

CONGREGATION OF THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

GENERAL REGULATIONS



Rome 2021

GENERAL CURIA OF THE PASSIONISTS

P.zza SS. Giovanni e Paolo, 13, Rome

February 2021



Il Superiore Generale dei Passionisti

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW EDITION OF THE GENERAL REGULATIONS

We are presenting a new edition of our General Regulations, incorporating the amendments and changes made by the 2012 and 2018 General Chapters.

The General Regulations are part of our 'proper law', but like any other code, they are to be understood as a 'means' and not an 'end'. They are a tool to help us preserve and transmit the values that unite us and characterize our way of life, in the awareness that the letter kills, but it is the Spirit that gives life.

St Paul of the Cross has given us a precious gift by calling us to live in community, to share our goods, to live authentically consecrated to God in the realisation of the *memoria passionis*. These great values, then, find expression in the small daily choices of life.

The norms contained in these Regulations are at the service of our mission and witness of life: they assure rights and recall duties, regulate possibilities and give practical procedural indications to develop practically our mission within the Church of God and at the service of the people of God.

Following are underlined some new features compared to previous editions:

- a) **a new numbering:** General Chapters XLVI (2012) and XLVII (2018) introduced some norms into the text that did not exist before, particularly with regard to 'Configurations', stable assets, the form of participation in the General Synod. This resulted in a slip-page in numbering with an increase of at least 4 issues, compared to the previous edition. From now on, when citing the General Regulations, this new edition must therefore be taken into account (e.g. leave of absence from a religious house is now regulated by number 103 and no longer by number 99).
- b) **a revised translation:** General Chapter XLVII modified number 2 of the General Regulations, establishing that "*the official texts of the Constitutions and General Regulations are those written in Italian*". This rule is to be interpreted as valid especially for the new additions and changes that will be made from 2018 onwards. In this sense, for texts prior to that date, the reference point for their correct interpretation remains the original Latin text approved by the previous General Chapters, unless they have already been amended and modified by the aforementioned Chapters 2012 and 2018. For this reason, before proceeding with this publication and with the assistance of a Canon Lawyer, we have carried out a revision of the existing texts in the three official languages (Italian, Spanish and English) so that they would be

more uniform and consistent in their formulation with the originally approved text.

The Italian, Spanish and English texts are provided by the General Curia. The translation into the other languages of the Congregation (Portuguese, French, Polish, Indonesian, Filipino, Korean, Japanese, German, Dutch, etc.) should refer to the Italian text. The General Secretary will be able to provide the Provincials, on request, with more precise indications on the changes and additions made, corresponding to the decisions taken by past General Chapters.

The General Regulations with the new numbering will come into effect from the present day of their publication.

Rome, 27 February 2021

Feast of St. Gabriel of our Lady of Sorrows

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Rego, CP'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'CP' at the end.

Fr. Joachim Rego, CP
Superior General

CHAPTER I

GENERAL NORMS AND FUNDAMENTALS OF OUR LIFE

General Norms

1. Both the members and the works of the Congregation are entrusted to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Lady of Sorrows, as patroness of the Congregation, with St. Michael the Archangel and St. Joseph as co patrons.

Every one of our religious should especially honour them, together with our Founder, St. Paul of the Cross, and the other Saints of our Congregation, whose feasts we celebrate in community.

2. The official texts of the Constitutions and of the General Regulations are those in the Italian language.

Having consulted the Provincial Councils, the General Council will arrange for the translation of the official texts into the various languages spoken in the Congregation.

3. Requests for dispensations or for faculties which are sought from the Holy See or from the Superior

General, while observing the prescriptions of common law, should be sent to the Superior General or to the Procurator General by the Provincial Superior or one designated by him, and under the signature of the Provincial Superior.

4. No Superior is obliged to recognize temporary permissions given by a Superior of higher degree unless they can be shown in writing. When the Superior that gave the permissions leaves office, they are valid for six months; they then cease if not confirmed by the new Superior.
5. Local Superiors shall ensure that our religious read the Rule of St. Paul of the Cross, the Constitutions, and the General Regulations. To these must be added decrees and other documents that the Holy See or the Major Superiors may require to be read. The time, place, and manner of the reading are to be determined by the local Superior, after having consulted his community.

Fundamentals of our Life

6. When opening or renovating a religious house, or organizing the life and activities, especially apostolic activities, of a community or of an individual religious, the Provincial authority must try to harmonize that spirit of poverty, simplicity, solitude, and prayer which are characteristic of our charism

in the Church with the immediate needs and conditions of modern life.

We have the responsibility of witnessing to this spirit before the people among whom we live and work.

7. Since the fulfilment of the vow concerning the Passion of Christ has a personal, communal and apostolic dimension, therefore:
 - a) each religious personally witnesses to being imbued by our Passionist charism in varying ways, above all by persevering meditation, and according to his capacity, by study and by preaching the Word of the Cross;
 - b) each community witnesses to this charism by its simple and penitential life style, in a spirit of self-denial, and in other ways that recall the memory of the Passion;
 - c) in our apostolate, particular attention must be given to practical ways of teaching people to pray and to meditate on the Passion so that they may experience it as a vital part of their lives;
 - d) rooted in Christ through baptism and sharing in the universal call to holiness, and following the spirit and teaching of Saint Paul of the Cross, we share with the lay faithful the mis-

sion entrusted to us by the Church to announce the Gospel of the Passion to the world through our lives and our apostolate (cf. Const. 2). Respecting the identity and the uniqueness of each vocation, we open ourselves to a fruitful exchange of gifts, in reciprocity, to promote together with the laity who share our Charism the grateful memory of the Passion of Christ, in all men and women whom we meet on our way, especially the 'crucified' of the present day.

