



Allocutio for December 2025

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***Based on the Handbook, Chapter 20 Legion System Invariable,
Section 5, page 127-128***

The various councils of the Legion of Mary exist chiefly for the purpose of preserving the Legion system in its complete integrity. Their foremost duty is to safeguard the structure, discipline, and spirit that make the Legion what it is. They are not merely administrative bodies; they are guardians of a tradition, protectors of a method of apostolate shaped by prayer, obedience, and the example of Our Lady.

At every moment, and under every circumstance, the councils must remain faithful to the trusteeship entrusted to them. Nothing—whether pressure from outside influences, personal preferences, or local customs—may be allowed to dilute, alter, or compromise the system they inherited. Their task is to hand on the Legion as they received it: whole, undamaged, and fully alive. To be unfaithful in this would be to betray not only a structure, but the spiritual mission that relies upon that structure. Fidelity is therefore not optional; it is the price of stewardship.

The epigram: “The system of the Legion of Mary is a most excellent one,” quoting Pope St. John XXIII and following the end of Section 5 of Chapter 20, forcefully expresses papal approbation. At its highest level, the Catholic Church recognizes that the Legion offers a clear structure with a deeply spiritual foundation and a practical method of apostolic work that ordinary Catholics can actually live. We unite prayer with action, discipline with charity, and personal holiness with real service to others. Because our weekly meetings emphasize steady, faithful work and insist on relying on the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother, they form a balanced, time-tested approach. Through our system, members grow in virtue, learn to evangelize with humility and courage, and become instruments of God’s grace in everyday situations. The system is ‘excellent’ not only because it works admirably in itself, but because it shapes the whole person—mind, heart, and will—toward a more profound love of God and neighbour.

The second epigram taken from the writings of St. John Henry Newman: “You must accept the whole, or reject the whole; reduction does but enfeeble, and amputation mutilate. It is trifling to receive all but something as integral as any other portion,” can be rephrased as it is pointless to accept almost everything but then refuse one part that is just as essential as the rest. Or stated slightly stronger and more formally: it is unreasonable to embrace nearly the whole while withholding acceptance from a portion that is equally essential.

In effect, the quote from Newman applied to the Legion means we must accept the whole Legion system or reject it; there is no honest middle path. Once one begins cutting away pieces—no matter how small they may seem—one weakens the entire structure. Reduction does not purify; it only dilutes. And amputation, even of a part that appears less prominent, inevitably mutilates what was meant to stand complete. It is pointless to receive almost everything while withholding

assent from even one element that is just as integral as the rest. A thing built as a unity must be embraced as a unity. To tamper with its parts is to unravel its strength, distort its meaning, and ultimately lose the very thing one claimed to keep.

We have reached the conclusion of Chapter 20, titled The Legion System Invariable; a task, a trust, a guarantee of Legion stability, endurance, and preservation—one of the crucial and essential keys of the Legion of Mary's genius.