



Legion of Mary Auxiliary Membership



Twofold Structure of the Legion



The *Legion of Mary* is a lay organization that works beneath the banner of Mary, aiding the priest in his work for the salvation of souls. This help can be of a practical kind, whereby the Legion actively works alongside the priest in his pastoral role, or it can be spiritual help, whereby the Legion prays and draws down the necessary graces to enable both priest and Legion to succeed in their undertakings. Auxiliary membership is primarily concerned with this latter form of spiritual support.

Auxiliaries Supply Spiritual Ammunition



The word "Auxiliary" comes from the Latin "Auxiliator" meaning helper or assistant. That is precisely what the Auxiliary does—he helps the Active members of the Legion in their work. Not by working alongside them, for then he would also be an active member, but by supplying the Active members with the ammunition they need in their fight to restore Christ's Kingdom. What is this ammunition? It is none other than God's grace! Just like the contemplative Religious Orders drew down from heaven the graces that Missionaries needed in the conversion of souls, so too do Auxiliary members attract the graces that Active members need to successfully accomplish their work. An army is powerless without the back-up of regular supplies, so too is the Legion powerless without the constant back-up of grace obtained for them by their Auxiliaries.

The Tessera



Enclosed in this Introductory Package, you will have found a small fold-out prayer sheet, with a picture of Our Lady and many Legionaries on the cover. This is called the "Tessera" and it contains the Prayers of the Legion. It is issued to every member of the Legion, both Active and Auxiliary. In Latin, "Tessera" had a particular meaning of a tally or token, which was distributed among friends so that they, or their descendants, might always recognize each other.

As a military expression, it signified a square tablet upon which the watch-word was written and circulated through the Roman Legion. Similarly, our "Tessera" is the watch-word, or words of prayer, that show that the member belongs to Mary's Legion. It is also a token of unity and friendship amongst members, wherever they may be found.

Three Month Probation before Membership

We have enclosed a little eight-page pamphlet, which explains in detail all the obligations and recommendations of Auxiliary membership. It is entitled "*The Legion of Mary—Auxiliary Membership.*" Within its pages you will find all there is to know about Auxiliary membership. We will, however, briefly give you the essential requirements and obligations of membership. Firstly, anyone who wishes to become an Auxiliary Member, must undergo a three-month trial period of membership—during which time they fulfill the obligations of membership. Once this time has elapsed, they are approached by the Legion and asked if they wish to persevere. If they do, and if the Legion is sure that the obligations of membership have been faithfully fulfilled for the last three months, then they are enrolled in the Auxiliary Roll of the Legion. An occasional lapse of duty does not mean that the potential member has failed the test!

Daily Obligations of Auxiliary Members

Only Catholics can become Auxiliaries. However, there is no age limit to membership. The Auxiliary must say the prayers found in the "Tessera" each day. That is to say, the Prayer to the Holy Ghost & following invocations; the Rosary and successive prayers; the Magnificat with its antiphon and prayer; and finally the special Legion prayer "*Confer on us, O Lord...*" These need not be said all at the same time. They can be divided up throughout the day. The Rosary can also be divided up throughout the day. In other words it does not matter in which order you say the prayers, as long as you say them. You may ask: "What if I already say a daily Rosary—do I have to say

another one?" The answer is —strictly speaking—no. However, seeing as Our Lady of Fatima told little Francesco that he would have to say many Rosaries before he could go to heaven—we too recommend that you do say an extra Rosary, *if you are able*, but it is not strictly necessary in order to fulfill the obligation.

The Power of the Auxiliary

 "Give me an army that prays well, and I will conquer all enemies!" It was the great and saintly Pope Pius IX who said these words and we believe them to be true. We, who are not used to seeing things from God's viewpoint, cannot understand how such a simple and intangible thing like prayer, can be so powerful that it constitutes our principal weapon. With prayer, we can conquer all enemies: that is what the Pope said. That is also what the Legion says, and that must be our own conviction. That is why Our Lord said that if we would seek we would find; if we knocked, the door would open; if we asked, it would be given to us.

Moses and Josue - Auxiliary and Active

 In the Bible (Exodus 18; 8-12), it is related that when Josue and his men went to fight against Amelec, Moses together with Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill to pray for the victory of Josue. While Moses had his hands lifted in prayer, Josue was winning; but if, on account of fatigue, he put them down, Josue was losing. The battle lasted for several hours. So Aaron and Hur took a stone and let Moses sit on it, while they took hold of his arms and kept them outstretched. In this position, Moses prayed until sunset, when all the enemies were finally scattered and defeated.

In this biblical passage, we have a representation of the double membership in the Legion: Active or fighting members represented by Josue engaged in fierce combat; and Auxiliary or praying members represented by Moses on the hilltop with hands outstretched heavenward. As Josue needed the prayers of Moses to win the battle, so, too, do Active members need the prayer of Auxiliaries in order to win the struggle for the salvation of souls and in conquering the world for Christ. This explains why the Legion obliges every Active member to surround himself with an army of Auxiliaries, so that he can say with the same triumphant faith of Pope Pius IX: "*Give me an army of Legion Auxiliaries that pray well, and I will conquer all enemies.*" This is the power of prayer. This is the power of faith. If God is with us, who can be against us? Our Lady stressed at Fatima that her Immaculate Heart *would* triumph—but that much prayer and sacrifice would be required!

Weak Saints Defeat Satan

 "*Satan trembles when he sees—The weakest saint upon his knees!*" says an English poet, and with much truth. Not only Satan, but the entire gang of devils tremble. For them, a man who prays, is like an army in battle array: an army of two—God and man. Through prayer, God comes down to us and fights with us. If God is with us, whom shall we fear and what victories can we not obtain?

Let us look at St. Joseph, one of the patron saints of the Legion and Auxiliary Number One. He was not a great general, nor a leader of nations, nor an eloquent preacher, nor a brilliant writer. He was simply a humble and poor carpenter, who prayed as he drove the nail and cut the timber. Yet how great was he in the eyes of God and how powerful against the forces of the devil! We need many Auxiliaries like St. Joseph, men and women who lead poor and hidden lives, who can pray while they toil at home or at work. All have a place in the Legion, for all can pray, and prayers are needed for the conversion of souls.

Each Legionary is a Recruiting Officer

 Each Legionary, whether Active or Auxiliary, should be on the lookout for more Auxiliary members. They should recruit as many as they can. There is no limit. The more the better. They should also keep in contact with them and inspire them to be faithful in their prayers and to grow in love and devotion towards Mary. We publish a bi-monthly bulletin for our Auxiliaries, which strives to do just that. For they should realize that they have a great work to do. Their triumphs and successes may only be known to God and might only be recorded in the annals of heaven. Perhaps our greatest surprise in heaven will be to see that more souls were converted by the prayers of our Auxiliaries, than by all our efforts in Active service. For we must not forget that souls are only converted by the grace of God, and that grace is paid for by much prayer and sacrifice. It is by a great faith that the Auxiliary will persevere, and it is by faith that he will sing of victory.