CHAPTER II

OUR COMMUNITY LIFE

The Requirements for Community Life

8. The responsibility for creating a satisfactory community life rests primarily upon the local community itself. It is the duty of the Local Superior to motivate and guide this responsibility, as well as to maintain the common life of the Community. He must also lead his brethren in solving the problems that inevitably arise from the many and complex elements of community living.

The pattern of community living requires consideration of the qualities of individual members, their apostolic commitments, the directives of authority, and the circumstances of their local culture.

9. To hear the voice of God in our lives necessarily demands an internal as well as an external silence. Accordingly times and places of silence in our houses are indispensable. Only thus will be fostered that atmosphere of peaceful recollection in which our religious can pray, study, and work.
10. The quality of community life will improve when religious try to solve the problems that arise when brethren live in common. Such difficulties come

from the many and various views held, from the balance to be maintained between the needs of the individual and those of the community, and from the rapid rate of change in social and cultural matters, making certain forms of community life extremely difficult. Therefore, each Province will seek appropriate solutions to these difficulties.

11. All the religious of the community should be glad to receive visits from our brethren. Such visitors should be given a brotherly welcome, and as far as possible their wants and needs attended to.
12. All guests should be shown a genuine hospitality, marked by respect, simple and sincere charity, and attentive consideration. Each religious should deem it a privilege to show hospitality personally, and make himself available; this is not a duty exclusive to the Superior or to one particular member of the Community. The religious who welcome or look after guests represents the entire community.
13. Some persons may wish to share our life for a certain length of time or to live in our communities. Provincial Authority will provide guidelines for these cases.
14. The community should carefully consider to what extent its facilities can be made available to those who may need them. The Passionist identity and

the particular character of the house, however, must always be safeguarded, and the norms followed that have been established by Provincial Authority.

15. Our desire to be open to people must be counter-balanced with our concern for that privacy necessary for good order and for maintaining the contemplative aspect of our Passionist life. Only the Superior, whether Major or local, can dispense enclosure for just and reasonable motives in each individual case. Superiors should be watchful to safeguard the privacy of our religious in all the houses of the Congregation.

Masses and Suffrages

16. According to the norms laid down by Provincial Authority, each religious is free to offer Mass or to have Mass offered for himself or for others. No stipend may be received for these Masses.
17. On solemnities and feasts established by the Superior General and his Council, Major Superiors will offer Mass for the Congregation, for the Province or Vice-Province, or Regional Vicariate, respectively. Local Superiors will offer Mass for the local Community. As far as possible this should be the Community Mass.

On the feast of St. Gabriel of our Lady of Sorrows, the special patron of our young religious, Mass will be offered for them in our houses of formation.

18. The Provincial authority shall establish the suffrages to be offered that it considers most appropriate, for the religious of the same Province, for their parents and for benefactors.
19. Provincial Authority must establish the method of communicating the death of a religious of the Province to the other local Communities of the same Province. It is also responsible for the method of informing those monasteries and religious houses in the same territory that enjoy communication of suffrages with us.

It belongs to the same Authority to decide the manner of notifying the death of the parents of a religious to the other religious of the Province.

It belongs to the Provincial Secretary to immediately inform the Secretary General of the death of a religious of the Province. He will also forward a biographical sketch of the deceased.

In whatever way he judges most convenient, the Secretary General must communicate the notice of the death of a religious to all those obliged to offer suffrages, as well as to those who enjoy communication of suffrages with the Congregation.

- 20.** Only a General Chapter can grant the reciprocity of suffrages with other institutes.

In each local community, composed of at least three religious Holy Mass will be celebrated:

- a) On the occasion of the death of the Sovereign Pontiff, of the Superior General, and of a former Superior General; if possible, this will be the community Mass.
 - b) Once a month the following Masses will be celebrated:
 1. For our religious, nuns and Sisters in communication of suffrages with us, and those who died during the previous month.
 2. For all deceased Passionists.
 3. For deceased parents and benefactors.
 4. For all living parents and benefactors.
 - c) Furthermore, during the month of November, in addition to the above Masses, three other Holy Masses will be celebrated:
 1. For all deceased Passionists.
 2. For the deceased parents of our religious.
 3. For all deceased benefactors.
- 21.** Every religious of our Congregation is exhorted to contribute willingly all the works of piety he can on behalf of the dead, and to gain for them all the

holy indulgences made available by the Church. We can be certain that, in accord with God's Will, we shall obtain from others, after our death, what we provided for others during our lifetime.

CHAPTER III

OUR COMMUNITY AT PRAYER

22. Care should be taken to make the community celebration of Mass the very centre of community life; it should be observed, if at all possible, every day.

Unless prevented by pastoral duties or other lawful reasons, all members of the community should take part in this Mass in order to foster and strengthen brotherly unity.

23. In conformity with the directives of Provincial Authority, the local Superior with the consent of the local Chapter:
- a) will arrange for the celebration in common of the Liturgy of the Hours, taking into account community circumstances and local conditions. As far as possible, this celebration should be especially solemn on feast days of the Church and Congregation.
 - b) will establish the most suitable times and ways of expressing together adoration of the Eucharistic presence of Christ, the memory of Jesus in the mystery of His Passion, and devotion to Mary, the Virgin Mother of God.
 - c) will provide opportune means for all the religious, either individually or communally, to devote sufficient time to spiritual reading.

24. In the daily schedule of every community, times for meditation should be designated. Provincial Authority may decide whether the community should make meditation in common.

