

Allocutio Toronto Senatus February 11, 2024 Rev. Joseph Moncada

Chapter 19 #4 pages 117 to 118, the Praesidium to be a model of steadiness

Definition of steadiness: firmly placed or fixed, stable, in position, or equilibrium, such as a description of a steady ladder, free from change, or variation or interruption, unwavering, some. synonyms: constancy, dependability, perseverance.

These words and phrases well describe the required uninterrupted regularity of the Praesidium meeting.

The Legion requires that the Praesidium be a model of steadiness even to its most zealous members. Even if an individual legionary is unable to attend the meeting because of illness or holidays or other unavoidable circumstances, the Praesidium meeting must meet. There are no excuses for not meeting. Corporately the members of the meeting need to rise above the limitations of an individual legionary who for whatever reasons cannot attend the meeting. There's no reason to omit the Legion meeting. Yes, we know that the Covid lockdown was an exceptional time in Legion life, which shut down many of the Praesidia meetings. but the lockdown was an historically unprecedented time in both world history and Legion history. If you cannot meet on your regular meeting date and time then you should transfer the meeting to another day and time.

Even if a great number of the legion members are or will be absent, you still need to hold the meeting. A large or majority absence is not reason to postpone your meeting. Better to have a few members meet than to drop the meeting altogether. Even if little business is attended to, at the meeting, you still will have fulfilled, the most important duty to meet regularly. Furthermore, the members will have maintained or gained instinctively respect for the Praesidium meeting because it continued despite the challenges.

Think of the respect that we have for the postman or post woman who delivers the mail, even when the weather is terribly inclement. His or her duty is to deliver the mail, no matter what the difficult conditions and circumstances may be. Our legionary duty is to hold the Praesidium meeting weekly, no matter what the challenges may be, including, and especially legionary absences. I repeat what great respect and esteem legionaries will have for the Praesidium, because it goes on in spite of absent members, no matter how legitimate the reasons for their absence may be.

The steadiness of the Praesidium in the tenacious regularity of its meetings is meant to reflect and get its inspiration from the rock solid steadiness of the Catholic Church itself. Remember, the words our Lord addressed to Peter, you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And understand that the church is built upon Christ, the cornerstone, the solid rock who cannot be moved or shaken or destroyed. The Legion system seeks to imitate this steadfastness, this invincibility by the grace of God through the intercession and care of the blessed Virgin Mary practised through the Fidelity of the legionaries, who themselves are determined to be constant, dependable, firm and persevering in their regular weekly Praesidium meeting attendance.