

(v) It is frequently suggested that the prayers of the Auxiliary service should be reduced or changed to meet the needs and limitations of the blind, illiterate or children. Apart from the fact that an obligation is inclined to lose binding force when it becomes less definite, the impossibility of administering such a concession should be manifest. It would not simply stay in its the ranks of the above mentioned groups. With time, it would be applied to the partly blind, the slightly illiterate and the very busy. In time, the relaxation would become the ordinary practice.

No! The Legion must insist upon the performance of the standard service. If this is beyond the powers of certain persons, then they cannot be Auxiliaries. But they can give invaluable help by praying for the Legion in their own way and they should be encouraged in this.

(w) It is permitted to ask the Auxiliary to pay something towards the cost of printing the *Tessera* and the Certificate of Membership. Apart from this, no subscription shall be paid by Auxiliary members.

(x) A Roll of its Auxiliary members, containing names and addresses, and subdivided as to Adjuvators and ordinary Auxiliaries, shall be kept by each Praesidium and shall be submitted periodically to the Curia or its authorized visitors. This Roll shall be examined carefully with view to seeing that it is being properly kept, that new members are being zealously sought out, and that existing members are being visited occasionally, to secure that having put their hand to the plough, they may not turn back (Luke 9:62)

(y) Membership of the Auxiliary degree is effected by the entry of the name upon the Auxiliary Roll of any Praesidium. This Roll shall be in the care of the Vice-President.

(z) Names of Candidates for the Auxiliary degree shall be placed on a provisional list until three months probation had been served. Then the Praesidium must satisfy itself that the obligations of membership have been faithfully discharged before placing the candidate's name of the Auxiliary Roll.

“What recompense will our good Jesus give to us for the heroic and disinterested action of making surrender to Him, by the hands of His Holy Mother, of all the value of our good works? If He gives a hundredfold, even in this world, to those who for His love, quit outward and temporal and perishable goods, what will that hundredfold be which He will give to the man who sacrifices for Him his interior and spiritual goods?” (St Louis-Marie de Montfort).



The Legion of Mary

Auxiliary Membership Rules & Obligations

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

This membership is open to Priests, Religious and laity. It consists of persons who are unable, or unwilling, to assume the duties of active membership, but who associate themselves with the Legion by undertaking a service of prayer in its name. For Auxiliary Membership, **there are no set age limits**. Auxiliary membership is divided into two degrees:

- (a) The **primary degree**, in which the members are called **Auxiliaries**.
- (b) The **higher degree**, in which the members are more particularly called **Adjutores Legionis** or **Adjutorians**.

The prayers that are said by Auxiliaries, *need not be directly offered on behalf of the Legion. It is enough to offer them in honor of Our Lady*. Therefore, it is conceivable that the Legion might receive nothing from it; nor does the Legion desire to receive anything which would do more good elsewhere. But since the prayers are a Legionary service, it is probable that it will incline the Queen of the Legion to have regard for the needs of the Legion.

However, it is strongly recommended that this, and all other Legionary service, be offered to Our Lady as an unreserved gift, to be administered according to her intentions. This kind of attitude would raise your offering to a higher level of generosity and thus greatly enhance its value. The Auxiliary could keep this intention in view by saying a daily offering such as the following:

"Mary Immaculate, Mediatrix of all Graces, I place at your disposal such a portion of my prayers, works and sufferings as is permitted to me."

This twofold Auxiliary Membership is to the Legion what wings are to a bird. With these wings widely expanded, by possessing many Auxiliaries, and beating powerfully under the rhythmic drive of their faithful prayer, the Legion can soar into the higher air of supernatural ideal and effort. It flies swiftly wherever it wants and even mountains cannot alter its course. But if those wings are folded, then the Legion hobbles awkwardly and slowly along the ground, and is brought to a stop by even the slightest obstacle. Thus the Legion needs many Auxiliaries of generous spirit, if it is to accomplish the work of the Blessed Virgin with any degree of success. ***Without prayer we can do nothing!***

The Primary Degree: The Auxiliaries

This degree, named the Auxiliaries, is the left wing of the Legion's praying army. Its service consists in the daily recitation of the prayers contained in the *Tessera*, namely: the *Invocation* and *Prayer of the Holy Ghost*; *five decades of the Rosary* and the *invocations that follow them*; the *Catena*; and the prayers described as the "*Concluding Prayers*". All these prayers may be divided through-

Mary, of the Holy Slavery of Love—not so much to advanced souls, but to souls just emerging from the bondage of sin and to whose darkened memory it was necessary to recall these elementary truths.

(o) It is desirable and essential to set up, amongst Auxiliaries, some loose form of organization comprising meetings or rallies of its own. Such a network in the community would tend to permeate the community with the apostolic and prayerful ideals of the Legion, so that soon all may be found putting those ideals into revolutionary practice.

(p) A Confraternity, based upon Auxiliary membership, would be nothing less than any other Confraternity. Yet, in addition, it would be the Legion, with all the Legion's warmth and color. The periodic meeting of such a Confraternity would keep its members in touch with the spirit and needs of the Legion and make them more ardent in its service.