25. During the course of the year, each Province will provide periods of spiritual renewal for all its religious so that their consecration to God may be renewed and strengthened.

Other than annual retreats, monthly days of recollection, community days, study days, as well as other practices that would help to develop religious and Passionist life are recommended.

26. A house in which the contemplative aspect of our Passionist life is fostered with greater intensity has great value for the whole Congregation. Such a house or houses may be established by a Province or group of Provinces, and should be effectively incorporated with the other communities of the Province. The sphere of apostolic activity in such houses should be clearly defined.

27. The Superior should exercise a pastoral ministry towards the members of his own community. He does this in several ways, among them preaching, preparation of liturgical feasts, reflecting on the Sacred Scriptures, and celebration of votive Masses and Offices, particularly of the Passion.

CHAPTER IV

APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

General principles

28. In choosing apostolic activities for our religious ministry, the following principles should be observed by every Province, Community, and individual religious. We should:
- a)* always remember our vow to keep alive the memory of the Passion of Jesus Christ;
 - b)* opt for apostolates that are community based;
 - c)* give a special place to the ministry of the Word;
 - d)* prefer to serve the poor and those who have to endure dehumanized conditions;
 - e)* be responsive to the needs of the local Church;
 - f)* foster the growth and development of Christian community;
 - g)* bear in mind the international character of our Congregation, and the urgency of responding to the needs of the people according to the circumstances of time and place;

h) always strive to offer ourselves without reservation as true apostles of the Cross.

- 29.** Each Province must provide necessary directives so that in every Community the various demands made by apostolic work will be harmonized with the requirements of community life.

No permanent or long term apostolic commitments, not even for an individual religious, may be accepted by the local Superior, without the previous consent of the Provincial Superior and the community.

- 30.** Presentation or appointment to ecclesiastical office in any diocese pertains to the Major Superior. Written contracts between a local Ordinary and our Congregation are subject to the approval of the Provincial Superior, always safeguarding the prescript of n. 40 of these Regulations; contracts, however, referring to parishes must first be confirmed by the Superior General.

- 31.** The emerging of new nations with a clear cultural identity demands that we be deeply imbued with a thorough understanding of their mentality and customs when we come to live and work among their peoples.

This genuine sense of inculturation is necessary if we are to immerse ourselves in the reality of the

people, carry out our ministry with zeal and efficacy, and establish and foster the growth of the Congregation in every nation.

32. Since, in carrying out our mission, we have a special preference for poorer peoples and for those in more neglected places, we should be prepared to:
- a) communicate the Beatitudes to the afflicted, the poor, and all the suffering of this world;
 - b) help this society, which has need of being freed from alienation, ambitions and injustices, to discover the meaning of the liberation brought by Christ Crucified.
 - c) promote the integral development of those persons whose condition, hopes and circumstances are expressions of their poverty.

Various Apostolic Activities of the Congregation.

33. Following the tradition of our Founder, we devote ourselves to proclaiming the Word of God for the benefit of the people. This we do especially through parish missions, spiritual exercises, renewal courses, and missions *ad gentes*.

We should be especially zealous to provide the Sacrament of Reconciliation to all; to contribute to the creation of specialized Christian groups, and

to contribute to the sanctification of the clergy and Religious by means of particular programs.

- 34.** We recognize our preaching of sacred missions as a special proclamation of the Word of God. Our aim is to bring people back to the Lord, and to renew and strengthen the practice of their Faith, which we encourage them to live not only personally but also in the context of Christian community.

In this way, we show the People of God one aspect of our Passionist charism, namely, our community life; which can be a beneficial experience in the lives of the faithful.

The proclamation of Christ, who from the Cross draws all peoples to Himself, is a most powerful means of freeing us all from selfishness, and of bringing together into one heart and one mind the People of God whom we serve.

- 35.** The parish apostolate, with all its diversity of forms, is one means of expressing the missionary dimension that characterizes our Congregation. It should be made an integral part of the overall pastoral plan of the Province or Vicariate.
- 36.** So that we may realize our primary objective of bringing the saving Word of the Cross to all people, we will adopt all effective forms of apostolic

effort, such as the use of mass media, the establishment of specialized Passionist communities, and establishing apostolic formation centers.

37. Our Brothers render a distinctive service in the Church. They exercise their gifts in the various works of the Congregation, both communal and apostolic.
38. Every Province must draw up a pastoral programme which each community and each religious should be involved in, and which specifies its priorities of apostolic activity in accord with the programme and criteria adopted in the Congregation. Each Province will also choose appropriate means of achieving those objectives and the methods by which they shall be subject to periodic evaluation.
39. In Provinces that have responsibility for any mission ad gentes, there is to be a Provincial Secretary for the Missions. He coordinates the missionary activity of the Province, and is present at meetings of the Provincial Council when the affairs of the Mission are being discussed.

There should also be a Provincial Procurator for the Missions, who looks after financial and material needs. Both he and the Provincial Secretary for the Missions are immediately subject to the Provincial Superior in matters concerning their office.

If it is judged convenient, these two offices may be given to one person, or to those holding other offices.

40. For mission churches to exist and develop it is important to promote harmonious relations between ecclesiastical and religious authorities. To encourage this harmony, an agreement should be drawn up that safeguards the rights of both parties. Provincial Authority is responsible for preparing this contract, which takes effect when signed by the Superior General.

41. Religious life is to be carefully fostered in the local Church from the very outset. Our missionaries should therefore do all they possibly can to encourage vocations to our Passionist life.

They should endeavour to form candidates according to the essential spirit of our Congregation, always in harmony with the characteristics of the local culture.

