

# Arlington Senatus Meeting Newsletter



## 26<sup>th</sup> Arlington Senatus Meeting, November 2, 2025

**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.

### Annual Praesidium Report: Our Lady of Mercy

#### Saint Agnes Parish

**Overview:** They have nine active permanent members, two active probationary members, and four active Praetorian members. Their two active probationary members hope to take their Promise in January 2026. They have one active member in the 18-40 age group. Since their last report, they gained two and lost two active members. They also have 76 permanent auxiliary members, two probationary auxiliary members, and four Adjutorian members. They gained six auxiliary members who became permanent and lost 20 auxiliaries (becoming active: 0, transferred to presidiums: 1, moved: 13, died: 2, left the Legion: 4). Attendance at weekly meetings is 77%. They have seven active and two auxiliary members at the Acies. They conducted five recruiting drives at their parish and made 150 recruitment attempts for active members.

**Highlights:** A lapsed Catholic who had been away from the Church for 40 years received last rites shortly before his death at the urging of an active member. Another person, after guidance from two active members, has returned to the Church and committed to having his marriage validated.

Seven members attended a Legion retreat, one attended a different retreat, and two dedicated themselves to Jesus through Mary using the DeMontfort system.

They regularly promote Legion events in the St. Agnes Church Bulletin, and one member ensures that a QR code appears in the bulletin each month so parishioners can sign up for the Pilgrim Virgin using their smartphones.

**Remarks from the Body:** Sr. Vivian Moran said it was a wonderful report and thanked them for achieving most of their goals. Br. Chris Revak had a question about the Pilgrim Virgin Visits. He asked if the sign-ups come from word of mouth and/or how they get the word out about hosting the statue at people's homes. He was told that they had sign-up sheets in the vestibule of the church. Whenever they have a parish event, they make the sign-up sheets available. Br. Revak asked if they often have weeks

with no scheduled visits. Sr. Sault said they do not – all 52 weeks of the year are booked. Sr. Earner congratulated them on their known results, especially the lapsed Catholic who was away from the Church for 40 years, and Legionaries ensured he received the Sacrament of the Sick before he passed. She said, “That is great Legionary work. Thank you!” Fr. Kluge stated that on top of page 2 of their report, it states that the recruiting attempts for active members were 150, and at the bottom of page 3, it states that the recruiting attempts for active members were 200. Br. Dugan said that page 3 was a typo and page 2 was accurate with 150 recruiting attempts for active membership. Fr. Kluge also asked about their Pilgrim Virgin work. He said, “On page 2 under Assigned Work they have listed that this work is done 3 times a month. Yet under Work Statistics, they list 52 home visits/set-ups.” He was told that with 52 home visits, it sounds like they are doing this work every week. Sr. Sault said that the Farewell and the Welcome visits count as two home visits when this work is done. Sr. Sault also mentioned that she and her husband, Br. Ken Sault, are the custodians of the Praesidium’s PV Statue. Sr. Earner said she heard that this Praesidium’s statue is one of the most beautiful. The late Br. Frenchie Lesparance bought their statue in Fatima for the Praesidium many years ago.

### **Biannual Council Report: Tidewater Comitum**

**Overview:** They have 8 Senior Praesidia and 1 Curia with 10 Praesidia, bringing the total number of Praesidia to 18, consistent with the last report. They have 1 junior Praesidium and no Young Adult Praesidia, matching the previous report. As of April 2024, the Comitum has 101 Senior members, an increase of 52 since the last report, due to sending several Praesidia to the Richmond Curia. It also has 9 Junior members, a decrease of 5 since the last report. Richmond has 75 Senior members, an increase of 48, and no Junior members, the same as the previous report. The Comitum has no vacancies for council officers, same as the last report, but has 1 Praesidium officer vacancy, a decrease of 1. Richmond has no council officer vacancies, a decrease of 1, and 12 Praesidium officer vacancies, an increase of 3. They have 37 members in the 18-40 age group, an increase of 4 since the last report. Richmond has 2 members in that age group, an increase of 2. The total auxiliary members number 1,041, a decrease of 2 since the last report. Richmond has 616 auxiliary members, an increase of 229. The average attendance at Council meetings is 78.46% without vacancies and 74.31% with vacancies. At the Richmond Curia, meetings average 67.1% attendance (up from 58.8%) without vacancies and 44.8% (up from 36.7%) with vacancies. There is one Patricians group in the Comitum, the same as the last report. Since the last report, nine Praesidia conducted an Exploratio Dominicalis, and none conducted a parish Evangelization Day. Two of the nine Praesidia conduct door-to-door visits for at least six months each year. One of the 10 Praesidia in the Richmond Curia also does door-to-door visits for at least six months annually. They are considering establishing a Praesidium at Norfolk Naval Base, but the contract status of Chaplain Fr. Kevin Fimian is uncertain. Officers from other parishes are willing to serve as officers for the new Praesidium. An active member at St. Mary’s Basilica in Norfolk, who recently took his promise, has discussed starting an extension there. They have conducted three Exploratio Dominicalis for Sacred Heart in Norfolk, Blessed Sacrament in Norfolk, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Newport News. The Richmond Curia plans to conduct an Exploratio Dominicalis at St. Edward’s in Richmond. They hope these efforts will increase Legion interest among pastors. They sent a letter to Holy Family in Virginia Beach, and Legionaries are eager to start there. Finally, they have initiated a junior extension at Christ the King in Norfolk, which we hope will soon be ratified as another Praesidium. Overall, representatives from the Tidewater Comitum and Richmond Curia met with Bishop Knestout, who was very supportive

