



Legion of Mary

STAR OF THE SEA SENATUS MUMBAI

C/o. St. Pius College, Aarey Road,
Goregaon (East), Mumbai - 400 063.

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Monthly Newsletter

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MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



Your light has come, the glory of the Lord
shines upon you..... Isaiah 60

Spiritual Reading for December'25:

HB Chap 9.1 Page 51-53 "Legionary service is based on this doctrine"

Q) "If every person I serve is truly a member of Christ's Mystical Body, how does this truth change the way I see, treat, and love them in my daily Legion work"

Summary of Reports:

Praesidium Reports: Nov'24 - Oct'25

1. Mother Most Amiable, Malad East

With 4 members average attendance was 48%. They have 453 Auxiliaries of which 114 are confirmed, 1 Adjutorian.

Their works include: Home visitations to Catholic and other faith, Institute Visit, Enrolling of New Voters.

Case works - 34 families - 25 lapsed Catholics, 5 Confirmation, 4 Marriages to be rectified, 3 Catholics, 13 Home-bound received Holy Communion regularly. 1 member spent 3 nights with a priest in hospital.

2 members in ECVC Panel. 1 Consolidation visit to Jabalpur.

The Senatus Functions included: Legion Sunday Dahisar, Reunion, ACIES, DA Training & An Evening with Mary.

2. Our Lady of Remedy, Painsur

With 9 members the average attendance was 65.5%. They have 162 Auxiliaries of which 134 confirmed, 4 Adjutorian and 1 Praetorian on roll. They have Junior Praesidium with 20 Juniors on roll.

Their works include: Visitation to homes of Catholic and Other faith, Visit to Sick and Home bound, Bereaved families, Apostolate to Mother-to-be, Newborn, visiting Ex-Legionaries, Aftercare of Auxiliaries, Recruitment Drive in Sunday School, Sacred Heart Enthronement Drive, Apostolate to Students appearing for Board Exam and Youth. Hospital Visitation, Institute Visitation, Clergy Home, Crowd Contact at the Mount.

Their other projects include: Christmas Campaign, Lenten Campaign, Rosary Campaign and Case work-follow up of a catholic child who lost parents to ensure she attends Mass and Sunday School.

Praesidium Functions include: Praesidium Function, Mass for Sick, Auxiliary Rally, Holy Half Hour, Edel Quinn, Frank Duff, Alfie Lambe Day.

Senatus Functions include: Legion Sunday at Dahisar, ACIES, DA Training, AGR and Evening with Mary.

Council Reports (May'25 - Oct'25)

1. Mystical Rose Curia, Nepal:

The attendance of Curia Officers is 60% and members is 65%. They have 3 Senior Praesidia, 1 Senior Curia and 1 Junior Praesidium in a boarding school with 22 juniors. Reports presented 5/6 and Visitation 6/6 done.

Works include: Visits to Catholic and Other faith homes, Sick and home bound, Bereaved Families, Hospitals and Institutes.

Projects included: Virgin Pilgrim Apostolate, Rosary at the Grotto, Legion Sunday in one parish.

2. Our Lady of Nativity Curia, Central Delhi Curia

The attendance of Curia Officers is 100% and members is 68.56%. They have 11 Praesidia and 1 Isolated Praesidium in Agra. Reports presented 10/11. Visitations -10/11 done.

Works include: Visitation to catholic and other faith homes, Sick and home bound, Bereaved Families, Hospitals, Institutes, Clergy Home, Holy Communion for Sick in hospital and Home bound House Blessings and Marriage Blessings done, Aftercare of Auxiliaries, Visit to Marginalized.

Special Works: Marriage preparation Classes - Baptism for Marriage Rectification and Baptism of 1 other faith.

Functions included: Recollection, Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Health Okhla and Legion Sunday at Laxmi Nagar.

3. Nishkalanka Matta Curia, South Delhi

The attendance of Curia Officers is 79% and members is 45%. Reports presented - 5/5, Visitation - 3/3 done.

Works include: Visit to Catholic and Other faith homes, Hospital Visits.

4. Mother of Divine Grace, East Delhi

The attendance of Curia Officers is 90% and members is 76%. They have 8 Senior Praesidia and 1 Junior Isolated Praesidium. Reports presented -8/9 and Junior Praesidium - 1/1

Works include: Visit to Catholic and Other faith homes, Sick and home bound, Catholic and Other faith, Bereaved - Catholic and Other faith, Hospitals, Institutes and Mixed Marriages, After care of auxiliaries, Marriage Blessings and Evangelisation.

Projects include: Rosary Campaign, Adult Formation and Catechism classes for children and Holy Communion to sick and home bound and in hospitals.

Functions include: Marian Retreat

5. Mother of Hope, Calcutta Com.

The attendance of Comitium Officers is 91% and members is 54%. They have 6 senior Praesidia, 2 Junior Praesidia and 5 Sr. Curiae. Praesidia Reports presented -2/6.