Missionaries should also be concerned to foster vocations to the local diocesan clergy, and when possible they should help to develop other religious Institutes of men and women.

42. The strongest support, both spiritual and moral of the missionaries is the brotherly bond of charity that should always exist among them. The best way to reinforce this bond is to provide community days at regular intervals. The Regional Vicar or the Religious Superior should do his utmost to

make these occasions profitable from every point of view, spiritually, socially, and culturally.

43. The Regional Vicar or Religious Superior must frequently visit the missionaries, thereby showing the special concern the Congregation has for each one personally.

Together with his Council, he should prudently seek to establish Passionist religious houses so as to ensure the future of the Congregation in that territory. At least one of these houses should be adapted as a centre for regular reunions, where missionaries can get together for the restful relaxation they need.

44. From the beginning of their formation, all our religious shall be given an orientation to mission work in general.

The formation of the missionaries themselves should include a special introduction to the teaching of the Church on effective mission procedure, a knowledge of and respect for the culture and customs of the local population, and fluency and readiness in speaking the language of the people.

Some missionaries should take advanced courses of missiology in schools instituted for that purpose. Such training will better enable them to express the Christian Faith in terms understood by and relevant to the people they are evangelizing.

CHAPTER V

FORMATION FOR OUR LIFE

45. To keep alive the memory of the Passion in the Church and in the world, every Province, Vice Province, and Regional Vicariate must be continually alert to the importance of fostering vocations to our Congregation.

Each religious must also pray that the Lord "*will send labourers into his harvest*".

The formation plan of each Province must make provision for this essential activity.

46. The Provincial Chapter determines the formalities and duration of the postulancy, which should be not less than one year.

The purpose of the postulancy is to enable a judgement to be formed about the vocation and aptitudes of the candidate to religious life, and about his human and emotional maturity. Furthermore, the religious instruction of the postulant can be assessed, and supplemented, if necessary, in order to provide a smooth and orderly transition to the novitiate.

47. If it is considered appropriate before starting the postulancy, and in any case, before beginning his novitiate, each candidate must declare in writing

that he enters the Congregation freely, that he is not concealing any serious or chronic ailment, and that he will claim nothing for any work done should he leave or be dismissed from the Congregation. Whenever possible, this declaration should be valid in civil law.

48. A retreat of at least five days must be made by a candidate whom the Major Superior admits to begin his novitiate. This must also be done before admission to temporary profession.

Provincial Authority determines when the candidate receives the religious habit.

49. A novice in danger of death may be admitted to profession by the Provincial Superior; and if death is imminent, he may be admitted by the local Superior. The customary formula should be used, but no length of time specified. Should the novice regain his health, his juridical status is the same as before.

50. Religious with temporary vows will have a suitable length of time during which they will prepare for perpetual profession. Devoting themselves to prayer and recollection, they should reflect on the responsibility that perpetual profession involves. Provincial Authority will determine the length of the period of preparation.

51. Religious in formation do not take part in any local Chapters for admission to profession and orders.

Religious in formation are those who are preparing for Holy Orders, until priestly ordination or the permanent diaconate, and Brothers until Final Profession.

52. A retreat of at least five days must be made by a candidate whom the Major Superior admits to the diaconate or priesthood.

53. In the novitiate archives is to be preserved a special register, in which are recorded the dates of initiation into religious life, of religious profession, and of conferring of orders.

In the provincial archives is to be kept a copy of these dates, and at the end of the year an account is sent on the prescribed form by the Provincial Secretary to the Secretary General.

54. Those religious who are candidates for the ministerial priesthood are to be educated according to the directives of the Ecclesiastical Authority for the service of the People of God, to whom as apostles and pastors they will bring the Sacraments and the message of the Gospel.

Provincial Authority decides whether the prescribed course of studies is followed in a house of

the Congregation, a university, or some other suitable academic center.

- 55.** Each Province must establish for Brothers a course of formation lasting at least three years. Its curriculum should contain:
- a)* doctrinal instruction in the various ecclesiastical sciences, with special attention to the theology of religious life.
 - b)* an introduction to the theory and practice of the apostolate;
 - c)* specialized professional training.
- 56.** Each Province must make suitable practical arrangements so that religious in formation may be led step by step into apostolic work, especially the ministry of the Word.
- As preparation for the apostolate itself, such practical arrangements must harmonize with the theory presented in the classroom, should be monitored by experienced and qualified persons, and should be carried out in such a manner as to be a valuable aid in acquiring competence.
- 57.** Every religious should be alert to the need for keeping himself up to date on the spiritual, doctrinal, pastoral, and professional level. In its formation plan, therefore, every Province should provide suitable structures and appropriate means for achieving this purpose.

CHAPTER VI

CONSTITUTION OF THE CONGREGATION

58. The Congregation is composed of Clerics and Brothers. Although novices are not members of the Congregation, they share its privileges and spiritual benefits.
59. According to the will of our Founder, the habit, a sign of our consecration, is an important element of our Passionist life.
60. The Superior General may incorporate a religious into another Province after having heard the opinion of the Provincial Superiors concerned.

By mutual written consent, the Provincial Superiors concerned may allow religious from one Province to reside in another for a period of not more than five years. A longer stay requires the consent of the Superior General.

61. A candidate residing outside his own Province is admitted to temporary or perpetual profession, ministries or sacred orders by the Major Superior of the Province to which he is juridically ascribed; who also receives his profession.

The Major Superior may delegate this right to the Major Superior of the candidate's place of residence. If, in addition to this delegation of the Major Superior, the vote of his Council is necessary, then the Consultors also need to delegate this right. The Major Superior may also delegate another person to receive the profession.

