

# **THE PATRICIAN MANUAL**



**LOS ANGELES SENATUS**



# The Legion of Mary

REGIONAL SENATUS OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA — ARIZONA — NEVADA — UTAH — HAWAII — IDAHO  
BAJA CALIFORNIA NORTH (MEXICO)  
OREGON

WILLIAM M. THOMPSON, JR.  
President

Dear legionary,

The comments contained in this Manual pertain to a movement that was very close and dear to the founders' heart. Bro. Frank Duff remarked to me personally that he considered the Patrician group one of the most vital prerequisites for involving the average layperson in Evangelization (Conversion).

He stated, that after the Homily of the Mass, it was the most effective method of teaching the average Catholic about his/her religion. It was Bro. Duff's fondest desire that every single Praesidium sponsor a Patrician group.

Alas, this dream of the founder has not properly materialized. Thus, it is a tragic loss for the Church and a great shame for the Legion of Mary.

It is my ardent desire that these few comments of mine and suggestions for establishing a group, will help prob and motivate Praesidia and Councils to attempt a Patrician meeting.

The achievement of Frank Duff's goals rests in your hands. I pray that you give this movement your highest priority and attention.

Yours in Christ & Mary Immaculate,

William M. Thompson Jr.  
President  
REGIONAL SENATUS OF LOS ANGELES

TABLE   OF   CONTENTS

Letter from Senatus President -----	1
Preface -----	3
Why is the Patrician group so vital -----	4
Who should attend -----	4
Who Controls or Sponsors Patricians -----	5
The Basics in starting a Patrician -----	5
The First Steps -----	6
No Spiritual Director -----	7
Structure of Patrician meeting -----	8
The Actual Meeting -----	8
Obligations of those attending -----	11
A Serious Pitfall to avoid -----	12
Ways to Publicize -----	13
Summary -----	14
In Conclusion -----	15
Sample "Patrician Meeting Folder" -----	16
Sample "Patrician Invitation Card" -----	16
Reminder -----	17

## P R E F A C E

WE WILL NOT GO INTO THE BASICS OF WHY CATHOLICS  
DO NOT SPEAK ABOUT THEIR FAITH OR THE GREAT NEED  
TO EVANGELIZE, AS THIS IS COVERED IN DEPTH IN  
NINE PAGES OF THE LEGION OF MARY HANDBOOK AS  
WELL AS IN THE SENATUS POINTS OF UNIFORMITY MANUAL.



## THE PATRICIANS

### A) WHY IS THE PATRICIAN GROUP SO VITAL IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE LEGION OF MARY?

- 1) It is an educational tool in teaching Catholics the contents and beliefs of their Faith. It covers both dogma--basic faith beliefs as well as discusses the newly arrived topics of embryo transplants, test tube babies and laboratory fertilization, the point of morally stopping life giving support, etc., etc., etc.

Most Catholics have had their training in faith fundamentals at an early age and hence, a refresher "course" is most appropriate.

- 2) It trains Catholics in discussing their faith beliefs so that they become more familiar with them and hence, are able to speak about what they believe to those outside the household of the Faith.
- 3) It enables Catholics to know their Faith well enough and to be secure enough in their religious outlook, that they are able and willing to converse with their neighbors, friends and workers when the occasion may present itself. Hopefully, it may give them the desire, based on their self confident, to actually SEEK WAYS TO EVANGELIZE. Perhaps, even consider the Legion of Mary for active membership.

In otherwords, the Patrician group is an instrument of Evangelization. It is the Legion of Mary's vehicle for spreading the Faith by those who are not active members.

### B) WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- 1) All baptised Catholics.

#### a. Must they be practicing?

No--fallen away or lax Catholics are most welcome and, in fact, every FAC located on door to door visitations, etc., should definitely be invited and encouraged to attend.

