



THE LEGION OF MARY

LEGION WORK

The Legion of Mary began in Dublin, Ireland on September 7, 1921. It is now the largest lay apostolic organization in the Catholic Church, with well over three million Active members throughout the world.

As a principle, every Praesidium should be doing *some* work which can be called heroic. Even at the beginning it should not be impossible to find two members with a heart for such adventure, and let them be assigned to it. Then their example will be a headline towards which their fellow-members will almost automatically ascend. When the general level has in this way been lifted, the original intrepid two should again be sent in pursuit of the heroic. This *progressive pioneering* provides a means of continually raising standards. For the natural limitations do not exist in the supernatural order. The more one plunges into God, the wider become the horizons, and the greater the possibilities.

Types of work focus primarily on the Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- Conversion** - establishing friendly contact with those outside the Church; promoting the “New Evangelization” called for by Pope John Paul II.
- Conservation** - fostering Catholic ideals and devotions in parish communities and Catholic families.
- Consolation** - visiting prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, shut-ins; parish census or other spiritual needs in the parish or community.

Some of the ways in which the legionaries may help the growth of a true community spirit are as follows:

- Homebound visitation;
- Conducting para-liturgical services on Sundays and holidays of obligation in places where there is no priest available to celebrate Mass;
- Conducting religious instruction classes;
- Visitation and care of the handicapped, the sick and the old, including, when necessary, making arrangements for a visit of the priest.
- Evangelization at special events and door-to-door visitation.
- Recitation of the Holy Rosary at wakes, funerals, church, abortion mills, and senior living communities;
- Promotion of Catholic Associations and Parish Societies, including Church Confraternities or Sodalities, where they exist, by recruiting new members and encouraging existing members to preserve.

- Distributing Holy Communion to homebound.
- Collaboration in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by the parish and so help to bring every soul in some manner into the protective network of the Church, thus securing the safety alike of the individual and the community.