62. Before a religious in perpetual vows may be admitted into our Congregation he must have a three years probationary period in community. For at least the first six months he is to be given special formation in Passionist life and spirituality. In particular cases, the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council may extend the time of probation for another two years before the religious makes his new perpetual profession in the Congregation.
63. Seniority in the Congregation is reckoned from the day of first profession. When religious make their profession on the same day, the older has seniority.
64. To be eligible for the office of Superior, Master of Novices, or Director of Students, a religious must have lived in the Congregation at least three years from his perpetual profession. For a just cause, the Superior General may dispense from this requirement.

65. A religious who has held office for five consecutive terms, whether as local or Major Superior, may not be elected again in the same Province or Vicariate, unless a period of at least two years intervenes.
66. When postulation takes place in an election, the one postulated must obtain two thirds of the total vote in any of the first three ballots. If he does not, he can no longer be postulated, and the election must begin all over again.

If a postulation has been successful in a Provincial Chapter contrary to some prescription of Provincial legislation or the General Regulations, the Superior General may confirm the one postulated.

67. In our law, whether at general, provincial, or local level, when a vote or suffrage of the Council or another assembly is required, it is always to be understood as a consultative vote, unless it is certain that consent is required.

In the tradition of our Congregation blank ballots do not compute as valid and lower the *quorum*.

68. The following are deprived of active and passive voice:
- a) those who have an indult of separation from the Congregation, even if only temporary, those exclaustated, and those dismissed from the Congregation.

- b) those who have requested a dispensation from the obligations imposed by orders or religious profession, whether or not celibacy is included. If the dispensation has been denied, however, and they have re-entered or remained in the Congregation, they recover their rights.
- c) those who have been deprived temporarily or permanently, either by lawful authority, or automatically as determined in law, as well as those unlawfully absent from the community.
- d) as a precautionary measure, those religious involved in cases concerning *Delicta reservata seu Graviora* prescribed by law, from the beginning of the investigation until the end of the procedure.

69. As regards residences, interprovincial houses and mission stations:

- a) A residence is a house opened to meet a particular need and is regulated by norms given by the Major Superior on whom it directly depends. Religious live there together but without constituting a juridical person.

The Superior General, the Provincial Chapter, and the Congress of a Vice-Province have the competence to open a residence.

- b) Interprovincial houses are only those houses that have been declared as such by the Supe-

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rior General with the consent of his Council, having consulted with the Provincials concerned. These houses are governed by the norms approved by the Superior General with the consent of his Council.

- c) A mission station administered by our religious is regulated by norms given by the Religious Superior or Regional Vicar, with the approval of the Major Superior to whom it is immediately subject.

These norms must accord with those established by the local Ordinary, or those laid down in the contract drawn up between the competent ecclesiastical and religious authorities.

70. Regional Vicariates dependent on the Superior General may be constituted by him with the consent of his Council, when such establishments are necessary for the foundation or development of the Congregation in particular regions of the world, and after Provincial Superiors who may be involved have been consulted.

These Vicariates will be organized like Regional Vicariates dependent upon a Province.

71. As a general rule, our Missions should be established as Regional Vicariates. When this is not pos-

sible, the religious Superior of the mission is delegated by the Major Superior for everything that he has not explicitly reserved to himself.

With the consent of the Superior General, or the Provincial Superior, with their respective Councils, the Religious Superior and his Council may be elected in the same manner as is laid down for Regional Vicariates.

- 72.** If a religious house or Province has received civil recognition as a juridical body, the norms regulating it should conform as far as possible to the demands of common ecclesiastical law and our own particular law.

Whenever possible, the religious responsible for the juridical body should be the same who has the canonical responsibility.

With expert assistance if necessary, each Province must provide in the most appropriate way for all requirements of this kind, whether regarding the Province as such or the individual houses.

- 73.** When a religious is given permission to live outside his religious house, rules must be determined in writing to clarify his relations with the Major Superior regarding the practice of obedience and poverty. Permissions are unlawful without such written rules.

74. The Major Superior with the consent of his Council may initiate the process of exlaustration or dismissal should the good of the Congregation require it, or when pastoral motives make it advisable for the individual religious concerned. The due requisites of law must be observed.
75. A brief and accurate account of all General and Provincial Chapters, Congresses, and Assemblies of the Province, as also of Chapters and Meetings of Local Communities, should be drawn up by the respective secretaries and kept in the appropriate archives.

A copy of the Acts of the Provincial Chapter should be signed by the Secretary of the Chapter and the Provincial Superior, and sent to the Superior General.

A report of the Chapters and Community Meetings should be signed by the designated secretary and the local Superior, and sent to the Provincial Superior.

CHAPTER VII

GOVERNMENT OF THE CONGREGATION

The General Chapter

76. The General Chapter is announced by means of a circular letter sent by the Superior General to the entire Congregation nine months before it is to take place.

It is the duty of the Superior General with his Council to ensure that the matters proposed to the Capitulars are carefully prepared and sent to them at least six months before the Chapter.

The Capitulars must be consulted about the agenda proposed for the Chapter, and they are free to put forward other topics for discussion.

Not only are Provinces, Vice-Provinces, Regional Vicariates and local communities able to freely submit proposals and suggestions to the General Chapter, but so may any individual religious.

77. Each Configuration shall be entitled to one participant in the General Chapter for every 25 religious. After excluding the ex-officio participants, a sufficient number of delegates shall be elected in order to reach the above-stated quota of one representative for every 25 religious; as far as possible one shall be a Brother.

