**ARLINGTON REGIA MEMBERSHIP POLICY JULY 2023**



1. The Legion of Mary is open to all faithfully practicing Catholics. (HB Chap13#1) With any new members in the meeting, it is suggested to have the new members read the chapter on membership before coming to the next meeting.
2. If a pastor of a parish wants a couple to join the Legion of Mary, but are not validly married in the church, they may join as long as they are working on their marriage validation with the priest. The couple may not make their promise until validly married. They have six months to work on this and may be extended only for another 6 months. At the end of the year, the couple must drop to an auxiliary status.
3. If a couple attempts to join the Legion of Mary but are not validly married in the church and not working on their marriage preparation to be married in the church, the couple cannot join the praesidium.
4. If a couple joins the Legion of Mary but the group was unaware that they were married only civilly, they may stay as long as they are working on marriage validation in the church working with a priest. The couple will follow guideline #2.
5. If some members of a praesidium are not getting along, but there are sufficient number to split, the spiritual director may recommend starting a new praesidium as long as there are sufficient numbers to have officers in both praesidia. It is best that the time and day be changed to provide opportunities to recruit other members.
6. If a praesidium has a large number of members and unable to complete the business in one and a half hours, the praesidium must split. If there is resistance to splitting, the spiritual director or pastor is to be involved on how to peacefully and amicably accomplish the split. There must be special consideration on who could potentially be officers for the other praesidium.
7. If your praesidium goes over 12 members, please contact your higher council to visit your praesidium in order make sure that the praesidium finishes in 1 ½ hour and get recommendations from the higher council.
8. If a praesidium is down to two officers(members) only but functioning effectively, the praesidium is to be kept open, but assisted by the higher council in recruitment and understanding the nature of the problem. Another nearby praesidium may assist by sending a member to strengthen the group.
9. The President of the praesidium after consultation with the other officers, shall have authority to suspend any member of the praesidium for any reasons that they deem sufficient, such as refusing to be accountable as an officer or creating tremendous conflict or scandal within the praesidium. (HB Chap.13#18)
10. All sensitive problems must eventually be brought to the attention of the Pastor so he is aware of the situation and feedback from the Pastor must be considered and respected.