Works include: Visits to Catholic and Other faith homes, Sick and Home bound, Bereaved families, Hospitals and Institutes.

Other works include: Prison Ministry, RCIA, Way of the Cross for Sick and Home Bound, Teaching Marginalized, Enthronement of the Sacred Heart, Virgin Mary Apostolate, School Apostolate, Serving Mass,

Case Works: Lapsed Catholics-15, Marriage Regularization-4 ongoing 2 completed, Alcoholic-18, Baptism-2 and Holy Communion-39.

Functions include: Handbook Quiz.

Allocutio: Fr. Anthony Fernandes (Spiritual Director)

The Legionary and the Mystical Body of Christ Chapter 9. Today's topic is an important topic of theology. I once mentioned Frank Duff's uncle was a priest, we're talking of the 1920s, the lay people did not have any opportunity to read theology. It was not at all possible. So it's not a coincidence but God's providential plan, that in founding the Legion of Mary, he would have access to theology books. Frank Duff explains in an easy way the Mystical Body of Christ. He uses three quotations mentioned in chapter 9. These 3 quotations will summarise what is the Mystical Body of Christ. Largely its to do with the teachings of St. Paul.

If you go back to the transformation / conversion of Paul, you'll find that in **Acts chap 9:4-5** where there is an encounter. Paul, then Saul was going to bring back Christians from Damascus, they would actually drag them behind the horse carriage and bring them to Jerusalem, if they were yet alive, they would be put to death. That's the cruelty meted out to Christian converts. During one such encounter, he heard a voice, when he was thrown down with a bright light and he heard a voice saying "Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me" and he asks who and Jesus says, "It's me you are persecuting". Now you find this conversion story 3 times in the acts of the apostles emphasizing the importance and greatness of it! Everybody believes in the early church today, if

it was not for Paul, Christianity would not have gone out of Palestine. If you read the New Testament, you will find Paul's zeal and enthusiasm. This statement proves that if we hurt any Christian, we are hurting Christ. Now this is the basis of the Mystical Body of Christ.

Now Paul also writes in **Ephesians chapter 1:22-23**, Jesus is the head and we are the body. In Acts, Jesus says you are persecuting me, when you persecute Christians, you persecute me. So here in Ephesians, Paul is reconfirming that Jesus is the head and we are the body, and Paul will use this analogy again and again, if one part of the body is hurt the whole body is hurt. To give you an example, if when you are cutting your nails and cut a little extra part of the skin you feel discomfort, the whole body feels discomfort, that is the way we Christians should feel. Another example, if in our parish if we have thousands of Catholics in the parish, if anyone is hurt, then I should feel that hurt, the empathy should be so strong that I should feel that hurt and therefore I should do something to remedy that hurt. Unless we are not feeling one with another as Christians first, then we cannot be witnesses in the world. Acts 2 and 4 shares how those not Christians looked at the Christians and used to say see how they love one another and they joined them.

Now after these 2 quotations, another important quotation is **Matt 25:40** - Whatsoever you do the least of my brothers, you do it to me. You see in Acts, if you persecute Christians, you are persecuting me and Matt says at the time of judgement, this is how Jesus will judge: those who gave another to eat or drink, did it to him. As legionaries we can extend this to when I was jobless you helped me to find a job, my marriage was not blessed you helped me bless it, etc. Therefore, the legion becomes a perfect effective Catholic platform to live out the full doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ.

Last para of this topic focusses on Mary, she plays an important role in the Mystical Body of Christ. She is the physical mother of the head, that is Jesus, and she is the spiritual mother of the body, that is all of us. This happened before Jesus dies, in John 19 when He said "behold your son, behold your mother" to John the apostle and Mary his mother. In that way Jesus

makes his mother as the mother of the church, the mother of the body. The Holy Spirit is the soul and life of the Mystical Body of Christ. We find the Holy Spirit playing three very important roles: **At the Baptism of Jesus** - showing the whole world that Jesus is now in solidarity with all the sinners to be saved. **At the Annunciation** - the dawn of our salvation. He made it possible for Mary to be conceived. **At the Pentecost** - the Holy Spirit was there at the beginning of the church, the bride of the Christ.

The standing instructions point 3 says we should do our legion work in union with Mary, and it is only when we do it in union with her, she will lead and guide us as the Legionary service is based on the Mystical Body of Christ. By doing our work in communion with Mary, we will be able to serve her son because remember, what I do to A B or C, how I serve them, I serve Jesus.

Last tip, to serve the Mystical Body of Christ we need to be updated and follow this threefold strategy: **-Awareness - Understanding - Act** Every praesidium has got different needs, we cannot have uniform needs. For ex., in a certain parish there are many alcoholics, so can the pair of legionaries work along with Alcoholics Anonymous and help them to go for AA meetings. Or in a certain parish, you find many of them living in sin, marriage not blessed, can the legionaries help with the assistance of the parish priest to regularize their marriage. In certain places, you'll find Catholics who have left the Church. Can we update our apologetics and go and visit these people in love and with harmonious dialogue and work to get them back to the church.

