

# Community Life Symposium

## Discussion Document- For the Meeting of Major Superiors

### From the Message of the XX General Assembly:

The Assembly challenges the General Curia to:

- Similar to the work done over the decades with spirituality and mission, the Assembly calls on General Curia to lead the worldwide Congregation in a substantial exploration of what specifically comprises an authentic living of community life in a CPPS context. One of St. Gaspar's unique contributions to the Church was his notion of mission houses. The General Curia is called on to engage the entire Congregation in further developing this form of community life and mission.

The Assembly challenges each of the units to:

- Engage in a series of significant guided conversations about what it means to live authentically and what it means to live a simple lifestyle.
- Develop and/or deepen our commitment to working towards the fullest participation possible of lay associates in our communal life, spirituality, and apostolic work.

### From our Pastoral Plan:

**GOAL: Create within the Congregation a shared understanding of what constitutes an "authentic living of community life in the CPPS context."**

- a. The General Curia will lead the worldwide Congregation in a substantial exploration of what specifically comprises an authentic living of community life in a CPPS context. Initial planning will begin at the January 2016 General Council meeting.
  - i. We will prepare and facilitate a Community Life Symposium (CLS) in the summer of 2017. Note: the purpose of this symposium will not be to develop or define a single authentic model of CPPS Community Life. Rather it is to create a frame work of shared understanding of the elements of Community life that must be included as a CPPS model of Community Life is created in the various contexts of the Congregation. Planning will commence at the January 2016 General Council meeting.
  - ii. Prior to the CLS (September 2016-May 2017) in each of the units there will be an exploration of this pillar of the Congregation within their context.
    - The General Curia will prepare materials and a format to guide this discussion, which may be conducted in manner of the unit's choosing. e.g.- district meeting; house *congressus*, etc.
    - The process will specifically explore the ideas of "mission houses" and "simple lifestyle."

## **Proposed Process**

1. Dialogue process in each unit
2. Delegates are appointed to represent each unit
3. Community Life Symposium—delegates discuss and draft document
4. Plan for the continuation of Community Life dialogue in the units using the document we develop

The term *community* can refer to different realities in different units. Some units think of the *community* as the house community, while others use the term *community* to refer to the unit. We want the dialogue within the units and at the Symposium to be inclusive of both understandings:

- The way in which we live together in local communities or houses.
- The relationships between the members in the unit; as well as the relationship of incorporated members and associates.

## **Community Life Symposium**

### **Overall objective**

The delegates will bring to the symposium the results of the dialogue process in their units, representing the perspective of their members in producing a document that will guide the units in defining authentic CPPS community life in their cultural context.

### **Date & Location**

The Community Life Symposium is scheduled for 9-15 July 2017 at the Italian Provincial House at Via Narni, 29 Rome.

### **Number of delegates: (total of 40 delegates)**

General Curia

Units with 10 or less members—one delegate

Units with 11-35 members—two delegates

Units with 36 or more members—three delegates

Guinea Bissau, Colombia, and Mexico—one delegate each, total of three.

Delegates should be appointed by the director and council. We hope that one of the delegates will be the director so that we can have an MMS meeting on 15 July, if needed.

### **Tentative Plan for the Community Life Symposium**

Day 1: Foundational Resources—Presentation on the CPPS patrimony and canonical aspects of Societies of Apostolic Life

Day 2: Current Experience—written reports from units

Day 3: Hope, Dreams & Desires—written reports from units

Day 4: Identifying the Universal Values and producing the document—facilitated day

Day 5: Steps towards conversion and renewal of Community Life—facilitated day