

The Legion of Mary reflects the true face of the
Catholic Church—*Pope John XXIII*

Extension Manual – FAQs



Jacksonville Comitium And Saint Augustine Curia Legion of Mary

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The duty of extension is not the duty of the officers
alone. Nay, more, it is the duty of each
and every Legionary—*Handbook*

- I. So, the curia gave you an extension assignment! What do you do now?
 - A. You should begin by getting together extension material. Look over all the active and auxiliary membership leaflets. Check the forms section of our website. Pick out some appropriate material and study it well. You need to study like it was a school homework assignment.
 - B. Do you have any material especially appropriate for a priest, such as “The Priest and the Legion”? Or articles from magazines? A letter of introduction? A copy of the Bishop’s letter.

II. How do you contact the pastor?

- A. Your first job is to get an appointment. The Legion used to believe in “cold calls” where two members would visit unannounced. In this day in age, with our busy priests, that is not usually a good idea.
- B. Call and make an appointment. Your next job is to get past the parish secretary. Some rectory workers think their job description is to try to keep as many people as possible from seeing their boss.
- C. Tell whomever you talk with you want to discuss an important matter with the pastor and would prefer to speak only with the pastor - not a secretary and not an assistant. It is better not to mention the Legion of Mary, but you may say “an organization I belong to.”
- D. Try to schedule a half-hour appointment. You must be flexible; make your visit accommodate the time the pastor has available.
- E. Do not visit alone! Experienced extension workers should take along a new member to train. Sometimes a new member has a new type of approach.

III. He said, “No,” so that’s that, right? -- **No!**

- A.. Any good salesman says, “No’ is just the start of the sale.” Do not argue. Try to understand everything the pastor says. Remember WWMD? (Act as Mary would.)
- B. It is a good idea to study the section of the Handbook, “Objections Which May Be Anticipated.” Again, do not argue! Agree with everything you possibly can.
- C. A good tactic is to “play back” what the priest said. “I understand you do not have an assistant, and feel the Legion would just be an added burden; is this correct? Maybe we can help”
- D. Above all, try to let the door open for a return visit in three months, six months, or a year.

IV. He said, “Yes.” What do I do now?

- A. Don’t do what one group did: Run right back to the curia with the good news, but without any follow-up.
- B. Determine the method or methods of recruiting members he wants to use - hand pick, form a cadre, or the Invitation/Columban recruitment method.
- C. If he wants a recruitment drive, try to pick a day. Accept the date he thinks is best.
- D. Pick a firm time, place, and date for the first meeting. It should follow as soon after the invitation drive as possible; for example, Monday evening.

THIS IS IMPORTANT:

Do not even think about holding a recruitment drive unless the following conditions are met:

- ✓📁 **You have a firm date and place for the first meeting.**
- ✓📄 **The fact that the Legion will be recruiting will be announced in the bulletin for at least two weeks.**
- ✓📄 **The pastor will be present and knows exactly what to expect.**
- ✓📇 **You have contact cards to get names of prospects.**

- E. Try to get a feel for the kinds of works he wants his praesidium to do. Bishop Victor Galeone specifically mentioned evangelization and contacting inactive Catholics. Bases on private messages, we know Bishop Estévez agrees.

V. What are the methods for recruiting members?

- A. There are five possible approaches:
 - 1. Hand picked method.
 - 2. One or more invitation drives (Columban Drives).
 - 3. Bulletin Announcements.
 - 4. The pastor speaks at all the Masses.
 - 5. A Legionary speaks before all the Masses.
- B. What method is best? It very much depends on the parish and the pastor. Usually a combination of two or more is best. Each method has its advantages and disadvantages.

VI. What is an Invitation/Columban drive?

- A. The first Columban drives were held in England by the Columban Fathers, thus the name. They have been used throughout the world.
- B. A priest speaks at all the Masses about the Legion. It is best if he can work some mention of it into his homily.
- C. **It is very important that cards and pencils are in all the pews** for as the priest speaks, he tells the people to fill in their name, address and phone numbers and hand them to a Legionary as they leave the church. You must collect names. (More on this later.)
- D. A LARGE NUMBER of Legionaries are at every Mass – a half hour before and a half hour after - to contact as many as possible. The more contacts the more prospective members.
- E. During the day the Legionaries visit each person who turned in a card and urge them to come to the first meetings - usually the next night

F. *The era we live in is a time when circumstances may prevent completion of the Columban drive exactly as described above. Be aware that any variation will mean less prospective members. However we must work with what is available to us.*

- G. An invitation drive requires a lot of advance planning:
- Reconnoiter the church. How many exits must you cover?
 - How many attend each Mass? How much material do you need?
 - Where will you place the Legion Alter?
 - Are there tables to place our literature on and write on?
 - Who will speak at each Mass? It is best if the priest does and can work some mention of the Legion into his homily. Otherwise and experienced Legionary may speak before or after the Mass.

