

CONGREGATION OF THE ROGATIONISTS
OF THE HEART OF JESUS

NORMS



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Laus Deo et Mariae

ST. MATTHEW
PHILIPPINE QUASI PROVINCE
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VISITOR - Appointment with the consent of General Councilors, 172; tasks, 182-186.

VOCATIONS - Signs of a vocation, 9; Prayer for Vocations, 11; promotion of a unified pastoral care for all vocations, 84; primacy of prayer in the pastoral care for vocations, 88; to live one's life as a vocation, 93; cultivate the seeds of priestly and religious vocation, 93; the Parish Priest promotes and accompanies vocations for the Institute, 115.

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Presentation

In his message addressed to our XI General Chapter (2010) the Holy Father, Benedict XVI, drew attention to the special commitment entrusted to such assembly: "You intend to review and approve the constitutions and norms of your institute to adapt them especially to the new ecclesial sensibility stemming from the Second Vatican Council and codified in the current Code of Canon Law. Such a commitment is of particular importance, because it is about presenting to the whole religious family the reference texts to which everyone will have to conform their own experience of fraternal and apostolic life, to be an eloquent sign of the love of God and instrument of salvation in every environment. May God bless your plans! To be fruitful you must faithfully preserve the spiritual patrimony handed down to you by your founder, St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia, who loved Christ intensely, and was always inspired by him in carrying out a prudent vocational apostolate as well as courageous work in favor of his needy neighbors".

The mandate to review and update our legislation had been entrusted to the Congregation by the X General Chapter (2004), for the reason that I thus summarized in the presentation of the Chapter's document, *The Rogationist Rule of Life*: "The need to review our rules, in a span of several decades after obtaining their approval pursuant to the renewal brought about by the Vatican II, has emerged because of the socio-cultural changes of the context where we live and which we are called to face as well as due to the developments of the theology on religious life and the more recent teachings of the Church"¹.

The Holy Father, in the Apostolic Exhortation *Vita Consecrata* has also stressed this need: "there is a pressing need today for every Institute *to return to the Rule*, since the Rule and Constitutions provide a map for the whole journey of discipleship, in accordance with a specific charism confirmed by the Church"(n. 37).

Having taken note of this need, the X General Chapter has wisely given to the Congregation and then to the General Government the appropriate

¹ *The Rogationist Rule of Life (RRL)*. Document of the XI General chapter, Rome (December 2010), p. 6.

the application for the first profession, 13; help to families in difficulty, 28; weekly Mass for the Circumscription, 42; mass in the anniversary of his election or appointment, 42; approving a guest to stay with the community, 62; vacations of the missionaries, 105 and 106; signing of agreement for parishes, 111; authorizes acts of extraordinary administration in the parishes, 117.

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SUPERIOR - MAJOR - Permission for the cession of the administration and of the use and usufruct of goods, 29 and 30; Superior of Delegation, 247.

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indications on the content and methods of this updating. In concrete it has highlighted the need for such action to be the result of the participation of the individual confreres and of the religious communities in order to foster the necessary re-appropriation of our "rule of life".

With the work done during the entire six year term on two fundamental texts of the Constitutions and Norms we have become ever more aware that the legislation of the Institute, by its nature, constitutes the legal and practical expression of the charism entrusted by the Spirit to our holy founder, Father Hannibal Mary; a charism he lived to the full as a way of holiness and has given us through his example and writings, including primarily the *Declarations and Promises*, and the first Constitutions.

A religious institute, in fact, since it lives in the context of a socio-cultural reality which goes its own way, needs to read the signs of the times in order to be "incarnated" in it, but at the same time it must safeguard and keep its ideal identity through fidelity to the charism received.

The Holy Father, therefore, reminded us the need that in such updating the spiritual heritage bequeathed to us by Father Hannibal be faithfully preserved. Through the competent Department, after approving the first Constitutions as coherent to the charism received from the Spirit, the Holy Father continues to verify that in the ensuing updating this consistency is preserved with that original gift, and then, with the approval which guarantees this continuity.

The legislative text that we now have in our hands, then, is the result of the will of the X General Chapter; it gathers the work of reflection and discussion made by all of us in the communities during the past six years, even with the help of experts; it was carefully revised by the XI General Chapter; it was finally submitted to the Apostolic See, after a few adjustments deemed appropriate or necessary.

As the Holy Father reminded us, our work of revision and updating of the legislation, in its drafting phase and even more so in its completion, aims at offering the entire religious family the reference texts to which everyone will have to conform their own experience of fraternal and apostolic life.

It would not make sense, in fact, to have revised our legislation just for itself, since by its nature it has a living, existential bond with the life and apostolate of the Congregation. Therefore "we need a journey of personal and

community conversion to the value of the Rule"², because it is an *expression of the consecration, a guarantee of the charismatic identity, a support of fraternal communion, a project for the mission.*

After updating our rule of life, therefore, we need to renew our personal and community relationship with it; we need to give again to the rule the space it deserves in our daily lives, by letting it become a guide and a stimulus for our own personal journey of holiness.

We know that, in general, there might be the risk, whenever we refer to a rule, that its regular observance, or as they say "to the letter", may mortify the "spirit" from which it originates, which is love, as the supreme rule of law. On the other hand we are aware that the spirit which animates the rule needs to be incarnated in the letter, in its faithful and consistent observance.

The XI General Chapter wanted the Constitutions to be accompanied by two appendixes: "Help and Evangelization of the Poor" and "Declarations and Promises." This second text, which we can define as the spiritual rule of the Institute, is attached to the Constitutions this year, on the centenary of its drafting. Through these two documents our Saintly Father Founder accompanies us as spiritual guide to the new way of sanctity which he first opened in the Church through the charism he received. In them, overcoming some details understandably related to time, we are able to capture the spirit or the soul of our legislation.

We are aware that today we live in a globalized world where the certainties of the past seem to be dwindling. Because of the continuous rapid changes, in very different fields, even religious, in which we are involved, we may be taken by the widespread desire to move forward without precise points of reference.

The rule of life does not take away the "freedom that we have in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 2.4) but, through its observance, it grants us to move forward in the way of life, anchored to the certainties that come to us from the Gospel, from the magisterium of the Church, from the charismatic leadership of our Father Founder, from the living tradition of our Congregation.

² RRL 11.

READING - Biblical reading before lunch and dinner during Advent and Lent, 61; prayerful reading of God's word, 69; personal and communal spiritual reading, 72; periodical reading of the Constitutions, 72.

REGISTERS - Administrative, 116, 118, 189, 288, 297, 304; general register of the religious, 195; to be updated, 261, 292; of Novices and first professions, 267; of minutes, 272; of legacies and foundations, 307.

RELATIVES - weekly Mass, 42; prayers for the dead , 48; annual rest, 56; address of relatives, 261.

RELIGIOUS LIFE - Fitness, 10; things that weaken religious life, 26; general theme of the Chapter, 147; general Councilor in charge of religious life, 156; promote religious life, 213; supreme rule of religious life, 278.

ROGATE - Obedience to the command, 1, 2, 13, 36, 75; Christ of Rogate, 11, 77; charismatic gift of grace, 34; Mary the mother of Rogate, 76; vocational apostolate, 82; Rogate centers for vocations, 84, 85, 86; Family of Rogate, 88; Lay and Rogate, 119; Apostolate of Rogate, 124; Councilor for Rogate, 156; goods of the Congregation in the service of Rogate, 286.

ROGATE CENTERS FOR VOCATIONS - In the different geographical areas promote the Rogate, 84 and 85.

ROGATE SPIRITUALITY CENTERS - Collaboration with vocational centers, 85; places to promote the charism, 86, in the Circumscription, 88.

ROGATIONIST DAY - Application of Mass intention for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations (WDPV), 42; WDPV, Rogationist day par excellence, 89; Rogationist mission day, 107 and 108.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - Regular frequency, 22, 70.

SALVATION - Rogate secret of salvation of the world, 35; participation in Jesus' reparation, 75; conversion and repentance necessary for salvation, 78, works for the salvation of the little ones, 91.

SCHOOL - At the school of Christ, 32; school as effective response to the educative emergency, 95.

SECRETARY GENERAL - Appointment, 193; writes and sign the minutes, 195; tasks, 193-199.

SICK - Greatest care, 41.

PRACTICES OF PIETY - An expression of the spirituality of the Congregation, 73, in the parish community, 114.

PRAYERS - For the living, 42; prayer book approved, 73; solid personal prayer life, 83; in preparation for the General Chapter, 141.

PROFESSED - Rights and Responsibilities, 15; suffrages, 44; active and passive voice, 142; assembly of religious, 226, 243; appointment of the Prefect of professed students, 236; consultation of the perpetually professed for the appointment of the Superior of the Quasi Province, 241.

PROFESSION - Rooted in baptismal consecration, 1; at the point of death, 12; suitability, 13; incorporation to the Congregation, 13; public vow, 13; application for renewal, 14; in the hands of the Superior of Circumscription, 16; writing the act of profession, 16; devotional renewal of religious profession, 18; cession of goods, 29; the eldest by profession is elected, 143; matters requiring consent, 172 § 1, 236, 246, 274; matters requiring opinion, 175 § 1; belonging to the Province, 206; admission to first profession, 3b § 227, 237, 244; register of the first profession, 267.

PROFESSION OF FAITH - Of the Superior General, 152.

PROVINCE - Elements, 207; Provincial Chapter, 208-220; Provincial Government, 221-225.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER- appointment of any Delegate to preside over the Chapter 172 § 3m; discussion, 208-220; convocation, 209, date and place, 210; active and passive voice of the General Councilors, 211; participation of a perpetually professed student, 212; duties, 213; elections, 214 & 217; renunciation, 218, Acts of the Chapter, 219 and 220; convened by the Vicar Provincial, 230; loss of office of Provincial Councilors, 233; functions of provincial councilors, 236.13.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL - Field of animation of the Councilors, 217; functions, 229.

PROVINCIAL TREASURER - Helps in the provincial government of the Province, 214; election, 217; administration of property of the Province, 224; powers and duties, 231-232.

RATIO INSTITUTIONIS - regulates the process of formation, 4, 7; updating and adaptation, 4, 5, 236, 246; indications, evaluations for admission to the novitiate, 10.

We are called, therefore, to receive these Constitutions and Norms from the hands of Father Hannibal and to accept his invitation, formulated in the last recommendations of the *Declarations and Promises*, to familiarize with them, to implement them faithfully, to love them as we love our Religious Family which wants to be reflected in them, to pray that the Lord may grant us to conform to them our lives and the mission that awaits us.

We believe that the coincidence of the gift of the renewed legislation on the occasion of the Eucharistic Year - the 125th anniversary of July 1st - is providential. The link is immediately evident. It is fitting in fact that the Rule of life be symbolically given to us by our Founder and divine Superior. Moreover, the Eucharist is the Word of God made flesh for our nourishment; He feeds us with His Body and Word, the memorial of our nuptial covenant which, for us Rogationists, is identified in the intelligence and zeal of the Rogate. Our rule of life intends to translate in the daily reality the zeal of the Rogate that we keep in our minds and our hearts.

Let us welcome the new Constitutions and Norms on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let us receive them from the Sacred Hearts, Our Divine Superiors. With their help, may the new Constitutions and Norms become for us every day, a manifestation of the evangelical word of the Rogate and, thus, "a lamp to our feet and a light for our path" (Ps 118, 105).

I invite you, personally and as a community, to a constant and diligent reading and meditation of the Constitutions and Norms, welcoming their spirit and novelty, and trying to deepen all their dimensions, with the same attitude of Mary in meditating and pondering: "Mary, for her part, kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2, 19).

Rome, September 8, 2011

Fr. Angelo A. Mezzari, R.C.J.
Superior General

SOURCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

Documents of the Church

CCEO	= Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches
CIC	= Code of Canon Law
DV	= Dei Verbum
FLC	= Fraternal life in community
FT	= Faciem Tuam
LG	= Lumen Gentium
MR	= Mutuae Relationes
NMI	= Novo Millennio Ineunte
OT	= Optatam Totius
PC	= Perfectae Caritatis
PdV	= Pastores dabo vobis
PI	= Potissimum Institutioni
PO	= Presbiterorum Ordinis
RM	= Redemptoris Missio
RRL	= Rogationist Rule of Life
SaC	= Starting afresh from Christ
SC	= Sacrosanctum Concilium
VC	= Vita Consecrata

Rogationist Documents and Literature

AR	= Apostles of the Rogate
C	= Constitutions
CSH	= Called to stay with him
DC	= Capitular Documents (1980)
DD	= Declarations and Decrees (1969)
N	= Norms
RA	= Rogationist Anthology

OUR LADY – MARY - Mass for the spiritual and material interests of the work on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 42; consecration according to the method of S. Louis Grignon, 76; penance on the first Saturday of the month, 79.

PARISH PRIESTS - Mass pro populo, 42.

PARISH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY - Common Life, 114; planning, 115; involvement of the religious of nearby institute, 113.

PARISHES - Pastoral care of the faithful, 110; entrustment, 111; appointment of parish priests, 112; duties of parish priest, 113; pastoral plan, 115; administrative acts, 116 and 117; Councilor in charge, 156.

PENANCE - need and value, 21, 78; abstinence from smoking, 65; first Friday and first Saturday of the month, 79.

PENSIONS - To be handed to the Superior 26.

PERPETUAL PROFESSION - General Councilors and of the General Treasurer, 155; Provincial Superior, 214; Provincial Councilors, 217; admission to perpetual profession, 227 § 3b; Vicar General, 230; Superior of the Quasi Province, 242; candidates of the Quasi Province, 246; receiving perpetual profession, § 227 3c, 244 § 3c; local Superior, 251.

PLANNING - Formation, 6; Community, 55, 71, 80; verification, 94; benefactors office, 102; in parishes and shrines, 115; general planning, 138; in the Family Council, 278; Economic Planning, 302 .

POOR - Evangelization and help, 2; the novice learns the spirit of charity, 11; daily service, 23; commitment to the education of poor children and youth, 92; attention towards the poor, 93, listening to the poor, 97; inserted communities, 98; help to poor priests, 99; involvement of benefactors, 100; in the parishes, 110 and 115; joint projects with the laity for the poor, 121; use of the media, 124; fraternal communities for the poor, 223; in the local community, 249; administration of the goods in solidarity with the poor, 286.

POSTULATOR GENERAL - Duties, 202.

POVERTY - solid foundation of our vocation, 26; avoiding dependencies on harmful substances, 65; commitment to education, 91; fighting the causes and effects of poverty, 98; administration of property of the Congregation, 286.

LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE - Tasks, 177-181; of Circumscription, 179, 180, 181; in the Province, 231.

LITURGICAL CELEBRATION - Living the liturgical spirituality, 68, profession of faith of the Superior General, 152; opening and closing an official visit, 186; entrance of new Superior in the community, 253.

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MASSES - Prayers for the living, 42; suffrages, 44, 49, 50; monthly mass for the deceased Confreres, 46; annual prayers for the dead in November, 48; record of Masses celebrated, 261; money received for the celebration of Masses, 294; legacies, 307.

MEDIA - MEANS OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS - Prudent use, 24; proper formation, 60, 124; Benefactors' office, 101; central missionary office, 108.

MEDITATION - Daily, 71.

MISSION STATION - Description, 133.

MISSIONARIES - Adequate preparation, 104; reentry, 105, 106.

MISSIONARY - Missionary Spirit, 103-109; missionary irradiation in the parishes, 110, 115.

MONTHLY RETREAT - Lectio Divina, 69; Community, 74.

NOVICE MASTER - Appointment, 236, 244, 246.

NOVICES - Formation in the spirit of the Congregation, 11; participates in all the benefits and graces, 12; preparing for profession, 13; consecration to Jesus through Mary, 76.

OBEDIENCE - To the command of Rogate, 1, 2, 13, 34, 36; based on total yes of Christ, 31; path of freedom, 32; offices received by obedience, 54.

OBSERVANCE - Regular discipline, 53; acceptance and observance of directives of the Holy Father, 158; watch over the proper observance, 227, 244; compliance with canon and civil law, 299.

OFFICERS - Secretary, Treasurer and Legal Representative of the Province, 231; Local treasurer, 280-282; Director of Work, 283-285.

PART ONE RELIGIOUS LIFE AND CONSECRATION

CHAPTER I: IDENTITY (Const. Art. 1-23)

Art. 1

The fundamental norm of consecrated life is to follow Christ, chaste, poor and obedient unto death on the cross (cfr. Phil 2:8)³, so as to be holy as He is Holy (cf. Lev 11.44; Mt 5:48).

Rooted in the baptismal consecration, through the profession of the evangelical counsels and the obedience to the command of Rogate, we follow Jesus more closely and tend to the perfection of charity in the service of the Kingdom of God.⁴

Art. 2

By the vow of obedience to the command of Rogate, we assume the commitment to implore from the divine mercy the gift of good evangelical workers, to spread this spirit of prayer in the Church, to be compassionate workers in the education and care of children and young people, especially needy and marginalized, and in the evangelization and help of the poor.

CHAPTER II: FORMATION (Const. Art. 73 - 120)

Art. 3

The initial and permanent formation is a unitary process embracing the whole life and aiming at the perfection of charity through the configuration to Christ. Formation qualifies as integral and specific, progressive and continuous. In fact it accompanies the person in the different stages of growth, embracing all his dimensions and is centered on the spirituality and mission of the Institute.

Initial formation

Art. 4

The Rogationist formation is regulated, according to the Constitutions, by the *Ratio Institutionis*, which indicates the purposes, objectives, means and paths to follow.

³ Cfr. *Perfectae caritatis* (PC) 1.

⁴ Cfc. CIC 573, § 1.

The Superior General is the first responsible for the formation. In collaboration with those responsible at various levels and in subsidiarity, he indicates the objectives and monitors their implementation. With the consent of the Council, he periodically promulgates and updates the *Ratio*.

