



Legion of Mary
SENATUS OF LOS ANGELES
www.LA-Senatus.org

Newsnotes

IMPORTANT

We wish to inform our councils that it has always been strictly forbidden by the Concilium to reproduce copies of the actual council minutes and then send these copies to other councils, except the higher council to which they are attached and the correspondent. We wish to stress that the Newsnotes are an extract of our actual minutes and would contain a brief summary of few items that would be of proper interest to our lower councils and praesidia. If you have important events or news that you would like to share, please send it to the Senatus Board.

Dear Sisters and Brothers.

May these Newsnotes of the Senatus of Los Angeles find you all doing well. The 783rd meeting of the Senatus of Los Angeles was held on December 11, Thursday, in the School Parish Hall of Christ the King Catholic Church.

Concilium Letter (Message from Sr. Patricia O' Donaghue)

- Sr. Patricia said, "The handbook tells us we are all called to be saints and in the legion that really means keeping the Standing Instructions and so submitting to the discipline of our commitment. Please put recruiting and extension on the top of the list with a little plan near it. Don't worry how small the plan is because we can all recall that story of the little boy who brought his 5 loaves and fishes to feed his family and listen to Our Lord. Well, these loaves and fishes in the Masters hand and blessed by Him multiplied and there were left overs. Let us each this year give our 5 loaves to the Lord. Remember if you keep the Legion Promise that you will submit to the Legion and its discipline, then you will attend your meeting and do your 2 hours of allocated work and do it with joy because this is your offering and it will be multiplied."
- Sr. Patricia thinks we all need to recruit and have good challenging works to attract the young. She said, "Let us pray and act on this. The Concilium are anxious that we attract the young and are promoting Deus et Patria which of course will provide a meeting point and functions for younger people, also let us try to start more junior praesidia, they will also be the adult legionaries of the future. Get them involved with their own age, for example, adoration for children, or a rosary group in their school during lunch? Make rosaries for this and get a statue or picture of the Blessed Mother. She always leads to Jesus so keep on trying to do this."
- She was delighted to hear about the meeting of the new Las Vegas Curia held on January 5 and she is looking forward to hear more progress.
- She also said that it is wonderful news to learn that the Los Angeles Korean has re-organized their council and are running according to the Legion System. Well done to Legionaries who make this effort to run the legion according to the handbook.
- She encourages all legionaries and officers of councils to answer no question or give any instruction without first seeing what the handbook teaches.
- Furthermore, to keep the handbook as the primary source for the upcoming Congress of the LA Senatus praesidia where they will be involved in the study and be able to share the result of this study.

Sr. Patricia's Feedback on the Annual Report of the Mother of Perpetual Help Curia (quoted from the letter)

Reading the report from Mother of Perpetual Help Curia makes me a little sad as I wonder if you have read chapter 28 on Government and section 24 in particular "to win over and not vote down". Could I humbly suggest that more prayer for light in this situation needs to be done by all involved? As I can only see from far away and I do not know or understand all that is involved, I would ask you to return to this and in a gentle manner bring all together and see what is the best solution.

In the meantime, the Curia has listed works that are not works, such as fund raising, we are not a collection agency and doing such things as attended funerals and doing Spiritual Bouquets are wonderful and our Christian duty but we need to do active works. The hardest and most unrewarded as possible within our capabilities. Visiting as you do the sick and those in nursing homes is such a work and if you could join this with a little home to home. Maybe each praesidium take on the visitation of one block of flats or one housing estate and see how that goes. Maybe you could do a Columban drive in each of the parishes you work in and also try to start another one in an adjoining parish. Just one small move in each direction. Stand near a railway station and give out a few medals. Ask those in the supermarket if they would like a prayer card. All difficult in their own way but so rewarding. We must go out to the whole world, wherever that is in your own small area.

