

LEGION OF MARY

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THE TESSERA PRAYERS OF THE LEGION OF MARY FR ANDREW MATTHEW

I was once asked what makes a Rosary, a Legion of Mary Rosary. This is a good question when considering how often we pray a rosary at the Church or in the family home. But what makes your Rosary a Legion of Mary Rosary? The answer to this question is - the prayers of the Tessera. The Tessera prayers make your Rosary a Legion Rosary. Our Legion of Mary Rosary begins with the all-important invocation to the Holy Spirit, then the meditation on the life of Christ, and finally, the Legion Catena. These prayers surround our daily Rosary, the prayers of the Tessera, and transform the Rosary into part of the Legion of Mary prayers.

The Importance of the Catena Legionis Prayer in the Tessera. The Catena Legionis is an unbroken chain that each Legionary must maintain, as required by the Legion handbook's Basic Duties chapter. It is a formative prayer that unites us into an army. Legionaries are also encouraged to include all the Tessera prayers daily.

When we pray the Tessera prayers with the Rosary, they are divided into three spiritual parts. Firstly, we invoke the Holy Spirit; secondly, we meditate on Christ's life and Our Lady's Magnificat; and finally, we recite the Catena Legionis. Every part of the Tessera is vital to our Rosary as they develop the Spirit of the Legion in us.

The Holy Spirit is at the beginning of all our works, and Jesus is our Way, Truth, and Life, which is why each prayer part is essential and moves in prayer towards our apostolic activity. The union of mind and heart that the Tessera prayers create is why every Legionary must recite the Catena daily.

The Catena Legionis is a prayer that Legionaries use to strengthen their spiritual bond as members of the Legion of Mary. It is an unbroken chain of prayer that connects Legionaries worldwide. The Catena Legionis is an essential part of the Tessera, which is a set of prayers that Legionaries recite daily.

The Tessera is divided into three parts, each essential in its own way. The first part of the Tessera invokes the Holy Spirit, which is crucial in all our works. The second part is the meditation on Christ's life and Our Lady's Magnificat, which helps us reflect on Christ and Mary's virtues. Finally, the third part is the recitation of the Catena Legionis, which is the unbroken chain that each Legionary must maintain.

The Catena Legionis is a prayer that reminds us of our apostolic mission as Legionaries of Mary. It unites us into an army that fights for God's glory and souls' salvation. The Tessera prayers, including the Catena Legionis, help us to develop the Spirit of the Legion in us, which is the spirit of humility, obedience, and total dependence

As Legionaries of Mary, we are called to united work together towards our apostolic mission. The Catena Legionis prayer is one of the ways we maintain this unity and spiritual bond. It is a powerful prayer that strengthens our faith and reminds us of the importance of our work in the Legion.

Reciting the Catena Legionis daily is not just a duty but also a privilege. It enables us to connect with Legionaries worldwide and be part of a global network of prayer and apostolic activity. Through this unbroken chain of prayer, we become part of a spiritual army that fights for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

The Tessera prayers, including the Catena Legionis, help us to develop the Spirit of the Legion in us. This spirit is characterized by humility, obedience, and total dependence on God. As we pray the Tessera daily, we reflect on the life of Christ and the virtues of Mary, which inspire us to follow their example and become better Catholics.

In conclusion, the Catena Legionis prayer is essential to our Legionary life. It reminds us of our apostolic mission, strengthens our spiritual bond, and helps us develop the Spirit of the Legion. Let us continue to pray the Tessera daily and maintain the unbroken chain of the Catena Legionis as we work towards the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls.

LEGION OF MARY AS A PRIESTLY TOOL FOR EVANGELIZATION.

These times are unique as we can see that some of our Dioceses are dwindling in numbers quickly. We see the decreasing number of men becoming priests, which has resulted in some parishes closing or merging with another. Well, not all is lost, as in some areas, we are seeing an increase in numbers, and we can see people returning to the faith and wanting to receive the sacraments and confession. We also see few converts to the Catholic faith having or perhaps receiving special graces or finding what they longed for that led them to the Catholic faith. So, we are facing challenges, and the Holy Father said to devise new ways and methods to catechise and reach out. Primarily, we must reach out to the youth and the Young Adults. Recently, we witnessed thousands of youth congregating in Portugal for World Youth Day. It really is a channel to reach out to the unchurched, the alienated and those who have drifted away from the Church. How can we use the Legion as a tool for the new Evangelisation? People said Legion is pre-Vatican 2. It is funny because it was seen as avante garde when the Legion was started. It was seen as something pre-Vatican II because it did door-to-door evangelization 60 years before Vatican 2. It was seen as something ahead of its time. Many people don't know that the Legion handbook was used as a source for the degree of the laity. Back in 1960, Frank Duff received a telegram from Rome that they needed two copies of the handbook in all the available languages, and they were going to use it as one of the sources for the degree on the lay apostolate. The legion talked about the mobilisation of the Laity, which Vatican 2 also talked about. Vatican 2 refers to the Laity as a sleeping giant. That if the laity could awaken, it could convert the whole world.