Art. 5

The *Ratio* is adapted to the needs of the Circumscriptions through a *Directory* approved by the Superior General with his Council.

The Circumscription inserted in an Eastern Church, for the *external governance* (liturgy, apostolate), follows the Code of Canons for Oriental Churches and for the *internal governance* (organization, formation), follows the Code of Canon Law⁵.

Art. 6

The whole religious Community is involved in the formative action. However a specific role is played by: the Superior of the House, the Spiritual Father, the Formator/Prefect, the Master of Novices, the Vocation Animator. The Formation Council is appointed by the Superior of Circumscription and, under the guidance of the local Superior, takes care of all the aspects of the formative work through regular meetings of planning and verification. Those in charge of formation and their collaborators live in harmony of purposes among them and with the members of the Community, thus offering a concrete witnessing of fraternal life in Community.

The Formator / Prefect

Art. 7

In the Houses of formation let there be the Formator/Prefect, appointed by the Superior of Circumscription. He is outstanding in piety, in apostolic and religious spirit and endowed with experience, wisdom and pedagogical preparation.

The Formator/Prefect, in agreement with the local Superior, accompanies the formation of youths according to the directives of the *Ratio*, of the *Directory*, and of the Formation Council. Together with his collaborators he prepares the annual formative plan.

Preparation to the Novitiate

Art. 8

The period that precedes the Novitiate is a specific time of formation in accordance with our Constitutions⁶. In this stage the candidates to the novitiate are committed to develop a proper spiritual life and an initial understanding of the Rogationist charism.

⁵ Cfr. *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches* (CCEO) 432.

⁶ Cfr. *Constitutions* (C) 95-96.

GENERAL OFFICERS - consulted for affairs related to their office, 169; General Treasurer, 187-192; General Secretary, 193-199, General Procurator, 200-201; General Postulator, 202; General Archivist, 203-205.

GENERAL PROCURATOR - Appointment, 175; tasks, 200-201.

GENERAL TREASURER - Economic Report to the General Chapter, 150; election, 153; term of office, 155; qualifications and tasks, 187-192.

GOODS - Detachment, 26; use and usufruct, 29; alienation, 30; consent of the Councilors, 172; control of the legal representative, 180; movable and immovable properties, 189; control of the provincial Superior, 224; administration of the Superior of the Quasi Province, 245; challenges facing the economy, 280; gift of Divine Providence, 286; administration of the competent Superior, 287; faithful administration, 288; maintenance of assets, 309; extraordinary administration, 310; supervision, 312.

GUESTS - Care, love and limits, 62.

HABIT: - That of the diocesan clergy, 59.

HOLINESS - Examples of holiness, 122.

HOME FOR YOUTHS, STUDENTS, WORKERS - Establishment, 96.

HOUSE COUNCIL - Admission to the Novitiate, 10; admission to first profession, 13; admission to the renewal of vows, 14; programming, 102 and 302; approval of monthly administrative reports, 116 and 304; acts of extraordinary administration, 117; collaboration with the Superior, 250; turnover, 253 and 282; Book of minutes, 261; composition and duties, 269-276; quarterly verification of the administration of the director of work, 285.

HOUSE COUNCILORS - Appointment, 175 and 269; convening House council, 270; signing of the minutes, 272; signature of the registers and records, 304.

INCULTURATION - Of the charisma, 206.

LAITY - Collaboration in educational activities, 92 and 93; the family of Rogate, 115 and 122; sharing the charism, 119; formation, 120; joint projects, 121; community, centers of animation, 122.

LECTIO DIVINA - During the monthly recollection, 69.

FORMATION [RESPONSIBLE OF] - First responsible is the Superior General, 4; care of the Provincial Superior, 223 and 227; (see formation).

FORMATION COUNCIL - Appointment, 6; annual formation plan, 7; admission to the novitiate, 10; admission to first profession, 14; book of Reports, 261, 2d.

FRATERNITY - Testimony of fraternal life, 6, 23, 39, 223, 229, 268; fraternal correction, 38, 78; a community life project, 55; works of fraternal charity, 80; parish religious community, 113; dialogue between Superiors and confreres, 159; discernment, 166; Superior first responsible for community life, 250.

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Art. 9

The immediate preparation to the Novitiate, lasting at least six months, aims at deepening the verification of the signs of vocation and the attitudes of the candidate.

Admission to the Novitiate

Art. 10

The admission to the Novitiate is up to the Superior of Circumscription with the opinion of his Council⁷.

Two months before entering the Novitiate, the candidate freely makes his application to the Superior of Circumscription.

The Superior of the House receives the application and, after hearing the Formation Council, with the opinion of the House Council transmits it to the Superior of Circumscription, attaching an evaluation of the candidate, stating his health, suitable character and sufficient maturity to take on the Rogationist religious life, according to the directives of the *Ratio*. For this purpose, if necessary, let also experts in human sciences be consulted, always safeguarding the good reputation and privacy of the person⁸.

The admission to the Novitiate is preceded by an appropriate course of spiritual exercises.

Novitiate

Art. 11

The life in the Congregation and the specific preparation to religious consecration begin with the Novitiate⁹.

The Novice, in the light of the Gospel and according to the spirit of St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia, deepens his knowledge of the Christ of the Rogate, identifies himself with Christ's compassion for the weary and helpless crowds, who are like sheep without a shepherd, learns the sublime science of prayer for vocations and becomes inflamed with zeal to spread it. He also learns the spirit of the works of charity in favor of the little ones and the poor.

Art. 12

The Novices partake in all benefits and spiritual favors granted to our religious family. If they die before their profession, they are granted the same prayers as the professed confreres. If they wish, on the point of death, they can make their profession which, however, has no juridical value.

⁷ Cfr. C 99.

⁸ Cfr. CIC 642, 220.

⁹ Cfr. CIC 646.

First Profession

Art. 13

Two months before the end of the Novitiate, the Master sends to the Superior of Circumscription, together with the application of the candidate, a comprehensive report about his suitability to the profession, enclosing also the opinion of the House Council.

If admitted to the profession, the Novice prepares himself with a course of spiritual exercises. He makes the first temporary profession for one year. With the profession he assumes, through public vow, the three evangelical counsels and the obedience to *Rogate*, he is consecrated to God through the ministry of the Church and is incorporated to the Congregation with all the rights and duties defined by the proper law¹⁰. For the validity of the profession what is provided by Art. 106 of the Constitutions is to be followed.

Temporary and perpetual profession

Art. 14

Two months before the expiry of temporary profession the Religious applies for the renewal of vows, or for perpetual profession through the Superior of the House who, after hearing the formation Council, with the consent of the House Council, forwards the application to the Major Superior of the Circumscription along with an accurate evaluation.

The temporary profession, preceded by a course of spiritual exercises, is renewed annually until the perpetual profession.

Art. 15

The temporary professed Religious are bound to observe the proper law just like the perpetually professed, but have no active and passive voice.

Art. 16

The profession is done, according to the rite approved by the Superior General, in the hands of the competent Superior of Circumscription or his delegate¹¹.

A record of the profession is to be drawn up in three copies, one of which is preserved in the House, another in the Archive of the Circumscription to which the Religious belongs, and the third in the central Archive of the Congregation. The document is signed by the Religious who professes, by the one who receives the profession and by two witnesses.

Art. 17

To be ordained deacon the Religious must first have done his perpetual vows¹².

¹⁰ Cfr. CIC 654.

¹¹ Cfr. CIC 656, 5.

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Art. 18

According to the tradition introduced by the Founder, on the occasion of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, by devotion we renew communally the religious profession¹³.

Permanent Formation

Art. 19

Permanent Formation is of primary importance in our lives. It is configured as a personal commitment to preserve and reform constantly our apostolic religious identity in the concrete situations in which we live and work¹⁴.

Art. 20

We are committed to participate in the intensive moments of formation, planned at the level of General Government and of Circumscription, and to avail of the grace of sabbatical periods according to the indications of the *Ratio*.

CHAPTER III

The vow of chastity

(Const. Art. 31-36)

Art. 21

Aware that the call to chastity for the Kingdom of Heaven¹⁵ is above all a divine grace, and grateful to God for a spiritual paternity for the advantage of the harvest of today, we live the commitment of perfect continence in celibacy¹⁶, through prayer, charity and penance (cf. Mt 6:1-6).

In a world dominated by a hedonistic culture which separates sexuality from any objective moral norms, we want to be prophetic testimony of the power of the love of God in the fragility of the human condition¹⁷.

Art. 22

To guard the treasure of a chaste life we immerse ourselves in the contemplation of the Trinitarian love revealed to us in Christ¹⁸. Thus without

¹² Cfr. CIC 266,2.

¹³ Cfr. TUSINO, T., *Rogationist Anthology from the Writings of Father Hannibal Di Francia*, ad usum privatum, Rome 1985 (RA), pp. 250. 517.

¹⁴ Cfr. *Documenti Capitolari* (DC), 1980, 244; *Starting afresh from Christ* (SaC) 15.

¹⁵ Cfr. CIC 599.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*.

¹⁷ Cfr. *Vita consacrata* (VC) 88.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*.

getting tired (cfr. 1 Thes 5, 17), we pray trusting in God's help; we meditate on the passion of Jesus Christ; we celebrate daily the Eucharist and approach assiduously the sacrament of reconciliation; we avail of spiritual direction; and like St Hannibal, nourish a tender, ardent and constant¹⁹ devotion for the Mother of God.

Art. 23

We care about fraternal life in community and involve ourselves daily, according to the various assignments, in the service of the little ones and the poor.

For a witness of interior honesty in human relations²⁰, we show balance, dominion of self, initiative, psychological and emotional maturity²¹.

Art. 24

We feel committed to a continuous ascetic journey consisting of custody of the senses, healthy nutrition and prudent use of the means of social communication, in the conviction that chastity is nourished by vigilance and flight from occasions as well as by modesty and love for work.

Art. 25

In our social relations we want to express our solicitude as consecrated persons, by nourishing the same sentiments which were in Christ Jesus (cfr. Phil 2: 5).

In words and deeds we show to love everyone with a free heart, without preference of persons (cfr. James 2: 1; Acts 10: 34; Romans 2: 11); we keep guard over ourselves (cfr. 1 Tim 4: 16) and we let ourselves be led by prudence in dealing with people, safeguarding always the privacy of the Community, our family.

CHAPTER IV

The vow of poverty
(Const. Art. 37-43)

Art. 26

We esteem evangelical poverty as a firm foundation of our vocation and the very existence of the Institute²². We commit ourselves to live a poor life in fact

¹⁹ Cfr. DI FRANCIA, A.M., *For the Constitutions of the Rogationists*, Messina March 22, 1906, in *Scritti, V. Regolamenti* (1883-1913), 2009, p. 353.

²⁰ Cfr. VC 88.

²¹ Ibidem.

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63. a) The General Chapter decides what is to be made known to all the Religious concerning the Capitular Acts and Deliberations.

b) The binding and operative norms, decided by the Chapter, come into force on the day of their promulgation made by the Superior General. They remain in force until the new Chapter which may abrogate, modify or confirm them¹³⁸.

64. The members of the Chapter cannot absent themselves from the sessions without grave reasons acknowledged by the President. Their eventual absence will be notified to the Assembly and recorded in the minutes of the session.

65. All the Acts of the Chapter are to be kept in the General Archives of the Congregation.

Life of the Chapter

66. The Chapter shall begin with a Eucharistic concelebration and close in the Church with an appropriate religious celebration.

67. A rhythm of prayer according to the spirit of our Rogationist life shall be followed. In the Liturgy, previously prepared texts shall be used.

68. Upon proposal of the Presidential Board, let the Chapter set an indicative calendar of its works foreseeing also the tentative date of its closing.

69. Normally, let there be no Capitular works on Saturday afternoon, Sunday and Feast Days.

70. Let there be a Press Office.

71. Without prejudice to the rights of individuals and of the Assembly, the Chapter, under the responsibility of the Presidential Board, authorizes audio and video taping for:

1. documentation of the General Archives;
2. amateurish reasons, upon request of individual Capitular;
3. press releases, upon request of the persons in charge of it.

72. Let these Regulations of the Chapter, once approved, be inserted in the Appendix of our Norms.

¹³⁸ Cfr. C 147.

and in spirit²³, showing a real detachment from material goods. In a world marked by a *materialism which craves possessions, heedless of the needs and sufferings of the weakest, and lacking any concern for the balance of natural resources*²⁴, we want to give witness to sobriety, by renouncing all the unnecessary things which weaken religious life.

1. To make this witnessing effective, on a personal level every Religious:

- a) keeps his room and office furnished in a dignified and simple way;
- b) uses with care and responsibility the things that belong to the House, and avoids turning them into personal property;
- c) renounces precious or showy items expressing luxury and vanity.
- d) surrenders to the Superior the money coming from salaries, pensions, royalties, offerings and the like, in accordance with Art. 43 of the Constitutions.

2. To make this witnessing effective, on the Community level, the expensive means must be justified by the need of apostolate and charity, and their use must be such as to show also externally the signs of evangelical poverty.

Art. 27

After hearing the Family Council, the Superior gives to each Religious a sum sufficient for ordinary personal expenses, of which he will render a monthly account.

Art. 28

We are bound by a sincere affection to our parents (cfr. Deut. 5:16), first and more important benefactors of the Congregation, and to our relatives; we support them with prayer and counsel.

In cases they might be in special needs, we present the situation with simplicity and confidence to the Superior of the Circumscription, who will act with spirit of charity and understanding.

Art. 29

The cession of administration, use and usufruct of one's properties, according to art. 42 of the Constitutions, has no more validity upon leaving the Congregation; therefore the condition of revocability must be included.

Such revocation or modification of the acts of cession and disposition, when it has to be done during the time of profession, shall not to be done without the consent of the Major Superior. Let the modification, however, at least for a considerable portion of the goods, should not be in favor of the Institute.

²² Cfr. DI FRANCIA, A.M., *Declarations and Promises (for the Rogationist Religious)*, 5^a, in *Scritti, V. Regolamenti (1883-1913)*, 2009, p. 583.

²³ Cfr. CIC 600.

²⁴ VC 89.

Art. 30

The written consent of the Major Superior or, in urgent cases, of the local Superior is required to perform deeds of ownership, allowed or required by civil law, including alienation of goods. To comply with simple legal formalities, the permission of the local Superior is sufficient.

CHAPTER V

The vow of obedience

(Const. Art. 44-47)

Art. 31

We found our obedience on the total yes of Jesus Christ to the Father's plan of salvation. We believe that this plan of salvation is manifested also through the human mediation of the Superiors, and that the total gift of ourselves to God is incarnated and manifested concretely in the obedience to the Rule of life and to the legitimate Superiors, in the fidelity to the commitments of the daily life (cfr. Mt 25: 21) as well as in the acceptance of major decisions.

Art. 32

At the school of Christ we give testimony that obedience is a *journey of gradual conquest of the true freedom*²⁵. Therefore, through the availability and dialogue in a spirit of obedience, we accept any office to which we are assigned, at any time and place.

Art. 33

We live the dialogue in mutual esteem and trust through:

1. discernment in the light of the Word of God and in mutual exchange of ideas and proposals, in the common search for the will of God;
2. collaboration and communion within the Community;
3. availing of the organisms which promote sharing, such as the House, Family, and Formation Councils, and the like.

Chapter VI

THE VOW OF OBEDIENCE TO THE ROGATE

(Const. Art. 48-49)

Art. 34

We consider as a gift of grace the charism of the Rogate and our belonging to this Congregation, in which the *divine command*: "*Rogate ergo Dominum*

f) In the final vote on a matter the absolute majority is required. The vote is expressed only with *I agree (Placet)*, or *I do not agree (Non Placet)*.

g) When instead, the vote deals with modifications of the Constitutions, the two-thirds majority of the votes is required.

57. a) All of the Capitulars can present motions to the Committees through the Secretary of the Chapter.

b) In order to be presented directly to the Chapter, motions are to be inserted in the agenda of the day by the Presidential Board, or upon proposal of one of the Committees, or through a petition signed by at least ten Capitulars.

58. a) Let the motions of the Capitulars be, if possible, connected with the issues presented in the Chapter by the Committees.

b) Motions, which are not connected with the issues being tackled, in order to be discussed, need a preliminary vote of the Chapter by absolute majority to decide on the opportunity of discussing and voting them.

c) It is also the Chapter to decide by absolute majority, if the motions are connected with the issues.

d) The *motions of order* have the priority in the works of the Assembly. However, in order to be discussed they need a preliminary vote of the Chapter on the opportunity of discussing and voting.

59. A motion is to be formulated in this way:

- a) with a title, that is the thesis being supported;
- b) it has to be written in the form of brief articles;
- c) each article shall have a demonstration or comment;
- d) it must fit in one standard page;
- e) it has to be dated and signed by the proponent.

60. a) A petition, signed by at least twenty Members of the Chapter, is required in order to re-examine a matter which was already definitively resolved.

b) After one of the signatories of the petition has given the reasons, let the Chapter examine and judge, by absolute majority, the opportunity of the re-examination.

61. The minutes of the previous session shall be submitted to the Assembly for approval ordinarily by a show of hands.

No discussion of the minutes is allowed, other than observations necessary for a better clarification and precision of the matter already discussed and approved.

62. The deliberations approved by the absolute majority of those present shall have the power of law.

²⁵ VC 91.

53. a) The text mentioned in paragraph (a) of the previous article shall be forwarded to the members of the Chapter, in writing, at least 24 hours before its discussion in the plenary session.

b) The Moderator will invite those who have requested it, to speak on the matter at the end of the reports made by the respective speakers to the Assembly.

c) Interventions shall not be longer than five minutes. Speaking will be allowed only once without prejudice to what is provided by art. 56 (a) and (b).

d) The President allows other Capitulars, who did not reserve previously, to present their observations for a maximum time of three minutes.

e) The amendments emerging from the Assembly shall be passed on to the respective Committee for their possible insertion into the text which will be re-presented, with these modifications, to the plenary session for its final editing and approval.

f) At the end of the interventions, let a suitable time, not longer than fifteen minutes, be given to the speaker of the Committee for his reply.