(q) It should be the aim to bring every Auxiliary into the Patricians (a discussion group on religious matters), for the two supplement each other ideally. The Patrician meeting, held about once a month, will fulfill the purpose of the periodic reunion recommended for the Auxiliaries. It will keep them in touch with the Legion and develop them in important ways. Then on the other hand, if Patricians were recruited into Auxiliary membership, it would be for them another step upwards and onwards.

(r) Auxiliaries must not be employed on ordinary Legion work. Proposals to use them in this way are at first sight attractive. It seems a good thing to lead on the Auxiliaries. But examination will show that what is really at stake is *the doing of Legionary work without the Legion meeting*—in other words, the setting aside of the vital condition of active membership.

(s) Where deemed desirable or possible, Auxiliaries may participate in the *Acies* (an annual Consecration of the Legion and its members to the Blessed Virgin). This forms an admirable function for them, and brings them into intimate contact with the Active Legionaries. Auxiliaries who are prepared to make the individual Act of Consecration at the *Acies*, should make it after the Active Legionaries.

(t) The Invocation to be inserted in the *Tessera* for Auxiliary members shall be: "*Mary Immaculate, Mediatrix of all Graces, pray for us!*"

(u) The Legion's call to the Active member to be "ever on duty for souls", is likewise addressed to the Auxiliary. Just as much as the Active member, the Auxiliary must strain every nerve to bring others into Legionary service—whether as Active or Auxiliary members. By this addition of link to link, the *Catena Legionis* is made into a golden network of prayer enveloping the whole world.

service of prayer. The conception should be placed before their minds, that though they are not in the fighting ranks, they nevertheless play an essential part, comparable to that of the munitions workers and supply services, without which the fighting forces are powerless.

(j) Persons should not lightly be accepted as Auxiliaries. In advance, they should be made fully acquainted with the obligations, and there should be reasonable assurance that they will be true to them.

(k) With a view to intensifying the interest of Auxiliaries and helping them fulfill their obligations, they should be given an insight into the work of the Legion. This will (i) improve the quality of membership, ensure perseverance, and (ii) in the future lead them on to Adjutorian or even Active membership.

(l) Keeping in touch with Auxiliaries will be necessary—for the purpose of preserving their membership and interest. This task will prove an admirable work for certain Legionaries, whose ideal should be one of leading their charges on still further.

(m) Every Auxiliary should be made aware of the great benefits that are attached to those who become members of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary. As the Auxiliary is already saying more than the amount of prayer required by the Confraternity, the only additional obligation entailed by joining the latter, is the registration of one's name and the blessing of one's Rosary beads by a Priest having the necessary faculties to do so.

(n) Likewise, in the interest of fully developing and forming the Auxiliary soldiers of Mary, St. Louis de Montfort's "*True Devotion to Mary*", or Total Consecration, should be explained to them. Many of them might be glad to undertake this fuller service of her, which entails the giving of their spiritual treasures to her, whom God has already appointed His own Treasurer. Why should we fear giving all to Mary? Are not Mary's interests and intentions those of the Sacred Heart? They take in every need of the Church. They cover the whole apostolate. They extend the whole world over. They also descend to the Souls in Purgatory. Zeal for Mary's intentions means caring for the whole of Christ's Mystical Body. Mary is no less caring for Christ's Body today than she was in Nazareth. When we conform ourselves to her intentions and practice the *True Devotion*, we go straight to the goal — which is God's will. But by making our own personal and individualistic approach to God, a tortuous route results and does not guarantee a happy end to the journey.

In case some might think that St. Louis' *True Devotion* can only be practiced by persons of advanced spirituality, it is important to remember that St. Louis Marie de Montfort spoke of the Rosary, of the Scapular, of devotion to

out the day in any way that is convenient. Persons who are already saying a daily Rosary for any intention whatsoever, may become Auxiliaries without an obligation of saying an additional Rosary.

“He who prays helps all the souls of men. He helps his brethren by the saving and powerful magnetism of a soul that believes, knows and wills. He supplies what St. Paul demands from us above all things: i.e. prayers, supplications and acts of thanksgiving on behalf of men. “*Cease not to pray and to make supplications at all times to the Holy Ghost*” (1 Tim. 2:1). And does it not seem that if you cease to be vigilant, or to make efforts, cease to insist or hold fast, everything will relax, the world will relapse, your brethren will feel in themselves less strength and support? Yes, it is certainly so! Each one of us, in a measure, bears up to the world—yet those who cease to work and to watch, overburden the rest” (Gratry; *Les Sources*).

The Higher Degree: The Adjutorians

This is the right wing of the praying Legion. It comprises those who will (a) recite daily all the prayers of the Tessera and in addition (b) agree to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion daily, and to recite, each day, some form of Office approved by the Church.

GENERAL CONDITIONS AFFECTING BOTH DEGREES OF AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

(a) Supplementary Service. The Legion appeals to Auxiliaries of both degrees to look upon the essential conditions of membership, not as limits of service, but *as a minimum which they will chivalrously supplement* by many other prayers and acts made specially with this intention.