The number of religious must be determined at least one year before the celebration of the General Chapter. Those who have been deprived of active and passive voice are not considered as members in this reckoning.

- 78.** The Superior General with the consent of his Council may call experts to attend the Chapter. They take part, however, only in a consultative capacity.

The Superior General with the consent of his Council may also invite some religious to take part in the Chapter in a consultative capacity, so as to ensure that all parts of the Congregation are represented.

The President of a Chapter or a Congress, with the consent of the same Chapter or Congress, may abrogate the right of a religious to participate in the same Chapter or Congress when, without justified permission, he has not participated in one third of the work of the Chapter or Congress.

- 79.** The Superior General presents to the Chapter a report on the state of the Congregation. When this has been read, the Capitulars may request further information or offer constructive suggestions.
- 80.** The number of General Consultors to be elected is decided by each General Chapter, while respecting the prescript of n. 135 of our Constitutions.

General Consultors are elected so that a harmonious team can be formed, capable of helping the Superior General in his government of the entire Congregation and of implementing the programmes the Chapter may have drawn up. General Consultors may also be chosen in view of representing the Superior General in different areas of the Congregation.

After consulting with various groups and individual religious at the Chapter, the Superior General may present a list of suggested nominees for the office of General Consultor.

General Synod

81. The members of a General Synod are those who participate *ex-officio* in a General Chapter, as well as the provincial consultors of those provinces that are Configurations.

General Curia

82. The General Curia comprises the Superior General, the General Consultors, the Procurator General, the Secretary General, the General Econome, the General Secretary for Solidarity and Missions, and the Postulator General.

The Superior General will name the other members of the General Curia that are necessary to carry out its various activities, such as the Archivist.

The officials of the General Curia are named by the Superior General when he begins his term of office and may be replaced at any time before it ends.

- 83.** The order of precedence among the General Consultors is determined by the date of first profession. When profession is made on the same day, the older Consultor has seniority.

Should the Superior General and the first General Consultor be absent or prevented from acting, the Consultor next in order of precedence supplies his place.

- 84.** In accordance with the Constitutions, n. 140, at least three members of the General Council must be present to form the *quorum* necessary for the General Council to act. In cases of necessity, as long as at least one member of the General Council is present, the following may supply the vacant places in this order: the Procurator General, the Secretary General, the General Econome.

- 85.** When the Superior General or his delegate carries out visitations in various areas of the Congregation, dialogue will bear on matters of vital concern to those involved. The goals and objectives of recent

Chapters and Assemblies will be given special attention.

86. The General Consultors may be assigned responsibility for definite areas in the life of the Congregation, and may fill some offices in the General Curia.

The Superior General may designate the General Consultors as his representatives to the Provinces. The Consultor thus appointed may take part in meetings held in the Province; he enjoys the right to speak, and the right to vote if this is granted him by the norms of the Province.

87. The members of the General Council and the Procurator General have precedence over all. They and the other officials of the General Curia are immediately subject to the Superior General in everything that concerns their offices. As regards community life, the Superior General may decide whether they are subject to his delegate or to the Superior of the Generalate house.

88. Any former Superior General is immediately subject to the Superior General. He may choose to live in any house of the Congregation.

89. The Procurator General deals with the juridical affairs of the Congregation, in particular those concerning the Holy See. As a matter of course, he is called to the General Council meetings when matters pertaining to his office are deliberated. If he is

not also a General Consultor, however, he has no deliberative vote, except in those matters foreseen by law.

90. The Secretary General dispatches the business of the General Government as secretary to the General Council, as chancellor in drawing up decrees and rescripts, as moderator of the statistical and administrative archives, and as notary for the Congregation.
91. The General Econome administers directly and immediately the goods owned by the Congregation as a distinct juridical person. When matters concerning the administration of the goods of the Congregation are being dealt with, he is usually called to the General Council meetings and will have a consultative voice only.

It is also his duty:

- a) to prepare the report on the financial state of the Congregation for the approval of the Superior General and for presentation to the General Chapter;
- b) to send to Provincial Economes or Administrators timely instructions for applying general directives about the prudent administration of goods;
- c) to make a detailed list of investment securities, precious objects, and other articles belonging to the Congregation as to a distinct juridical

person. This list is to be revised every third year;

- d)* to present an account of his administration to the General Council at least twice a year;
- e)* to prepare the annual budget three months before the financial year begins, and to present this budget to the Provincial Curias;
- f)* to present the Superior General and his Council a report on the financial status of the Provinces on the basis of the annual reports submitted by the Provincial Economes.

- 92. The Secretary General for Solidarity and Missions conducts the affairs of the Missions of the Congregation with the Holy See, always respecting the rights of the Procurator General. Ordinarily he is called to the General Council meetings, with consultative voice only, when matters concerning the Missions are being discussed.
- 93. The Postulator General deals with the appropriate authorities concerning the Causes for beatification and canonization of members of the Congregation.
- 94. The General Archivist receives the documents and records coming from the General Curia, as well as the books and manuscripts of the religious of the Congregation; these he carefully preserves in the historical Archives.

The Configurations

95. To achieve Solidarity in the three areas of Personnel, Formation and Finances, the Configurations are formed either as an aggregation of several autonomous juridical entities (Provinces, Vice-Provinces and Vicariates) or as a single juridical entity with different internal structures (Province with Regions/Zones).

The Configurations are principally organized to promote dialogue and cooperation between the different parts of the Congregation, and to foster initiatives and common action for the life and mission of the Congregation.

Each Province, Viceprovince and Vicariate will belong to a Configuration.

