

Introduction to the Community Life Symposium
July 23-28, 2017
Rome, Italy

As a Society of Apostolic Life, there are three pillars of our Congregation. They are Mission, Spirituality, and Community Life. Since the Second Vatican Council there has been significant development in our understanding and appreciation of our Precious Blood Spirituality and our apostolic mission. This renewal in our spirituality and mission has taken decades and calls for continual development and ongoing formation.

The most recent General Assembly believes that it is time to turn to the renewal of our community life as well. In the Message from the XXth General Assembly, they asked the newly elected Moderator General and General Council to lead the Congregation in an “substantial exploration of what specifically comprises an authentic living of community life in a CPPS context.” Subsequently the General Curia developed a pastoral plan which included an outline of this exploration. The General Curia envisioned a three part process: 1) discussion in the individual units, 2) an international symposium, 3) implementation and discussion of results of symposium. The plan developed by the General Council was discussed at the September 2016 Meeting of Major Superiors and received their support.

The first step, the discussion in the individual units, will take place from the autumn of 2016 and spring of 2017. The General Curia has provided a discussion document with various resources related to community life as well as a list of discussion questions. It is hoped that from these discussions the members will be able to articulate qualities of an authentic C.P.P.S. community life.

The second step consists of an international symposium in July of 2017. Forty delegates, apportioned from each unit and the General Curia, will gather in Rome for a five day meeting at which they will present the results of the discussions in the units and draft a document on C.P.P.S. community life. During the symposium input will be offered concerning the foundations of our community life. Another day will be devoted to sharing current community life experiences from around the world. This will be followed by a discussion of our hopes, dreams, and desires for community life. From this sharing, underlying values will be identified which will help the delegates draft a final document. Finally, the delegates will discuss the next steps in the ongoing renewal of our C.P.P.S. community life.

The third step concerns the ongoing renewal of our C.P.P.S. community life. The final document from the symposium will be used to facilitate further discussions in the units and will help guide the units in growing towards an authentic C.P.P.S. community life.

More information about the Community Life Symposium will be shared throughout the months leading up to the symposium. The renewal of religious life can not be accomplished in a five day workshop. Instead, the renewal of religious life is an ongoing endeavor. This three-step process is only the beginning of the renewal of our community life. We pray that these efforts at renewal will help us be more faithful to St. Gaspar’s vision for the Congregation and enable us to proclaim the Gospel of Christ more effectively.