It is suggested to Priest-Adjutores, that they should in all their Masses make a special memento, and even occasionally offer the Holy Sacrifice for Mary's intentions and those of the Legion. Other Auxiliaries might, even at the expense of some sacrifice, find it possible to have an occasional Mass offered for the same intention.

However generously the Auxiliary may give to the Legion, he will still receive a hundredfold, a thousandfold or a million-fold in return. How is this? It is because the Legion teaches its Auxiliaries, no less than its Active Members, how great is Mary and enlists them in soldierly service for her, and makes them love her as she should be loved. All this is something so great, that words like “million-fold” do not properly explain or measure our gain in serving her. This service raises our spiritual life to a higher plane, and thereby assures a more glorious eternity.

(b) Who can refuse Mary this sort of gift? For she who is the Queen of the Legion, is also Queen of the Universe and all its departments and concerns. So to give to her, is to give where the need is greatest and where one's prayers will accomplish the most.

(c) In administering the treasury of prayer placed in her hands, Mary Immaculate will look to the requirements of your ordinary life and all its existing obligations. The question may arise: "I would like to join, but I have already given all to Mary—or to the Holy Souls, or the conversion of sinners, etc. All of my prayers are distributed and gone. There is nothing left for the Legion, so of what use am I to its Auxiliary ranks?" The Legion answers: It is of great benefit for the Legion to gain such an unselfish person. Your anxiety, in wishing to help the Legion, is in itself an additional prayer and a proof of a special purity of intention, which irresistibly calls upon the limitless generosity of the Mary—the guardian of the Divine Treasury.

It is certain that, if you join the Auxiliaries, she will respond—and that your new intention of helping the Legion, will not take anything away from the other intentions you have in your prayers. For it is the art of this most wonderful Queen and Mother, to be able to take and make use of our spiritual treasures to help others, while making us grow strangely richer. Her intervention has meant the doing of an extra work. A marvelous multiplication has taken place, something that St. Louis-Marie de Montfort calls a secret of grace: "Inasmuch as our good works pass through the hands of Mary, they receive an augmentation of purity, merit and satisfactory and impetratory value.

On this account, they become more capable of helping the souls in Purgatory and of converting sinners, than if they did not pass by the virginal and generous hands of Mary." Every life needs the power of this admirable transaction, where what we give earns interest, accomplishes its work, and is returned to us with interest. This force can be found in the gift to Mary of a faithful Auxiliary membership.

(d) Due to the great number of distressed souls that the Legion comes into contact with, Mary seems to have given her Legion a little of her own irresistible appeal to the heart. Legionaries will not find it difficult to enlist their friends in this auxiliary service—so vital to the Legion, and so valuable to the Auxiliaries themselves. Through that service they are associated with Legion membership, sharing in all the prayers and works of the Legion.

(e) The membership in the Legion's Auxiliary or praying ranks, has the same power of captivating the imagination as does membership in the Legion. Persons who would not otherwise say the Rosary daily, are found to be faithfully carrying out the obligations of Auxiliary membership. This obligation demands

the daily recitation of all the prayers on the Legion prayer-card (see above on page 2 - *The Primary Degree : The Auxiliaries*).

Persons in hospitals, nursing homes and other institutions, who had lost heart, have gained an interest in life, through joining the Legion's Auxiliaries. Multitudes of people, unaware of the great battles the Legion fights, living in small towns or villages where circumstances often make religion a routine and tame thing, have realized through their Auxiliary membership that they are of importance to the Church.

They have found themselves taking great interest in the Legion, avidly reading any scrap of Legion news that they can obtain. They feel themselves to be part of its most distant battles for souls. They realize the Legion is dependent upon their prayers like soldiers rely on munitions workers for their ammunition. Accounts of the Legion's work and successes in the quest for souls, fill their lives with joy, interest and zeal. Their existences have become transformed by that most inspiring of ideas, the sense of a participation in a crusade. Even the holiest of lives requires the stimulation of such an idea.

(f) It should be the object of every Praesidium to bring every Catholic in its area into Auxiliary Membership. In this way a favorable soil is provided for the working of other aspects of the Legion apostolate. Home visitations are marvelous opportunities for Auxiliary recruitment, and those who are asked, will normally take such a request as a compliment.

(g) To the extent that members of other Catholic Societies and activities are brought into Auxiliary Membership, the more all those activities are integrated into a desirable whole. They are united in prayer, sympathy and idealism, under the banner of Mary—but without the slightest interference in their own autonomy and characteristics, without alienating their prayers from their own movements. For note that those Auxiliary prayers are offered in honor of Our Blessed Lady and not on behalf of the Legion—even though we can be sure that Our Lady will let the Legion benefit to a greater or lesser degree from those prayers.

(h) A Non-Catholic cannot be an ordinary Auxiliary member. But in the event (which occasionally occurs) where such a person is willing to recite all the Legion prayers daily, he should be supplied with a *Tessera* and encouraged in his generous offering. Special note should be taken of his name, so as to keep in touch with him. It is certain that Our Blessed Lady will be attentive to the needs of that soul and that soul may well convert to the Catholic Faith.

(i) It is the Legion's world-wide adventure and battle for souls, rather than local needs, which are to be represented to the Auxiliaries as an object of their