96. Outside the General Chapter, it belongs to the Superior General with the consent of his Council, after consulting the extended Council, at the request of the Provinces, Vice-provinces and Vicariates involved, to establish, modify or suppress a Configuration.

Likewise it belongs to the Superior General with the consent of his Council, after consulting the extended Council, to permit a Province, Vice-province, Vicariate or Region/Zone which requests this, with adequate reasons, to change Configuration.

97.

- § 1. A Configuration composed of more than one juridical entity is governed by particular Statutes, approved by the Superior General with the consent of his Council, keeping in mind the following:
- a) A Configuration made up of several entities acts in accordance with the Statutes through an Executive Council composed of the Major Superiors of the constituent entities.
 - b) The Executive Council will choose a President with responsibility for animation, coordination of common action and connection with the General Council and the other Configurations. The method of determining the President and the length of his mandate are specified in the particular Statutes. It is the responsibility of the President to implement the decisions taken.
 - c) To achieve Solidarity in Formation, Personnel and Finances, the Major Superiors composing the Executive Council have the juridical capacity to take decisions based on a unanimous vote or a majority vote. In this latter case the decisions which do not receive a unanimous vote in the Executive Council must, in order to have a binding effect, be confirmed by the Superior General with the consent of his Council.

- § 2. In a Configuration consisting of a single entity the Executive Council is made up of the Major Superior/President and the officials/Consultors for the Regions/Zones.

The Extended Council

98. The Extended Council is a consultative body to help the Superior General and to act as a link between the General Government and the different parts of the Congregation.

In addition to giving their advice in all those matters which the Superior General considers opportune to bring to their attention, the Extended Council examines above all the life and functioning of the Configurations, with particular reference to the implementation of Solidarity in the areas of Personnel, Formation and Finances suggesting means and initiatives particularly suited to achieving their aim.

For the establishment, modification or suppression of a Configuration, the Superior General, outside the General Chapter and General Synod, must seek the opinion of the Extended Council in addition to the consent of his Council.

99. The Extended Council consists of the Superior General, who presides over it, the General Consultors, the Secretary General and the Presidents of the Configurations.

If the President of a Configuration is unable to participate, the Vice-President or another religious will take his place, in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes of each Configuration.

- 100.** The Extended Council is convoked by the Superior General annually or whenever the Superior General considers it necessary, after consulting his Council, or also when the majority of the Presidents of the Configurations request it. The agenda is decided by the Superior General after consulting the Extended Council.

Provinces and Vice-Provinces

- 101.** The President of the Provincial Chapter may choose some religious to assist him as counsellors or interpreters.

The General Consultor designated as representative to a Province participates by right in the Provincial Chapter, in which he has a consultative voice.

- 102.** The decrees of the Provincial Chapter, if approved, come into force sixty days after it closes. If any decree is not approved, and a gap in the statutes of the Province is thus created, the Provincial Superior with his Council or another body determined by Provincial legislation will make other decrees that need the approval of the Superior General.

103. Permission for a religious to be absent for a time from the religious house may be given by the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council always observing whatever is prescribed by common and particular law:

- a) for reasons of apostolate, exercised in the name of the Congregation and in agreement with the local Ordinary, for three years. This permission can be renewed for another three years; but further extensions may be granted only by the Superior General with the consent of his Council;
- b) for purposes of study as long as is normally necessary;
- c) for reasons of health;
- d) for clarifying one's vocation or for other reasons judged valid by the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council, for six months. Further extensions may be granted only by the Superior General with the consent of his Council.

Any absence beyond the time or outside the conditions expressed above is unlawful and entails the consequent penalties, including the loss of active and passive voice.

104. The Provincial Secretary and the Provincial Econome in their respective fields follow the norms

given in Nos. 90 and 91 of these Regulations for the Secretary General and the General Econome.

- 105.** At the end of each year, Superiors of Provinces and Vice Provinces must inform the Superior General of the state of the religious themselves, their community life and apostolate, and the financial situation in their Provinces or Vice-Provinces as a whole, as well as in each individual house. These reports should be given in writing, and the appropriate forms used.

Further, they shall send to the Superior General and to the General Consultor designated as representative to the Province or Vice Province, all publications and circular letters.

The Superior General with the consent of his Council may determine other matters on which he requires information from the Provinces or Vice Provinces.

- 106.** With the exception of the Superior General, religious in the General Curia retain active and passive voice in their own Province.

Religious attached to interprovincial houses are members of the Chapters and Meetings of these communities, but have active and passive voice in their own Province.

Religious attached to another Province, whether indefinitely or for five years, have active and passive

voice in that Province and not in their own when elections take place for delegates to the Chapter or other Provincial Assemblies.

- 107.** The Provincial Chapter shall establish directives regulating holidays and travelling for the members of the Province.
- 108.** What is said of Provinces applies also in due measure to ViceProvinces, unless the context indicates otherwise.

Local Communities

- 109.** Having heard the opinion of the local Chapter, the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council may withdraw from the jurisdiction of the local Superior some religious, some activity, some part of the community or of its buildings or property, and place them under the immediate jurisdiction of himself or his delegate.
- 110.** In accordance with the directives of the Provincial Chapter, the local Superior, with the consent of the local Chapter, establishes:
- a)* the daily schedule;
 - b)* regular meetings concerning the various aspects of community life;

- c) times and places of silence in the religious house;
- d) forms and manner of recreation.

111. Religious are subject to the Superior of the house in which they are staying when visiting other houses of the Congregation. The Superior of the house offering hospitality, however, may not hinder such religious from the proper discharge of the duty or assignment for which they have come.