IMPORTANT: Although FAC's are most welcome, it must be understood that the Patricians is not a "debating society" where, as an example, some believe abortion is morally wrong whereas others attending hold definite views that abortion is morally justified after so many births in a family etc. Those attending may be confused, have misinformation, etc., and this is fine and to be expected. But, all those attending must in general, "be of one mind with the Church."

## THE PATRICIANS CONTINUED

- 2) Why are NON-Catholics not invited to the meeting, as a tool for Evangelization?

During the course of the year, there are topics that will be brought forth for discussion that a non-Catholic would find difficult discussing from the viewpoint of the Church. A few examples would be "the infallibility of the Holy Father in matters of Faith and Morals," "the Immaculate Conception", "the Assumption of Mary", "that Mary was a virgin before, during and after the birth of Jesus", "Apostolic succession from the Apostles to your Associate Parish Priest", etc.

The Handbook indicates that if the Bishop desires, an exception to this rule may be made.

- 3) The Patrician group is excellent for active legionary members to gain more knowledge about their Faith for work on the Bookbarrow, Apostolate to the Crowd and door to door visitations, etc.
- 4) Naturally, the Catholic who is not active in the Legion is a prime candidate for "membership" in the Patricians. Bro. Frank Duff realized that not all Catholics have a "Legion vocation" and therefore, we must attempt to motivate this large non-Legion population to take their rightful responsibility in the urgent need to Evangelize (Conversion). Hence, this segment of the population should be sought out.

### C) WHO CONTROLS OR SPONSORS THE PATRICIANS?

- 1) It is not a Council "run group".
- 2) It is under the auspices of "a Praesidium."

### D) THE "BASICS" OF STARTING A PATRICIAN GROUP

- 1) Although it is run and controlled by a Praesidium, the motivation to begin, can and probably should, originate with the Council Board. It is apparent that simply telling Praesidia, annually or semi-annually under Points of Uniformity on the Council Agenda or at a Congress Workshop, that they should consider starting a Patrician group, has NOT produced the results desired. It was Bro. Duff's hope and ardent wish that every Praesidium would sponsor a Patrician group.

## THE PATRICIANS CONTINUED

2) When a Council has no Patrician group, the Council Board should give the matter their utmost attention.

- a. At the Council Board meeting, a survey is made of all the Parishes within the geographic boundary of the Council and then, a decision made as to the Praesidium thought most able to sponsor a Patrician group.
- b. The Praesidium should be assured that the Council will help in every way possible.

3) The FIRST STEPS:

- a. Decide on location site for the meeting. It could be in a private home or a convenient location on Parish grounds. Remember that a smaller size room has the advantage of the members not appearing "lost" in too large a surroundings and a smaller size room seems to psychologically propel more comments and conversation. A private living room also provides a more cozy, informal and friendly atmosphere.
- b. Decide on the day and time thought best for the meeting. As an example, "first Thursday of every month at 8 PM." By picking a specific monthly date, as 2nd Wednesday, 3rd Friday monthly, everyone can plan ahead in their schedule.
- c. Decide who will act as "Moderator." Remember, the Moderator must be an active legionary. Moderating the Patrician meeting may count as a valid work assignment the week the Patrician meeting is held.

It is not necessary to be a "lay theologian" or be well versed in apologetics to act as a Moderator. Also, it is not advisable to change Moderators, i.e., monthly or every few months, as it requires a few months to acquire top efficiency.

- d. Attempt to contact several non-legionaries from the Parish, explaining the Patrician format, and invite them to attend the first meeting. Try to obtain their consent to come to at least 2 or 3 meetings.
- e. For the first meeting, it will be necessary to select an appropriate topic. At the end of the first meeting and succeeding meetings, the topic is selected by vote from those attending. (The "Senatus Patricians Folder" lists 104 topics for suggestions or check for subjects appearing in your local Catholic newspaper.)

