



Allocutio for January 2026
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Based on the Handbook, Chapter 23 The Prayers Invariable,
pages 135-136

The Legion of Mary's Prayers Invariable are an extension and consequence of the Legion System Invariable. The principle of invariability applies to the Legion prayers. No changes, additions, or subtractions are permitted in the invocations. Not even the inclusion of national, local or particular saints is allowable. There are good and compelling reasons for this.

Implications: What this principle means at a deeper level.

Legion unity takes precedence over personalization. The insistence on invariable prayers implies that the Legion values corporate unity above individual, national, cultural, or ethnic expressions of devotion. Our prayers can never be a matter of private spiritual preferences, but rather are a shared act that forms a common identity. They are not merely aids to devotion, but are foundational to the Legion's very soul. To alter them would be to change the interior spirit of the Legion system itself. Any slight deviation can produce large fractures. By inserting even minor additions (such as local saints), the Legion system will drift gradually, not suddenly. What appears harmless contains within it the seed of future division. So bear in mind that obedience to Prayers Invariable is itself a form of sacrifice. The requirement not to modify prayers—even when emotionally or culturally challenging—implies that obedience is to be deliberately embraced as an ascetical act, a participation in self-denial for the sake of the greater good of the Legion. From the Legion of Mary's inception in Ireland, its national apostle, Saint Patrick, was excluded from its prayers. Considering the Irish people's historic devotion to this saint, it is a testament to the great sacrifice made by the Legion. Acting as a model for the Legion worldwide, it calls for a similar sacrifice of national and local patrons.

Consequences: What this principle produces over time.

Progressively, a strong, recognizable spiritual identity forms. Uniform prayer immediately creates for the Legion identifiability and internal coherence, regardless of locality. A member from one part of the world should easily be able to participate in a praesidium in another part of the world—excluding a possible language difference—because of the universality of the Legion prayers that admit of no diversity and variations. By eliminating local adaptations, the Legion avoids internal disputes over whose devotion, saint, or added prayer should prevail. The uniformity of its prayer system is the invariability of its prayer system. It trains the members to subordinate personal preferences to a greater mission, cultivating humility, patience, and a broader ecclesial view of the Legion. This mortified emotional gratification increases legionary spiritual maturity. Some members may feel at a loss—particularly those with strong national or personal devotions—but this loss forms a deeper reliance on faith rather than sentiment. Because

the prayers are fixed, the Legion is insulated from theological fashions, cultural shifts, or devotional trends that might otherwise alter its character over time.

Practical applications: How this principle is lived out.

Legionaries should pray exactly as prescribed. They must resist the impulses to “improve, “ “update, “ or “localize“ the prayers, even when intentions are pious. They are to accept, as part of their offering, their resistance to adding the beloved Fatima prayer at the end of each decade of the Rosary. Any longing for the invocation of non-prescribed familiar saints, or a sense of cultural loss, can be offered as a sacrifice. Legionaries should explain the rule charitably to others. When questioned, they should articulate that it exists not for the sake of rigidity, but to protect our unity, identity, and mission.

The Prayers Invariable, like the Legion System Invariable, teach us that uniform prayer serves the Legion as an apostolic strategy. By sacrificing legitimate personal devotions, members gain something greater: a shared spiritual language that shapes thought, action and mission.