Legionary Work

What constitutes legionary work is, in essence, the Spiritual Works of Mercy which have as their ultimate goal evangelization or in traditional Legion of Mary terms, * **Conversion, Conservation, and Consolation,** bringing others to Christ through Mary. Legionary work must be assigned by the president of the praesidium and performed together with another legionary (also assigned). Work following these three criteria: a Spiritual Work of Mercy, which is assigned and done in pairs, is considered legionary work. It may be included in formal reports. Work done individually cannot be counted as legionary work because it disobeys the rule of working as a "co-visitor" (chapter 33, section eight, page 197). The Handbook states: "repeated failures on the part of the co-visitor to keep appointments should be viewed very seriously by the Praesidium" (chapter 39, section 7, page 289.)

Logically, it follows as well, that *personal devotions* such as saying rosaries or going on retreats, although very important and to be encouraged in strengthening the spiritual armor of individual Legionaries, *are clearly not legionary work* either, which must be serving *others.* In other words, quite simply, legionary work consists in helping Our Lady to bring *others* to Christ; we are her arms and legs on this earth. In doing Our Lady's work we're doing God's work. See Handbook, page 56, first paragraph.

***Traditionally also referred to as conversion, conservation and consolation**. In essence, work which seeks to bring others to Christ in an ongoing manner.

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In September 2000 the *Concilium Legionis Mariae* revised its list of approved works. The following is based on those 35 suggestions. These suggestions are just examples and are not all-inclusive. We have categorized them and modernized the terminology. You can see that the works are *substantial and active.* Mere attendance at events, services, or prayers is active, but no matter how substantial, do not fulfill the active work requirement. Needless to say, works must be done in pairs (or more) whenever possible.

A. Conversion/Evangelization

- Home visitation door-to-door.
- Crowd contact work, (Examples: Book barrow, fairs, park rosaries, flea market booths, etc.) but must be done by two or more and be promoting religion and/or the Legion. If items are sold, it must be without profit.
- Side walk counseling in front of abortion facilities, but NOT picketing. Work must be done in pairs in a non aggressive manner.
- Distribution of Catholic literature at bus depots, train stations, hospitals, doctors' offices, nursing homes, etc.
- PPC, *exploratio dominicolis*, Sunday search for souls, etc

B. Conservation/Instruction

- Organizing and conducting instructions for children and adults; such as, RCIA, CCD, etc., as long as no pay is involved.
- Lecturing by Legionaries for right-to-life at schools, workshops, etc.
- Preparing people to receive the Sacraments, including marriage encounter type training
- Setting up and/or teaching Bible studies.
- Probation counseling for delinquent children.
- Counseling children or adults for substance abuse.
- Follow-up on children or adults seen in prison or juvenile facilities.

C. Consolation

- Home visition other than door-to-door.
- Nursing home and hospital visits
- Visitation of people in institutions of any kind - jails, mental wards, group homes, retirement homes, handicapped facilities, etc.
- Communion for the sick and shut-ins (but not serving at Mass.)
- Recruiting members for parish organizations (however work for other organizations cannot be counted as legion works.)

D. Para-liturgical Events – Religious Services

- Conducting para-liturgical services when no priest is available.
- Promoting Enthronement of the Sacred Heart and conducting enthronement exercises.
- Leading Rosary or wake services as funerals (if assigned by praesidium.)
- Organizing and promoting the Pilgrim Virgin Statue.
- Organizing Rosary Groups and teaching how to make Rosaries.
- Organizing and leading holy hours or all-night adoration. (Again: The mere attendance at such events, no matter length of time,.does not constitute active work.)

E. Works of Service

- Transporting those in need to church, doctors, shopping, etc. (Be sure to check is if this permitted by your parish and/or diocese.)
- Baby sitting (without pay) so parents or care-givers or other family members (not your own family) can attend church, shopping, doctors, etc.
- Conducting youth clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.
- Serving dinners for funerals (if assigned, and especially if no one else is available.)
- Preparing homes of the blind or sick for visitation by the priest.
- Setting up and/or leading retreats, days of recollection, or evening of reflections, primarily for auxiliaries.
- Service in soup lines (the Legion is not to provide the food.)

F. Legion Promotion – Extension and Recruiting

- Visiting priests to urge starting a Praesidium.
- Invitation Drives.
- Recruiting Auxiliaries.
- Visitation (after care) of Auxiliaries.
- Training a new Praesidium.
- Staffing and promoting Patricians.
- Serving as officer for Juniors (if in a senior Praesidium.)
- Contacting auxiliaries or shut ins by phone. (This work should be done by those who are not able to do more active work.)

Any other works requested by the pastor that does not involve regular collection of funds or material aid.

Excepions are made for the elderly and/or handicapped. Whatever they are capable of and find challenging may be assigned