Visitation of Praesidia
(Handbook page 164-165)

- The Curia shall cause each praesidium to be visited periodically, if possible twice a year, with a view to encouraging it and seeing that all things are being carried out as they should be. It is important that this duty be not fulfilled in a carping or fault-finding fashion which would end by causing the advent of visitors to be dreaded and their recommendations to be resented, but in a spirit of affection and humility which will presume that there is as much to be learned from as taught to, the praesidium visited.

At least a full week's notice of such intended visitation should be given to a praesidium.

Occasionally one hears of this visitation being resented on the score that it amounts to "outside interference." Such an attitude is not respectful to the Legion, of which those praesidia are but parts and of which they should be loyal parts: shall the hand say to the head "I need not your help"? Furthermore, it is unthankful, for do not those units owe their very existence to that "outside interference." It is inconsistent, for how willingly they accept from their central authority things which they are pleased to regard as benefits. It is foolish, too, for thereby they set themselves against universal experience. It is the lesson of all organised life (whether religious, civil, or military) that an ungrudging, comprehensive, and practical recognition of the "central principle" is essential to the preservation of spirit and efficiency. A regular visitation of the units of organisation is an all-important part of the application of that principle, and no competent form of authority neglects its duty in this respect.

Apart, however, from the fact that visitation from the Curia is necessary to health, each praesidium should remember that it is part of the Rule, and hence should insist that this duty is not overlooked by the Curia. It goes without saying that a cordial welcome should be given to the visitors.

On the occasion of this visitation, the various membership rolls, the Secretary's and Treasurer's books, the Work Sheet and the other items of the praesidium system must be examined with a view to judging if they are properly kept, and to ascertaining if the Legionary Promise has been made in the case of each member who has fulfilled the required period of probation.

This inspection should be made by two representatives of the Curia. These need not be restricted to Curia officers: any experienced legionary may be appointed. The visitors are to submit to the Curia officers a written report on the result of their inspection. A specimen report sheet can be obtained from the Concilium.

Defects which are found should not, in the first instance, be made the subject of open comment either at the praesidium itself or at the Curia. They should be discussed with the Spiritual Director and the President of the praesidium. If this does not secure rectification, the matter should be brought before the Curia.