

SENATUS OF UGANDA

The 12th National Spiritual Directors' Conference

19th to 22nd August 2025,

at

**St. Mary's National Major Seminary, Ggaba,
Kampala**

Theme: "Do not be Afraid" (John 6:20)

Introduction

It is with great joy and anticipation that the Senatus of Uganda announces the forthcoming 12th National Spiritual Directors' Conference (SDC), a meeting of great significance and spiritual enrichment for all those charged with shepherding the Legion of Mary in our parishes and dioceses. This extraordinary event, which will take place from **Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd August 2025**, at **St. Mary's National Major Seminary, Ggaba, Kampala**, is set to inspire and equip participants in their apostolic mission.

This conference is a time to reflect, learn, and recommit to the mission of the Legion of Mary, to inspire ourselves and others through our apostolate. Drawing participants from across Uganda and the East African region, this year's conference promises to be a landmark event, building on the successes of previous conferences while embracing new opportunities for growth and collaboration.

Background

The Legion of Mary, founded by the Servant of God, Frank Duff, stands as one of the largest lay apostolate Organisations in the Catholic Church, charged with the mission of evangelization and sanctification. Spiritual Directors are indispensable to this mission, serving as guiding lights for Legionaries in their quest for holiness. Over the years, the National Spiritual Directors' Conference has become a vital platform for theological reflection, pastoral guidance, and practical solutions to challenges faced by the Legion. It provides a space where clergy deepen their understanding of the Legion's charism, system, and strengthen their leadership, and recommit to walking alongside Legionaries in their spiritual journey.

Purpose

The purpose of the 12th National Spiritual Directors' Conference is to empower and inspire the Clergy assigned to Legion of Mary to continue their vital role as Spiritual Directors of the Legion of Mary. Rooted in the theme "*Do not be Afraid*" (John 6:20), this conference seeks to rekindle courage and faith in the hearts of the participants, addressing contemporary challenges while providing practical tools to advance the mission of the Legion.

Goal

To deepen the understanding of the role of Spiritual Directors in promoting the spiritual growth of Legionaries in a rapidly changing world.

Objectives

1. To deepen the understanding of the role of Spiritual Directors in the sanctification of Legionaries and the growth of the Legion.
2. To explore practical ways of overcoming the challenges facing the apostolate today.
3. To equip Spiritual Directors with pastoral tools to guide Legionaries effectively amidst the challenges of modern times.
4. To create opportunities for networking and sharing experiences among clergy from Uganda and the East African region.

Activities

The conference will feature a rich range of activities, including:

- Inspirational Keynote Address by a distinguished Bishop.
- Workshops and Breakout Sessions focusing on practical strategies for pastoral leadership and spiritual formation.
- Panel Discussions on challenges and opportunities in expanding the Legion of Mary in contemporary society.
- Daily Liturgical Celebrations to renew and strengthen our communion with Christ.
- Opportunities for pre-conference exposure visits, especially for Spiritual Directors coming from outside Uganda, to learn from the unique pastoral experiences of the region.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the conference, participants will:

1. Be spiritually rejuvenated, ready to guide Legionaries with renewed faith and vigour.
2. Gain deeper insights into the Legion's mission, enabling them to address challenges such as financial constraints, indifference, and the digital divide.
3. Strengthen networks within the Legion of Mary family across East Africa, fostering unity and shared purpose.
4. Leave with practical tools and resources to inspire Legionaries to live out their call to holiness and apostolic service.

This year's conference promises to be extraordinary, not only because of its rich program but also because of its inclusive and collaborative approach. It offers a unique platform

to share diverse experiences, learn from each other, and build lasting relationships among participants from the East African region.

Participation in Exposure visits and Meetings

The Senatus of Uganda warmly invites teams from outside Uganda to register for pre-conference exposure visits, offering a unique opportunity to deepen understanding of the Legion of Mary's work within Councils/Praesidia.

To facilitate this enriching experience, we advise that participants plan to arrive on Friday, 15th August 2024. This will enable them to attend selected Council meetings over the weekend, including the Senatus of Uganda, which will provide a comprehensive overview of how Legion meetings and spiritual guidance are woven into the fabric of our apostolic work.

Additionally, there will be opportunities to observe praesidia meetings on Monday 18th August 2024, providing an intimate glimpse into grassroots operations. We envision these exposure visits as a platform for promoting stronger relationships, networking across borders, peer learning among Legionaries and Spiritual Directors, and as well inspire participants with practical insights and success stories that can help enrich their Council/Praesidia activities back home.

Courage and Faith Desired

In a world marked by financial crises, insecurity, digital divides, and spiritual fatigue, our theme "*Do not be Afraid*" stands as a clear call to all Spiritual Directors. As Christ assured His disciples, He assures us today: "*It is I; do not be afraid.*" Let us not fear the challenges before us, but face them with faith, courage, and hope.

We warmly invite you to register and be part of this enriching conference. Together, let us celebrate our calling, renew our strength, and recommit to being committed Spiritual Directors who inspire Legionaries to live as saints in the modern world.

Contact us

Senatus of Uganda
P.O. Box 3771,
St Balikuddembe, Mengo-Kisenyi Parish
Kampala, Uganda
WEBSITE: www.senatusofuganda.org
Email: senatusofuganda@gmail.com with a copy to akiribaki@gmail.com
Tel +256 772 495958 /+256706297111