Every time we are aware, when we understand and act in a particular situation to concretely reach out, especially those who are lost, then we are building up the Mystical Body of Christ.

AVE MARIA

REPORTS:

1. Annual General Reunion – 15th November 2025

185 legionaries representing 22/22 praesidia gathered great enthusiasm and fellowship. The

Reunion began with the opening prayers & Rosary follow by the welcome by Sr. Janice, setting the tone for a prayerful and joyful evening.

Br. Francis conducted the programme beautifully, with a march-past, followed by a lively dance.

Engaging games, a round of Bible Housie, Crossword Legion Quiz Spot prizes all adding to the fun.

Br. Aaron shared a heartfelt talk on his early experiences and challenges in the Legion, inspiring many with his journey of faith and perseverance. Rev. Fr. Manuel Murzello, Parish Priest of Don Bosco Parish, addressed us with a short but meaningful message.

With the Vote of Thanks by Br. Valerian, the Reunion ended on a happy note, strengthening our unity and renewing our commitment Legion apostolate.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Don Bosco praesidium for the well planned Reunion.

2. Calcutta Consolidation trip – 15th November - 23rd November 2025

Sisters Cassina and Janet visited the Comitium from 15th November to 23rd November 2025

Training was given to All the Praesidia Officers on Leadership & Training was given to the Correspondents on their role.

We visited 5/6 Sr praesidia and checked their works, books and records. The 2 Jr praesidia are doing very well with good membership and works.

We attended the Comitium meeting, had 2 meetings with the Comitium officers. Checked their records and gave a feedback on areas of improvement and a review of the various praesidia we visited.

The Treasurer of the Comitium has resigned.

We met the Bengali Curia Officers and answered all their queries. The Bengali Curia is doing well with strong officers that are governing well.

Over the last visit period we found that there is improvement in governance and the outlying councils were visited by the Comitium, giving training to the Kohima Curiae and Dimapur praesidia, Ranaghat Curia

The 4 reports of Chittagong presented at the Comitium showed good attendance, membership & variety of works.

Chittagong visit was not possible due to visa issues for Indians in view of the political situation.

The Comitium officers and the Local Legionaries prepared a meticulous plan for our trip, accompanying us for all our meetings.

We thank the Comitium officers and members for their care and support during our stay in Calcutta.

3. Delhi/Meerut Consolidation trip – 23rd November – 4th December 2025

Bros. James and Allan met the Bishop of Meerut, Right Reverend Bhaskar Jesuraj. On request, he issued a circular to the priests of the Diocese encouraging and inviting them to establish the Legion of Mary in their respective parishes.

4 prospective parishes were identified. In 2 parishes, Kankerkhera and Sardhana, we received a positive response.

We also had a meeting with Fr. Peter Anthony, SD of the LoM in the Diocese. In Kankerkhera, after a LS, 8 prospective members recruited. We also met the Sp. Directress of the junior praesidium in the Formation House, which is functioning.

A LS held on 7th December at Sardhana parish where 5 prospective members recruited, a praesidium started at St. John's Minor Seminary. Along with the Bishop, we thank Fr. Jomon Joseph - Director of the Meerut Seva Samaj, for making the necessary travel arrangements, Fr. Lawrence Rayappan and Sr. Arti Mariyam - President of the East Delhi Curia, for her help and support.

In Delhi, we had meetings with the Executives of all the 3 Curiae, to plan the inauguration of the Comitium and sorted out their issues on audit, literature stock, etc.

A N N O U N C E M E N T S:

- Plan your Christmas campaign / Crib contact during the month of Dec'25.
- Jan 18, '26 DA Training @ Goregaon Seminary from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm All to attend. Please give your names to Sr Fiona by 10th January 2026
- All councils and praesidia have your planning meeting for 2026 and send your plans to Senatus.
- Please continue to propagate the beatifications of Br. Frank Duff, Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe.
- 6. Please pray for legionaries who are ill and those going on extensions and consolidations.
- Next Senatus Meeting will be held on **4th January, 2026 at 3.00pm at CSP Hall, Goregaon Seminary.**

DA PRAESIDIA - AGR



CALCUTTA TRAINING



Junior Curia - AGR



Mira Road Curia - AGR



SENATUS OFFICERS:

SP. DIRECTOR	Fr.Anthony Fernandes	9821601608			
PRESIDENT	Janet Mendonca	9820006903	ASST.SECETARY	Fiona Dsouza	9930580650
VICE PRESIDENT	Cassina Netto	7718835006	ASST.SECETARY	Dorine Andrade	9869435216
SECRETARY	Sandra Rose	9167857585	ASST.SECETARY	Kevin Paul	9322506201
TREASURER	Valerian Sequeira	9769681862	ASST.TREASURER	John Correia	9819757428