## THE PATRICIANS CONTINUED

- f. It will be necessary to select someone, who will be attending the first meeting, to present the "opening remarks" or "paper." (As to professional speakers, please see Senatus Points of Uniformity Manual, page 62.)
- g. Approach the Praesidium Spiritual Director or Pastor, explaining the Patrician format, the fact that a location and date have been obtained, that some parishioners have agreed to attend and ask if it is possible to attend the meeting as Spiritual Director. Remember, the Spiritual Director at the Patrician meeting may be any one of the following: priest, religious sister, religious brother, permanent deacon or a qualified layperson. Sometimes, a priest, either in residence or retired, at the Parish or a nearby Parish may be available. The availability of the Spiritual Director may cause a change in the day of the meeting.

IMPORTANT: Unfortunately, it has been discovered that many hoped for "beginnings of Patrician groups" are smashed to smithereens because Spiritual Directors can not be obtained. Naturally, the desirability and enhancement from the attendance of a qualified Spiritual Director can never be underestimated; but we all must appreciate and understand that the Patrician movement CAN NOT be frustrated for lack of a Spiritual Director.

Therefore, we would recommend and urge a Praesidium that is attempting to begin a Patrician group not to withdraw simply because they can not find someone to act in this capacity. (Also, perhaps an appeal to the Council could produce a Spiritual Director.)

Therefore, we plead with the Praesidium to take the plunge and begin holding the meetings. Normally, there will not be any problems with difficult or unanswered questions. (If a difficult question does arise, simply note it, discuss it with a priest and give the correct answer the following month.)

We have found many times that a Patrician group that holds together for 3, 5 or 7 months, will suddenly "inherit" a Spiritual Director.

## THE PATRICIANS CONTINUED

### E) THE STRUCTURE OF THE PATRICIAN MEETING

- 1) The meeting is held monthly.
- 2) The meeting lasts two hours  
(See "Senatus Patrician Folder" and Legion Handbook for exact schedule.)
- 3) At the end of the first meeting and succeeding meetings, a list of perhaps 5 or 7 topics are passed around about 15 minutes before ending. Each person present votes for a topic. When the list makes the rounds and is received back by the Moderator, the topic with the most votes is announced. Then, a "call" for someone present to volunteer to prepare a short "paper" or a few facts to be presented at the following meeting.

Although the schedule permits up to 15 minutes for the remarks, it is the experience of many that a paper or remarks of 5 or 10 minutes is sufficient; too much information given will sometimes reduce the later discussion. In a few instances, the person presenting the paper will go far beyond the 15 minutes limit and thus, the Moderator will have to ask for a summary, maintaining the time schedule.

### F) THE ACTUAL MEETING

- 1) The chairs in the room should be arranged to afford conversation and so all may see one another.
- 2) A Legion of Mary altar should be set up. (A Tessera may need to be used.)
- 3) At the appointed time, all stand and recite in unison the "Patrician Prayer." (The Legion Prayers and Rosary are not said at the Patrician meeting.)
- 4) Then, when seated, the Moderator welcomes everyone and announces the topic and introduces the person giving the "paper" or opening remarks. Experience has found that it is helpful to "break the ice" by first going around the room and having each person give his/her name. This permits each person to speak at the beginning and hopefully, will entice them to continue through the meeting. Also, it helps in knowing one another.
- 5) At the conclusion of the opening remarks, the Moderator opens the discussion to the floor.

## THE PATRICIANS CONTINUED

- 6) The person giving the opening paper should feel free to join in the discussion while at the same time, realizing that it is not correct to monopolize the discussion because of having researched the subject so thoroughly. This could have a detrimental effect and therefore caution should be observed.
- 7) As may be expected, a group meeting will always have some who will want to do a lot of talking while others will simply be too shy to speak. Therefore, a major job of the Moderator is to gently and tactfully, restrain those who may be overtalking and to try to bring out some comment from the shy. A method that the author has found effective, (perhaps at the 2nd half of the meeting), is to throw out a question, while saying, "let's hear from those who haven't spoken yet"--and then not permit those who have spoken frequently to comment until everyone has had an opportunity.

