

The Administrative Visitation: An Introduction

The *Handbook* urges each Curia to visit its praesidia twice a year, “with a view to encouraging it and seeing that all things are being carried out as they should be” (p. 164). It is the intention of the Lincoln Curia, therefore, to begin visiting its praesidia a second time every year.

This visit will attach itself particularly to the second aim, that is, to see that all is in order. Its specific goals are outlined as follows:

On the occasion of the 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. (pp. 164-65).

The visitors, therefore, will be granted access to the records of the Praesidium.

The visitors will come in pairs. Regarding these, the *Handbook* continues: “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” (p. 165).

A handy worksheet is provided to fulfill the following injunction: “The visitors are to submit to the Curia officers a written report on the result of their inspection” (p. 165).

Of course, discretion and fraternal charity must govern such visits. Should defects be noticed, the following is the procedure:

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 (p. 165).

The Presidents of the praesidia will, in collaboration with the Curia, ask Active members (whether officers or not) to contribute to this work of visitation. A calendar has been drawn up for these visitations, spacing them at about 6 months from the regular visit.

Such visitations will also foster greater unity and acquaintance among all the Legionaries of the Lincoln Curia. With this in view, visitors are to come also prepared to learn from the example of the praesidium they visit. There is much we can learn from each other!