

October 2023. Chapter 18: Order Of The Praesidium meeting, Page 116, #14  
Termination of the meeting.

This section of the Handbook is brief and to the point. It presents end-of-meeting procedures with no detailed comment. It may appear that there is not much to think about or comment on, nevertheless, we will benefit from a reflection on our actions, thoughts and dispositions, regarding the termination of the meeting and its approach to and departure from it.

Every moment of our Praesidium meeting is grace-filled in diverse ways for every properly disposed member, for brothers and sisters gathered with Mary our mother and presided over by the Holy Spirit. While the meeting should not last longer than an hour and a half, we must avoid any temptation to race to the termination point. Making haste to arrive at the end often causes the agitation of our spirits. It gives the impression we view the end of the meeting as an employee eagerly awaiting the end of his shift to rush to the punch clock. We are not hirelings, but privileged members of a marvellous apostolate. I have noticed that sometimes legionaries will race through the concluding prayers. This too should be avoided. It is simply unacceptable that prayers to God should be offered hurriedly. This is irreverence toward God and undeserving of his Majesty. Rather savour the conclusion of the meeting as you calmly terminate it. Let it be for you a moment of gratitude summing up the discharge of your duty. Cherish the final moments of the "sacred time" together with your brothers and sisters, as you bring together all the threads of your proceedings the way Our Lady would have thoughtfully completed her household tasks at the end of the day.

All of us have experienced renewed strength and enthusiasm, and sometimes even exhilaration, at the end of our meetings, and perceived the afterglow of grace well after our departure. These are the touches of the Holy Spirit in our souls. In our praesidium meeting, we live in the Mystical Home of Nazareth where we can expect the mystical grace-filled touches of the Holy Spirit. Recognize his operations in you and be grateful to him when he has visited you. Confidently carry his graces into your personal life and next work assignment. Appreciate that

it is the Holy Spirit himself who works in you any measure of enthusiastic anticipation for your assignment. And even if you are hesitant and/or have some dislike for your assignment, he will, if depended upon, graciously grant you the graces of courage and perseverance to perform it.

Finally, as you receive your Spiritual Director's blessing, know that it is God's blessing and so receive it as such. As the Lord blessed the disciples as he ascended into heaven, so too, he blesses and sends you on your way. If you receive the blessing in proportion to your faith, it will contain all that you need as you go forward.

Between the termination of the meeting and the performance of your assignment, do not forget to pray for those you will meet and serve that they may grant you a favourable welcome; and petition the Lord for the graces to perform the work in a true legionary manner, which is with the mind of Christ and in imitation of our Lady's virtues.

Brothers and sisters, leave the praesidium meeting carrying your assignment in your hearts, cherishing the arrival of the day and hour of the performance of your work like a mother bird sitting on her eggs, patiently warming them as she eagerly awaits the hatching of her chicks that she may joyfully feed and nurture them.