

Formation for Community Life

The Normative Text – Community Life

Constitution

C6. Whereas all the people of God are made one in the Blood of the New Covenant, our Congregation gives living testimony of this special unity through its community life according to the spirit of St. Gaspar.

C7. Members live in the residence to which they are assigned. The basis of this community life is the bond of charity among the members who form a family in Christ. This living union is given expression by mutual assistance, both spiritual and material, the pursuit of common goals and also by living together, as long as the needs of the apostolate do not demand otherwise.

C8. The bond of charity unites the varied gifts of the members for the service of the Congregation and the Church, so that the differences in culture, gifts, age, and office become advantageous for all the members. Thus they mutually and willingly share their natural and supernatural talents.

C9. In order to foster this mutual aid to one another, the members give special place to the conferences and meetings of the community and to the daily gatherings for such matters as meals, recreation and ordinary conversations. Thus the members mutually inform one another in both the theological and pastoral fields, rendering more effective the mission of our Congregation. Moreover, in these community meetings, especially on the local level, the members gain a knowledge of the affairs of the Congregation, and Directors gain an insight into the thinking and talents of the members and are better able to direct the community.

C10. The bond of charity is fostered among the members by the sharing of communications which deepen the sense of community-consciousness and identity and help the individual members realize that they form an international and multicultural family as a worldwide Congregation. Members have a right to information regarding their affairs, whether individually or collectively. The exercise of this right, however, presupposes that communications are true and as complete as justice and charity allow.

C11. The bond of charity extends in a special way to the sick and aged of the Congregation who in their trials have a special fellowship with the suffering Christ and implore God's grace for the other members. With equal love our dead are remembered in the prayers of all. With their labors they have prepared the harvest the Congregation is now reaping.

C12. The Congregation also gives witness to the bond of charity by welcoming guests, especially priests and religious, into its houses. Nevertheless, there is recognized the need of each member for privacy for his interior recollection, prayer, and study.

C13. The members are to strive to develop their spiritual life, uniting themselves intimately with God, in order to increase their apostolic zeal. Therefore they attach great importance to those means necessary to foster this life, particularly the reading of Sacred Scripture, mental prayer, days of recollection and retreats, as well as frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

C14. Prayer in common is an excellent means of fostering union with Christ and the bond of charity among the members. The concelebration of the Eucharist, the recitation in common of some part of the

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Liturgy of the Hours and the proper prayers of the Congregation are recognized as effective signs of community life.

C15. Community life is to be deeply nourished by the spirit of the Gospel, manifested above all in the counsels which the Lord gave to his disciples.

C16. Imitation of the poor Christ frees the members from every undue attachment to material goods, enriching them for the Kingdom of God and fostering the giving of themselves to the apostolate. The members may acquire, retain, administer and alienate their own temporal goods. However, they give to the Congregation the income from their ministry. The Congregation in turn provides them with the necessities of life and takes care of them especially in time of sickness and old age. With a sense of responsibility and generosity each member expresses his love for the Congregation and for the poor.

C17. Just as the individual members give witness of poverty, so does the Congregation as a whole, being careful to avoid whatsoever may offend those we serve. The Provinces of the Congregation share their resources with one another, those which are better endowed assisting those which suffer need. The acquiring, possessing, administering and alienating of temporal goods by the Congregation is governed by canon 741.

C18. Because of our love of Christ, our members undertake to observe perfect continence in celibacy, which is a form of life of proved worth in the Church. It makes them free for God and for service to their neighbor as they await their resurrection in Christ. In community life, characterized by mutual understanding and fellowship, this charism finds protection and development.

C19. In imitation of Christ who shed his blood, the members are obedient to the Father's will, primarily as manifested in the Gospel. This implies a sacrifice of the will of the member in order to cooperate in community life and in service to the people of God. This obedience finds a practical expression in our observance of the Constitution and of our norms and regulations, as well as in our obedience to the lawfully constituted authority in our Congregation and obedience to the Supreme Pontiff as highest superior (canon 590 §2).

C20. Dialogue among all the members, as it helps them to develop their personalities, must lead them to a realization of that unity which the Lord wished for his disciples. Such unity is a sign of the presence of his Kingdom in their midst. Community life is an important source of their apostolic strength.

General Statutes

S1. The official title of our Congregation is *Congregatio Missionariorum Pretiosissimi Sanguinis Domini Nostri Iesu Christi*. Its abbreviation by custom is C.P.P.S. Every Province is free to translate this title according to the needs of its culture and language.

S2. Our members are privileged to wear the mission crucifix and chain which St. Gaspar gave his confreres as a sign of the Community. Its use is regulated by the Provincial Statutes, which also may provide for another emblem to be worn by the members of the respective Province.

S3. Every year the members are to receive an appropriate vacation according to the norms established in the Provincial or Vicariate Statutes.

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S4. Each Province is to formulate a Manual of Prayers containing those exercises of piety recommended for the whole Congregation as well as those the Province judges opportune for its own use according to the spirit of our tradition.

S5. Members honor the Precious Blood in the celebration of the liturgy, in contemplative prayer, exercises of piety, and study. Through these means they seek to live the spirituality of the Blood of Christ more fully, to understand its relevance for humankind today, and to share this gift with the Church and the world.

S6. To facilitate the study of the theology of the Precious Blood and the understanding of its spirituality, appropriate initiatives should be taken at all levels of the Congregation.

S7. At the death of the Holy Father and of the Moderator General a Mass is celebrated as suffrage in every residence. At the death of a member or a candidate (cf. C35 and S19) of the Congregation all the members are to fulfill the suffragia prescribed in the Provincial Statutes. Once a year every priest is to offer Mass for all the deceased of the other Provinces; the other members offer the suffragia prescribed in their Provincial Statutes. Moreover, one Mass is celebrated for all the faithful departed, another for the deceased of the Congregation and third for our deceased relatives and benefactors at the time and in the places determined by the Provincial Statutes.

S8. Mass stipends received by the members are property of the Congregation and are to be handed over to the Congregation as determined in the Provincial Statutes.

S9. Incorporated members – priests, brothers and students – receive respectively a fitting allowance to be determined by the Provincial Director with the consent of his Council or equivalent body, to take care of those things not provided by the Congregation.

S10. The Congregation, whether a Province, a Vicariate, a Mission, or a residence, is never held responsible for the private debts or obligations incurred by members. Likewise the Congregation assumes no responsibility for unauthorized debts or burdens contracted by members in the name of or in behalf of the Congregation, Province, Vicariate, Mission, or residence.

PROFILE OF THE MISSIONARY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

II. COMMUNITY

We embrace community life which supports our mission. Our community life is sustained and directed by a spirituality of the Precious Blood. In community we pursue the perfection of charity through the bond of charity as sons of St. Gaspar. Our community life is characterized by:

- the bond of charity
- living together, as long as the needs of the apostolate do not demand otherwise (C7)
- a spirit of dialogue
- a sharing of personal faith, gifts, and talents
- mutual encouragement
- a simple lifestyle
- reconciliation
- conversion

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- hospitality
- shared meals, prayer, ministry, and study
- embracing intercultural, international, and intergenerational community living
- an exchange of candidates and members in the international community