

Arlington Senatus Meeting Newsletter



29th Arlington Senatus Meeting, February 1, 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 of the Holy Rosary (Saint Rita Parish)

- **Overview**
 - The Praesidium has four active members, two in the 18-40 age group
 - They have 36 auxiliary members, including five adjutorians
 - Attendance at weekly meetings is 84.8%.
- **Highlights**
 - Two members helped at the Arlington County Fair Legion of Mary booth, making 13 contacts and giving out five miraculous medals and two rosaries.
 - Mary's birthday celebration was a success with 22 attendees. They made two new contacts for active membership at the event.
 - They continued reading and discussing the book *The Real Presence* as their Work of Study.
 - They had a successful Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Hope Church with Our Lady of Hope Praesidium, with two active and one auxiliary member in attendance.
- **Remarks from the Body**
 - Sr. Earner commended them for great work despite having only two members for part of the year. She noted that after Br. Beau Lovdahl decided to transfer to the praesidia, they gained two more members.

- Fr. Berghout asked why they spent \$50 on the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Hope. Sr. Moran said that the money was a donation for the Priests who were present. Sr. Moran said that they also bought junior legionaries from both Saint Rita Parish and the Basilica of Saint Mary Parish to that event.
- Sr. Emily congratulated them on updating their auxiliary membership list. Sr. Moran said that Br. Beau Lovdahl will soon be their Vice President and she wanted to give him an accurate list – it is still a work in progress.

II. Council Reports

A. Korean Fairfax Comitium

- **Overview**
 - They have eight directly attached senior praesidia, and five attached curiae:
 - Mother of Grace Curia Fairfax, VA
 - 10 Praesidia.
 - Mother of God Curia, Fairfax, VA
 - 11 Praesidia
 - Mother of Christ Curia, Richmond, VA
 - 4 Praesidia
 - Mother of Love Curia, Raleigh, NC
 - 4 Praesidia
 - Mother of Martyrs Curia, Charlotte, NC
 - 4 Praesidia
 - There are a total of 41 praesidia in the Comitium, with 365 senior members (decrease of 6) and 545 auxiliary members (increase of 15).
 - The average attendance at their monthly Council meetings was 78% (down 2%).
 - They draw members from one parish in Fairfax, and one in Richmond, Virginia. They draw from two parishes in Raleigh and Charlotte, North Carolina.
- **Highlights**
 - Their spiritual director has designated the Comitium to support the beatification and canonization of Rev. Thomas Choi (the second priest in the history of the Korean Catholic Church) and to pray for their seminarians (Saint Paul Chung Parish has 2 seminarians). He also wants all members to pray the rosary.
 - The Comitium achieved their attendance goal at their weekly meetings of 75%.
 - They continue to hold an annual “New Member Orientation.”
- **Remarks from the Body**
 - Sr. Pierson congratulated them on their report.
 - Br. Matthew Wooten asked about door-to-door visitation. Br. Bae said it is y difficult to assign door-to-door work in their Comitium because for many

members, English is not their first language. Instead, they encounter non-Catholic Koreans in their community and workplaces, but it is person-to-person.

- Br. Cajethan asked about assigning work at funerals. Br. Bae explained that a Catholic funeral involves key components and is a three-day process. At the funeral Mass, they recite The Prayer for the Dead, which reflects a distinctive Catholic tradition where family and community members gather to sing hymns and pray for the soul of the deceased. Legionaries help facilitate the many traditions associated with the funeral ceremony.
- Sr. Earner asked about the 21 Baptisms and whether they brought them into the Church or helped with preparation. Br. Bae said they helped them during the months before the Baptism. Sr. Cholina Donovan asked if they provide the education or if it is the parish. Br. Bae said the parish provides the education, and the legionaries are assigned to follow the individuals (adults) during the months leading up to their Baptism, contacting, encouraging, and informing the candidate about their Church.

III. Allocutio

Fr. Peffley based his Allocutio on the Spiritual Reading from the Legion of Mary handbook, *The Mystical Home at Nazareth*.

The *Mystical Home at Nazareth* fits well because February is the month of the Holy Family. In our Catholic faith, each month has a different theme. January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which we celebrate on the 8th day when Jesus was circumcised. February is dedicated to the Holy Family, as we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation on February 2nd. March focuses on Saint Joseph, with his feast day on March 19th. Legionaries should promote these monthly themes in their work. April honors the Holy Eucharist, linked to Easter. May celebrates Our Blessed Mother. June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart. July focuses on the Precious Blood. September is the month of Our Lady of Sorrow, with her feast day on September 15th. October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, celebrated on October 13th as the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. November is the month of the Poor Souls in Purgatory. The month of December is the Immaculate Conception.

Every Praesidium meeting should resemble the house of Nazareth. Officers must promote the spirit of Nazareth by ensuring that the values of the Holy Family are present, such as charity during meetings, kindness, and thoughtfulness. We need to be patient with each other and show forgiveness. Every Praesidium meeting should reflect the Holy Family. We know the Holy Family was a poor family, but their furnishings were of good quality, and their house was well-kept by Mother Mary. Our Praesidium supplies should be kept in good condition, including the tablecloths, candlesticks, vases, and most importantly, the statue of Our Lady of Grace. Always think of Our Lady and how she would care for Her home—neat, clean, and organized.

IV. Other Business

A. Senatus Website

- After a spirited discussion, the body voted to approve the revitalization of the website for \$4,500. At the meeting, the Board explained that they had been in touch with Sophia Lebano LLC who has significant experience designing websites for Catholic organizations. The Board also explained that the \$4500 fee included training for Board members and that Sophia would be available after the initial setup and training on an as-needed basis for \$75/hour. After the meeting, the Board decided that, although the vote passed, because several members expressed concerns, the project should be paused. The Board has decided to give members who wish to be heard on this subject an opportunity to make comments directly to the Board, and the Board created an ad hoc committee with several members from the body. The status of this project will be finalized at the March Senatus meeting.

B. Acies

- **March 21, 2026**, at Queen of the Apostles Parish at 11:00 AM. (**NOTE THAT THE DATE IN THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER – MARCH 24 – WAS INCORRECT.**) 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.

C. Bishop Reports to Councils

- Were due February 1, 2026; please ensure to get your report to your Council if you have not yet done so.

D. 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, March 1, 2026, at 2:00 PM
- HOST PRAESIDIUM: Mother of Divine Grace (Our Lady of Lourdes Parish)
- PRAESIDIUM REPORTS: Our Lady of Presentation
- COUNCIL REPORT: Potomac Comitium, Baltimore Comitium, Washington Comitium

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

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