

# Arlington Senatus Meeting Newsletter



## 27<sup>th</sup> Arlington Senatus Meeting, December 4, 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.

### I. Praesidium Reports

#### A. Mary, Mother of Mercy Jr.. Basilica of Saint Mary

##### 1. Overview

- They have eight junior legionaries, with six members aged 12 and under and two members older than 12. They also have two senior legionaries.
- Attendance at weekly meetings is 84%.
- They have five auxiliary members, four permanent and one probationary. They regularly contact their auxiliaries

##### 2. Highlights

- The juniors have been making rosaries and enjoying it.
- Four of the members are altar servers and enjoy serving at Mass. Two of their members served Mass with the Bishop.
- One member submitted an entry to *Maria Legionis* magazine about hosting the Pilgrim Virgin Statue. Her submission will be published in the February 2026 issue.

##### 3. Remarks from the Body

- Sr. Moran congratulated Sr. Villar Tayrani, Br. Joseph, and Br. Patrick for attending the meeting. She also congratulated Sr. Edith for her submission to the *Maria Legionis*.
- Sr. Melquist remarked that she also leads a Junior Praesidium. She thanked them for choosing to say, "Yes, as Mary said, Her yes," and praised their effort to spread that energy, love, and devotion among their friends and classmates.
- Br. Byrnes thanked the Praesidium for their report. He said that we are reminded in the Handbook by Frank Duff that we are supposed to give a

clear and audible report, and that, especially for the Junior members, their report was read clearly.

- Sr. Salgado asked the Juniors what they like about being in the Legion of Mary. Br. Patrick said, “It is very good. It gives me so much peace. It is worth the time I put into it. When we visit people, they thank us, and that feels good. Receiving the thank you is payment.” Br. Joseph said, “I agree with him. I also think it is wonderful to see how people appreciate the services that we do.

## **B. Immaculate Conception Jr., Saint Rita Parish**

### **1. Overview**

- Their Spiritual Director is Fr. Nicholas Schierer.
- They have two senior legionaries and four junior legionaries. All four juniors are under age 12. They gained two and lost three active members since their last report.
- Attendance at the weekly meeting is 95%, which is 7% higher than in their previous report.
- They had 18 auxiliary members, all of whom are now permanent. They have zero probationary or adjutorian members.
- During this reporting period, all auxiliaries were contacted.
- They have no tangible results.

### **2. Highlights**

- The juniors renewed or made their first Consecration to Jesus through Mary on December 5, 2024, which they will renew on December 4, 2025, before our meeting.
- The juniors enjoy visiting and praying with the residents of the nursing home. They sang Christmas Carols to residents in their rooms at the nursing home in December 2024. Many former juniors came back to do this event. The Juniors will go back again this month for Christmas Carols.
- The juniors enjoyed making Valentine cards and handing them out to the residents of the nursing home on February 13, 2025.
- The juniors celebrated Mary’s birthday after the 5pm Mass on Saturday, September 6th, in the school hall. About 25 people attended. The event was hosted by Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Sr. Praesidium and Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Jr. Praesidium at St. Rita.

### **3. Remarks from the Body**

- Fr. Kluge congratulated them on completing their first Consecration to Jesus through Mary and asked if they used a specific book or materials. Sr. Moran said she uses the book Marian Consecration for Children: Bringing Mary to Life in Young Hearts and Mind by Carrie Gress. Sr. Acosta noted that another book was recently released: Child Consecration to Jesus Through

Mary, Following the Spirit of St. Thérèse, the Little Flower, by Blythe Marie Kaufman.

- Br. Abraham Bell asked if they would do the Consecration during the meeting. Sr. Moran said that it is part of the meeting as a spiritual reading after the Allocutio, and some do it at home.

## II. Council Reports

### A. Prince William Hispanic Comitium, Mary Queen of All Saints

#### 1. Overview

- During this reporting period, they have 6 attached adult Praesidia and 5 Curiae, matching the number from the previous report. All attached Praesidia are still working to establish more Junior Praesidia so they can be affiliated with the new Junior Curia.
- As of November 30th, 2025, they have 55 senior active members under the Comitium, which is a decrease of seven members since their last report.
- They have no vacancies for Council officers; however, they do have three vacancies for Praesidia officers.
- Seven active members are in the 18-40 age group, a decrease of eight members since our last report. They also have a total of 230 auxiliary members, an increase of 18 since their previous report.
- The average attendance at their Council meetings is 62.74% without vacancies and 56.44% with vacancies.

