

Allocutio Toronto Senatus Sunday, May 5, 2024  
By Reverend Joseph Moncada

Chapter 19 The Meeting and the Member, Section 9. Inadequate length of meetings. p.119.

An hour and a half is the handbook standard length for a praesidium meeting; anything less indicates one or several of the following inadequacies. They might lie "in the number of members or in the quantity of work, or in the quality of the reports" (Handbook page 119, Section 9) When the number of members of a praesidium is few, it is understandable that there are fewer spoken exchanges therefore taking less time. But be on guard against irrelevant, inconsequential and trivial speech; it does nothing but artificially fills the time and in no way contributes to the meeting. Disciplined legionaries will avoid it. The obvious remedy for greater oral participation is an increase in membership which would naturally fill the duration of the meeting. When the works are few, understandably the reports will be few; this may be the case for a new praesidium or a praesidium in decline. For both, the simple remedy is to take on more works, which would result in more reporting normally filling the duration of the meeting. Lastly, when reports are short of details, they make for unduly brief presentations and therefore remain inadequate. The remedy is robustly detailed reporting, which, however, in no way should be loquacious but remains clear, accurate, concise, and maintains an economy of words.