54. In dealing with general matters, provided a majority of those who must be summoned are present, what is decided by an absolute majority of those present has the force of law. If the votes are equal after two scrutinies, the President can break the tie with his own vote¹³⁵.

55. a) Two thirds of votes are required to propose modifications of the Constitutions and to ask for their authentic interpretation from the Holy See¹³⁶.

b) It is for the General Chapter to suppress or to modify the Norms or to set new ones, without consent of the Holy See, as long as these do not involve any modification of Canon Law or of the Constitutions¹³⁷.

Other Procedures

56. a) It is the task of the President, after having consulted the Assembly, to judge when matters have been sufficiently discussed, and to propose them for voting.

b) If a member of the Chapter thinks that further discussion is still needed, the President can ask the Chapter to express its opinion in this regard.

c) The proposals presented for a vote should be concrete and prepared in such a form that all may properly answer to them with one of the following formulas: *I agree (Placet)*, *I do not agree (Non Placet)*, *I agree partially (Placet iuxta modum)*

d) Whoever responds with the third formula has later to submit in writing the modification he wills.

e) The first vote on a text is not definitive.

¹³⁵ Cfr. C 136.

¹³⁶ Cfr. C 145.

¹³⁷ Cfr. C 146.

messis ut mittat operarios in messem suam" is elevated into an Institution²⁶. We respond to this unique gift by living our consecration through the obedience to the command of the Rogate.

Art. 35

With generosity and zeal we obey to the divine command through the offering of ourselves, following the example of the Founder who devoted his whole life to this, in the awareness that the Rogate contains the secret of salvation of the world and of the whole society²⁷.

Art. 36

Obedience to the vow of the Rogate is realized by:

1. living in the Community or where the Superiors send us;
2. praying daily the Lord of the harvest;
3. meditating frequently on the Gospel passage that expresses the charism and on the writings of the Founder which explain and enlighten it;
4. spreading the spirit of the Rogationist prayer;
5. observing the Constitutions, which interpret and define the Rogate;
6. carrying out the mission proper to the Congregation, in a dynamic fidelity to the apostolic choices, according to the spirit of the Founder and in obedience to Superiors²⁸.

CHAPTER VII

FRATERNAL LIFE IN COMMUNITY

(Const. Art. 50-60)

Section 37

Nourished at the table of the Word and the Bread of life, we grow in fraternal communion, *with our heart's contemplation of the mystery of the Trinity dwelling within us and whose light we must also be able to see shining on the faces of the brothers around us*²⁹.

The Eucharist and the personal and communal prayer strengthen the mutual acceptance and sharing of the common life, mutual respect and affection, since a great means to sanctify ourselves is to be united and live together in holy charity³⁰, giving importance to our presence in the Community while keeping our apostolic commitments.

²⁶ Cfr. DI FRANCIA A. M., *Regulations for the Daughters of Divine Zeal*, in *Scritti*, VI, *Regolamenti* (1914-1927), 2010, p. 396.

²⁷ Cf. *Declarations and Decrees* (DD), 1969, n. 434; DC 46.

²⁸ Cfr. DC 182.

²⁹ SaC 29.

³⁰ Cfr. RA 299.

Art. 38

In the evangelical spirit of fraternal correction (cfr. Mt 18: 15-17), before informing the Superiors, we approach and help gently and confidentially the Confrere who is in a difficult situation or is living a serious interior conflict which might harm him or the Institute.

Art. 39

Let every Community have the necessary conditions to grant to its members the opportunity to carry out community life regularly, according to the finality and spirit proper to the Institute³¹. For this reason the community is ordinarily composed of at least three Religious.

Art. 40

Out of family spirit and of practical reasons, we inform the Superior when we are going out of the House, and upon returning³².

Care of the sick

Art. 41

We live the condition of sickness in union with the will of the Father and with the passion of Jesus Christ.

We give the utmost care for the sick, in which we see the very person of our Lord. We pray for their healing, we visit them often and assist them with all necessary care.

In case of serious illness, we accompany the Confrere with special prayers and help him to receive the Anointing of the Sick and the Eucharist with the best dispositions. When death approaches we assure the presence of the priest.

Prayers for the living

Art. 42

With sentiments of gratitude and supplication, we celebrate the Holy Masses for the following intentions and recurrences:

1. weekly:

- in every Community a Mass for the House, for the relatives of the Religious and the benefactors; the Superior who is also parish priest, with the Mass *pro populo* also satisfies the requirement for the above mentioned intentions;
- the Superior General a Mass for the whole Congregation;
- the Superior of Circumscription a Mass for the Circumscription;
- in the General House a Mass for the members of the Priestly Union;

³¹ Cfr. CICI 610, 1.

³² Cfr. CICI 665, 1.

47. The Capitulars, who are present in the House where the Chapter is being celebrated, but are absent from the Chapter Hall because of illness, have the right to vote. The two Scrutineers will go to these members in order to receive their votes¹³³.

48. If the newly elected Superior General is absent from the Chapter, he shall be summoned immediately, and the Chapter is suspended until his arrival.

If, instead, one of the elected General Counselors or Officers is absent from the Chapter, he shall be summoned immediately, but in the meantime the works of the Chapter are not interrupted.

DISCUSSION OF THE MATTERS

49. a) Committees shall be instituted for a more accurate preparation and for an easier discussion of the matters¹³⁴.

b) The composition and number of the Committees shall follow the modalities indicated by the Presidential Board and approved by the Chapter.

c) The Committees shall appoint their own Moderator and Secretary.

d) The Committees shall be coordinated by a Coordinating Committee formed by the respective Moderators.

50. In order to be helped in their works, the Committees, with the consent of the Presidential Board, may avail of the advice of experts.

51. The Members of the Presidential Board may absent themselves from the works of the Committees, in order to attend to the tasks of their competence.

The Committees

52. a) The Committees shall gather at the appointed time. The Secretary shall write the report of the meetings. The secretary or somebody else shall read the report to the Chapter and explain the solutions given to the questions, the outcome of the voting done during the meeting of the Commission, with the pros and cons in case of diverging opinions.

b) The Committees may propose the criteria, rules and guidelines to be followed in the elaboration of the text to be voted by the Assembly.

c) The Committees shall present their well formulated and ordered proposals and conclusions to the Chapter for discussion in the plenary Assembly.

¹³³ Cfr. CIC 167, §2.

¹³⁴ Cfr. Appendix II, 2c.

- b) the absolute majority for further two scrutinizes, when nobody has obtained the majority of two-thirds¹²⁷;
- c) if even the two preceding scrutinies have been inconclusive, a vote is to be taken between the two candidates with the greatest number of votes in the last scrutiny. If they are more than two the vote is between the two senior by profession; if there is parity in this, between the two senior by age¹²⁸.

41. The day after the election of the Superior General, the Chapter proceeds to the election of the General Counselors and General Treasurer, by separate voting¹²⁹.

42. For the election of the General Councilors, of the Vicar General and of the General Treasurer:

- a) the absolute majority of votes is required in the first three scrutinies;
- b) if the third scrutiny has been inconclusive, a vote is to be taken between the two candidates with the greatest number of votes in the last voting. If they are more than two, the vote is between the two senior by profession; if there is parity in this, between the two senior by age;
- c) after this last scrutiny, if there is still parity, the senior by age is deemed elect¹³⁰.

43. The Vicar General shall be elected by the Chapter among the legitimately elected Counselors¹³¹.

44. The General Counselors are four and are elected by the General Chapter in order to the tasks they shall carry out:

- a) Religious Life and Formation;
- b) Rogate, Pastoral care for Vocations and of the Youth;
- c) Service of Charity and Missions;
- d) Laity and Parishes¹³².

45. In between the different scrutinies of the elections, the President should allow a suitable time for consultation.

46. Before the elections, the Capitulars, communally, must take the following oath: "I swear before the Almighty God, who will be my Judge, that I will elect those who, according to my conscience, are to be elected."

¹²⁷ Cfr. C 143, § 2.

¹²⁸ Cfr. C 143, § 3.

¹²⁹ N 153.

¹³⁰ C 144.

¹³¹ Cfr. N 154.

¹³² Cfr. N 156.

2. every priest celebrates the Mass for the spiritual and temporal interests of the Work on the following days:

- solemnity of the Sacred Heart;
- solemnity of the Immaculate Virgin Mary;
- commemoration of July 1st;
- anniversary of the canonical approval of the Congregation (August 6);
- solemnity of St. Hannibal (June 1);
- solemnity of St. Anthony (June 13);

3. every priest celebrates the Mass:

- for vocations, possibly on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations;
- for the Superior General on the anniversary of his election;
- for the Superior of his Circumscription on the anniversary of his election or appointment.

4. In each House a Mass is celebrated annually for the civil authorities of the country.

In case of convergence of several intentions in the same day, one celebration will meet all the requirements. Monthly each perpetually professed Religious may celebrate or have a Mass celebrated according to his intentions.

In case of death

Art. 43

Immediately following the death of a Confere, the Superior will give notice to all the Houses of the Circumscription, to the Superior General and to the Superiors of other Circumscriptions who will communicate it to their Houses.

1. The local Superior shall close the room. The Superior of Circumscription, personally or through his delegate, will make an inspection and write a short report about the objects and writings that he deems appropriate to be kept for history purposes. The report is kept in the archive of the Circumscription and of the House. The items are kept in the archive of the House, the writings in the archive of the Circumscription.

2. The Superior of Circumscription shall read the will and proceed with the accomplishments that might be requested; he will send the documentation, also photographic, to the Secretary General, in order to write the short biography to be sent to all Communities.

Suffrages for the deceased

Art. 44

Upon the death of a Confere we provide the following suffrages:

- 1. In the Community to which the confere belonged:
 - a community Mass;

- the Celebration of as many Masses as the number of the perpetually professed members of the House;
- a course of Gregorian Masses (or thirty Masses);
- A community Mass thirty days after the death or on another date, according to local traditions;
- suffrages for eight days;
- one Mass per month for five years.

2. In the other Houses:

- the Celebration of as many Masses as the number of the perpetually professed members of the House;
- suffrages for eight days.

Art. 45

We remember to pray even privately for those to whom we have been united in life in the communion of the religious consecration.

1. On the death of the incumbent or retired Superior General, of a Councilor and of a General Officer still holding office, besides what is normally prescribed for the death of a Religious, let there be celebrated in all the Houses:

- a Community Mass at the news of death;
- a Community Mass on the anniversary, for five years.

2. On the death of an incumbent Superior of Circumscription, besides what is prescribed for the death of a Religious, a Community Mass in all the Houses of Circumscription is to be celebrated.

3. On the death of the local Superior, besides what is prescribed for the other Religious, in that House let a Community Mass be celebrated on the anniversary, for five years.

Art. 46

On the first Monday of each month a Mass be celebrated in each House for the souls of all deceased Confreres.

Art. 47

Let the Rogationist Necrology, which contains short biographical notes of all the deceased Confreres, be read in the Community on the eve of the death anniversary, inviting the Confreres to offer appropriate suffrages.

Art. 48

During the month of November, in each House, we celebrate:

1. a Mass for all deceased Confreres;
2. a Mass for all deceased Daughters of Divine Zeal;
3. a Mass for all deceased Benefactors;
4. a Mass for all deceased relatives of the Religious;

30. In the elections, the Capitulars are to observe the norms of the universal Law and the Institute's own Law, avoiding any abuse or preference of persons. They are to have nothing but God and the good of the Institute before their eyes, and appoint or elect those whom, in the Lord, they know to be worthy and fitting. In elections, besides, they are to avoid, directly or indirectly, lobbying for votes, either for themselves or for others¹²⁵.

31. The vote is always secret in the elections, but it could not be such in dealing with matters where unanimity is required.

32. At the end of the voting, the Scrutineers shake the ballot-box, remove the votes from it, count them and return them to the box.

33. If the number of votes exceeds the number of electors, the voting is null and is to be repeated.

34. The first Scrutineer takes each vote from the ballot box, unfolds it and passes it to the President who, after seeing it, hands it to the second Scrutineer who reads the name of the person elected in a loud voice.

35. The Secretary records accurately those elected with the corresponding number of votes received by each one.

36. At the end of every session, the Scrutineers will destroy the ballots.

37. In voting made with systems different from ballot papers, it is enough to count the votes.

38. After each election, the President asks the person elect to express his acceptance.

39. By absolute majority it means more than half of those who are present.

**ELECTIONS OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL
AND OF THE GENERAL COUNCILORS AND OFFICERS**

40. The election of the Superior General requires:

- a) the majority of the two-thirds of the votes, for the first three scrutinies¹²⁶;

¹²⁵ Cfr. CIC 626,

¹²⁶ Cfr. C 143, § 1.

20. The officers referred to in the preceding paragraph, when elected, they make the oath before the President and the Assembly with the following formula:

"I, ... , as ... of the Chapter, promise to carry out faithfully my task and to keep strict and inviolable secrecy on all and each confidential things which I might come to know in the accomplishment of my duty".

Thus they begin their office.

21. After these elections, the Superior General, or anybody on his behalf, shall read to the Chapter a faithful report on the state of the personnel and discipline of the Congregation, previously approved and signed by him and his Council. He shall also read the economic report of the whole Congregation, prepared and signed by the General Treasurer and countersigned by him and his Council¹²⁴.

22. These reports are to be taken into consideration in the discussion of the affairs done by the Chapter. In a short time the opportunity is to be given to the members of the Chapter to formulate comments and integrations, after an appropriate time of reflection determined by the Assembly.

23. At the set time there will be the Assembly to present comments and additional proposals. This phase will be divided into two parts, the first about the report on the status of personnel and discipline of the Institute and the second about economics. The interventions will have the maximum duration of 10 minutes.

24. The outgoing government, possibly after being granted twenty-four hours of time, presents its written answers and explanations to be considered final.

25. When the Chapter deems it appropriate the Superior General, the General Councilors and the General Officers are elected.

26. Commissions are formed, according to art. 49 of these Regulations.

27. Matters are then treated and defined.

28. During the final assembly the last minutes are read, to be signed by all the members of the Chapter.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS

29. Each voter, having received his ballot, fills it secretly, closes it, and under the control of the Scrutineers, places it in the ballot box.

¹²⁴ Cfr. N 150.

5. a Mass for all deceased seminarians and students & for the deceased relatives of seminarians and students;

6. a Mass for all deceased members of the Rogationist Associations.

Art. 49

On the death of the parents of a Confrere, the Superior of the House will set three days of suffrages and the celebration of a course of Gregorian Masses (or thirty Masses).

Let him also provide appropriate suffrages and the celebration of a Community Mass on the death of a brother or sister of a Religious.

Art. 50

On the death of the Supreme Pontiff let all the priests celebrate a Mass. The same will be done on the death of the diocesan bishop, or his equivalent, in the Houses located within his jurisdiction.

Art. 51

Religious Communities which for specific reasons cannot fully meet the aforementioned requirements of suffrages may request the dispensation of the Superior of Circumscription.

Art. 52

Because of the bonds of communion which united us in life, we usually rest together in our common cemetery chapels, awaiting for the final resurrection.

CHAPTER VIII

REGULAR OBSERVANCE

Art. 53

We are committed to live the regular observance in order to preserve the religious spirit and grow in the perfection of charity.

We recognize the great importance of *regular discipline*³³, because it helps us to keep the style of life that the Lord Jesus taught us and to perpetuate the spiritual tradition of the Institute.

³³ Cfr. DI FRANCIA A. M., *Declarations and Promises (for the Rogationist Religious)*, 6^a, in *Scritti, V, Regolamenti (1883-1913)*, 2009, p. 589.

Section 54

As good workers in the vineyard of the Lord, we earnestly fulfill the offices that obedience entrusts to us, witnessing the richness of our consecration in our ministry, work and prayer.

We acknowledge that in the various occupations of the day there must be there an appropriate time for spiritual life, study and rest.

Art. 55

In every Community we elaborate the Community Life Project, to organize the spiritual and fraternal life, to plan the activities of permanent formation and to harmonize our activities as well as our internal and apostolic commitments. In fact, a careful planning fosters also discipline.

Art. 56

The period of annual rest usually lasts about twenty days, which may be spent also with relatives.

During the year, in special circumstances, short visits to relatives can be done according to the judgment of the local Superior.

Section 57

In every religious House we have living quarters and a living room separated from the offices and reserved exclusively to the Religious³⁴.

Art. 58

As individuals and as a Community we properly consider the ascetic value of silence for the interior life, prayer and discipline.

Thus we provide for and observe moments of silence, according to the nature and activities of the Community.

Art. 59

The habit of the Rogationists is that of the diocesan clergy, according to the rules of the Episcopal Conferences.

Art. 60

Aware of the power that means of social communication offer, we provide an appropriate formation which allow us to use their potentialities, and at the same time, to prevent their risks. We use them with prudence, competence and moderation.

Art. 61

In the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent, we have a short Bible reading before lunch and dinner.

³⁴ Cfr. CIC 667, 1.

16 After reciting the prayer and calling the roll of the Capitulars, the President invites the two youngest members of the Chapter and the Secretary of the outgoing General Council to act respectively as provisional Scrutineers and Secretary.

In case the Secretary General might not be present, the Vicar General serves as provisional Secretary.

The Scrutineers make their oath in the presence of the Chapter with this formula:

" I, ... , as Scrutineer of the Chapter, promise to carry out faithfully my task and to keep strict and inviolable secrecy on all and each confidential things which I might come to know in the accomplishment of my duty."