of the Legion's work. They attempted to attend the diocese's priestly convocation but were denied; they will try again next year. They attended Catholic Fest in Richmond and set up a Legion of Mary table, engaging many people about the Legion. They also discussed hosting a dinner for priests sponsored by the Legion of Mary.

**Highlights:** Forty-five senior legionaries and one junior legionary led a workshop for legionaries in northern Kentucky in July. Our former spiritual director has established several praesidia, and he invited us to provide a training session and guide legionaries on how to conduct crowd contact. We began with a ninety-minute training session. Afterwards, we split into four groups that spread out across the area. We attended two parish festivals and two other busy locations, handing out rosaries, miraculous medals, and inviting people to learn more about the Legion and the Catholic faith. We made hundreds of Catholic and non-Catholic contacts and informed dozens of people about the Legion of Mary. We continue to stay in touch and support the legionaries from northern Kentucky as they work to start a Curia.

Their first Comitium-sponsored retreat was a success. Fr. Carney led a retreat on the Holy Face, with about 150 attendees. A week before the retreat, five teams of legionaries knocked on roughly 140 doors in Newport News and distributed information about the nearby parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which currently does not have a Legion presence. They hope this effort will plant a seed that grows into a praesidium there. The spiritual directors and presidents of the Tidewater Comitium and Richmond Curia presented this year's *Bishop's Report* to their diocesan bishop, Bishop Barry Knestout. This was the first in-person meeting with Bishop Knestout, representing the Tidewater Comitium, and he was very supportive of their efforts. They shared their desire to expand into other parishes and discussed ways to improve outreach and inform priests about the Legion. Although they couldn't attend this year's priestly convocation, they hope to participate next year and to speak with the diocesan seminarians at some point this upcoming year.

The Legion of Mary attended the Diocese of Richmond's Catholic-Fest held at Diamond in Richmond. Hundreds of Catholics took part in the event, which featured Mass and adoration led by Bishop Knestout. The Legion reserved a vendor table, with about 15 active legionaries working there, and made hundreds of contacts throughout the day. At the table, they shared information about the Legion of Mary and other Catholic materials. They also spoke with several non-Catholics about the Catholic Church. They hope this will boost interest in the Legion and among both active and auxiliary members.

A Praesidium visited 140 stores in Chesapeake, handing out 5x7-inch window stickers that say, "June the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ." During the visit, they shared information about the Catholic Church and invited people to their parish.

**Remarks from the Body:** Sr. Earner stated they delivered an excellent report and thanked everyone for traveling such a long distance to attend the meeting. She expressed gratitude for all the help provided in Northern Kentucky in assisting Fr. Kluge with the extension work. She inquired whether their Holy Face

Retreat was a one-day or a weekend event, and she was told it was a two-day "commuter" retreat. Br. Scheerbaum introduced Sr. Gia Coz, who traveled with the officers to the Senatus. She played a key role in helping organize the retreat.

Br. Scheerbaum shared two handouts with the officers at the meeting, produced by their Comitium, which are currently being used in their council. One is a trifold titled “The Legion of Mary – Overview, Potential Works, and Membership,” and the other is a letter they send to pastors who currently do not have a Praesidium in their parish. The letter explains why a priest would want the Legion of Mary in their parish and outlines steps to establish a Praesidium there. Sr. Earner thanked Br. Scheerbaum for the copies he distributed and asked if he could also send the handouts electronically for broader sharing. He agreed to do so. Br. Scheerbaum explained that there is very little Legion presence across their Diocese, so the trifold and the letter are helpful tools for quickly raising awareness and planting seeds with people and priests who might not be familiar with the Legion.