#### 2. Highlights

- Extension efforts are still scheduled for St. Stephen the Martyr, Middleburg, and St. Veronica, Chantilly.
- Known results: Returns to the Church (58); Conversions (22); Marriage Validations (15); Baptisms (30); Confirmations (101); First Communion (63).
- They remain dedicated to promoting and increasing subscriptions to the Spanish edition of *Maria Legionis* magazine for a second year.
- They held a number of events this year, including:
  - July: workshop on different apostolic works in the Legion;
  - August: led our Legionaries on a pilgrimage to the Saint John Paul II Shrine Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year. About 130 Legionaries attended.
  - October: 48-hour Holy Rosary Marathon. From the vigil of Halloween through All Souls' Day (October 31–November 2), their councils united all Praesidia in a continuous 48-hour chain of prayer;
  - November Pilgrimage to St. John the Evangelist Church in Warrenton Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year. About 100 Legionaries and their families attended.
  - November: supported the International Week of praying and Fasting with multicultural Rosary and procession.

- During a door-to-door assignment, a woman whose son had leukemia was given the Pilgrim Virgin. A parish priest went to the house, heard his confession, and administered Holy Communion. The young man eventually decided to undergo chemotherapy. After returning home, he received follow-up visits. He expressed gratitude for a second chance and now attends Mass more frequently, and continues to pray for his health.
- A Praesidium brought the Pilgrim Virgin to a two-family home. The wife and children from one of the families were present at the ceremony. The team realized that during the ceremony, the husband was in the basement listening to what was being said behind the door. The husband told his cousin that he had enjoyed the visit and decided to go to confession and receive Holy Communion. He now attends mass regularly, especially after his daughter made her First Communion.

### **3. Remarks from the Body**

- Sr. Earner thanked them and commented that their highlights and known results were incredible. She commended them for their continued help with the Praesidium in Charlottesville and she thanked Sr. Melquist for all she does for the Legion.
- Sr. Moran congratulated them for only having one vacancy in their attached council and remarked that it was wonderful to see so many legionaries from the Hispanic Prince William Comitium at the Malvern retreat.
- Sr. Melquist remarked on the extension efforts at Charlottesville noting they included a Columban Drive. Fr. Peffley explained: A Columban Drive is an intensive membership recruitment campaign for the Legion of Mary, named after the Columban Fathers. During a drive, Legionaries collect names and contact info from interested parishioners (often using cards in pews) and then visit those contacts to invite them to meetings for prayer and apostolic work like. Fr. Aidan McGrath was a Columban missionary and he and other missionaries went to recruiting drives at parishes for Masses and give the talks.
- Sr. Melquist also requested prayers for members impacted by the current political issues surrounding immigration.
- Fr. Berghout said yesterday, December 6 was the Annual Reunion for the Hispanic Potomac Curia and they had 200 people in attendance.
- Br. Chris Byrnes congratulated them on their marathon of prayers, and he wondered if there is an opportunity for recruitment at University of Virginia.

## **B. Baltimore Comitium, Our Lady of the Assumption**

### **1. Overview**

- There are 12 Senior Praesidia attached, unchanged since the last report. One Praesidium was suspended but is expected to restart within a month. They

are working to add one new Praesidium. They also have 2 attached junior Praesidia with a total of 12 junior members.

- As of November 16, 2025, there are 103 Senior members, a decrease of 9 since the previous report, and 12 Junior members, a decrease of 17.
- They report no council officer vacancies and 3 Praesidium officer vacancies, consistent with the last report. They have 12 members in the 18-40 age group, unchanged from the previous report.
- The total number of auxiliary members attached to the Comitium is 460, down by 84 from the last report.
- Average attendance at their Council meetings declined slightly to 56% for meetings without vacancies and 52% for meetings with vacancies.
- There are no Patricians groups in the Comitium.
- There are 85 pastorates in their area, of which 55 lack a Legion presence.