Naturally, we must not attempt to force anyone, otherwise shy persons will not return. It may take several meetings for some to feel relaxed enough to comment.

IMPORTANT: The Moderator should never "panic" if there is a sudden lull or time when no one is speaking. It is at these quiet moments when the Holy Spirit takes over and prompts those who have not spoken, to feel that they are not protruding and will venture forth with a comment. Of course, we must remind Moderators that they are also not to overspeak or attempt to "fill" every quiet moment with conversation.

- 8) It is understood that everyone making a comment must be loud enough to be heard by all present. Although the Handbook recommends that every time someone comments, the person should stand, it has been found in the United States that Americans are more comfortable to remain seated while speaking.

Naturally, if persons remain seated there is a tendency not to be heard or for several to speak at once. Thus, the Moderator will have to be alert and maintain order.

- 9) At the completion of the 1st hour, the Moderator should give the "Treasurer's statement": giving the balance at the beginning of the last meeting, the amount in the Secret Bag, less the cost of the refreshments at the last meeting and final balance. Prior to breaking for "intermission", the Moderator should read the topics on the sheet that will be circulated later and urge those present, who wish, to add their own religious topics during the break, so that they may be included later when voting.

## THE PATRICIANS CONTINUED

- 10) The refreshment period is important for allowing members to become acquainted with each other while still permitting some parts of the topic conversation to continue. The refreshments should be of "a quality nature" so as to enhance the meeting. This is most important.
- 11) When resuming the meeting, the Moderator introduces the Spiritual Director who has 15 minutes to give his perspective and perhaps to touch tactfully on comments made during the prior hour that may need correction or additional information.
- 12) Then, the general discussion continues and the Secret Bag is passed. The contents of the Secret Bag is used solely for refreshments. It does not go to the Praesidium. (Unless, the Patrician group closes, then the amount remaining goes to the Praesidium Secret Bag.)
- 13) Twelve to fifteen minutes prior to the close, the sheet is passed with a pen so that each member may vote.
- 14) Five minutes to closing, the ballet reaches the Moderator, who announces the topic selected for next month and then asks for a volunteer to give the opening remarks. Another reason for keeping the opening remarks to 5 or 8 minutes, is that it is less intimidating for those who may be considering volunteering. To have to prepare a full 15 minutes is overwhelming for some persons.
- 15) At the close, all stand and recite in unison, the "Apostles' Creed," followed by the blessing of the priest. (If he is not present or the Spiritual Director is a religious brother or religious sister or there is no Spiritual Director, then the blessing is omitted.)



## THE PATRICIANS CONTINUED

### G) OBLIGATIONS OF THOSE ATTENDING

#### 1) Believe it or not, there are no obligations.

- a. There are no work assignments.  
(Except the person who has volunteered to give the "opening remarks.")
- b. When the topic is announced, some may wish, during the month, to look up pertinent data for their own information, while others (perhaps the majority) will simply come to the following meeting with the information on "the top of their heads."
- c. Must you attend every meeting?  
  
No--simply come when it is convenient. (Naturally, it is hoped that the meeting and topics will be so interesting that everyone will wish to attend monthly.)
- d. Are there any membership dues?  
  
No. A "Secret Bag" is passed in the second half of the meeting right after the "Spiritual Director's remarks." Each person places his/her hand in the bag as at a Praesidium meeting. No one knows who contributed, how much, or if any. The contents are used solely for refreshments. The money does not go to the Legion.
- e. The Legion altar, Vexillum, etc., is not purchased by the members of the Patricians. Rather, the Praesidium sponsoring the Patricians brings their own altar for the Patrician meetings. (Perhaps, if a Vexillum from a closed Praesidium is being held in storage by the Council, the Council may perhaps be so inclined to donate or loan the Vexillum or altar equipment for the Patrician meeting.)



