**AFFILIATION OF A PRAESIDIUM**

A Council may affiliate a new praesidium that has at least **five** members seriously committed to the Legion of Mary, and **four** members who are willing to serve as officers.

Willing members may be appointed as “**temporary officers**,” prior to affiliation and prior to taking the Promise. A “temporary officer” has all the authority and responsibilities (to include that of attending monthly council meetings) of a permanently appointed officer.

**[An “acting officer” is not a “temporary officer,” and does NOT have the authority of a permanently appointed officer. An “acting officer” is designated by the praesidium to fill-in for an appointed officer who is sick/injured, on vacation/extended work project/travel, etc, or is a probationary member in an affiliated praesidium, holding a vacant officer position that he/she intends to fill, upon taking the Promise.]**

Temporary officers serve ONLY in the formation of a praesidium, which does not usually exceed three months from the date of the first full meeting; the process can be extended to a maximum of six months, at which time the praesidium will either be affiliated or closed. The term of a newly appointed permanent officer, after taking his/her Promise, reverts to the date of his/her temporary appointment.

In rare cases, if the four temporary officers are sufficiently knowledgeable and mature to proceed without continued, dedicated assistance of active legionaries (“extension workers”), the praesidium may be affiliated before they take their Promises.