreat Road, Faulkner, MD 20632, March 27-29, 2026. \$275.00 per person, registration deadline is March 1, 2026.

V. Upcoming Schedule

- NEXT SENATUS MEETING: Sunday, February 1, 2026, at 2:00 PM
- HOST PRAESIDIUM: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium (Saint John the Beloved Parish)
- PRAESIDIUM REPORT: Our Lady of the Holy Rosary (Saint Rita Parish)
- COUNCIL REPORTS: Korean Fairfax Comitium, Washington Comitium

May God continue to bless you for your work on behalf of Our Lady,

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