17. The presence of at least two-thirds of the members is required for the validity of the Capitular Acts¹²⁰.

18. With regards to collegial acts, unless the law or the statutes provide otherwise:

a) - *Concerning elections*, provided that at least two thirds of the Members are present (cf. previous article), what is decided by an absolute majority of those present has the force of law.

If there have been two inconclusive scrutinies, a vote is to be taken between the two candidates with the greatest number of votes or, if there are more than two, between the two senior by profession. If there is parity in this, between the two senior by age.

After a third inconclusive scrutiny that person is deemed elect who is senior by profession. If there is parity in this, the senior by age¹²¹.

b) - *Concerning other matters*, provided that at least two thirds of the Members are present¹²², what is decided by an absolute majority of those present has the force of law. If the votes are equal after two scrutinies, the President can break the tie with his own vote;

c) - That which affects all as individuals must be approved by all¹²³.

19. The General Chapter proceeds to the election of the Scrutineers according to Article 14, of the Secretary and the two Moderators, the first of whom is Vice President.

¹²⁰ C 136.

¹²¹ For the election of the Superior General, of the General Councilors and Officers, the norms of the proper law are observed (Cfr. N. 40 and ff.).

¹²² Cfr. Appendix II, 17.

¹²³ Cfr. CIC 119.

- a) enforcing order in the Chapter Hall;
- b) directing the discussions, by giving the floor and disciplining the speakers;
- c) announcing the time of the following session and its respective agenda.

The Presidential Board

12. The Presidential Board of the General Chapter is composed of the following members:

- a) the President;
- b) the Vice-President, the first elected of the two Moderators¹¹⁸;
- c) the Secretary;
- d) the second Moderator;

These members sit at the Presidential Table.

13. The task of the Presidential Board is to facilitate and to organize the works of the Chapter. All the Board's decisions have the value of proposals.

In order to accomplish the above-mentioned task, the Presidential Board:

- a) organizes and plans the works;
- b) prepares the daily agenda which will be announced sufficiently ahead of the scheduled Assembly;
- c) receives from the Committees the papers to be presented to the Assembly;
- d) formulates the texts of the proposals emerging from the debates in the Assembly to be voted by the same Assembly;
- e) presents all the proposals deemed to be necessary or useful for the proper flowing of the Chapter;
- f) settles the eventual problems of competence or procedure.

The Scrutineers

14. a) The Scrutineers will be two and will be elected at the beginning of the works of the Chapter, in accordance with can.119, on a single ballot, with a relative majority. Alternatively, at the discretion of the Assembly, the two youngest members of the Chapter may be indicated and acclaimed as scrutineers.
- b) They have the task of diligently collecting, canvassing and proclaiming the votes¹¹⁹.

Procedure of Chapter

15 At the time set by the incumbent Superior General, in his capacity as President, all the Capitulars gather in the designated place.

¹¹⁸ Cfr. Appendix II, 19.

¹¹⁹ Cfr. CIC 173.

Art. 62

According to our tradition, we welcome, for short periods, guests, especially religious and priests, benefactors and relatives of the Confreres, with care, love and discretion.

To allow a guest to live habitually with the community, a serious and well founded reason is requested, and the permission of the Superior of Circumscription.

Art. 63

Visits to people outside the community are to be motivated by pastoral reasons and regulated by prudence, taking into account also the local circumstances and the activities of the individual Religious.

Art. 64

Relations with the civil authorities are characterized by respect, cordiality and prudence. Adhering to the guidelines of the Church, we do not get involved in merely political affairs and the like. This way of action fosters the freedom of our apostolate.

Art. 65

We take care to avoid any form of addiction to harmful substances. In spirit of mortification and poverty, according to our tradition, we refrain from smoking.

CHAPTER IX

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Art. 66

First and fundamental duty of the Rogationists is to nourish their spiritual life³⁵ with the contemplation of divine realities, constant union with God in prayer³⁶ and adherence to the *Divine Will*³⁷.

Art. 67

In a spirit of fidelity to the Church's living tradition and to the charismatic experience of the Founder, we participate daily in the celebration of the Eucharist, caring for its preparation and thanksgiving³⁸.

³⁵ Cfr. DI FRANCIA A. M., *Declarations and Promises (for the Rogationist Religious)*, 5^a, in *Scritti, V, Regolamenti (1883-1913)*, 2009, p. 579-582.

³⁶ Cfr. CIC 663, 1.

³⁷ Cfr. DI FRANCIA A. M., *Declarations and Promises (for the Rogationist Religious)*, 20^a, in *Scritti, V, Regolamenti (1883-1913)*, 2009, p. 603.

Every week, preferably on Thursdays, we devote an appropriate time to the Community Eucharistic Adoration for vocations.

Aware that our Institute *can be considered as Eucharistic*³⁹, besides the community visit, we find daily a time to spend in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Art. 68

We take particular care in living the liturgical spirituality not only by following the laws that ensure the valid and licit celebration, but also with an conscious, active and fruitful participation⁴⁰. We put every effort to ensure a decorous celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours⁴¹.

Art. 69

We value the meditative and prayerful reading of the Word of God according to the practice of the *Lectio Divina*, especially during the monthly recollection⁴².

It is a precious instrument for spiritual, personal and community discernment and for the revision of life.

Art. 70

We give importance to our path of conversion. We practice the daily examination of conscience and avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly⁴³ and with proper preparation; we give due importance to the Spiritual Father.

Art. 71

We do the daily meditation⁴⁴ together in a common place, at the established schedule, for at least half an hour. The ways are indicated in the plan of community life. On Sundays and holy days of obligation, the meditation is left to the personal responsibility.

Art. 72

We dedicate a convenient time to the community spiritual reading, possibly daily, according to rhythms, times and modalities defined in the Project of Community Life.

³⁸ Cfr. CIC 663, 2.

³⁹ Cfr. DI FRANCIA A. M., *Rules of the Pious Congregation of the Rogationist of the Heart of Jesus*, [9], in *Scritti*, VI, *Regolamenti (1914-1927)*, 2010, p. 68.

⁴⁰ Cfr. SC 11.

⁴¹ Cfr. CIC 663, 3.

⁴² Cfr. PdV 47.

⁴³ Cfr. CIC 664.

⁴⁴ Cfr. PC 6.

- e) to supervise the tasks of all the Officers of the Chapter;
- f) to declare when a matter have been sufficiently treated in order to proceed to its vote, after having consulted the Assembly;
- g) to proclaim those elected and sign the minutes with the Secretary;
- h) to convoke and preside over the Presidential Board.

The Secretary

6. The Secretary, elected according to Can. 119, accomplishes a twofold task: to be the link between the members of the Chapter and the Presidential Board and to write up the minutes of the sessions.

In particular, regarding the first task, he has to:

- a) provide for the general matters strictly connected with the works of the Chapter;
- b) contribute to the proper flowing of the works of the Assembly together with the Moderator;
- c) coordinate the works of the Committees according to the criteria and directions agreed upon with the Presidential Board;
- d) gather and classify motions, proposals and documents, and to forward them to the competent bodies of the Chapter, in agreement with the Presidential Board;
- e) provide what is needed for the proper flowing of the works, etc.

7. With regard to the other task, the Secretary has:

- a) to write up the minutes with fidelity and substantial integrity. They must contain the Acts and Deliberations of the Chapter and are to be submitted to the vision of the Assembly;
- b) to record the individual votes, when it may be needed;
- c) to sign the Capitular Acts, together with the President.

8. The minutes must include:

- a) *about elections*: the proceeding of the elections, the different scrutinies, the number of votes obtained in each scrutiny and the final result;
- b) *about matters*: the proposals and motions submitted to the Chapter which must be reproduced literally; the discussions which can be reported in brief.

9. The Presidential Board may give the Secretary an Assistant, whenever necessary for the handling of the work. The Assistant cannot sign the minutes.

The Moderators

10. Two Moderators shall be elected by the Chapter with absolute majority, using separate ballots, in order to assist the President. They will alternate in their office.

11 - The Moderator has the task of:

APPENDIX TWO

REGULATIONS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

1 - The ordinary General Chapter will take place according to the universal and particular Law.

2 - The General Chapter is an assembly which, during its celebration, has the supreme authority in the Congregation, and expresses, in a collegial manner, the participation and concern of all the Confreres for the life of the Congregation. The Chapter pursues the following objectives:

- a) to elect the Superior General, the General Councilors and the General Officers;
- b) to deal with the most important issues, making the necessary and useful deliberations for the progress of the whole Congregation in conformity with the directives of Holy Mother Church¹¹⁴ and of the Congregation¹¹⁵, with particular reference to the themes highlighted by the study done before the Chapter;
- c) in treating matters, let priority be given to those concerning the development of religious life, the Rogationist apostolate, and the formation of the Religious¹¹⁶.

Regulations

3. The Regulations come into effect with the beginning of the works of the Chapter.

4. In order to change or suspend a provision of the Regulations it is necessary:

- a) a motion made in the Assembly by a member of the Chapter, following the indications of art. 58 of the Regulations;
- b) a vote, without previous debate, to allow or not the discussion of the motion;
- c) if the absolute majority admits the motion, the change or suspension of the article of the Regulations is subject to discussion and voting.

The President

5. The President of the Chapter¹¹⁷ has the following tasks:

- a) to preside over the Chapter;
- b) to open and close the sessions with a prayer;
- c) to direct the course of the Chapter;
- d) to have these Regulations observed;

¹¹⁴ Cfr. CIC 631.

¹¹⁵ Cfr. C 138-148; N 141-157.

¹¹⁶ Cfr. C 139.

¹¹⁷ Cfr. N 149.

Usually we read the Rogationist "Ordo", the Necrology, and, periodically, the Constitutions, the Norms, the documents of the magisterium, the circular letters and other texts relevant for formation. Personal spiritual reading is recommended.

Art. 73

The personal and communal practices of piety are an expression of the Congregation's spirituality. So we are diligent in participating in them, according to the indications of the Prayer Book approved by the Superior General.

Art. 74

Important moments for the Community spiritual journey are:

1. The monthly Community recollection. Where it is not possible to do it together, we find ways to do it personally even on a rotation basis⁴⁵.
2. The annual course of spiritual exercises of at least five days scheduled in the project of community life, as distinct from updating courses.
3. The vigils in preparation to the main holidays of the Church and of the Congregation.

Spirituality of the Sacred Heart

Art. 75

True to our name as Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus, we celebrate the annual solemnity of the Sacred Heart with the proper preparation by making ours his sentiments and learning to obey the *Divine command of the Rogate*.

We give importance to the first Friday of the month as a special day to deepen the charism and to offer the act of reparation and a work of charity established in the Family Council.

Especially on this day, we meditate on the *intimate sorrows* of this compassionate Heart by participating in the reparation that he offers to the Father for the salvation of humankind by imploring the *good laborers* from Lord of the harvest.

Veneration of the Virgin Mary

Art. 76

We honor the Virgin Mother of God, model and patron of all consecrated life⁴⁶, Queen and Mother of Rogate, with our special veneration and even with the daily praying of the Rosary.

Faithful to our tradition, in the novitiate, after adequate preparation, we make the consecration to Jesus, the Incarnate Wisdom, through the hands of Mary, according to the spirituality of St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort, and renew it annually during the vigil of the Immaculate.

⁴⁵ Cfr. *Project of the Rogationist Permanent Formation*, 53, 13.

⁴⁶ Cfr. CIC 663, 4.

Veneration of the Founder

Art. 77

As children of St Hannibal Mary Di Francia, we are grateful to him for having opened to us the way to follow the Christ of the Rogate. We honor him through our fidelity to the Rogationist vocation and mission, and through the diligent safekeeping of his spiritual and apostolic legacy.

Every month we celebrate *Father Founder's Day* during which we meditate on his virtues, invoke his intercession, follow him as guide, teacher and highest model of Rogationist vocation.

We celebrate his feast with solemnity by preparing it with care and involving also the local ecclesial community. We do our utmost to spread his veneration in the Church.

Penitential practices

Art. 78

Conversion and penance are indicated by the Lord as necessary for salvation (cfr. Mk 1: 14-15; Mt 6: 16-17).

With the spirit of sacrifice recommended by the Founder, we commit ourselves to these works of personal penance and mortification:

1. the mortification of our own judgment and will;
2. the mortification of our pride, especially in fraternal corrections;
3. the constant practice of modesty;
4. detachment from places, persons and offices so as to be more available for the needs of the Church and of the Congregation;
5. the daily grind of work;
6. fasting and abstinence⁴⁷;
7. fidelity to the practice of small personal mortifications.

Art. 79

On the first Friday of the month, in honor of the Sacred Heart, and every Saturday, in honor of the Blessed Virgin, except on holidays, we abstain from fruits or have an alternative form of penance, according to the places.

Art. 80

To live in a better way the seasons of Advent and Lent, moments of more intense prayer, works of fraternal charity and particular practices mortification can be established within the Community planning.

Art. 81

The small mortifications are up to one's personal choice and devotion, and are always good for spiritual profit.

8. The Superior General, for a greater involvement of the Family of Rogate in the event of the Chapter may invite, as auditors, some representatives of the Associations which are part of the UAR.

⁴⁷ Cfr. CIC 1249.

APPENDIX ONE

NORMS FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

1. The General Chapter is composed of members by right and by election according to the criteria indicated in Art. 142 of the Constitutions.
2. Priests, Deacons and perpetually professed Brothers¹¹⁰, with active and passive voice at the date of convocation of the Chapter, participate in the General Chapter, based on a percentage set by the previous Chapter. This constitutes the quorum.
3. The number of delegates is made by the *quorum* minus those who participate by right and minus two representatives of the Brothers¹¹¹. The delegates are elected by relative majority, from one list of all the Priests and Deacons eligible in each Circumscription.
4. Two perpetually professed Religious Brothers participate in the Chapter, elected by a simple majority of all eligible from one list for the entire Congregation.
5. For the purpose of participation in the General Chapter:
 - a) Religious who requested an indult of exlaustration, have no active or passive voice¹¹²;
 - b) Religious who were involved in serious public scandal, especially those involved in criminal cases, lose their active and passive voice¹¹³.
 - c) Religious who live *extra domum*, excluding those accomplishing tasks assigned to them by the Superiors or those who are sick, are suspended from active and passive voice.
6. For the purposes of the election of delegates to the General Chapter, Houses which were not constituted into Province or Delegation, are aggregated to a Province or Delegation.
7. The Superior General, to ensure a greater representation of the entire Institute, may convoke to the General Chapter two perpetually professed Religious with active and passive voice.

¹¹⁰ Cfr. N 143.

¹¹¹ Cf. Appendix I, art. 4.

¹¹² Cfr. CIC 687.

¹¹³ Cfr. CIC 695.

PART TWO MISSION

(Constitutions Art. 61 - 68)

CHAPTER I

ANNOUNCERS AND WITNESSES OF THE ROGATE

Art. 82

The vocation apostolate of the Rogate as a commitment to prayer and its dissemination through the spiritual organizations and unions⁴⁸, is planned on the general, circumscription and local levels. Every Community is called to be its visible sign and concrete witnessing in the local Church and territory.

Art. 83

Called to be prayerful people, we make our Communities homes and schools of prayer⁴⁹ for good workers. On a personal and community level, we express fidelity to the grace of the charism primarily with the commitment to prayer lived according to the indications of the Rule. We commit ourselves to cultivate the spirit of prayer and prayer itself drawing on the rich tradition of the Church and of the Institute, being aware that a consistent personal prayer life is a necessary condition for the fulfillment of the Rogationist mission.

Art. 84

The *Rogate Centers for Vocations* are set up in the different geographical areas of the Congregation with qualified and sufficient personnel. They aim at the study and dissemination of the charism of the Rogate in the Church, in its particular dimension of the prayer for vocations and its diffusion; in promoting a unified pastoral care in favor of all vocations, with special reference to ministries and consecrated life; in the commitment to spread and harmonize a culture and a pastoral care for vocations respondent to the times in the Church and in the Congregation.

Art. 85

These *Centers* in communion with the local Church promote the Rogate on the operational level following the directives of the General and Circumscription Government, through the instruments of communication, from the announcement

⁴⁸ Rogate Centers for Vocations, Rogate Centers of Spirituality, Union of Prayer for Vocations and Priestly Union of Prayer for Vocations.

⁴⁹ Cfr. *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (NMI) 33.

and preaching of the Word, to the printing and today's media. In collaboration with the *Rogate Spirituality Centers*, they take care of the diffusion of the *Priestly Union of Prayer for Vocations* and of the *Union of Prayer for Vocations*. According to the instructions of the Superiors, the Centers accompany the Associations and all the lay realities inspired by the Rogationist spirituality.

Art. 86

The *Rogate Spirituality Centers* are set up in the different geographical areas of the Congregation with qualified and sufficient personnel. They are places to promote the spiritual dimension of the charism, as Houses and schools of the Rogationist prayer, seats for meetings and courses of pastoral care for vocations and spiritual exercises, regular ambiances for the permanent formation courses and animation of the Rogationist laity⁵⁰.

Through appropriate activities and initiatives, according to the directives of Superiors, these Centers promote the dissemination of the *Union of Prayer for Vocations* and *Priestly Union of Prayer for Vocations*.

Art. 87

The *Union of Prayer for Vocations*, founded by Saint Hannibal Mary Di Francia, is a privileged instrument to spread the prayer for vocations among the people of God. It offers to its members to: live the Rogationist prayer with increasing depth; to diffuse it everywhere in the Church, working with all means so that it may become universal; to be good workers in the harvest of the Lord according to one's state of life.

We strive to make the Union take roots in the apostolic activities of our Communities in accordance with the directives of each Circumscription, adapting it to the context and to the ecclesial milieu.

Art. 88

The *Priestly Union of Prayer for Vocations*⁵¹ promotes among the Bishops and Priests the commitment to live and spread in the Church the primacy of prayer in the pastoral care for vocations, in communion with the members of the family of the Rogate. According to the directives of Superiors, the Rogate Centers are responsible for its diffusion and animation on a Circumscription level. Every Community is committed in spreading the Priestly Union among the ordained ministers of the territory and to being a reference point for its members.