## THE PATRICIANS CONTINUED

### H) A SERIOUS PITFALL TO AVOID

- 1) Catholics, perhaps more than any other religious group--tend to look immediately to the priest for the "correct answer." Frequently in the discussion during the first hour, some may say, "Father, what is the correct answer?" Naturally, Father knows the answer and thus, the discussion would end. Therefore, the Moderator must say, "Father will comment later, but what do you think?" In otherwords, when someone asks a question, that person should be asked what they think, regardless of whether they know the correct answer.

IMPORTANT: The primary goal is to motivate those attending to give their thoughts. Others, may have a different understanding and voice opposite views. Eventually, as the "give and take" of the conversation continues, the correct answer normally surfaces. Again, the Spiritual Director mentally notes the divergency and tactfully brings the comments to a more accurate level during the 15 minutes allotted to the Allocutio.

- 2) It is expected and probable that remarks will be made that may not be actually correct or orthodox; still, each person must be allowed to voice their opinion without the accusation of "heresy." Otherwise, some will be hesitant and reluctant to speak or make a comment for fear of making a mistake or false statement.

The Patricians is a "family group" where each may speak "his piece" without fear of reprisal. But, like most large families, in the end, truth prevails.

- 3) It is expected that as the conversation continues, others through their comments, will bring the matter back to correct Catholic teaching. Later, when the Spiritual Director has the floor, there will probably be comments given that will help to clarify the matter.

## THE PATRICIANS CONTINUED

### I) WAYS TO PUBLICIZE THE MEETING

- 1) The members attending should spread the word to all of their Catholic friends. (The Los Angeles Senatus has produced an "Invitation Card" -- 3 x 5 -- printed with blank spaces for the specific day, time and location, etc., for each Patrician meeting. The attending members may take a few to distribute to friends who show an interest. The card is a reminder with all the pertinent facts.)
- 2) On Auxiliary calls and at the annual Auxiliary Function, an invitation should be given to attend with an explanation of the meeting and the fact that there are no work assignments.
- 3) On door to door visitations, practicing Catholics and FAC's should be given an invitation.
- 4) In the parish bulletin, a notice of the meeting could be inserted the Sunday prior to the meeting.
  - a. In practice, it has been found that inserting "Legion of Mary" has a tendency to scare some parishioners who may "fear" that they will have to join the Praesidium if they attend; also, others in the parish may think that it is directed primarily to the members of the Legion. Thus, it is found advisable not to mention Legion of Mary.
  - b. Simply advertising it as "the Patricians meeting" also confuses and some feel that it is only for special people.
  - c. Rather, it has been found most advisable to headline the notice as "Catholic Discussion Group."

The following is a sample of an actual notice placed in the bulletin of St. Ambrose Church, West Hollywood.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### *Catholic Discussion Group*

*This group meets the first thursday (Feb. 6th) at the home of Connie Walas, 726 N. Vista @ 8PM. Bill Thompson is the moderator. Come and meet new friends and enjoy delicious desserts. This weeks topic will be "Angels & their purpose in our lives."*

## THE PATRICIANS CONTINUED

- 5) Placing a notice on the "bulletin board" in the vestibule. An easy method would be to simply attach a completed "Senatus Invitation Card" with the appropriate data.
- 6) Naturally, an oral announcement could be made after Mass, if permitted. But this does not seem to be as effective as the bulletin notice given out each Sunday, since it is easy to forget the data and time.

### J) SUMMARY

The obligation for the Legion to become involved and foster Evangelization is paramount. As Frank Duff urged, the Patrician movement is the Legion's answer in training and mobilizing the people.

It is our Senatus goal that every Council have at least one and hopefully two Patrician groups. We ask the Council Boards to tackle this serious and pressing obligation--to take the first step in starting a Patrician group--to make this a well defined goal for their Council.

To simply put the topic on the Council Agenda under Points of Uniformity with no action taken CAN NOT CONTINUE. Each Council must "bit the bullet", make a definite commitment, prepare a plan and then take action.