VII. How do you set up the first meeting?

- A. Ideally it should be Monday evening. However, in some parishes that is not practical. You may find a Saturday morning meeting is better because both working people and non-working people can attend. It should be as soon after the drive as possible.
- B. Whatever you do, make sure the meeting time, place and date are announced weeks ahead so everyone will know when it is and feel welcome. (Failure in this regard will almost certainly lead to a false start.) Write the information on the leaflets you hand the people

VIII. What do you do at the first meeting?

- A. The biggest mistake for first meetings is trying to tell too much. They have a lifetime to learn about the Legion of Mary. Tell only what is absolutely necessary.
- B. Give those attending a very brief history of the Legion of Mary. They are not really interested in history at this point.
- C. Have each Legionary present tell what the Legion means to him and the types of work he does. This is very important. Personal testimony sells more than high pressure presentations

- D. Conduct it as if it were an actual meeting - which it is. Begin with the prayers, spiritual reading, have sample minutes ready, take roll....
- E. Read the Standing Instructions and briefly outline what they mean. You can go into details at later meetings.
- F. Do not put a lot of emphasis on weekly meetings. At this point we are only interested in getting them understand the need for the Legion and to come back next week - not for the rest of their lives. (That comes later.) Also DO NOT speak about auxiliary membership.
- G. Say the Catena. If the pastor is present, ask him to give an Allocutio. (Warn him ahead of time.)
- H. Allow for questions and brief answers.
- I. Go around the room and ask each person present if he thinks the Legion would be a good thing in this parish, yes or no. (Do not permit him to give excuses why he can't join - just stick to the question.)
- J. Then ask each person if he will come back next week at the same time for more information.
- K. Assign each person to try to enlist one person to come with him next week.
- L. Say the closing prayers and the Frank Duff prayer for the success of the Legion in the parish.
- M. Keep the meeting lively and moving. Limit it to about 75 minutes. Many meetings follow to discuss details.

IX. What do you do at the next meeting?

We have published a booklet which details the method for organizing a praesidium. The following is a brief outline:

- A. Basically follow the same format; this is Legion meeting Number 2
 - B. Appoint acting officers. Stress they are acting for this week's meeting only.
 - C. Distribute Handbooks (at second not first meeting) and get names of those who take them. (Tell them the cost – which can be paid later.).
 - D. Expand on the standing instructions.
 - E. Ask for reports on the recruiting efforts.
 - F. Begin to briefly discuss auxiliary membership.
 - G. Give more specific assignments for recruiting active and auxiliary members. (Here is where those names you collected at the invitation drive are most important. No names means no one to follow up on. You do not know where to direct your recruiting efforts. You may as well not have a drive if you are not collecting names.)
 - H. If there are experienced Legionaries available, give them assignments to complete.
 - I. Subsequent meetings follow in the same manor
 - J. You MUST continue meeting with the new group every week for months until officers are appointed and trained. Then wean them away.
- X. In subsequent years, as the praesidium gives report after report, remember that your efforts and those of your brothers and sisters helped Our Lady to get the results she wanted for her Son.

From a private note from Bishop Felipe de Jesús Estévez:

“The Legion of Mary is the best – a work of holiness and Evangelization.”

From Bishop Victor Galeone’s Office,
Jacksonville: (parish bulletin for 4/13/2009)

Dear Pastors,

In this Jubilee Year dedicated to St. Paul, I would like to see the New Evangelization, initiated by Pope John Paul and reinforced by Pope Benedict, bear fruit in our diocese. A recent poll indicated that the second largest religious denomination in America today is comprised of inactive Catholics.

The Legion of Mary has always had this apostolic outreach as a central component of their mission to serve the Church. This lay apostolate has an excellent record of working with the local pastor in reaching out to lapsed Catholics.

Accordingly, **I encourage all parishes to have an active praesidium of the Legion of Mary**, either by renewing a dormant unit or founding a new one. (The Legion of Mary) will be contacting you in the near future to help you set up a new (or renewed) praesidium, and even to help you recruit members if necessary.

Visit our website: <http://www.saintaugustinecuria.com>