The Superior General cannot grant dispensation from the canons of the Code of Canon Law and from norms given by the Holy See and quoted in our legislation, but he can ask the Holy See for dispensation.

Authentic Interpretation

Art. 314

It is the competence of the General Chapter to interpret authentically the Norms; outside the Chapter it is up to the Superior General with his Council.

⁵⁰ Cfr. DC 4, 34.

⁵¹ Founded by Saint Hannibal Mary Di Francia with the name of Sacred Alliance.

2. the contracting of debts for an amount bigger than what is established by the General Government or Government of Circumscription;
3. the loans, debts or other obligations;
4. the mortgages and foreclosures;
5. the signing of bills, bonds, sureties;
6. the exchange of titles and the transfer of bonds and of movable and immovable goods whose value, according to the Canon Law, exceeds the amount established by the General Government;
7. the leasing of houses, buildings and land for more than three years;
8. the perpetual lease of real estate (emphyteusis);
9. the cutting of trunked trees, the changing of agricultural crops system;
10. the modifications of whatever extent to buildings, as well as extraordinary repairs, repair of main walls and vaulted roof, the total or partial renovation especially of roofs and attics, construction of load-bearing or boundary walls, etc.;
11. the execution, administration and reduction of financial burdens and of deeds contracted among living persons or deeds of last wills;
12. the trading of funds bound to divine worship or local benefit, according to the law of the Church;
13. any lawsuit or judiciary defense;
14. the performance of permanent works;
15. all the acts for which the permission of the Apostolic See is required.

Art. 311

The Superior, in order to implement acts of extraordinary administration, after obtaining the consent of his Council, must obtain the written consent of the Superior of Circumscription with the consent of his Council.

Art. 312

Aware that all administrators at all levels must keep vigilant that the goods entrusted to their care may not be damaged¹⁰⁸, we do not put amounts of money into equity investments which put at risk the capital invested.

CONCLUSION

Dispensation

Art. 313

In the cases foreseen by the regulation, a dispensation may be granted for merely disciplinary laws and not for provisions or structural laws¹⁰⁹.

¹⁰⁸ Cfr. CIC 1284, 2, 1.

¹⁰⁹ Cfr. CIC 86, 90 and 620.

Art. 89

The *World Day of Prayer for Vocations* is the Rogationist Day par excellence and is celebrated in all Communities with appropriate initiatives, possibly involving the local Church.

CHAPTER II

A SERVICE OF CHARITY

(Const. Article. 69 - 71)

Social and educational services

Art. 90

Being concerned of the needs of the times and places where we work, in the spirit of the Founder, we take charge of the urgent need for education, by placing ourselves at the service particularly of the most needy children and youths.

Art. 91

We are committed to realize competently and creatively those works and activities that best meet the needs of the times and places.

Our socio-educational service is directed to children, adolescents and young people who, besides poverty, are in situations of abandonment and, of any kind of discrimination (race, culture, ethnicity, religion, etc) or are differently able.

We are also open to any work or activity that aims at the evangelization and salvation of the "little ones of the Kingdom".

Art. 92

Our commitment to education is the human, social and religious promotion of children and youth, especially poor and marginalized. Therefore:

1. our educational service is preferably carried out in connection with the environment of origin and in collaboration with the family and social services;
2. the works and activities of our educational apostolate avails of the active participation of capable and competent lay people;
3. we avail of adequate facilities and trained personnel when particular situations and needs may require it;
4. our educational activity is carried out within the network of structures and agencies of the area.

Art. 93

In the socio-educational services, we are inspired by the pedagogical experience of our Founder, by creating a family atmosphere with children and young people. According to the guidelines of a specific *Educational Project* we orient persons of whatever culture and religion to live their life as a vocation (cfr. 2 Thes 1: 11); we educate them to have attention to the poor, and, as much as

possible, to the Rogationist prayer. We also cultivate in them, if there were, the germs of priestly and religious vocation.

Art. 94

Our socio-educational Works are under the direct responsibility of a religious. In agreement with the Superior of the House, he:

1. promotes the integral education and formation on the human, religious, intellectual and social dimension according to the guidelines of the *Educational Project* of the Congregation and of the Work;
2. directs and coordinates the work of the educators and lay collaborators, in harmony with the directions he has received and agreed upon;
3. handles relations with the families of pupils and local educational agencies;
4. organizes, implements and verifies the educational and formative interventions, with their deadlines according to the plan.

Art. 95

The school is one of the most effective responses to today's educational emergency for its ability to provide integral education and formation to the youths.

Our scholastic institutions are Catholic schools, imbued with Gospel values; in them we avail of the collaboration of suitable and competent teachers who share the Institute's educational project.

Art. 96

In the Parishes and Houses, where it is possible, we promote the Oratories and other forms of youth aggregation (for ex., hostels for young students and workers) as effective means for a service of human and Christian education and vocation promotion.

Serving the poor

Art. 97

With our consecration, we want to be a visible sign of the compassion of the Heart of Jesus. We dedicated ourselves to the evangelization and help of those who do not have enough to live in a dignified way.

In each Community, where it is possible, an available Religious is assigned to listen to the poor who come, so as to assess their situation and, if necessary, to take action.

In offering assistance and eventual contributions we safeguard always the dignity of the poor in whom we see the very person of Christ.

Art. 98

In the exercise of charity we commit ourselves to promote social justice by fighting the causes and effects of poverty.

Art. 305

Every semester the final financial statement is prepared and sent to the competent Superior; every year the description of the status of the patrimony is to be made.

Art. 306

The original or legal copy of documents of some economic relevance are kept in the House. Duplicate of them is sent to the competent Government of Circumscription and to the General Government.

Art. 307

Let an exact recording of legacies and foundations, especially of Holy Masses, and scholarships with their corresponding title and amount be kept, so that all obligations can be met. A documentation of all these is sent to the Circumscription and General Government at the end of the year.

Art. 308

The cash needed for daily expenses, the precious objects, the passbooks of the House, titles, and others are kept under the immediate responsibility of the Superior.

Valuables, postal savings and other precious objects belonging to Religious, must be deposited with the respective Government of the Circumscription. A separate list of the valuables of the House is to be done, a copy of which is kept in the seat of Circumscription.

ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY ADMINISTRATION

Art. 309

The administration is ordinary and extraordinary.

1. Ordinary administration is intended for the sustenance of personnel, the carrying out of normal activities, the preservation of the furniture and the maintenance of the movable and immovable goods.
2. Extraordinary administration is intended for what directly or indirectly affects essentially or notably the patrimony of the Congregation or of the House, so as to alter or modify its structure and stability; or places such an obligation on its revenues so as to jeopardize its interests or to incur sizable expenditures not foreseen in the previous paragraph.

Art. 310

To be considered acts of extraordinary administration are the following:

1. the alienation of precious objects, valuables, titles, or any immovable good constituting the patrimony of the House;

Art. 299

The Superiors of the Circumscription appoint to the Administrative sector Religious who are qualified for their expertise in dealing with economic affairs, and give them the possibility of preparation and updating adequate to the accomplishment of their assignment and to the interpretation and enforcement of civil and canon law.

Art. 300

Each Circumscription earmarks a fund finalized to the assistance of the elderly and sick Religious. This fund can be used also in cases of separation of Religious from the Congregation.

Local Government

Art. 301

Each House has to procure its sufficient economic stability; limits all the non-strictly necessary expenses and pays monthly to the central administration, through the Circumscription, part of its income for the works of formation and for the development of the apostolic activities of the Institute, according to the criteria defined by the General Government.

Section 302

Annually each House shall prepare an ordinary and extraordinary economic planning which, approved by the House Council, is sent to the Superior of the Circumscription, for information about the ordinary expenses and for the due authorization for the extraordinary ones.

For expenses not foreseen by the annual planning, with the consent of the House Council, permission shall be requested from the competent Superior.

Art. 303

In order to realize the planned works, the Houses directly financed by the Government on which they depend, must obtain permission also for the works of ordinary administration which require the intervention of their respective government, except in evident cases of urgency.

Art. 304

The Superior submits monthly to the House Council:

1. the administrative prospect, drafted and signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the Superior; a copy of which is sent to the respective Government;
2. the cash check;
3. the official records and ledgers, signed by the Superior and Councilors, which are kept in the Archive of the House.

In working with the poor it is important to organize them, to evaluate together their situation and to plan the interventions which they themselves can realize. Therefore, in imitation of Father Hannibal, where it is possible, some Religious live in Communities inserted among the poor.

It is important to work in collaboration with the Church, government and private agencies engaged in social works.

Art. 99

Following the example of Father Founder we help in particular the poor priests, cloistered nuns and religious communities in dire need.

Art. 100

Trusting in the Divine Providence, obtained through the intercession of St. Anthony of Padua, we carry out our service of charity for the little ones and poor, through his devotees and our benefactors whom we involve in charity through a specific Office.

Office of the Anthonian Benefactors

Art. 101

Through the appropriate means of communication, the Office of the Anthonian Benefactors is called to carry out an action of evangelization and apostolate in the spreading of the charism and the propaganda of the socio - educational works of the Congregation and of the House which are placed under the patronage of St. Anthony. The Office is a point of connection with benefactors who support our apostolic activities.

Art. 102

The Secretary of the Benefactors' Office is a Religious, or a competent and faithful lay person, designated by the Superior of the Circumscription to direct the Office, as its immediate responsible.

He submits to the Superior of the House for approval, with the consent of the House Council:

1. eventual updating of methods and structures so that the Benefactors' Office, besides being a source of sustenance, may become an effective means of apostolate;
2. the orientation and annual planning of the Propaganda Office, with its relative tentative budget.

CHAPTER III
AT THE SERVICE OF MISSIONS
(Const. Art. 72)

Art. 103

The missionary spirit, as an expression of the nature of the Church and of the vitality of the Congregation, requires the availability, participation and co-responsibility of all the Religious, since their initial formation.

Art. 104

The Religious considered suitable to be sent to mission, especially *ad gentes*, receive an adequate formation, possibly in specialized Institutions.

Art. 105

The reentry of missionary Confreres to their country for a period of vacation or for updating and its duration, is regulated by the Superior of the Circumscription.

Art. 106

The Religious who have worked abroad for at least eight years, may come back to their country by applying one year before to the competent Superior.

Art. 107

In all the Houses of our Circumscriptions we celebrate the Rogationist Mission Day, on a convenient date and with due attention to local liturgical calendar.

Art. 108

The missionary animation and culture are promoted by the Central Missionary Office (CMO).

The Office has the following objectives:

- to sustain a missionary culture that encourages missionary spirit;
- to express nearness, interest and collaboration towards the missionaries and their work;
- to carry out bureaucratic papers regarding health, social security and the various needs;
- to promote in the Congregation the lay volunteers who would support the activities of the Confreres;
- to coordinate contacts of the missions with the Rogationist Communities, the missionary animation groups and benefactors even through the means of social communication;
- to promote the annual Rogationist Missions Day and being available for its animation.

Art. 291

Superiors and Treasurers strive for the full utilization of personnel and equipment, their upgrading, the consolidation of scattered activities, the increase of production with less expense, and the full utilization of existing facilities.

Art. 292

The recording has to be conducted under the directives of the competent Superior and the responsibility of each person in charge who signs the respective books. It documents all the activities of the different sectors.

Art. 293

Let substantial amounts of money of the General Curia, Circumscriptions, individual Houses, Parishes and Special Works, be deposited in banks. The signatory powers are assigned by the competent Superior of the Circumscription.

Art. 294

The money received for Holy Masses shall not be spent for any reason before the Masses have been celebrated.

Art. 295

The work of the employed collaborators must be remunerated at least according to the current civil law¹⁰⁷.

Art. 296

In the Houses for both students and Religious. Insurance against accidents is obligatory.

For the employed collaborators the current civil laws are to be followed.

Art. 297

The Religious assigned to the administration must record and submit everything with accuracy and fidelity: money, income, donations, alms or anything else that has economic value, in the accounts prescribed, in the canonical visit and whenever the Superiors request it.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS

Art. 298

The administration of the Circumscriptions is structured and organized in analogy to the General Administration.

¹⁰⁷ Cfr. CIC 1286,

PART FOUR ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOODS

CHAPTER ONE (Const. Art. 186-194)

General Administration

Art. 286

The goods of the Congregation are a gift of the Divine Providence, through the generosity of benefactors and the work of the Confreres. The goods are administered with sentiments of gratitude in the service of the charismatic mission of the Rogate in the spirit of evangelical poverty and solidarity with the poorest.

Art. 287

The property of the Congregation, of the Circumscriptions and of the Houses, are administered by the competent Superiors, in the awareness of the common belonging to only one religious family which is called to share in solidarity.

Art. 288

The administration of the goods of the Congregation, of the Circumscriptions and of the Houses, must be carried out in a precise and accurate way through an updated accounting system in accordance with the ecclesiastical and civil laws.

The Economic Instruction, prepared by the General Government and by the Government of Circumscription, is a guide for a proper administration adequate to the local realities.

Art. 289

Those in charge of the administration avail of the collaboration of competent persons in the various sectors of the administration.

Art. 290

The administration foresees also the consolidation and increment of the assets of the Institute. Therefore those in office:

1. study the criteria and guidelines on economic issues and their related legislation;
2. plan investments;
3. plan the General, Circumscription and Local annual budgets and their final accounts.

Art. 109

Where it is necessary, we establish in the Circumscriptions a Missionary Office which, in collaboration and in tune with the CMO, promotes, coordinates and animates the missionary activities of the Communities.

The Director of the Missionary Office of the Circumscription is a member of the Central Council of the CMO.

CHAPTER IV

Pastoral Service in Parishes and Shrines

Art. 110

In the parishes, "*living cells of the Church and a focal point of missionary irradiation*,"⁵² and in the Shrines, places of evangelization, charity, culture, ecumenical commitment and of pilgrimage⁵³, we dedicate ourselves with zeal to the pastoral care of the faithful, according to the indications of the Bishop, implementing the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and attentive to the directives of the Circumscription on the Rogationist Parish Pastoral care.

In the exercise of ministry in parishes and sanctuaries, we harmonize the pastoral care and the various needs of the local Church with the apostolic charism of the Congregation.

Our parishes and shrines intend to manifest the Rogationist aspect especially by the quality of prayer for vocations and its dissemination, the animation and promotion of vocations, the attention to the youths, the children and the poor⁵⁴.

Art. 111

It is the competence of the Superior of Circumscription to assess the opportunity or not to accept the entrustment of a parish and to sign its relative agreement with the local Ordinary, after having obtained the permission of the Superior General.

The agreement defines expressly and precisely all that regards the works to be carried out, the Religious to be assigned and the economic aspects⁵⁵.

Art. 112

The Parish Priests are appointed for a fixed-term, in agreement with the Bishops according to the directives of the National Episcopal Conferences⁵⁶.

⁵² Cfr. CELAM, *Aparecida Concluding Document*, 2007, 304-306.

⁵³ Cfr. CONGREGATION OF DIVINE WORSHIP, *Directory on Popular Piety and Liturgy. Principles and Guidelines*, 2002, 274-278.

⁵⁴ Cfr. *Apostles of the Rogate* (AR), 40.

⁵⁵ Cfr. CIC 681, §2; 520, §2.

⁵⁶ Cfr. CIC 522; 682.

Art. 113

The Parish Priest is the animator and the main responsible of the parish. He is helped by a sufficient number of qualified Religious who, in communion with him, give witness to unity. If the Parish is located in an Institute, the Religious of the Community collaborate in the pastoral work in a climate of fraternal charity and sharing.

The care and animation of a Shrine is entrusted to the Rector with modalities similar to those of the Parish Priest.

Art. 114

All the Religious of the Parish Community or Shrine follow with fidelity the practices of piety and common life, adjusting the schedule to the apostolic needs, under the directives of the Superior.

Art. 115

The Parish Priest, in collaboration with the Pastoral Council and the religious Community, plans a program of the specifically Rogationist activities, to be implemented, as much as possible in the context of the parish. Similarly, the Rector of the Sanctuary draws up a suitable program to be implemented in the context of the sanctuary itself.

Particularly, the Parish Priest or Rector:

1. promotes the prayer and adoration for vocations, the *Union of Prayer for Vocations* and, in the diocese, the *Priestly Union of Prayer for Vocations*;
2. accompanies with special attention the lay groups sharing in the Rogationist spirituality and cares for their formation;
3. promotes and accompanies eventual vocations to our Institute;
4. fosters, encourages and assists, at the parish level, the lay volunteers in the activities proper of the Congregation;
5. contributes even financially to the works of formation and to the missionary activities;
6. promotes and develops among the faithful a special sensitivity and attention towards the little ones and the poor through appropriate initiatives of reception, relief and livelihood;
7. promotes in the Parish, Shrine and diocese, the worship and devotion to St. Hannibal our Founder, spreading the knowledge of his life, charismatic action and spirituality.

Art. 116

Acts of ordinary administration of the Parish are the competence of the Parish Priest according to the Canon Law⁵⁷, the diocesan directives and our regulations.

⁵⁷ Cfr. CIC 532.

4. performs administrative acts within the limits of the authority he received, according to the directives of the Superior to whom he shall give a monthly account;
5. keeps diligently the books of income and expenses, of the cash, debts, credits, bills, receipts, the list of debts and credits, leases, rentals, etc.

Art. 282

The outgoing Treasurer will turn over the office to his successor in the House Council and together sign the proper minutes.

THE DIRECTOR OF WORK

Art. 283

The Director of Work is a Religious responsible of a determined activity of the House with a distinct administration, or of an activity directly dependent on the General or Provincial Government. He is appointed by the competent Superior with the opinion of his Council.

Art. 284

In an activity directly dependent on the General or on the Circumscription Government, the Director of Work is assisted by a Board of Directors, appointed by the competent Superior with the opinion of his Council.