112. Besides the records of financial administration, registers are to be kept in every house giving details of the following matters:

- a) Masses accepted for celebration;
- b) the actual celebration of these Masses;
- c) Masses for deceased religious;
- d) Masses and prayers that on certain days are offered for benefactors of the Congregation;
- e) religious stationed in the house or visiting the house, and those persons who make retreats in the house;
- f) canonical visitations;
- g) local Chapters and other Community Meetings;
- h) apostolic activities;
- i) chronicles of the house, known as the "*platea*";
- j) benefactors.

The Superiors shall see that these registers are carefully kept, taking particular care that Masses accepted for celebration be registered in the appropriate book as soon as possible.

CHAPTER VIII

TEMPORAL GOODS

- 113.** In our Institute, stable patrimony consists of all real estate and movable property which by legitimate assignments are destined to guarantee the economic security of the Institute.

For the assets of the entire Institute, this assignment is done by the General Chapter or by the Superior General with the consent of his Council.

For the goods of a Province, Vice-Province, or Vicariate, as well as for the goods of a legitimately erected house, this assignment is done by the Provincial Chapter or by the Congress and confirmed by the Superior General with the consensus of his Council.

The procedures relating to legitimate assignments, as well as those relating to alienation, shall be stipulated in the Financial Directory.

- 114.** Since in practice the available means of support varies from country to country, each Province should find and develop its own resources in the manner best adapted to the economic, social, and religious conditions of the country, always preserving the principles and spirit of Passionist poverty.

- 115.** With the help of expert advice if necessary, each Province must define the areas of central and local administration. The genuine needs of individual houses as well as the total objectives of the Province should be taken into account.
- 116.** Ordinarily at least the immovable property of the Congregation should be inscribed in the State registers in the name of the juridical person to whom it belongs, in accordance with the civil laws of each country. It may be necessary to nominate one of the religious to represent the juridical person legally before the civic authorities.
- Should it happen that any property of the Congregation must be registered in the name of an individual religious, he should at the same time draw up a document, valid in civil law, so as to safeguard the rights of the Congregation.
- 117.** The appropriate Major Superior should exercise vigilance over those who administer goods that do not belong to the Congregation (such as those of a parish entrusted to us by the Ordinary) and goods that must be administered according to regulations issued by the Holy See (such as funds pertaining to Causes for beatification or canonization). At stated times, these administrators must submit their books of financial administration to the Major Superiors and to Visitors.

- 118.** Stipends received for the celebration of Masses must be entered without delay in the appropriate register.

No perpetual obligation of Masses should ever be accepted, while respecting the privilege in No. 63 of our *Collectio Facultatum*.

Unless other arrangements have been made by the Superior General, local Superiors are obliged to send Mass stipends that are over and above the needs of the house to the Provincial Superior. Similarly, the Provincial Superior must send Mass stipends in excess of the needs of the Province to the Superior General.

Unless the Major Superior disposes otherwise in particular cases, stipends offered for Masses are to be kept intact and not spent before the Masses are celebrated. The Superiors concerned must be especially vigilant in observing this directive.

- 119.** To change his will and the disposition regarding use and usufruct of his own goods or to dispose of his own property in any way, a religious requires a just cause and the permission of his Provincial Superior.
- 120.** Articles of historic or artistic value in our houses or churches must be kept with special care. Their description should be entered in two inventories, one of which is to be preserved in the house archives, and the other in the Provincial archives.

- 121.** Local Superiors are forbidden to sell immobile goods belonging to the house. Similar prohibition extends to renting immobile goods and selling articles of artistic, historic, or cultural value that belong to the house without obtaining the opinion of the local Chapter and the consent of the Provincial Superior, or of the Superior General, or if necessary of the Holy See.
- 122.** The Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council may rent or sell immobile goods, precious objects, or articles of artistic, historic, or cultural value belonging to the Province. The prescriptions of common and particular law must always be observed.
- 123.** Ordinarily money shall not be lent. If circumstances seem to warrant it, however, the loan may be granted by the lawful Superior, who should observe the rules established for extraordinary expenses. Further, he should always receive an assured guarantee of repayment as recognized by civil law.
- 124.** Goods of a house that has been suppressed belong to the Province or Vice-Province or Regional Vicariate to which the house was attached.
- 125.** The Superior General with the consent of his Council defines the amount he himself may spend

without the consent of his Council, according to current money values.

The Superior General similarly defines the amount of expenditure for which a Provincial Superior with his Council needs the consent of the Superior General and his Council.

Within these limits, the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council determines the amount that he may spend without the consent of his Council.

Similarly, he decides the amount of expenditure for which a local Superior needs the consent of the local Chapter or of the Provincial Superior.

Unless otherwise stated, the amounts mentioned above apply also to sales, debts, loans, obligations, and other administrative acts.

126. As a rule, by extraordinary administrative expenditure is understood that administrative act for which a Superior requires not only the consent of the local Chapter or of his Council but also that of his Major Superior; in the case of the Superior General, that of the Holy See.

127. The Superior General with the deliberative vote of his Council determines the amount of annual contribution to be made by each Province and Vice-Province to the central government fund for its expenses and for other pressing financial needs

of the Congregation. In making this decision, he takes into account the economic circumstances of each Province and Vice-Province, and consults with the Authorities concerned.

- 128.** Every three months, the local Econome presents an account of his administration of the house to his community. At the end of each year, he presents a similar account to the Provincial Superior.

Each year the Provincial Superior gives a financial account of the Provincial Administration to every house; and each year the Superior General gives an account of the General Administration to every Province.

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