## **2. Highlights**

- They conducted crowd contact at the Maryland State Fair for the 45th year in August and September 2025. There were 33 available shifts for service and evangelization, totaling 13 days of participation. Two Comitia, two Curia, 15 Praesidia, and 17 members took part in this event. They recorded 788 Catholic contacts and 456 non-Catholic contacts, totaling 1,244 contacts
- The Baltimore Comitium emphasizes the importance of praesidia including Pilgrim Virgin visits in their assigned work.
- Mary's birthday was celebrated on September 8, 2025, throughout the Comitium. One event included outdoor activities, Legion prayers, music, lunch, and fellowship for 54 attendees, consisting of 7 active Senior Legion members, 2 Jr. Legion members, 8 Auxiliary members, 2 priests (including 1 Spiritual Director), 17 non-Legion children, and 18 other adults.
- Nine legionaries from this Comitium attended the International Week of Prayer and Fasting at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, on November 15, 2025.
- Four members of a praesidium attended the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, on September 27, 2025.
- A junior Legion praesidium recorded 46 instances of altar serving, made 41 greeting cards for new parishioners, assisted living parishioners, or priests. They crafted 196 rosaries, distributed 80 Miraculous Medals, and filled 41 bottles of holy water to be given away by senior members. Nine juniors and five adult parents consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary in April 2025.

## **3. Remarks from the Body**

- Sr. Earner asked about Virtus training. In the Archdiocese of Baltimore, all who work with children and the elderly must be Virtus-trained.

- Fr. Berghout asked if the new meeting place for their monthly council meeting was centrally located. Br. Woody Armour and Sr. Cecelia Coffey offered their views.
- Sr. Pierson said that the Comitium must emphasize, as the first obligation of each officer, the importance of officers attending higher council meetings.

### III. Allocutio

Fr. Peffley discussed the recent doctrinal note from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. On November 4, 2025, the DDF released *Mater Populi Fidelis* (Mother of the Faithful People), on Some Marian Titles Regarding Mary’s Cooperation in the Work of Salvation. In summary, it explains how Catholics should speak about Mary—with devotion but without using titles that obscure Christ’s unique role. It is a doctrinal letter but does not carry the weight of an encyclical. It clarifies Marian titles by discouraging the terms “Co-Redemptrix” and “Mother of All Graces” while promoting “Mother of the Faithful.” It emphasizes Christ’s unique role as the sole Redeemer and Mary’s supportive role. Mary is subordinate but essential. The doctrinal note aims to address theological imbalances and foster ecumenical harmony by affirming that Mary’s role is significant but always secondary to Christ’s salvific work, leading to a clear, scripture-based devotion. The doctrinal note concludes: “It is always inappropriate to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. The title ‘Mediatrix of All Graces’ risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God. It becomes unhelpful.” The Note emphasizes that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator.” Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace.”

The main issue, of course, is that these are beautiful titles of Our Lady—Mediatrix of All Graces and Co-Redemptrix—but they must be understood correctly and properly. Even the title Immaculate Conception requires proper understanding. What do we mean by that? Did Mary not need a Savior? Of course she did. Jesus redeemed her at the moment of her conception in Saint Ann’s womb. The title Mother of God does not mean she is the mother of the Trinity. So, every Marian title must be understood correctly and properly.

Since this came out, Cardinal Fernandez has provided some clarification. Fr. Peffley recommended first of all going on YouTube and looking up Mother of All Peoples.com. He also strongly recommended that legionaries get the book *Mary, Mother of the Church* by Canon Francis Joseph Ripley, available at Tan Publishers. Fr. Ripley was the Spiritual Director of the Liverpool Senatus, and Fr. Peffley knew him well.

More clarification from the Holy Father will come as theologians and the Faithful are asking for this. Let us humbly approach and beseech Mary’s intercession, for wherever God her Son is, she is also.

### IV. Other Business

**A. Election of the President of the Arlington Senatus**

- Sr. Virginia Pierson's first term as president of the Arlington Senatus is ending. She was nominated and confirmed by acclamation of the body to continue on as president for a second term.

**B. Bishop Reports to Councils**

- Due February 1, 2026

**V. Upcoming Schedule**

- NEXT SENATUS MEETING: Sunday, January 4, 2025, at 2:00 PM
- HOST PRAESIDIUM: Our Lady Seat of Wisdom
- PRAESIDIUM REPORTS: Our Lady Queen of Angels
- COUNCIL REPORT: Fairfax Comitium, Knoxville Comitium

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

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