Art. 285

The Director of Work:

1. depends on the Superior of the House for all that concerns religious discipline;
2. formulates annually an operational and administrative plan and submit it to the Board of Directors;
3. does acts of extraordinary administration, after having been authorized by the competent Superior, with the consent of the Board of Directors;
4. carries out the ordinary administration of the Work together with the Board of Directors and renders quarterly account of it to the House Council.

Art. 276

When he has not obtained the consent of his Council, the Superior of the House may appeal to the Superior of the Circumscription, by presenting the facts and his reasons.

THE FAMILY COUNCIL

Art. 277

The Family Council, which is composed of all the Religious of the House, is an advisory body of the local government.

Art. 278

The aim of the Family Council is the planning and periodic verification of the common, apostolic and administrative activities of the House and its members.

In the Family Council the methods and the fruits of activities are evaluated, and most of all one's own lifestyle is compared with the Gospel which is the supreme rule of religious life.

Art. 279

The Family Council meets every three months and when the Superior deems it necessary; it is convened also upon request of at least half of the members of the Community.

CHAPTER X

THE LOCAL OFFICIAL

(C 185)

THE LOCAL TREASURER

Art. 280

In every House there is the Treasurer, possibly distinct from the Superior, under whose direction he takes care of the administration of the goods and manages the economy.

Art. 281

In accomplishing his office the Treasurer:

1. submits to the Superior the possible initiatives and suggestions in order to improve the financial situation of the House by looking diligently for new economic resources;
2. oversees the labor relations with the employees, and provides for the ordinary expenses of the House according to the directives of the Superior;
3. keeps constantly updated and orderly the accounting and records so as to give an account of the management at every request of the Superior;

Like in all managements, accounting and records are to be submitted monthly to the House Council for eventual observations and suggestions.

Art. 117

Concerning parish Churches and annexed buildings:

1. when they are owned by the Congregation, the consent of the House Council or, where it is requested, that of the Major Superior, is required for the extraordinary acts of administration, without prejudice to the rights of the Ordinary.
2. when they are not owned by the Congregation, the opinion of the House Council is required for the extraordinary acts of administration without prejudice to the rights of the local Ordinary.

Art. 118

The offerings intended for the parish (*intuitu parociae*) and their administration are to be recorded by the Parish Priest in the books which the local Ordinary has the right to check. The other income and expenses, and their respective administration, shall be recorded in the books of the religious Community.

CHAPTER V

SERVICE OF FORMATION AND ANIMATION OF THE LAITY

Art. 119

We believe that the charism is to be shared with the laity who are invited to participate more intensely in the spirituality and mission of the Institute.

Their participation to the charism brings benefits such as:

1. a fruitful deepening of some aspects of the Rogate, by reawakening a more spiritual interpretation and compelling to draw indications for new apostolic dynamisms;
2. the spread of an active spirituality beyond the confines of the Institute, which may thus avail of new energies and ensure the continuity of some of its typical forms of service⁵⁸.

Art. 120

We commit ourselves to the formation of the laity. The Superiors should show lively interest in the laity's Rogationist qualification by verifying the quality of their insertion in the works.

The effectiveness of the lay service depends on their professional competence and deep motivations of faith.

⁵⁸ Cfr. VC 55.

Art. 121

In sharing the charism with the laity we elaborate joint projects, while respecting their autonomy. We commit ourselves to accompany them through the marital, family, youth and vocation ministry.

We direct them to live and witness the spirit of the Beatitudes, and in view of the transformation of the world according to the Heart of Christ, we encourage them to have a special attention to the little ones and the poor⁵⁹.

Art. 122

Our Communities are the qualified centers of reference and animation for the lay people close to us, both through associations or not, to accompany their growth and their involvement in the apostolic work.

We are aware that, in whatever activity or ministry we are committed, we have the duty to be expert guides of spiritual life for the laity, aware that they are moved, by the examples of holiness rather than by words⁶⁰.

Art. 123

In the Rogationist Houses we care for the various associations, according to their respective statutes.

A Religious, as their ecclesiastical assistant, accompanies their Christian formation and animates their various activities.

CHAPTER VI

PASTORAL SERVICE OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

Art. 124

We are aware of the value of the means of social Communication. In the footsteps of the Founder, we attach great importance to their knowledge and appropriate use, especially in the apostolate of Rogate, in the promotion and defense of life and human rights, especially of the little ones and of the poor.

The means of social Communication have become indispensable instrument of great impact in any place and any kind of apostolate. In the new 'Areopagus' we promote the charism of the Rogate, the veneration of our holy Founder and evangelizing mission of the Congregation.

The use of the means of social Communication requires a specific preparation which has to start from the initial formation and a continuous commitment to adapt to the languages which foster the knowledge of the Institute's charism and mission.

⁵⁹ Ibidem

⁶⁰ Ibidem.

THE HOUSE COUNCIL

Art. 269

In every lawfully established Community the Superior is assisted by the House Council, composed of the Vice Superior and of one or more Councilors.

Art. 270

The Superior summons the House Council ordinarily once a month and when deemed necessary and appropriate, by setting the agenda ahead of time for the due preparation. The House Council will also meet upon request of at least two Councilors.

Art. 271

Every Religious must be consulted in the House Council when matters related to his office are discussed.

Art. 272

The minutes of the meetings will report in an objective way the discussion about the affairs dealt with protecting, as much as possible, the reputation of the people involved. They are signed by the Superior and by the Councilors and kept in proper register or folder.

Art. 273

Those participating in the House Council are bound by professional secrecy.

Art. 274

The consent of the House Council is required:

1. in the cases foreseen by Art. 102, 282, 285, 310, 311;
2. for the authorization (*nulla osta*) of the applications of the candidates to the Novitiate, Profession and Holy Orders;
3. to admit guests, even if they are priests, to live habitually in the Community, in conformity with the provision of art. 62;
4. to allow the consultation, for study purposes, of confidential documents of the Archives;
5. for the permanent hiring and dismissal of the employees of the House;
6. for other matters not mentioned, but foreseen by the universal law.

Art. 275

For the permissions to be requested from the Superior General or from the Superior of Circumscription, where the vote of the House Council is required, the application is to be transmitted together with the extract of the minutes signed by the Superior and by the Secretary of the Council.

Art. 263

Concerning the running of the works and apostolic activities the competences of the local Superior and of the Religious in charge, are defined, if needed, in the *Directory* of the Circumscription.

THE ARCHIVES OF THE HOUSE

Art. 264

The local Superior ensure that the historical, current and administrative Archives of the House be kept in order.

1. everything that can be interesting for the history of the House is kept in the Historical Archives: books, records, documents, correspondence, pictures, videos, printed matters, administrative acts, publications, writings, degree theses of the Religious. Let there be also a section for the confidential documents;

2. everything concerning registration, classification and documents for actual use about employees, transactions, relationships and correspondence is kept in the Current Archives;

3. all the documents of ownership, use, contracts, funding practices, economic registration and accounting are kept in the Administrative Archives.

Art. 265

The Superior ensures that antiques and those objects that may have some interest in the history of the House and the Congregation, as well as valuables be gathered and guarded in a proper place.

Art. 266

The most important documents are sent in their authenticated copy to the seat of the Circumscription and to the General Secretary.

Art. 267

In the Novitiate House the admissions to the Novitiate and to the first Profession are recorded in a proper register.

THE VICE SUPERIOR

Art. 268

The Vice Superior is the first collaborator of the Superior and replaces him in case of absence or impediment.

He is a perpetually professed priest appointed by the Superior of the Circumscription with the opinion of his Council. He collaborates in fraternal harmony with the Superior in everything that concerns the life and activities of the House. He follows the directives received from the Superior.

PART THREE STRUCTURE AND GOVERNMENT

(Const. Art 128-185)

CHAPTER I

STRUCTURE

Art. 125

The Congregation is constituted by the General Curia and by the Circumscriptions, canonically erected by the Superior General with the consent of his Council.

The Circumscriptions

Art. 126

The Circumscriptions are living parts of the Congregation expressing its presence in a particular geographical and cultural area. They keep united among themselves and depend on the General Government.

The life of the Circumscriptions and the local diversities must be combined with the interests and the unity of the entire Congregation.

Art. 127

The seat of Circumscription is determined by the Superior General with consent of his Council, at the act of establishment.

The consent is also required for eventual transfer.

Art. 128

Each Religious is considered assigned to the Circumscription where he resides at the act of the establishment of the Circumscription.

The Circumscriptions collaborate with each other by fostering the exchange of Religious for right reasons.

Art. 129

1. The transfer from one Circumscription to another is determined by the Superior General with the opinion of his Council:

- a. after listening to the Religious involved and the Superiors of the respective Circumscriptions;
- b. upon proposal of the Superiors of Circumscriptions, or of the Religious concerned.

2. The transfer implies the assignment to the new Circumscription.

3. In the initial phase of the transfer, according to the judgment of the Superior General, the Religious may retain the legal membership to the Circumscription of origin.

Art. 130

The Religious who have been out of the Circumscription of origin for at least eight years, may go back to it by making a request one year before to the Superior General.

Art. 131

The Religious who remain for a long time in other Circumscriptions, because of studies or other reasons, depend on that Circumscription for their discipline; they belong juridically to their Circumscriptions of origin where they return as soon as they accomplish their purpose.

Art. 132 - The religious House

The religious House is a Community ordinarily composed of at least three perpetually professed Religious. It is erected with its Council by the Superior General and governed by a Superior with ordinary power.

Art. 133 - The Missionary Station or Residence

The Missionary Station or Residence is the seat of a new presence of the Congregation in its initial stage.

Art. 134 – The Works

The works are the stable activities of the Congregation, of a Circumscription or of a House, with specific purposes that require availing of Religious personnel and capitals.

The General Curia

Art. 135

The Houses and works directly dependent on the General Government belong to the structure of the General Curia. In these Houses all the offices are assigned by the Superior General.

Art. 136

The Religious assigned regularly to the Curia and to the Works depending on it:

1. keep their juridical membership to the Circumscription of origin;
2. receive the assignment normally for six years, renewable if needed.

Art. 257

In particular cases and for a short time the Superior can grant the dispensation to a Religious or even to the whole Community from some disciplinary norm of the Constitutions, giving notice the Superior of the Circumscription.

Art. 258

Let the Superior take special care of the Religious in formation having their practical training, so that they may be assisted in religious discipline, in spiritual life and supported in the apostolic activity.

Art. 259

The local Superior informs the Superior of the Circumscription about the life and the apostolate of the Community, and about any issue deserving attention.

Art. 260

The Superior takes care of writing personally, or by assigning others, the diary or history of the House, according to the wishes of the Father Founder, so that the memory of what happens and is accomplished may be useful for the history and as a dutiful homage of gratitude to the Divine Providence.

Art. 261

Let the local Superior take care that in the House be kept in order and updated:

1. The register of:
 - a. the celebration of the Holy Masses;
 - b. the economic administration;
 - c. the Religious with their respective personal details, data of their civil and religious documents, curriculum of studies and address of their parents or relatives.
2. The books of:
 - a. the canonical visits;
 - b. the history or diary of the House;
 - c. the minutes of the House Council;
 - d. the reports of the Family and Formation Council.

Art. 262

Let the Superior not change anything about the sound traditions of the House, nor establish new Works, nor abolish or modify existing ones without the permission of the competent Superior.

Art. 252

If the local Superior has completed the first and second three-year terms in the same or in another House, let him not have, at least for two years, the office of Superior. If, exceptionally, he is confirmed for a third term in the same House, the Major Superior must first hear the Religious of the Community.

Art. 253

The Superior formally assumes the office through the turnover made by the previous Superior as follows:

1. the turnover of office is done by the outgoing Superior or by the person assigned by the Major Superior;
2. the turnover shall be done in writing on a form prepared by the General Government to be signed by he who turns over the office, he who receives it, and by the House Council or by another person indicated by the Major Superior.
3. the turnover includes the description of the consistency and management of the Works, as well as the administrative report of the House.

The assumption of office of the new Superior and the farewell to the outgoing Superior are to be concluded with an appropriate liturgical celebration.

Art. 254

The outgoing Superior gives the new Superior all the information that is useful for the knowledge of persons related to the House: religious and civil authorities, benefactors, professionals; he introduces the new Superior to all that is needed for the carrying out of the activities and the management of the affairs.

Art. 255

The Superior resides in his own House¹⁰⁶ and does not leave it for more than one week without notifying it to the Superior of Circumscription.

When the Superior has to be absent, and the Vice-Superior is also absent, let the Superior indicate a substitute and give him the necessary power.

Art. 256

The Superior shall ensure that the Community lives in the perspective of the permanent formation, sharing a common project of spiritual life and apostolate. Let such journey takes place in the docile welcoming of the directives of the Apostolic See and Superiors. The Superior takes care that the Constitutions and Norms are read in the Community.

¹⁰⁶ Cfr. CIC 629.

Conference of Superior of Circumscription

Art. 137

The Superior General regularly convenes the Conference of Superiors of Circumscriptions which, in his discretion, may be extended to the participation of the Councilors of Circumscription.

Art. 138

The Conference of Superiors of Circumscription constitutes an advisory body for linking, dialogue and communion between the General Government and the Governments of Circumscription. It is an instrument for permanent formation, planning, verification, and sharing, intended for the common service of animation and governance according to the specific competencies.

Art. 139

The Conference takes place for an adequate time and in a place established by the Superior General with the opinion of the Council after consulting the Superiors of Circumscription.

Council operations

Art. 140

The consent of the Council binds the Superior not to act in a way contrary to the vote⁶¹. Nevertheless, he is not obliged to act in the way indicated by the vote since he can also abstain from acting.

CHAPTER II

GENERAL CHAPTER

(Const. Article. 138-148)

Composition

Art. 141

The composition of the General Chapter is in accordance with the proper Norms, as provided in Appendix 1.

The letter of convocation of the General Chapter will determine:

- a) the place and date of its opening, in conformity with art. 172,3, a;
- b) the procedures for the election of the delegates;
- c) the prayers to be done in all Communities to implore the light of the Holy Spirit.

⁶¹ Cfr. CIC 127, § 2,1.

Art. 142

All perpetually professed Religious have active and passive voice, except the perpetually professed students, who have only the active voice. The exclaustated Religious do not have active and passive voice⁶².

Art. 143

The procedures for the election of the delegates are as follows:

1. the Religious who have the right to vote for the selection of the delegates shall send their vote to the Superior General, in the terms and ways prescribed in the letter of convocation;
2. the Superior General with his Council shall canvass the ballots and communicate, as soon as possible, the results of the election;
3. the publication of the names of the delegates to the Chapter includes those who have been elected with their respective number of votes, and an adequate number of substitutes with their votes.
4. if several elected, last on the list, have received equal votes in the same list, the oldest by profession and, this being equal, the most senior in age, will be elected.

Art. 144

The election of delegates will be made within two months following the indiction of the General Chapter.

Art. 145

Should a delegate be legitimately impeded or renounce or fail, on the legitimacy or just cause of the impediment or renunciation:

1. before the opening of the Chapter, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, judges and provides for the substitution;
2. at the opening of the Chapter, the same Chapter judges and provides for the substitution;
3. during the Chapter, the same Chapter judges and decides about the opportunity for a substitution.

Art. 146

In the act of convocation of the delegates, the Superior General submits proposals for possible amendments to the Regulations.

Celebration

Art. 147

The general theme of the Chapter is the religious life and the apostolate of the Institute, in fidelity to the charism and to the Rule of Life, in view of its renewal and update, starting with the formation of its members.

the Superior General with the consent of his Council. It is governed by a Superior with power delegated by the Major Superior. The Superior of the Delegation is usually assisted by two Councilors.

In the act of appointment the powers and duties of the Superior and eventually the functions of his Council are determined.

Art. 248

The constitutive elements of the Delegation are:

1. the canonical establishment through a formal decree of the Superior General;
2. at least 3 Houses;
3. the Superior of the Delegation and his Council.

CHAPTER IX

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

(Const. Art. 181-185)

Art. 249

The local Community, where the Religious live together in a lawfully constituted House, expresses the presence of the Congregation in the particular Church. In the local Community the Confreres, led by the Holy Spirit through attending the Word of God, the Eucharistic life and the apostolic service, develop among themselves relationships marked by simplicity and confidence, witness the fidelity to the charism of the Institute, announce the Gospel and show Christ's love by serving the little ones and the poor.

The Local Superior

Art. 250

The Superior is the first responsible for the fraternal life, the apostolic activities and the economic administration of the House. He animates and directs the Community with the collaboration of the House Council and in line with the family Council.

He carries out his mandate with paternity and spirit of service seeking for dialogue with the Community and with the individual Religious. He avails of the collaboration with the those responsible of the various sectors of formation and apostolate.

Art. 251

The local Superior must have at least five years of perpetual profession. He is appointed by the Major Superior for three years and can be confirmed for a second three-year term. During this period he may be transferred to another House or another office, for a just cause, according to the judgment of the Major Superior with the consent of his Council.

⁶² Cfr. CIC 687.

- f. to authorize, with the consent of the Council, acts of extraordinary administration according to the universal and proper law;
- g. to send to the Superior General:
 - annually, within the first quarter, the financial standing of the properties, the list of pending lawsuits in the Quasi Province;
 - every six months, the administrative reports of the Quasi Province;
- h. other powers and tasks delegated by the Superior general in the act of establishment of the Quasi Province.