Sr. Earner also congratulated them on securing a meeting with their Bishop. Fr. Peffley mentioned that he was in seminary with Bishop Knestout. Although a year or two ahead of Fr. Peffley, he said Bishop Knestout was part of their seminary Praesidium at Mount Saint Mary’s and is very Marian. Br. Scheerbaum recalled meeting him shortly after Charlie Kirk’s assassination. Bishop Knestout referenced Charlie Kirk, noting that he reached out to people who did not necessarily agree with him. The Bishop suggested that the Legion sometimes plays a similar role by entering hostile areas to defend the Faith, such as speaking on college campuses.

### **Allocutio**

Fr. Peffley based his Allocutio on the reading 'The Legion must direct itself to the individual Soul' from the Legion of Mary handbook, Chapter 40, #2.

It is now November -- one of the best things about the first few days of November is that Halloween candy is 50% off!

Clearly, the most important days are All Saints and All Souls Day. The handbook states that the legionary must focus on each individual soul. This chapter serves as a complete Allocutio on its own. It is the only full Allocutio recorded in the Legion handbook. It was written by Fr. Michael Creedon, the first Spiritual Director of the Concilium in Dublin. Frank Duff was probably so impressed by Fr. Creedon’s Allocutio that he included it in the handbook. Fr. Creedon emphasizes that we must focus on each person. Jesus Christ died and shed His blood for everyone. Every person is worth the blood of God. That is the cost of our salvation, so as legionaries, we reach out to individuals. Other groups also do great work. For example, EWTN promotes Masses and broadcasts on TV and radio. There are Catholic YouTube channels that spread the faith. These are effective ways to reach souls today. Still, as legionaries, we engage with individual souls—whether door-to-door, through the Pilgrim Virgin, crowd contact, visiting prisons, or home visits. Fr. Creedon states there is always work to do. Even doing a small act of charity or evangelization can make a big difference. Teach a child their prayers and bless themselves. Reach out and pray with people in infirmaries. Pope Pius X said that if you really want to change the world, teach a catechism class. This section says that if you strike a deep blow to the machinery of evil, there will be falling and then rising again. It says to spread abroad the reign of the sacraments and popular devotions, and sin will melt away before you. The world often deals with crowds, categories, or causes, but Our Lady looks upon persons. Her gaze rests not on multitudes but on everyone—on Jesus in His hidden life, on the apostles, on the poor and forgotten. In imitation of her, our Legion must learn to see as she sees: to listen, to love, and to work patiently for one soul at a time. The

Handbook reminds us that “the individual soul is of infinite value.” Therefore, no contact is too small, no conversation too brief, no person too insignificant. A quiet visit, a single rosary shared, a gentle word of encouragement, these may be the tools by which Mary wins back a soul to her Son. As legionaries, let us not focus on counting our works but on loving our souls—each one entrusted to us. In every person, we encounter Christ, who thirsts for love, and through every act of charity, we bring a soul closer to heaven. Let us help get babies baptized, marriages blessed, promote sacramentals, and the Holy Rosary. Let us teach people to pray the rosary and distribute Brown Scapulars.

Additionally, let us conduct Enthronements of the Sacred Heart in homes. Fr. Creedon states that when a home is enthroned, it secures the day and receives great grace. Many people are converted to the Faith and return to the Catholic Church because they meet good people. Holy individuals act as instruments in others' lives. Sharing stories about saints and taking people to sacred sites—such as pilgrimages to Lourdes, Fatima, and Knock—are powerful ways to influence others. Let us follow Fr. Creedon’s advice and promote the spread of the sacraments, popular devotions, and sacramentals.

“In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!”

### **Senatus Old Business/New Business**

- **International Week of Prayer and Fasting Event:**

- Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception 400 Michigan Ave., NE Washington, DC 20017 Saturday, November 15, 2025, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Cardinal Cimoni will not be able to attend as he will not be able to travel to the U.S. at that time.

- **Frank Duff Mass:** This will be held on November 7 at St. Michael Catholic Church, 7401 St. Michael Lane, Annandale, VA 22003, beginning at 6:30 with the Rosary. Please bring a dish to share, either an entrée or a side dish that feeds 12. Fr. Peffley, Fr. Melmer, and Deacon Gerard Anthony will lead. Sr. Vivian Moran will check with Fr. Berghout, as he has not confirmed yet.

- **Annual Reunion:** December 6th, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Edel Quinn House. Please bring a dish to share and plan to attend. Last year, we had very low attendance.

- **Pilgrimage to Ireland including Legion of Mary Sites:** Sr. Margie Melquist was pleased to announce that a 10-day pilgrimage to Ireland will take place from September 17 to 26, 2026. She said this trip is open to all legionaries (active, auxiliary), their spouses or family members, and non-legionaries. Please spread the word. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. She brought flyers with more information for the meeting. She also mentioned that she attended the Philadelphia Senatus LOM Retreat at Malvern and promoted the pilgrimage there, which already generated some interest. She said it will be fun and spiritual.