Why should it be this evangelisation vehicle? Well, the Legion of Mary, when it comes together, forms a presence for our Mother Mary where we, as legionaries, are united in prayer, seeking her intercession to Jesus for the world's redemption. I genuinely believe the Legion of Mary is a particular manifestation of our Blessed Mother. In our parishes, having the Legion of Mary or a Marian apostolate can become a vehicle of evangelisation. It becomes the local presence of our Lady's motherly love for souls. The Legion of Mary can be that spiritual maternal presence of Mary in our parishes. Families with solo parents have difficulties and challenges, and that is similar to those of Parishes without their spiritual mother who is nurturing them in their faith. If the Priests are the Spiritual Fathers of a parish and, as legionaries, ensure that our fellow parishioners venerate, seek intercession, and be the soldiers of Our Lady, who is our Mother, I believe we can bring even more souls to her Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our Lady always brings souls back to her Son. She is our intercessor who prays for us at the time of our death and calls us to repent and turn back to our Lord. For instance, in Guadalupe, her apparition resulted in 9 million conversions over ten years. In Lourdes and Fatima, people are converted and brought to Christ because of the presence of our Lady. Globally, we see that the Legion of Mary in Africa, South Korea and the Philippines is growing rapidly, and thousands of conversions through Our Lady's spiritual maternity are being worked out in the lives of the Laity.

Brothers and sisters, we are sitting in this evangelising vehicle now. New Zealand needs converting, and we are the people who have the means and system set in place to do it. The fruits of the work may not be noticeable, but the seed must be sown first.

God Bless

John Tagiilima

President of New Zealand Senatus

SENATUS MEETING DATES FOR 2023

12 NOVEMBER
10 DECEMBER

NOVEMBER

ALL SAINTS DAY – SOLEMNITY
Wednesday, 1 November -

ALL SOULS DAY – FEAST Thursday,
2 November -

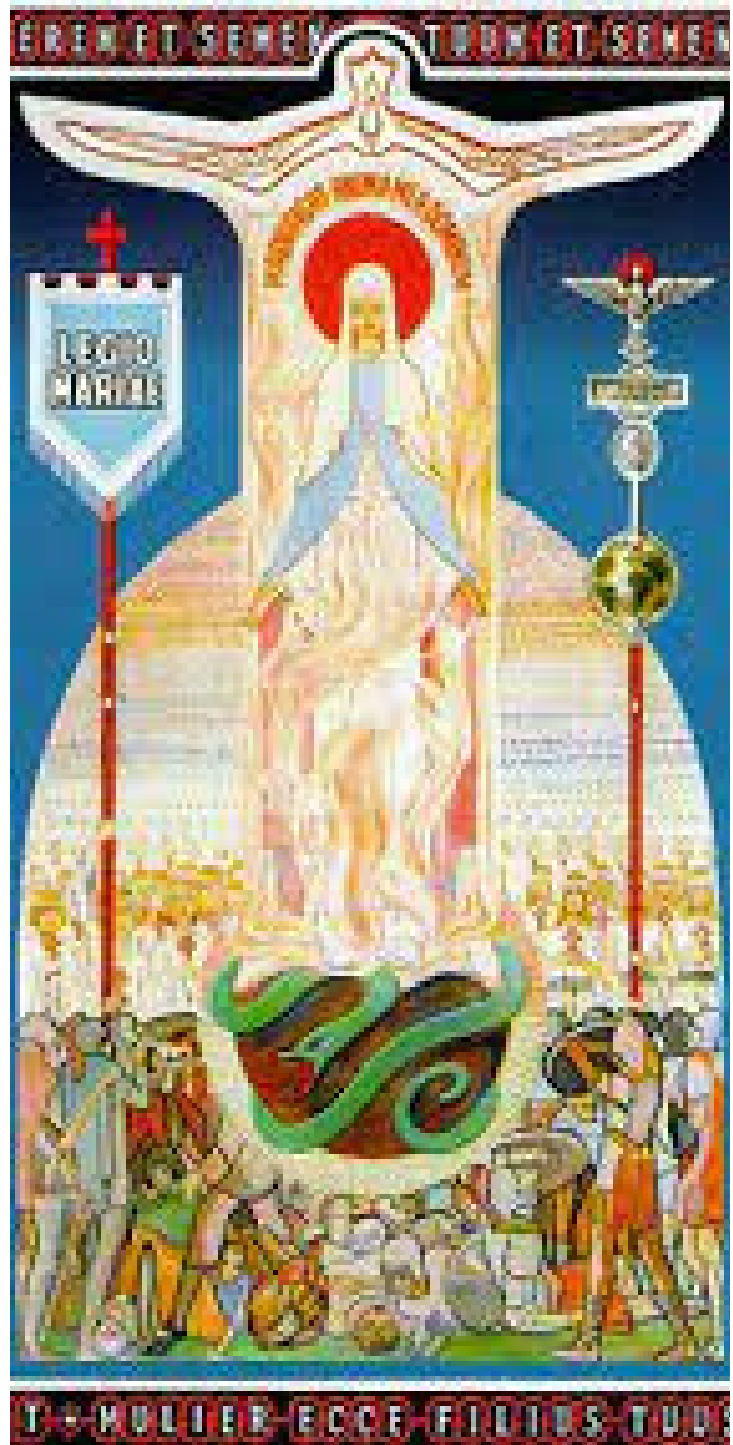
MASS FOR THE DECEASED
LEGIONARIES
2 November
Praesidium Level

FRANK DUFF MASS Friday, 10
November – 7.00pm
(Rosary), 7.30pm (Mass)
St. Joseph's Parish, Grey
Lynn

ANNUAL GENERAL REUNION
Sunday, 26 November – 2pm TBC

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF
THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY –
SOLEMNITY
Friday, 8 December - Praesidium
level

BIRTH OF OUR LORD – SOLEMNITY
Monday, 25 December -
Praesidium level



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