Art. 245

The Superior of the Quasi Province directs and supervises the administration of all goods of the Circumscription. The Administration is kept by the Treasurer in accordance with the proper law.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE QUASI PROVINCE

Art. 246

The functions of the Council of the Quasi Province are as follows:

1. The consent of the Councilors is required in the following cases:
 - a. proposal to the General Superior for the appointment of the Superior of the House, of the Novice Master and of the Prefects of Center of Studies;
 - b. presentation of the Parish Priests; appointment of the Treasurers
 - c. admission to temporary profession, to the renewal and to Ministries;
 - d. placement of money and bonds;
 - e. approval of the administrative report presented by the Treasurer of the Quasi Province;
 - f. determination of the contribution of the Houses to the Circumscription;
 - g. adaptation of the *Ratio Institutionis*, in conformity with the present regulation;
 - h. presentation to the Superior General of the candidate of the Quasi Province for perpetual profession and Holy Orders
2. The opinion of the Councilors is required in the following cases:
 - a. admission and dismissal from the Novitiate;
 - b. appointment of the Vice Superior and of the Councilors of the Houses;
 - c. transfer of religious personnel and assignment to offices and positions not foreseen by the regulation;

THE DELEGATION

Art. 247

The Delegation is a living part of the Institute which, for various reasons, cannot stand on its own and depends on a Major Superior. It is established by

Let the General Government, in the middle of its term, after hearing the Governments of Circumscription, consult the Confreres and define a particular theme.

1. Let the General Government appoint a Committee - which will last until the appointment of the Precapitular Committee - to the study, deepening and drafting of a basic text (*lineamenta*). This text will be sent to all Communities for integrations and comments.
2. After the election of the delegates, the Superior General, with the consent of the Council, appoints a Precapitular Committee to prepare the *Instrumentum laboris* for the Chapter, on the basis of the draft prepared by the previous Committee.
3. When needed, let the help and advice of experts, even lay persons, be availed of.
4. The *Instrumentum laboris* will be sent to the Capitulars five months before the opening of the Chapter.
5. The Capitulars will send their amendments to the Committee within two months before the beginning of the Chapter to allow the Committee to draw up the final draft.

Art. 148

Every Religious can write to the Capitulars about what he thinks fitting to be known by the Chapter for the good of the Congregation. The Capitulars cannot refuse to receive such notes signed by the proponent Religious. They must present these proposals to the Chapter, through the office of the President, but they are not required to support them.

Art. 149

The General Chapter is presided by the outgoing Superior General until the election of a new Superior General, who, takes over as President as soon as he is elected.

Art. 150

The Superior General, or anybody on his behalf, reads to the Chapter a faithful report on the state of the personnel and discipline of the Congregation, previously approved and signed by him and his Council. He reads also the economic report of the whole Congregation, prepared and signed by the General Treasurer and countersigned by him and his Council.

The data of the economic report shall refer to the period until the preceding December 31 or six months before the celebration of the Chapter.

Election

Art. 151

The Superior General is elected in accordance with Art. 143 and 150 of the Constitutions.

Art. 152

After the election, the Superior General makes the profession of faith in the presence of the capitular Assembly in an appropriate liturgical celebration.

Art. 153

The day after the election of the Superior General, the chapter proceeds, with separate ballots, to the election of the General Councilors and of the General Treasurer.

Art. 154

The Vicar General is elected by the Chapter among the legitimately elected Councilors.

Art. 155

The General Councilors and the General Treasurer who hold office until the General Chapter, can be re-elected for a second six-year term, but not for a third consecutive term. They are to be at least 35 years old and with 10 years of perpetual profession.

Art. 156

The General Councilors are four and are elected by the Chapter for the task they are to carry out:

1. Religious Life and Formation.
2. Rogate, Pastoral care of Vocations and of the Youth.
3. Service of Charity and Missions.
4. Laity and Parishes.

Art. 157

The General Chapter establishes the criteria of the election of those who will participate in it.

CHAPTER III
THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT
(Const. art.149-167)

The Superior General

Art. 158

The Superior General, faithful to the teaching and example of Father Founder, ensures the link of the Congregation to the Holy Father and to the Apostolic See, by accepting with docility their indications and directives, and fostering their knowledge and observance among the Religious.

2. *With regard to the service of animation and government:*

- a. to visit officially the Houses of the Quasi Province, at least twice during his four-year term;
- b. to keep vigilant about the proper observance of discipline and to take the appropriate action;
- c. to exempt temporarily (*ad tempus*) from a disciplinary matter of the Constitutions and, in urgent cases, from the directives of the Superior General, informing him as soon as possible;
- d. to appoint and transfer the religious personnel, except the Superiors, the Novice Master and the Prefect of Religious students, by assigning offices and tasks, according to the proper law;
- e. to propose, with the consent of his Council, to the Superior General, the establishment, transfer and closing of a House or Work,;
- f. to propose to the Superior General the appointment of Superiors, the Novice Master and the Prefect of Religious students;
- g. to propose the transfer of a Religious to another Circumscription

3. *With regard to formation:*

- a. to take care of the initial formation and to animate the permanent formation;
- b. to admit, with his Council, the candidates to the Novitiate, to the first Profession, to the renewal of Vows and to the ministries;
- c. to receive the profession personally or through others;
- d. to present to the Superior General the applications for the perpetual vows and holy orders, accompanied by the evaluation of the formator and the vote of the Council with the abstract of the minutes.
- e. to accompany with particular care the integration of the young priests in the apostolate.

4. *With regard to the administration and economy:*

- a. to verify the regularity of the administrations of the Communities, the updating of their records and of the history of the House, as well as the orderly keeping of documents in the Archives;
- b. to receive, examine and keep in the Archive of the Quasi Province, copies of legal documents concerning the patrimony of the Houses and to send a copy to the Superior General;
- c. to establish, with the consent of his Council, the amount up to which the Houses can decide for their extraordinary expenses;
- d. to establish, with the consent of the Council, the contribution that the Houses will remit to the Circumscription;
- e. to give the contributions of the Quasi Province to the General Curia in the measure established by the Superior General and his Council;

Art. 241

The Superior of the Quasi Province governs in accordance with the proper law.

He is appointed by the Superior General with his Council, after consulting all the perpetually professed Religious of the Circumscription.

He must have at least 10 years of perpetual profession and 35 years of age.

The Superior of the Quasi Province, appointed for four-year term, may be reappointed, but not beyond the second consecutive four-year term.

COUNCIL OF THE QUASI PROVINCE

Art. 242

The Superior General with the consent of the Council appoints four Councilors, including the Treasurer. They must have at least 10 years of perpetual profession. The Vicar is appointed among the Councilors and must be a priest.

The sectors of animation are apportioned within the Council of the Quasi Province with assignments analogous to the sectors of the General Councilors.

The Secretary may be one of the Councilors. He is appointed by the Superior of the Quasi Province with the consent of the Council.

ASSEMBLY OF RELIGIOUS

Art. 243

To promote the participation of all Religious in the journey of Quasi Province, the Superior, with the opinion of his Council, can call the Assembly of the perpetually professed Religious.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SUPERIOR OF THE QUASI PROVINCE

Art. 244

The powers of the Superior of the Quasi Province are as follows:

1. *With regard to coordination:*

- a. to carry out his role in communion with the General Government
- b. to communicate to the Houses of the Quasi Province the provisions of the Apostolic See, of the Superior General, and of the National Episcopal Conference;
- c. to transmit the eventual directives adopted by the Conference of Superiors of the Circumscription, according to the indications of the Superior General and of the Conference of Major Superiors;
- d. to submit annually to the Superior General a report on the personnel of the Quasi Province.

He sends to the Apostolic See a report on the status and life of the Institute, in the way and time set by the Apostolic See itself⁶³.

Art. 159

The Superior General is the sign of the unity in the Congregation, among the Circumscriptions and the Communities.

He governs the Congregation by fostering communion, collaboration and coordination in view of the greater good of the whole religious family and of the individual Confreres.

Therefore he:

1. cultivates a fraternal dialogue with the Confreres, in a spirit of service and animation, in truth and charity;
2. exhorts the Confreres with instructions and circular letters according to the proper circumstances;
3. promotes regular conferences and meetings of the Governments of Circumscription and sector international meetings for the general interest of the Institute;
4. visits the Circumscriptions personally or through others, twice in his six years term.

Art. 160

The Superior General defines and makes known the modalities which he intends to adopt for implementing the consultation (*apta consultatio*), when it is required.

Art. 161

The Superior General is granted the annual availability of an amount of money for particular, urgent, and confidential cases. This amount shall be determined with the consent of his Council.

The General Councilors

Art. 162

The General Councilors are called to advise and assist the Superior General in the government of the Congregation, according to the Constitutions. In mutual communion and unity of intents they express an intelligent, effective and faithful collaboration in their service.

Art. 163

Each Councilor is committed to animate, promote and coordinate, at the general level, the sector entrusted to him, in the line deliberated by the Council and in subsidiarity. He is also available for special tasks connected with his role or anyway compatible with it, which will be given to him in a written form.

⁶³ Cfr. CIC 592.

Art. 164

The General Councilors, in agreement with the Superior General and the Superiors of Circumscription, organize periodical meetings with the Councilors of their sector in their places and in the general Curia so that, from the direct knowledge of the issues and exchange of experiences, the most suitable solutions may be attained.

Art. 165

The Superior General ordinarily convokes the General Council once a month and when requested by the affairs of the Congregation, according to his judgment, or at the request of at least two Councilors.

For the validity of the session the presence of the President and of at least two Councilors is required; all the Councilors however must be summoned since they have the obligation to participate, unless legitimately impeded.

When it comes to appointments, or important affairs, unless there is a compelling urgency, the whole General Council must be present to decide⁶⁴.

Art. 166

During meetings each Councilor expresses his opinion in responsibility and freedom, by seeking the right discernment through fraternal interaction, with openness to review one's evaluation in the light of the reasons that emerged and by cheerfully accepting the decisions taken. Each Councilor also diligently preserves the confidentiality connected with his office.

Art. 167

The vote of the General Council is expressed as consent, as opinion and as collegial, in accordance with the universal Law and the Constitutions⁶⁵.

Art. 168

In matters requiring the consent, the vote shall be done by secret ballot.

Art. 169

The General Officers must be called into the Council when dealing with affairs related to their office, but without the right to vote.

Art. 170

When a Religious is summoned to the Council he has the obligation of professional secrecy.

⁶⁴ Cfr. CIC 127.

⁶⁵ Cfr. CIC 127; 699, §1.

Art. 237

The opinion of the Councilors is required in the following cases:

1. admission and dismissal from the Novitiate;
2. non admission to the renewal or to perpetual profession, for a just cause, of a Religious in temporary vows¹⁰³;
3. appointment of the Vice Superior and of the Councilors of the Houses;
4. appointment of members of the Administrative Board of a Work;
5. transfer of religious personnel and assignment to offices and positions not foreseen by the regulation;
6. proposal to the Superior General of the transfer of a Religious to another Circumscription;
7. convocation of the General Assembly of the Religious.
8. beginning of the procedure for dismissal of a Religious¹⁰⁴.

CHAPTER VIII
THE QUASI PROVINCE
(Const. Art. 178-180)

Art. 238

The Quasi Province is a living part of the Institute similar to the Province, with its own geographical and cultural configuration, which has not yet achieved sufficient autonomy.

Art. 239

The constitutive elements of the Quasi Province are:

1. the canonical establishment through a formal decree of the Superior General,
2. at least four Houses;
3. a defined territory;
4. sufficient personnel, a certain vocational, formative and economic autonomy;
5. the Superior of the Quasi Province with his Council.

THE SUPERIOR OF THE QUASI PROVINCE

Art. 240

The Superior of the Quasi Province is called to express and foster, in the animation and Government of the Communities, the unity of the Religious among themselves and with the Superior General. He promotes the permanent formation and enhances the apostolate¹⁰⁵.

¹⁰³ Cfr. C 126.

¹⁰⁴ Cfr. CIC 697.

¹⁰⁵ Cfr. N 223.

furthermore, by removal decided by the Provincial Superior with the consent of the Council and approval of the Superior General¹⁰⁰.

Art. 234

If the office of a Councilor becomes vacant, the Provincial Superior appoints a replacement with the consent of his Council and the confirmation of the Superior General.

Art. 235

A Councilor, whose conduct has to be subjected to scrutiny, must be given the guarantee of the universal law¹⁰¹.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE

Art. 236

The consent of the Councilors is required in the following cases:

1. appointment of Superiors, local Treasurers, Directors of the Works, and the presentation of the Parish Priests;
2. appointment of the Prefects of Professed Students and of the Novices Master, with the previous authorization (*nulla osta*) of the Superior General;
3. transfer of a local Superior who is still in office (*perdurante munere*) to another House or to another office;
4. admission to temporary and perpetual Profession, to Ministries and to Holy Orders;
5. granting the *extra domum* to a Religious¹⁰²;
6. placement of money and bonds;
7. approval of the administrative report presented by the Treasurer of the Province;
8. determination of the contribution of the Houses to the Province;
9. approval of acts of extraordinary administration to the extent established by the Superior General and his Council;
10. proposal of establishment, transfer and suppression of a House or a Work;
11. adaptation of the *Ratio Institutionis*, in conformity with the present regulation;
12. transfer of the seat of the Province, with previous authorization of the Superior General with the consent of his Council;
13. acceptance of the renunciation to participate in the Provincial Chapter before its opening.

¹⁰⁰ Cfr. CIC 193.

¹⁰¹ Cfr. CIC 1717 and ff.

¹⁰² Cfr. CIC 665.

Art. 171

The minutes of the meetings must be signed by all the participants after they have been read in the Council, and kept by the Secretary General in the General Archive.

Art. 172

The matters in which the consent of the General Counselors is requested are the following:

1. *Matters related to the Novitiate and Religious Profession:*

- a. dispensation from the impediments for the admission to the Novitiate, within the limits of the faculties granted to the Superior General, according to universal and particular Law;
- b. authorization for a Novice to make the novitiate in a House of the Congregation different from the Novitiate House⁶⁶;
- c. admission of the candidates to temporary and perpetual profession and to Sacred Orders in the cases of competence;
- d. readmission into the Institute, without the obligation of repeating the Novitiate, of one who legitimately left the Congregation at the end of the Novitiate or after profession⁶⁷;
- e. granting the indult to a Religious who asks to leave the Institute during the time of temporary profession for a grave reason⁶⁸;
- f. permission to a Religious to cede his personal properties in conformity with Art. 42 of the Constitutions⁶⁹;
- g. granting of an indult of exclaustation, for no more than three years, to a perpetually professed Religious. For a cleric, the indult requires the previous consent of the Ordinary of the place where he will reside⁷⁰;
- h. concession to a perpetually Professed Religious to transfer from his religious Institute to another, after obtaining the consent of the Superior General of the other Institute⁷¹;
- i. request to the Apostolic See of the imposition of exclaustation on a member of the Institute for grave cause, without prejudice for justice and charity⁷².

⁶⁶ Cfr. CIC 647, 2.

⁶⁷ Cfr. CIC 690, 1.

⁶⁸ Cfr. CIC 688, 2.

⁶⁹ Cfr. CIC 688, 4.

⁷⁰ Cfr. CIC 686, 1.

⁷¹ Cfr. CIC 684, 1.

⁷² Cfr. CIC 686, 3.

2. Matters concerning the structures of the Congregation:

- a. dividing the Institute into parts, by whatever name these may be called, establishing new parts, or merging or otherwise delimiting those already in existence⁷³;
- b. suppression of parts into which the Institute is divided⁷⁴;
- c. establishment of a House, after obtaining the written consent of the diocesan Bishop⁷⁵;
- d. suppression of a Religious House, legitimately established, after consultation with the diocesan Bishop⁷⁶;
- e. allocation of the assets of a part of the Institute or of a House which have been suppressed, respecting the will of their founders or donors and of the legally acquired rights⁷⁷;
- f. establishment, transfer and suppression of a Novitiate House, with a written decree of the Superior General⁷⁸.

3. Matters concerning the Government of the Congregation:

General Chapter

- a. determination of the particular theme, of the place and date of opening and, tentatively, of the closing of the General Chapter;
- b. convocation of the extraordinary Chapter;
- c. acceptance of the renunciation to attend the Chapter, prior to its opening, submitted by a member participating either by right or as delegate.

General Government

- d. appointment of the Visitor General of the Houses;
- e. appointment of the Secretary General, of the Postulator General and of the Legal Representative;
- f. deposition from the office or acceptance of the resignation of those who were appointed by him with the consent of the General Council;
- g. acceptance of the resignation from their office of the Councilors and General Officers, or their removal, in accordance with Art. 159 of the Constitutions;
- h. transfer of the seat of the General Curia, upon noticing the Apostolic See;
- i. appointment of Superior and Treasurer of the Houses depending on the General Curia;
- l. appointment of the person in charge of a work depending on the General Curia;

⁷³ Cfr. CIC 581.

⁷⁴ Cfr. CIC 585.

⁷⁵ Cfr. CIC 609, 1.

⁷⁶ Cfr. CIC 616, 1.

⁷⁷ Ibidem.

⁷⁸ Cfr. CIC 647, 1.

Art. 228

Should the Provincial Superior decide to resign from his office, he will present his reasons to the Superior General, who has the authority to accept or not the resignation.

In the same way, the Superior General, with the consent of the Council may decide his dismissal for grave cause⁹⁸.

THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Art. 229

The Councilors have the office to advise, support and assist the Provincial Superior in the government and administration of the Province. They carry out their mandate in spirit of service and collaboration, in the witnessing of fraternal communion.

Art. 230

The Provincial Vicar is elected by the Chapter among the Provincial Councilors and must have at least 10 years of profession. He:

1. replaces the Provincial Superior when he is lawfully impeded;
2. assumes full responsibility of the Province when, for whatever reason, the office of Provincial Superior becomes vacant, carries out the ordinary administration and convokes the Provincial Chapter, according to the law.

Art. 231

The Secretary, the Treasurer and the Legal Representative carry out their mandate in the Province in analogy to the powers of the corresponding General Officers.

Art. 232

The Provincial Treasurer communicates to the Superiors eventual laws and guidelines which may be relevant for the administrative sector and related works.

