



Allocutio for August 2025

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***Based on the Handbook, Chapter 20 Legion System Invariable,
Section 1, page 126***

In large part, the genius of the Legion of Mary is due to its System Invariable. The uniformity of its changeless, stable system has enabled it to endure for over a hundred years. What does it mean that the Legion system is invariable? Put simply, it means its constitution is unchangeable: it cannot be changed, should not be changed, is incapable of being changed, and no deviation from the Handbook in its application is permitted. There is no chapter or section in the Handbook permitting or describing changes to the Legion system, thereby indicating to us that no praesidium or council can authorize innovations, and none are countenanced.

What benefits and advantages does the Legion of Mary apostolate derive from the application of its fixed rules, unmodifiable procedures, and established methods?

Here are the key benefits and advantages of the Legion System Invariable:

Predictability and Reliability:

Because Legion rules, procedures, and methods are invariable, their application produces predictable outcomes. For example, we can expect the structure of the praesidium meeting to be the same throughout the Legion world, thereby diminishing uncertainty and risk, and facilitating planning and decision-making. A straightforward analogy would be that of a standardized recipe, which guarantees consistent quality each time.

Efficiency and Speed:

An invariable system eliminates the need to constantly rethink policies, procedures, rules, and the application of rules. Consequently, we can save time during our meetings, reduce effort, and enhance the productivity of our apostolic actions. An appropriate analogy would be assembly-line manufacturing, which relies on consistent, unalterable procedures to achieve maximum output.

Consistency:

Invariable rules ensure uniformity in Legion results by minimizing errors and maintaining high standards. An appropriate analogy is that of standard operating procedures in hospitals, which serve to reduce medical errors.

Easier Training and Learning:

A fixed system facilitates the accelerated formation of legionaries in training, also known as probation, by providing predictable rules that minimize uncertainty.

Fairness and Transparency:

When rules are fixed, everyone is held to the same standard, thereby promoting trust and preventing arbitrary decisions. Compare this to fixed traffic laws, which ensure that all drivers are treated equally.

Scalability and Replicability:

The beauty of invariable methods is that they can be replicated in new contexts—whether in a metropolis, a small town, or the countryside—without loss of effectiveness, thereby facilitating the expansion and application of the Legion system. Likewise, the Legion’s methods can be reproduced among different demographic groups, regardless of age, nationality, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. By way of analogy, in the restaurant industry, franchises such as McDonald’s rely on fixed operational procedures to replicate success globally across many demographics, making them largely immune to local failure.

Dear legionaries, do your utmost to uphold the Legion System Invariable. The devil hates it and therefore relentlessly attacks it. He seeks to replace the system invariable with a “system variable,” which would lead to the utter collapse and destruction of the Legion of Mary. One of his common tactics is to impress upon the legionary—and sometimes an entire Presidium--the notion that one or some of the Legion’s ways are outdated or ineffective, and therefore need modification, addition, or subtraction. Satan’s strategy is to appeal to human pride to convince a legionary that he knows better and has wiser, more effective, and sensible ways of doing things contrary to the Handbook. He inspires disobedience to the Handbook and those placed in Legion authority. He will stir up resentment within the legionary when he does not achieve his revisions and deviations from the Legion system. Once he gains influence over one member, Satan is better positioned to spread his influence undetectably—like carbon monoxide—among the other members of the praesidium, instructing and convincing them to deviate from the System Invariable. While he continuously seeks ways to break down the System Invariable, his goal remains unchanged: to corrupt it and destroy it, and ultimately, to obliterate the Legion. Beware: he prowls about, seeking the ruin of praesidia, including your own!

The Legion of Mary’s System Invariable provides the Legion apostolate with stability, reliability, and efficiency. It ensures fairness, makes learning easier, and allows successful replication—advantages that are essential in every Legion context.