

ALLOCUTIO – TEAMWORK WINS FOR MARY

In an allocutio March 2018 to the *Philadelphia Senatus* the Rev. Frank Giuffre* Said **all** should be done by us in a spirit of charity and even more in a spirit of justice. “**We**” – and not just “**I**” or “**they**”– are responsible for the work and its achievement.

“Michael Jordan, the NBA Hall of Fame star player, once said, 'Talent wins games, but teamwork wins championships.' Such wisdom should inform our approach to Legionary spiritual combat. We must remember that more is asked than individual piety and skill, but the work of a team where all members show interest and do their part such that all the works undertaken will be victorious for the good of souls.”

Strange to quote Michael Jordan in an Allocutio. But in March 2014 *Concilium Spiritual Director*, Rev. Bede McGregor, OP, made a striking comment along those same lines: “Whenever and wherever there is continuous, misunderstanding, conflict, or unresolved problems in the Legion at any level it is nearly always fundamentally due to a failure in the spirit of our consecration to Mary.”

In their instructions to officers, the Tidewater Curia says, “[O]fficers are a team, a unit. They should be familiar with the duties of each other... [E]ach officer has the responsibility of preserving and developing the Legion spirit and system. The more each officer knows, the better will be the teamwork. Officers should develop a "Legion Mind," learning the Legion inside and out.... Officers should get along well together and act as one. Differences should be settled privately in the Spirit of Mary.... It is most important that Officers' Meetings be held periodically to discuss any differences or problems.” This applies equally to praesidia and to councils.

An experienced Legionary says, “If you have been in the Legion for a few years you will probably be asked to take an office in a praesidium or in a council. You should regard such a request as coming from Our Lady herself. Do not say, as someone who used to serve with me, 'Oh, I couldn't do that!' But inevitably she did do it, and, thanks to the grace that comes with office, did it quite well. Remember you are not alone. You are part of a team. Act like it.”

No one should take it upon himself to act without input from the other team members. Of course, each officer has his or her own special area of responsibilities. But it shows a lack of humility to make what efficiency experts used to refer to as “horse-back-decisions.” Those same experts used to say, “Make no decisions without input from all the 'stakeholders.’” 'Stakeholders' in this case would be all the other officers and/or members involved. Even the Pope does not make decisions without input from his brother bishops and many others.

Look to Mary. When the angel appeared to her she replied “I am the handmaid of the Lord.” And when Elizabeth called her blessed, she responded, “My soul magnifies the Lord.” You have the power of millions of Legionaries saying those same words daily behind you. In Africa Edel Quinn never made a decision without referring it to Mary and then acting as Mary would.

So what would Mary do? Remember what Michael Jordan said, “**Talent** wins games, but **teamwork** wins championships.” Be a champion for Mary.

* Handbook p 123