Allocutio – St. John the Baptist, by Fr. Joseph Dass

- St. John the Baptist started his ministry at the age of 30 just as Jesus did. Why 30? Jewish rabbis start their ministry at the age of 30, which is considered traditionally by the Jewish people to be the mature age to preach.
- John the Baptist went straight to the desert region of Jordan to preach rather than Jerusalem which was the center for religious scholars during his time. All people flocked (including the priests, Levites, and pharisees) to him since it has been 400 years since they have heard again of a prophet. The last prophet to preach before John the Baptist was Malachi who lived 400 years ago. For 400 years, the Jewish people did not hear a prophet, so they flocked to John the Baptist to listen. They asked him "Who are you? Are you Elijah?" Why Elijah? Because Elijah went up to heaven in a fiery chariot and the Jews believe that Elijah will come back again ahead of the Messiah. John the Baptist said "No". Are you THE prophet (not a prophet)? Who did the Jews referring to? They are referring to the prophet that Moses told the people before he died (in Mt. Nebo across the Dead Sea) that God will raise from among them a prophet like him and that they should listen to this prophet. John the Baptist again said "No" to this question.
- John the Baptist said that he is only a "Voice" crying out in the desert wilderness. More than the voice, what is more important is the thought in one's head. One is only using one's voice to impart one's thought. John is saying that his thoughts, the Word, that is, Jesus, is more important and is coming and in fact already has come. Jesus is greater than him. He is just announcing the coming of the bridegroom (Jesus) to claim His bride (i.e. us). This is in line with the Jewish wedding tradition of the bridegroom sending his best man ahead of him to tell and announce his coming in front of the bride's home so that they can open the door for the bridegroom to claim his bride. Once the bride is claimed, the best man's work is done and he steps back.
- John the Baptist said that he is just the announcer and that he is not important. Jesus must increase and he must decrease, John said. Such humility! Jesus said that John the Baptist is more than a prophet and complemented him as the greatest man born of a woman. The greatest complement Jesus gave to any man. In the Old Testament, Yahweh gave the greatest complement to David through the prophet Samuel. Yahweh said that David was a man after His heart. In other words, Yahweh is saying that David is his favorite man.
- John the Baptist said that Jesus must increase, and he must decrease and that he is not even worthy to untie his sandals – not worthy to be even a slave of Jesus. Because of John's humility, Jesus raised him up to the highest level. Humility is the basis and the foundation of all virtues. If you want to be holy, kind, gentle, and merciful, then you must have humility, without which, nothing else would work. On the other hand, pride is the basis and the foundation of all the evils in the world (anger, hatred, jealousy, and the likes). So today as we meditate upon the virtues of John the Baptist, we ask the good Lord to give us the grace in order to grow in the virtue of humility, which is the basis and foundation of all virtues through which we please our Lord, all for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls. AMEN,

Announcement

- Congress scheduled on June 13, 2026 – from 8 to 3:30 pm for the Senatus attached praesidia. Venue: Christ the King Church.
- **CONGRESS** Topic Assignment: **Overall Lead Person: Sr. Purificacion Santos**
 - **Leader: Sr. Stephanie Moore : Spirituality**—Topic on Hope, Humility, & Joy: Our Lady of Assumption, Mother of God & Our Lady of Hope
 - **Leader: Sr. Tessie de Mata : Membership**—Queen of the Universe, Mother of the Holy Family, Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit
 - **Leader: Sr. Luz Sta. Cruz: Legion Works** – Immaculate Heart of Mary, Our Lady of Akita, Mary Immaculate
 - **Leader: Sr. Concepcion Galang: Extension & Recruitment** Mother of Divine Grace, Our Lady of Knock, Our Lady of Confidence

Old & New Business

- Subscribe to Maria Legionis. <https://marialeionis.com>
- Please go to the website to view your Annual Reporting Schedule for 2026 and Annual Visitation Schedule.
- Prayer requests for the health and healing of Srs. Patricia O’ Donaghue, Elisa Pazirandeh, Norma Gonzalez, Melba Muyco, Josie Baril, & Sheila Daly

Praesidium & Council Visitation

- **Praesidium Visitation**
Sr. Concepcion Galang and partner of Our Lady of Knock to visit Our Lady of Hope
- **Council Visitation:**
Sr. Eleanor Graf and partner to visit West San Fernando Valley English Curia
Senatus Officers to visit Our Lady of Perpetual Help Vietnamese Curia most likely- in March since the 2nd week of February falls on Valentine’s day.

Upcoming Events

- Senatus Board Meeting – February 5 2026 (Thurs), 9:30 AM, Br. Dan Dunkin’s Residence
- Senatus Meeting – February 19, 2026 (Thurs) 7:00 PM Christ the King Church
- Correspondents Meeting – February 21, 2026 (Sat), 2:00 PM, St. Dominic’s Community Center