Art. 232

The Provincial Treasurer shall communicate to the Superiors eventual laws and guidelines that may affect the administration and the adjoining works.

Art. 233

The Provincial Councilors can abdicate from their office before the Provincial Chapter by resignation accepted by the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council⁹⁹ and the approval of the Superior General. Besides, they can vacate,

⁹⁸ Cfr. CIC 1717 and ff.

⁹⁹ Cfr. CIC 189.

2. *With regard to the service of animation and government:*

- a. to visit officially the Houses of the Province, at least twice during his four-year term;
- b. to keep vigilant about the proper observance of discipline and to take the appropriate action;
- c. to exempt temporarily (*ad tempus*) from a disciplinary matter of the Constitutions and, in urgent cases, from the directives of the Superior General, informing him as soon as possible;
- d. to appoint and/or transfer the religious personnel, by assigning offices and tasks, with the opinion or consent of his Council;
- e. to propose with the consent of his Council, to the Superior General the establishment, transfer and closing of a House or Work,.

3. *With regard to formation:*

- a. to take care of the initial formation and to animate the permanent formation;
- b. to admit candidates to the Novitiate, to the first Profession, to the renewal of Vows, to the perpetual Profession, to the ministries and Holy Orders;
- c. to receive the profession personally or through others;
- d. to grant the dimissorial letters to the candidates for holy orders, according to the universal and proper law;
- e. to accompany with particular care the integration of the young priests in the apostolate.

4. *With regard to the administration and economy:*

- a. to verify the regularity of the administrations of the Communities, the updating of their records and of the history of the House, as well as the orderly keeping of documents in the archives;
- b. to receive, examine and keep in the Archive of the Province, copies of legal documents concerning the patrimony of the Houses and to send a copy to the Superior General;
- c. to establish, with the consent of his Council, the amount up to which the Houses can decide for their extraordinary expenses;
- d. to establish, with the consent of the Council, the contribution that the Houses will remit to the Province;
- e. to give the contributions of the Province to the General Curia in the measure established by the Superior General and his Council;
- f. to authorize, with the consent of the Council, acts of extraordinary administration according to the universal and proper law;
- g. to send to the Superior General:
 - annually, within the first quarter, the financial standing of the properties, the list of pending lawsuits in the Province;
 - every six months, the administrative reports of the Province.

Circumscriptions

- m. appointment of the eventual Delegate to preside the Provincial Chapter;
- n. ratification of the Acts of the Provincial Chapter;
- o. appointment of the Superiors of the Quasi Provinces / Regions and Delegations;
- p. acceptance of the resignation or removal from office of the Superiors of Circumscriptions;
- q. approval of Directory of Circumscription⁷⁹.

4. *Matters concerning the Administration:*

- a. approval of the administrative report of the General Curia and of the Congregation, presented by the General Treasurer, according to Article. 150, to be presented to the General Chapter;
- b. approval of contracts to be made or to be annulled in the name of the Congregation, debts to be contracted, alienation of movable properties or of real estates, precious items, mortgages, loans, and extraordinary charitable donations, without prejudice for the prescriptions of the Church's Law and the norms set by the General Chapter;
- c. defining the ceiling for the expenses of extraordinary administration in the competence of the Circumscriptions;
- d. defining of the contribution that the Circumscriptions have to give to the General Curia, after consulting the Government of the Circumscription.
- e. defining the financial contributions to be given to Houses in difficulty and the fees to support the works of formation;
- f. approval of withdrawals of funds from Circumscriptions or Houses, if it seem necessary, after consulting the Government of the Circumscription;
- g. reduction of the obligations of Masses, according to the universal Law⁸⁰.

5. Generic power:

The consent of the General Councilors is also required in cases submitted to the decisions of the General Council by universal Law or by the Constitutions, and the most relevant matters handed over by the General Chapter.

Art. 173

When a perpetually professed Religious requests an indult to leave the Institute, the Superior General forwards the request to the Apostolic See with his vote and that of the Council⁸¹.

⁷⁹ Cfr. C 174,

⁸⁰ Cfr. CIC 1308, 5.

⁸¹ Cfr. CIC 691, 1.

Art. 174

A collegial vote is required when, for grave reasons, a Religious has to be dismissed from the Congregation⁸². With the collegial vote all are bound to vote. The Superior conforms himself to the will of the majority.

Art. 175

The opinion of the General Councilors is required in the following cases:

1. *Matters concerning the Novitiate and Religious Profession in cases of their competence:*
 - a. admission and dismissal from the Novitiate⁸³;
 - b. admission to the ministries;
 - c. non-admission of a Religious to the renewal and to the ensuing perpetual profession for a just and grave cause⁸⁴.
2. *Matters concerning the Government of the Congregation:*
 - a. appointment of the Procurator General⁸⁵;
 - b. appointment of the General Archivist⁸⁶;
 - c. transfer of a Religious from one Circumscription to another⁸⁷;
 - d. setting of the date and venue for the Conference of Superiors of Circumscription⁸⁸;
 - e. appointment of Vice Superior and Councilors of the Houses depending on the General Curia;
 - f. appointment of the members of the Board of Directors of a Work depending on the General Curia;
 - g. transfer of Religious personnel and assignment of offices and tasks in the Houses depending on General Curia not foreseen by the legislation.

VICAR GENERAL

Art. 176

The Vicar General collaborates more directly with the Superior General in the government of the Institute and replaces him when he may be impeded, according to the universal law and our Constitutions⁸⁹.

⁸² Cfr. CIC 699, 1; 700.

⁸³ Cfr. *Norms* (N) 237, 1.

⁸⁴ Cfr. C 126.

⁸⁵ Cfr. C 164.

⁸⁶ Cfr. C 167.

⁸⁷ Cfr. N 128.

⁸⁸ Cfr. N 137.

⁸⁹ Cfr. C 158.

Conferees in fidelity to the spiritual and apostolic heritage of the Institute, to build up, in Christ, fraternal communities, in which the passion for Christ and for the poor is witnessed.

The Provincial Superior cares for the spiritual good and the integral and permanent formation of the Conferees, through dialogue and paternal care; he nourishes their fidelity to the consecration through the Word of God and the Sacred Liturgy; provides for their needs; visits the sick, reprimands the restless, comforts the timid, and is patient with all⁹⁷.

He follows with particular attention the first formation and the vocation promotion. He promotes the apostolate in fidelity to the charism and to the signs of the times.

Art. 224

The Provincial Superior directs and controls the administration of all the goods of the Province, kept by the Provincial Treasurer, in accordance with the universal and proper law.

Art. 225

For particular urgent and confidential cases, the Provincial Superior will have the availability of a yearly sum, whose amount will be determined with the consent of his Council.

Assembly of Religious

Art. 226

To promote the participation of all the Religious in the journey of the Province, the Superior, with the opinion of his Council, may convoke the Assembly of the perpetually professed Religious.

Powers and duties of the Provincial Superior

Art. 227

The Provincial Superior has the following powers and tasks:

1. *With regard to coordination:*

- a. to communicate to the Houses of the Province the provisions of the Apostolic See, of the Superior General, and of the National Episcopal Conference of the countries which make up the Province;
- b. to transmit the eventual directives adopted by the Conference of Superiors of the Circumscription, according to the indications of the Superior General;
- c. to submit annually to the Superior General a report on the personnel of the Province.

⁹⁷ Cfr. CIC 619.

The Provincial Councilors must have at least 10 years of perpetual profession and 35 years of age. They can be re-elected for a second term, but not for a third consecutive term.

The Provincial Vicar is elected by the Provincial Chapter among the Priests elected as Provincial Councilors.

The Provincial Secretary may be one of the Councilors. He is appointed by the Provincial Superior with the consent of the Council.

Art. 218

For all that is related to the renunciation of participating in the Provincial Chapter, the notifications of the Religious to the Chapter, the active and passive voice of those exlaustrated, what is prescribed for the General Chapter is to be followed⁹⁶.

Art. 219

The Superior General or his Delegate signs the acts of the Provincial Chapter, together with the Provincial Superior and the Secretary of the Chapter.

Art. 220

A copy of the Acts of the Provincial Chapter is sent to the Superior General within one month after its closing. The ratification of the Superior General with the consent of his Council is required for the decisions to have force. In case they are not approved, let the Superior General forward the necessary instructions to the Provincial Superior.

CHAPTER VII THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Art. 221

The Provincial Superior has the ordinary power in the Province according to the universal and proper law.

Art. 222

The Provincial Superior shares in one and the same authority and exercises it in communion with the Superior General, for the benefit of the entire Congregation. Thus, while promoting the good of the individual Communities, he is concerned for the unity, increase and improvement of the entire Congregation.

Art. 223

The Provincial Superior, docile to God's will, accomplishes his office in a spirit of service for the good of the Congregation and the Church. He guides the

⁹⁶ Cfr. N 141-146.

THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

Art. 177

The Legal Representative is the Religious who, by universal and proper law, has the competence to represent the Congregation before the civil authority, as a *public juridical person*, in the administrative and legal acts.

Rule 178

The Legal Representative of the entire Congregation is the Superior General, who may delegate another perpetually professed Religious to carry out such function.

Art. 179

The Legal Representative of the Circumscription is its Superior, who may delegate another perpetually professed Religious.

Art. 180

The Legal Representative has the official signature and the power to carry out legal proceedings in the ordinary affairs under the directives of the Superior General or of the Superior of the Circumscription, granting the necessary protection and due control over the patrimony of the Institute.

Art. 181

For deeds of extraordinary administration the Legal Representative acts with the authorization of the Superior General or of the Superior of Circumscription, according to the proper law.

THE VISITOR AND THE CANONICAL VISIT

Art. 182

The Visitor⁹⁰ kindly listens and inspires trust by his charity and wisdom; he is prudent and discerning in knowing persons and evaluating situations. He makes the proper remarks and takes the necessary decisions.

Art. 183

The Visit is to be notified in time to the Religious so that they may prepare diligently to obtain the benefits of spiritual renewal and to live more intensely their consecration to God.

Art. 184

The delegate Visitor, when he goes to the Houses to perform his task, presents to the Superior the credentials of his mandate.

⁹⁰ Cfr. CIC 628.

He Performs his task within the limits assigned by the Superior, and reports everything to the Superior who has delegated him.

Art. 185

During the Visit the Religious welcome the delegate Visitor with the affection and respect that they have for the Superior whom he represents; they all collaborate with him in all, with responsibility and loyalty, so that the Visit may be fruitful.

The Superior makes sure that all the Religious of the House be given a real opportunity to be present.

Art. 186

When it is official, the Visit begins and ends with a religious celebration with the whole Community present.

CHAPTER IV
THE GENERAL OFFICERS
(C 161-167)

The General Treasurer

Art. 187

The General Treasurer heads the central economical administration, under the direction of the Superior General with his Council, within the limits set by the universal and proper law⁹¹.

Art. 188

The General Treasurer shall be summoned to the Council when economic affairs and government affairs with significant economic impact are dealt with. The economic significance of the affairs is determined by the Superior General with his Council. The General Treasurer may also ask to be heard in the Council.

Art. 189

The General Treasurer:

1. endeavors to procure and increase the economic resources of the Congregation;
2. updates constantly the inventory of the movable and immovable properties of the Congregation. He records and keeps the inventory of all contracts and their related documents;
3. keeps and safeguards all the titles of origin of the funds and properties of the Congregation, the certificates of revenue and whatever document concerning

⁹¹ C 161.

Art. 212

Also a perpetually professed student, elected by all the religious students of the Province from the only list of the students, participates in the Provincial Chapter with active voice.

Art. 213

The tasks of the Provincial Chapter are:

1. to elect the Provincial Superior and his Council;
2. to verify the status of the personnel and works and to look for ways to promote the religious life and apostolate of the Province according to the charism of the Institute;
3. to handle the most urgent affairs of the Province;
4. to receive and adapt to the Province the resolutions and directives of the General Chapter;
5. to draft or revise, when needed, the Provincial Directory within the powers granted at that level.

Art. 214

The Provincial Superior is elected by the Provincial Chapter and confirmed by the Superior General.

He must be a priest of at least 35 years old and with 10 years of perpetual profession.

In the government of the Province the Provincial Superior is assisted by the Councilors and by the Provincial Treasurer⁹⁵.

Art. 215

The request of confirmation by the Superior General will be presented formally by the President of the Chapter, should the Superior General does not preside over the chapter itself.

The confirmation is granted with a written statement after consulting formally or informally the General Council.

Art. 216

The Provincial Superior remains in office for a four-year term and may be re-elected, but not beyond the second consecutive four-year term.

Art. 217

The Provincial Chapter shall elect four Provincial Councilors. The fourth councilor is elected by the Chapter with the designation of Treasurer. The sectors of animation of the Councilors are assigned within the Provincial Council with assignments analogous to the sectors of General Councilors.

⁹⁵ C 176.

CHAPTER V
THE PROVINCE
(C 168-177)

Art. 206

The Province is a living part of the Congregation, erected by decree of the Superior General.

The Province expresses the sense of belonging to the Congregation through a shared process of formation and apostolic commitment which promotes the inculturation of the charism. The membership to the Province is acquired with the religious profession.

Art. 207

The constitutive elements of the Province are:

1. canonical establishment by formal decree of the Superior General;
2. at least five Houses;
3. a certain vocational, formative and economic autonomy;
4. a defined territory;
5. the Provincial Superior with his Council.

CHAPTER VI
The Provincial Chapter

Art. 208

The Provincial Chapter is celebrated every four years.

Art. 209

The Provincial Chapter is convoked by the Provincial Superior six months before its opening.

In the absence of the Provincial Superior the Provincial Chapter is convoked by the Provincial Vicar as soon as possible, so that it can be celebrated not beyond six months after the vacancy.

Art. 210

The place and date of the Chapter are established by the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council, upon previous agreement with the Superior General.

Art. 211

The General Councilors have active and passive voice when it comes to their participation in the Provincial Chapter. During the celebration of the Chapter they keep only the active voice while they are in office (*perdurante munere*).

the economic status of the Congregation in its original when concerning the General Government; in duplicate when concerning the Circumscriptions or local realities;

4. keeps the record of the incomes, expenses and bonds of the Congregation;
5. provides for the ordinary administration of the General Council, under the direction of the Superior General.

Art. 190

The General Treasurer submits monthly the administrative report of the General Curia to the Superior General and his Council with the cash check. Every semester he submits to the General Council the economic status of the entire Congregation.

Art. 191

The General Treasurer presents to the Superior General the economic problems and suggests possible solutions. For this purpose he keeps the necessary contacts with the those responsible of the Circumscriptions.

Art. 192

The General Treasurer, upon mandate of the Superior General, visits the Circumscriptions of the Congregation in agreement with their Superiors, to become personally aware of the trend of each administration, so as to promote appropriate initiatives.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Art. 193

The Secretary General may be one of the Councilors who is appointed or confirmed at the beginning of the mandate by the Superior General with the consent of his Council⁹².

Art. 194

The Secretary General participates in the meetings of the General Council, to draw up the minutes which he signs with all Councilors and keeps under his personal responsibility.

Art. 195

The Secretary General updates the general register of all members of the Congregation, by Circumscriptions, with the personal data and their respective offices. He keeps in the Archive at least a copy of the essential documentation of each Confrere.

⁹² Cfr. C 163.

Art. 196

The Secretary General takes care of gathering the news concerning the significant events of the Circumscriptions and of the Houses, for the compilation of the history of the Congregation. This documentation is kept in the Central Archive of the Congregation.

Art. 197

Yearly, the Secretary General publishes the status of the religious personnel, and the table of the activities and works of the Congregation.

Art. 198

The Secretary General is also entrusted with the correspondence on behalf of the Superior General for the matters pertaining to the General Council and with the communication of the provisions of the Superior General of the Council's deliberations to the persons concerned. This correspondence is signed by the Superior General and countersigned by him.

Art. 199

Documents which have to remain secret are kept in a separate section and locked up in the Archives of the General Curia.

Let these documents be periodically destroyed. Let those harmful for someone's reputation not be kept longer than necessary. Therefore, in accordance with universal law, let the Superior General check this section of the Archives and destroy those documents considered harmful to the reputation of persons⁹³.

THE GENERAL PROCURATOR

Art. 200

The General Procurator shall be appointed or confirmed by the Superior General with the opinion of his Council.

He presents the affairs of the Congregation to the Apostolic See, upon mandate and in accordance with the Superior General to whom he communicates the acts of the Apostolic See concerning the Congregation or the Religious⁹⁴.

Art. 201

The General Procurator keeps, in the General Archives, the original documents or the authenticated copies of the matters already closed, received from the Apostolic See, with an explanatory note signed by him.

⁹³ Cfr. CIC 489, 2.

⁹⁴ Cfr. C 164.

THE GENERAL POSTULATOR

Art. 202

The General Postulator is presented to the Holy See or confirmed at the beginning of the mandate of the Superior General with the consent of his Council.

The General Postulator:

1. takes care of the causes of beatification and canonization of the Congregation;
2. directs the Office of the Postulation of the Congregation in line with the provisions of the Apostolic See;
3. keeps an accurate record of the income and expenditures of the Postulation and submits the report to the Superior General and his Council;
4. promotes the devotion to the Holy Founder and accepts the handling of the causes of beatification and canonization different from those of the Congregation with the permission of the Superior General, with the consent of his Council.

THE GENERAL ARCHIVIST

Art. 203

The General Archivist is appointed or confirmed at the beginning of the mandate of the Superior General with the opinion of his Council.

The General Archivist is tasked with handling the Central Archives of the Congregation where he will keep methodically classified and inventoried, all documents related to the persons and the history of the Congregation.

Art. 204

The General Archivist takes care of the preservation of documents not only in their paper form but also in a digital archive.

The access and consultation of the Archives are regulated by special directives approved by the Superior General.

Art. 205

A copy of the particularly important documentation of the General Archive, like the Acts of the General Chapters and the minutes of the Council, is kept in a different place.