- NAWAS International Travel, Inc. set up the arrangements. Fr. Peffley has utilized this travel group for many years, consistently receiving good service.
- Daily bilingual Mass.

- Dublin, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Galway, Connemara, Knock □ Hosted by Fr. Paul Berghout and Deacon Gerard-Marie Anthony (Spiritual Directors for the Legion of Mary) under the Arlington Senatus, VA
  - \$4399 FROM WASHINGTON, DC (Air/land tour price is \$3859 plus \$540 gov't taxes/airline surcharges)
  - Please complete the registration form and submit a \$600 deposit to secure your place. Please submit your completed registration and deposit to either Sr. Melquist, Fr. Berghout, or Deacon Anthony.
- **Pole Barn Update:** Sr. Judy Mayer provided a report. Sr. Seggy Acosta has given copies of the HTJP construction letter (“barn raising” etc., to hold 160 people) to Sr. Virginia Pierson for distribution at the November meeting. HTJP is seeking donations, not the Legion of Mary. They have contracted with a local quarry willing to donate gravel. The quarry representative suggested a nearby location to obtain free cement. Sr. Acosta will follow up after visiting her daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren. Br. Leo Acosta and Br. Nathan will mow the area to prepare for marking the footer and slab positions. Legionaries with construction experience are needed – PLEASE! If any legionaries know how to operate a mini excavator, please contact Sr. Acosta. Sr. Acosta recently visited Prince William County Government to obtain a building permit. Please pray for this effort!
  - **Recruitment Drive:** Sr. Rosita Quixote announced that Saint Ann Catholic Church (Our Lady of the Presentation Praesidium) will hold a Legion of Mary Recruitment Drive on November 15 and 16. The address is 5300 10th St N., Arlington, VA 22205. Mass times: Saturday at 5:30 pm Vigil; Sunday at 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am; and a Spanish Mass at 1:30 pm. Please contact Rosita Quixote by leaving a message on her phone if you can assist this Praesidium. Cell (703) 344-3603. This Praesidium has been struggling for several years, with three elderly members who need assistance. Helping with recruitment drives is a Legion work assignment that can be assigned at your weekly meeting, so consider volunteering. Sr. Earner said she will create a flyer, and the Senatus will send it to all attached Praesidia. She mentioned it would be a work assignment. Please assign members to support this effort.

### **Announcement Before Concluding Prayers:**

Fr. Peffley said that last week, he and Fr. Mauricio led a bilingual retreat for the Philadelphia Senatus at Malvern Retreat House in Malvern, Pennsylvania. He mentioned that his four conferences are available on his YouTube channel. These include a talk on the Life of Saint Louis DeMontfort and the Spirituality of True Devotion, a talk on Frank Duff, a talk on Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe, and finally, a talk on The Legion as a Vocation or Way of Life. He said he will send the link to Sr. Pierson and Sr. Acosta. The recent retreat marked the 50th Legion of Mary Retreat at Malvern. Fr. Peffley asked Fr. Kluge to share a bit about his work, Sensus Fidelium, and the significance of the Legion of Mary. Fr. Kluge has YouTube talks on this topic. If you go to YouTube and search for Sensus Fidelium Homilies, you'll be able to listen to Fr. Kluge's talks. He said the following:

Sensus Fidelium is a Latin phrase meaning “the sense of the faithful.” The concept originates from early Church tradition and was reaffirmed in the Second Vatican Council (*Lumen Gentium*). “The whole body of the faithful... cannot err in matters of belief. They demonstrate this special quality through the collective supernatural discernment of the entire community in faith, especially when... they show universal agreement in matters of faith and morals.”

In simpler terms, it means that:

- The Holy Spirit guides the entire Church.
- The faithful as a whole share a kind of spiritual instinct that helps preserve true doctrine.

This doesn't mean that the majority opinion is the truth; instead, it's about a deep, Spirit-guided understanding and consensus that transcends time and space.

Fr. Kluge said he will return next month for the December Senatus meeting with at least nine new officers. He asked for continued prayers for the Legion in Northern Kentucky. He mentioned that starting is tough and that you often must ask some people repeatedly. He encouraged them to ask the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother to touch their hearts so they understand the importance of the Legion of Mary and what it can accomplish, it's vital for their lives and for the Church.

Upcoming Schedule:

- **NEXT SENATUS MEETING:** Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 2:00 PM
- **HOST PRAESIDIUM:** Our Lady of the Holy Rosary (Saint Rita Parish)
- **PRAESIDIUM REPORTS:** Mary, Mother of Mercy Jr., Immaculate Conception Jr.
- **COUNCIL REPORT:** Hispanic Prince William

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

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