It is recommended that the pages in the Handbook and the Senatus Points of Uniformity Manual on the Patricians be read, studied and discussed by every Praesidium.

# THE PATRICIANS

—TO MAKE US MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE

—TO MAKE US MORE ARTICULATE

—TO ENCOURAGE & PROMOTE EVANGELIZATION



To provide a healthful and pleasing atmosphere conducive to an excellent meeting, your kind cooperation in REFRAINING FROM SMOKING DURING THE MEETING is requested. Your thoughtfulness and consideration of others is greatly appreciated.



## LOS ANGELES SENATUS

# THE PATRICIAN MEETING

"The Patricians is a family affair. A family conversation about what concerns us all, open, frank and from the heart, is one of the delights of home life. We Christians, as Christ's brothers, belong to God's family. Thinking about our faith, talking it over and discussing its application in the spirit in which Our Lord and the apostles chatted about the day's teachings at the end of a missionary day in Galilee—this is the spirit of the Patricians.

"To know Christ Jesus as the wonderful, lovable teacher, master and Lord that He is, means that we have to soak our minds in His saving truths and feel thoroughly at home in talking about religion, just as we love to talk about our children, our home, our work. The Holy Spirit gives us all insights into Christ's truth. These we share at a Patrician meeting with others and learn in turn from them. There we are witnesses to Christ and our hearts burn within us as He speaks to us through the mouth of our neighbor.

"In and through the Patricians God comes nearer; His truths impress us more deeply; and the Church as our field of endeavor becomes more real to us. Minds catch light from minds, hearts glow with faith, Christ grows within us."---(Father P. J. Brophy.)

The Patrician purpose is to build up the religious knowledge of the people, to teach them how to explain themselves and to encourage them to apostleship. There are other forms such as the catechism class, the lecture system, the question and answer session. These have their own essential place, but they do not cope with what is probably the root problem of the Church: adult religious ignorance and the paralyzed tongues of the laity. The Patricians has been showing itself effective in that field and therefore must be jealously safeguarded. Its system is a delicately balanced one. A small interference with it can change it into something radically different, just as a slight alteration of tuning brings in a different radio station.

It is the sorrowful fact that Catholics do not speak about religion to those outside the Church, and seldom to those inside it. A term has been devised for this Christian disorientation: Mutism. Cardinal Seunens sums up the position thus: "It is said that those outside the Church will not listen. But the real truth is that the Catholics will not speak."

The Patrician meeting attempts to correct this situation. At the meeting each makes a contribution. The fact is that God takes even the weakest contribution into His hands and does something with it. When all have done their best, the gap that seemed unbridgeable may have been covered. Each one must make his contribution even though he knows it to be inadequate. A feeble effort is better than none. The converting of the world is the question of bringing Catholic effort to bear. There will be insufficient effort so long as every Catholic is whispering to himself: "I do not know enough and therefore I had better lie low." This is the prevailing situation in which the Patricians seeks to play a helpful part.

# AGENDA OF MEETING

- 0.00 - PATRICIAN PRAYER (Recited in unison, all standing)  
Brief outline of subject by lay volunteer limited to 15 minutes.
- 0.15 - DISCUSSION
- 0.59 - FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REMINDER THAT SECRET BAG WILL  
CIRCULATE IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRIEST'S TALK.  
(Funds used solely for refreshments)
- 1.00 - COFFEE/CAKE BREAK (Remind-list of topics available for  
review & may add your favorite, if desired.)
- 1.20 - TALK BY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR (Limited to 15 minutes. May be priest,  
nun, religious brother, permanent deacon or qualified lay person.)
- 1.35- -DISCUSSION RESUMED (Quietly circulate topic list so  
each may cast **one** vote.)
- 1.55 - ANNOUNCEMENTS (Date and subject for next meeting, ask  
for a volunteer to give paper following month.)
- 2.00 - THE CREED (Recited by all in unison, standing)  
BLESSING OF PRIEST (To be received standing)

## *Patrician Prayer*

Beloved Lord, bless the Society of Patricians into which we have entered for the purpose of drawing closer to Thee and to Mary Thy Mother, who is our mother also.

