

Legion is based upon and follows the spirituality of St. Louis Marie de Montfort. Therefore, all Legionaries should consecrate themselves to Mary following the method explained in his book, *True Devotion to Mary*. An easy to follow, 5-week consecration preparation, entitled *Consecration to Mary*, is available from *Angelus Press* (2915 Forest Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64109, Tel. 800-966-7337 or 816-753-3557). Legionaries should also familiarize themselves with St. Louis de Montfort's other works—all of which are found in the book *God Alone* (also available from *Angelus Press*).

Conditions Required for Membership



The Legion Handbook's Standing Instruction to Active Legion Members, regularly reminds them of the four basic requirements that are at the foundation of Legionary service—upon which all the others are built.

"Legionary duty requires from each Legionary:-

First, the punctual and regular attendance at the weekly meetings of the Praesidium, and the furnishing there of an audible report on the work done.

Second, the daily recitation of the Catena.

Third, the performance of a substantial active Legionary work, in the spirit of faith, and in union with Mary, in such a fashion that in those worked for and in one's fellow members, the Person of Our Lord is once again seen and served by Mary, His Mother.

Fourth, the preservation of an absolute secrecy in regard to any matter discussed at the meeting or learned in connection with the Legionary work."

Legion Work is Serious Work of Love



From the above basic duties we see the need of a variety of qualities in the Active Legionary. The primary quality is one of CHARITY, without which all our work is nothing but the tinkling of a brass cymbal—as St. Paul puts it. It is charity that makes light of all things, as the *Imitation of Christ* says: *"A great thing is love, a great good in every way. It alone lightens all that is burdensome and bears all that is unjust. For it carries a burden without being burdened, and makes all that is bitter, sweet and savory. The noble love of Jesus pushes us to do great things...Love feels no burden, thinks nothing of labors, would willingly do more than it can, does not complain of impossibility, because it conceives that it may and can do all things...when weary, it is not tired; it mounts upwards and securely passes through all"* (Book 3; Chapter 5).



Without this spirit of love, the Legionary will not persevere, nor will he be effective in his work amongst souls—for as St. Francis de Sales so truly said: *A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a hundred barrels of vinegar!* The Legion Handbook insists upon this spirit of charity time and time again.

Qualities Built on Charity



From the Handbook there emerges a litany of virtues and qualities that should clothe the charity of the Active Legionary: Close union with Mary; a profound spirit of prayer; lively faith; deep humility; great courage; unflagging perseverance; heroic patience; universal mortification; all embracing obedience; punctuality, discretion, reliability and cooperation. Obviously, few join the Legion possessing all these qualities—but nobody should join the Legion if they are not prepared to strive to acquire these qualities. For as in any great military force, it is not quantity that counts, but QUALITY. It was said of Jesus that He did all things well. Let it also be said of us. Quality counts!

Obedience to the Legion System



On this the Legion is resolute. To quote the Handbook: *"The Legion system is invariable. Experience shows that some persons want to impose upon the Legion, some composition of their own minds. Other persons are apt to conceive that they are out of the common and that their methods are legislated for...It would be better if these persons would refrain from posing under the name of the Legion. All this will have an unhappy sequel, for this springs from a false spirit of independence. Such will never attract special blessings from heaven. A Praesidium seeks to build upon sand if it does not respect the Legion code under which it works—a fact which explains the insistence, throughout the Handbook, on the necessity of exact adherence to the order of meetings and the general procedure as laid down therein.*

"Members are not at liberty to vary the rules, for each variation makes others inevitable, till finally, the body in existence bears the name of the Legion, but little else—so much so that it should be disowned by the Legion, even though valuable work is being done...If past experience is an indication, then no branch of the Legion will fail if it is worked according to rule. The Legion is a system which can be thrown out of balance by suppressing or altering any of its parts. So if unprepared to work the system exactly as described in the Handbook, then please do not start the Legion at all!" (Extracts from the Legion Handbook).