

# LEGION OF MARY

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**"You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."**  
**(Col. 3:3-4)**

  
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You have died to what? To sin. You have died to it by baptism, by repentance, and by the profession of a Christian life. You have died to sin, but how then can "we who died to sin still live in it" (Rom. 6:2). We must die to it once and for all. In order to die to sin completely, it is necessary that we die to all of our bad inclinations, to all that flatters our senses, and to pride. For all these things the Scriptures call sin, because they come from sin, because they incline to sin, and because they do not allow us to be entirely free from sin.

"You have died." When shall these words of St. Paul be accomplished in us? At what blessed moment of our lives? When shall we be without sin? Never in the course of this life. To whom, then, is St. Paul speaking when he says, "You have died"? Is it to the souls of the just? Are they dead? Are they not, on the contrary, in the land of the living? It cannot be to them that St. Paul speaks; it is to us.

The concupiscence of evil remains in us, and we must fight against it our entire lives. But we hold it fast, pinned to the ground. We hold it, but have we vanquished it? We ought to. We can, with the grace of God. And if during the struggle it deals some injury to us, we shall not cease groaning, nor humbling ourselves, saying with St. Paul, "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Rom. 7:24). You have been delivered, Christian soul: you have been delivered in hope.

"And your life is hidden." Our death, then, is not total. St. Paul explains: "If Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin," that is, the sin that once reigned in them and which has left behind its traces, "your spirits are alive because of righteousness," the righteousness that charity pours out into our hearts (Rom. 8:10). It is with respect to the life of Christian righteousness that St. Paul says, "and your life is hidden." Set free from human judgment, we should count as true only what God sees in us, what he knows, and what he judges. I am praised, blamed, treated with indifference, disdained, ignored, or forgotten; none of this can touch me. I will be no less than I am. Men and women want to play at being a creator. They want to give me existence in their opinion, but this existence that they want to give me is nothingness. It is an illusion, a shadow, an appearance, that is, at bottom, nothingness. What is this shadow, always following me, behind me, at my side? Is it me, or something that belongs to me? No. Yet does not this shadow seem to move with me? No matter: it is not me.

So it is with the judgments of men: they would follow me everywhere, paint me, sketch me, make me move according to their whim, and, in the end, give me some sort of existence.



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*A Message from the President:*

Proverbs 16:3 - Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. Without planning, the legion work lacks new ideas and forward thinking. The Officers need to know one another and their strengths and weaknesses. Planning meetings allow everyone to sit and fellowship around the table and pour their heart into the year's program. A well-planned journey is a journey destined for success.

To fulfil the need to plan, officers of a praesidium or council might consider the value of meeting once a year to plan for the year ahead. It is desirable that sufficient time be allowed for the meeting so that ideas and suggestions can be discussed well. It would be helpful if the President invited the other officers to submit suggestions in advance for the agenda of this meeting.

thBut in the end, I know it well: this is only a flickering light that takes me from one side or the other, that lengthens, shortens, swells, or shrinks the shadow that follows me, that makes it appear in various ways and disappear without my gaining or losing anything of my own. And what is this image of myself that I see reflected in the flowing stream? It blurs and erases itself; it disappears when the water is stirred up, but what have I lost? Nothing but a useless amusement.

So it is with the opinions and judgments men form according to their lights. Alas, not only do I amuse myself with them as with a game; I stop, and I take them for something serious and true, and this shadow, this fragile image troubles me and makes me anxious, and I believe myself to be losing something. But I am disabused of this error. I am content with a hidden life. How peaceful it is!

Whether I truly live this Christian life of which St. Paul speaks, I do not know, nor can I know with certainty. But I hope that I do, and I trust in God's goodness to help me.

**Planning for the Council:**

In addition to such items as Frequency of reports, visitation of praesidia and affiliated councils, Legion Functions: Aclies, Annual Retreat, etc. Elections; Appointment of officers of praesidia, Annual audit, etc, there is a great need to plan Extension and the development of the apostolate in the council area, it can be a great help to sit down with a map of the area and note the strengths and weaknesses both as regards places with or without the Legion and also about the extent of the Legion apostolate.

Should higher councils consider equipping their praesidia and delegating responsibility for extension?

In certain areas to affiliated councils? Is the Legion apostolate directed to the most urgent needs in the council area? Do the officers think that they have to do everything-themselves? The handbook says: "the denial of some responsibility to those who are fit to assume it does injustice both to those individuals and to the whole Legion."(P 166) The handbook also says that considering new works forms an essential part of the work of a Curia. If planning is to be effective, it will be necessary to assign specific tasks to individual officers or members, who should be asked to account for them. Otherwise, plans may remain just that, plans.

I conclude with a quote from Catherine of Sienna: YOU ARE REWARDED NOT ACCORDING TO YOUR WORK OR YOUR TIME BUT ACCORDING TO THE MEASURE OF YOUR LOVE.



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