Aid us to the knowing of our Catholic Faith, so that its transforming truths may be operative in our lives.

Help us also to an understanding of Thy intimate union with men, by which they not only live in Thee, but also depend upon each other, in such manner that if some relax, others suffer and may perish.

Enable us to glimpse the weighty but glorious burden which is thereby laid on us, and to yearn to bear it for Thee.

We realize the stamp of men we are, the reluctance of our nature; how unfitted we are to offer our shoulders to Thee.

Yet we have confidence that Thou will regard our faith rather than our frailty, and the necessities of Thy work rather than the inadequacy of the instruments.

So, uniting our voice with the maternal pleadings of Mary, we beg from Thy Heavenly Father and from Thee the gift of the Holy Spirit, to abide with us; to teach us Thy life-giving doctrine; to supply all things that are needful to us.

Grant, too, that having been bounteously endowed, we may generously give, for otherwise the world may not receive the fruits of Thy Incarnation and most cruel death.

Oh, do not let labor and suffering so great be wasted. Amen.



# THE PATRICIAN PRINCIPLE

The rules of the Patricians prescribe a monthly meeting. Each meeting begins with the Patrician prayer. Then a talk or paper by a lay person, not to last longer than 15 minutes. Actually opening outlines/talks of just 5 to 8 minutes are proving adequate. If too much information is given, then this reduces the conversation following. The opening paper and the comments after the break by the Spiritual Director play an important part but must not exceed their time. Likewise every other item must be subject to precise time keeping.

The Patricians embodies the principle of chain reaction—where one person draws another on to thought and speech; where knowledge is built up into fulness by a slow motion process understood by all; and where advanced ideas are milled into simpler form and, so to speak, interpreted.

This principle is the opposite to the lecture system or the question-and-answer session—all of which belong elsewhere. If a few monopolize the proceedings, the Patrician plan is frustrated. It is the silence of those in authority, rather than their speech which will lead all others on to talk.

Erroneous statements should not at once be dealt with by those in charge but allow the group to gradually draw the thought back to correct teaching. It must be stressed that questions should not be addressed to and answered by the Spiritual Director during the time of discussion; otherwise, the answer will be given immediately and no discussion will follow.

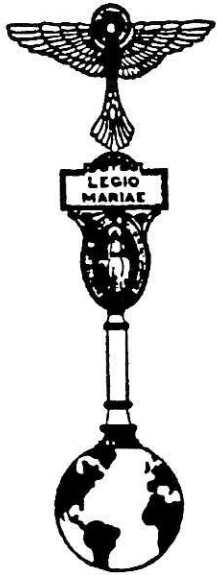
The person giving the opening paper will give his thoughts during the discussion but must practice restraint so as not to answer every question. Rather, allow for healthy discussion. The Moderator must not worry if there are periods of silence. It is at these specific periods when the timid members will be encouraged to seize the opportunity to inject their comments.

