



Allocutio for October 2025

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***Based on the Handbook, Chapter 20 Legion System Invariable,
Section 3, page 127***

In the first section of Chapter 20, we learned that legionaries are not free to change the rules and practices of the Legion as they choose. The second section begins by noting a general experience—and indeed a warning—that, for some people, the name of an organization has no fixed meaning. Implicitly contained in the name of any organization are its mission, ideals, rules, practices, and its very spirit. However, for some, even as they exult in the name of their organization, they possess it in name only and betray it by deliberately emptying it of its substance. For them, it is changeable and malleable according to their own false understanding, whims, ignorance, or opinions. In this category of persons, we find both those of goodwill, yet ignorant of the Legion system, and those of bad will—usually small in number—who, while knowing the system, will mischievously bend it to their own thinking and attempt to persuade others to do the same.

Just as the Church has had—and continues to have—heretics whom it must always guard against and root out, so too the Legion has had—and likely always will have—its own formal and material heretics, so to speak. A formal heretic is a person who knowingly and willfully denies or doubts a divinely revealed truth. A material heretic is someone who, through blameless ignorance or in good faith, unknowingly holds a belief that is objectively contrary to the teachings of the Church. Analogously, in the Legion, it is possible to have formal and material heretics regarding the understanding and practices of the Legion system. You may never have heard it explained this way, but the analogy is appropriate.

Those who would empty the Legion of Mary of its meaning consider it, as the Handbook says, “a virtual tyranny” if they are not permitted to fill the Legion with their false interpretations and the faulty practices that follow from them. Tyranny is a system of government in which a ruler has unlimited power and exercises it oppressively, unjustly, severely, and even cruelly. The “modernisers,” as the Handbook calls them, may, in the extreme, harbour a secret belief—sometimes even voiced—that their leaders, the leadership structure of the Legion, and the Handbook itself are tyrannical. While they may never use the words tyranny or tyrannical, they imagine or accuse the Legion of unfair inflexibility and impractical rigidity.

Like some people who give their house a different coat of paint or renovate a room or two, “modernisers” like the idea of reengineering one or several parts of the Legion system; their intended renovations, in fact, are innovations that lead to deformities and the eventual collapse of a praesidium. For our part, we will maintain the integrity of the Legion by defending against “modernisers” and refusing any “modernizing” ideas that may creep into our minds.