## SOME SUGGESTED PATRICIAN TOPICS

*(It is advised to list only 5 or 6 on a sheet of paper)*

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Abortion                                  | 36. Meditation/Contemplation                             | 70. Doctrine of Atonement                               |
| 2. Are Catholic schools worth the expense    | 37. Exorcism   | 71. Church's role in Labor                              |
| 3. The Holy Spirit in our lives              | 38. Scrupulosity   | 72. Social Justice                                      |
| 4. Angels & their mission among men          | 39. Aridity of the Soul                                  | 73. Setting priorities in Spiritual Growth              |
| 5. Holy Eucharist                            | 40. The singles' role in the Church                      | 74. The Inquisition                                     |
| 6. Sacrament of Confirmation                 | 41. Interpreting the Bible                               | 75. Grace   |
| 7. Test tube babies/sperm banks              | 42. Mary's role in Mystical Body                         | 76. Sacrament of Reconciliation                         |
| 8. Teenage suicide                           | 43. Making Indulgences work for us                       | 77. Sacrament of Sick/Healing                           |
| 9. The meaning of Christmas                  | 44. Witchcraft   | 78. How should the Church use the Communications Media? |
| 10. Why Catholics leave the Church           | 45. The Rosary/its meaning in my life                    | 79. Legislators' Responsibilities                       |
| 11. Evangelization                           | 46. Church as patron of the arts                         | 80. Role of Laity in today's Church                     |
| 12. The meaning of Lourdes                   | 47. Is the Rosary monotonous?                            | 81. Separation of Church & State                        |
| 13. The Devil                                | 48. God: loving or punishing?                            | 82. Scholasticism/Mysticism                             |
| 14. The Reformation                          | 49. Is it OK to criticize Church?                        | 83. Is one religion as good as another?                 |
| 15. The Incarnation                          | 50. St. Paul's role in developing Church                 | 84. Parish Council's role                               |
| 16. Role of Theologians since Vatican II     | 51. Has role of Vicar of Christ changed since St. Peter? | 85. Martyrdom   |
| 17. What is truth?                           | 52. The forty days after Easter                          | 86. The Fatima message                                  |
| 18. How does God need me?                    | 53. Catholic partner in mixed marriage                   | 87. The Assumption                                      |
| 19. The Immaculation Conception              | 54. Ecumenism—its meaning                                | 88. The Saints  |
| 20. Why I joined the Church                  | 55. Bible and meditation                                 | 89. Jehovah Witnesses                                   |
| 21. Prayer—its value in our lives            | 56. Bishops Role in Universal Church                     | 90. Censorship/good or bad?                             |
| 22. Vatican II documents                     | 57. Homosexuality  | 91. Patriotism/a Catholic virtue                        |
| 23. Evil                                     | 58. The Crucifixion                                      | 92. The Brown Scapular                                  |
| 24. Destiny                                  | 59. Charisma: What, who & how                            | 93. Are there really miracles today?                    |
| 25. Church art through the ages              | 60. Spiritual/Corporal works mercy                       | 94. The New Testament                                   |
| 26. Missionaries                             | 61. Canonization process                                 | 95. Suffering/its meaning—merit                         |
| 27. Church's contribution to the Renaissance | 62. Bioethics/keeping people alive                       | 96. Is the Bible enough?                                |
| 28. The Marks of the Church                  | 63. Peace—how do we promote                              | 97. What is idea of mortification?                      |
| 29. Sin                                      | 64. Theology   | 98. Is eternal punishment just?                         |
| 30. The Resurrection                         | 65. Holiness   | 99. Can we prove existence of God?                      |
| 31. The seven Sacraments                     | 66. Living wills   | 100. Doctrine Mystical Body                             |
| 32. The Trinity                              | 67. Explaining Purgatory                                 | 101. Is the Church a kill-joy?                          |
| 33. Vocations                                | 68. What is conscience?                                  | 102. The Mass in my life                                |
| 34. Moslems                                  | 69. Development of Church Doctrine                       | 103. Authority in religion                              |
| 35. Judaism                                  |  | 104. Communism opium of the people                      |

THE      APOSTLES'      CREED



I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN  
AND EARTH; AND IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD;  
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BORN OF THE VIRGIN  
MARY, SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED,  
DIED, AND WAS BURIED. HE DESCENDED INTO HELL; THE THIRD  
DAY HE ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD; HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,  
SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY; FROM  
THENCE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH,  
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE  
RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, AND LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.

(If a priest is present, at this time all remain standing  
while he gives us his blessing.)

# THE PATRICIANS

## LOS ANGELES SENATUS