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La Curia Generalizia

Fr. Francesco Bartoloni, cpps
Moderatore Generale

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Official Decree

General Curia Commission for the Indian Vicariate

The situation of conflict in the Vicariate of India has been a concern of the Moderator General and his Council for some time, both this administration and the preceding one. Through many ordinary means the General Curia has attempted to respond to this situation and to effect reconciliation. Among the ordinary means employed has been numerous interventions with the elected leadership of the Vicariate of India and the Italian Province; several extended visitations of the members of the Vicariate by the Moderator General and members of the General Council; the sending of missionaries to preach the message of reconciliation at the annual Vicariate retreat; the leading of a process of reconciliation within the Vicariate by the members of the General Curia; guidance in an effort to revamp a deficient program of formation; etc. These efforts have been unsuccessful in bringing about a desired renewal of the Vicariate and have not enabled the members to embody the bond of charity and the charism of our Congregation.

Importantly, it is the conclusion of the Moderator General and the General Council that the elected leadership of the Vicariate of India and the Italian Province has been unable to recognize the seriousness of the problem or to acknowledge their role in the creation of the conflicted situation within the Vicariate. Elected leadership also does not seem to recognize how their actions continue to be a hindrance in bringing reconciliation to this situation. This is made most clear by the recent decision of the Vicariate of India (2009 Vicariate Business Assembly) to request that the Vicariate be split into two distinct units; a course of action which was brought about through the leadership of the Vicariate Director and the Provincial Director. This was contrary to the expressed objection of the Moderator General.

Subsequently, in the 2010 Business Assembly of the Italian Province, under the leadership of the Provincial Director, the province approved the request of the Indian Vicariate (with a qualifying condition) to be split into two vicariates. This decision was made without consideration of the requirements given to the Italian Provincial Director for making a valid decision. This process was communicated through a letter sent to the Italian Provincial Director and his Council on January 10, 2010. That letter outlined a clear and required process (in accord with the Normative Text and approved polices) that was to be followed by the Italian Province in order to make a valid decision about the request from the Indian Vicariate. Because the required process was not followed, the Moderator General, with the consent of his Council, on June 28, 2010 declared the decision made by the Italian Province in their Business Assembly to be invalid.

This disregard of the procedural requirements, in addition to the general disregard of the expressed concerns of the Moderator General and the assistance and guidance offered, has brought this matter to a head. The Moderator General, with the consent of his Council, have decided that an extraordinary intervention into the situation in the Indian Vicariate is required for the good of the Vicariate and of the Congregation as a whole.

That extraordinary intervention is the appointment of the General Curia Commission for the Indian Vicariate. The Commission will be installed and begin its duties effective March 25, 2011.

Commission Composition

The Commission is composed of four members named by the Moderator General and his Council. One member is appointed as Head Commissioner.

Fr. Gianni Piepoli, CPPS of the Italian Province – Head Commissioner

Fr. Emanuele Lupi, CPPS of the Italian Province – Resident Commissioner

Fr. Angelo Anthony, CPPS of the Cincinnati Province – Non-resident Commissioner

[The fourth Commissioner will be a Non-CPPS member of a religious congregation, who is an Indian. He will be appointed at a later date.]

Commission Accountability

The Commission reports directly to and is accountable to the Moderator General and the General Council. The Moderator General and his Council will be actively involved in supporting the work of the Commission, demonstrating concretely the importance that is placed on the work of this Commission.

Commission Responsibility and Authority

The Head of the Commission is appointed Major Superior of the Vicariate. There will be no elected vicar and council during the term of the Commission.

The Commission will have the responsibility of the Vicariate Council. The Commission will have the authority to appoint others to positions to assist them in their work, such as Legal Representative, Vicariate Treasurer or Vicariate Secretary. However, these appointed positions will not be Vicariate Council positions.

The Commission will function within the Vicariate Statutes, except in matters in which the authority of the Moderator General to oversee the work of the Commission is compromised. The Moderator General and his Council will have the authority to decide questions as to the authority of the Commission and other matters which the Moderator General deems necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the Commission and the wellbeing of the Congregation and its members.

Commission Purpose

The primary goal of the work of the Commission is the revitalization of the Vicariate and reconciliation within the membership of the Vicariate. Of great concern is that the members of the Vicariate live together in right relationship as equal brothers within the bond of charity and as concrete expressions of our charism. The intention is to assist the Vicariate to be a faithful reflection of the three pillars of our Society of Apostolic Life as described in our Normative Texts.

The Commission is responsible for the overall administration of the Vicariate, including the planning and development of future direction. Guided by the policies of the Congregation, this

may include an evaluation of possible structural changes, such as, becoming a Province, becoming a Vicariate with a Mission, etc.

Special attention will be given to the formation of candidates and the ongoing formation of the members as a means to revitalize and renew the community.

Special Considerations

- The Italian Province remains responsible for the financial wellbeing of the Indian Vicariate.
- The appointment of this Commission does not permanently change the relationship of the Indian Vicariate to the Italian Province. Rather a temporary change is made to allow for the work of the Commission and the direct oversight of that work by the Moderator General.
- The authority and responsibility of the Italian Provincial Director within the Indian Vicariate is temporarily suspended during the term of the Commission.
- The appointment of this Commission does not change the rights and responsibilities of the members of the Indian Vicariate in the affairs of the Italian Province, as delineated in the Provincial Statutes of the Italian Province. The Moderator General reserves the right to resolve questions about the application of the Vicariate and Provincial Statutes, especially in regard to the relationship of the two units, during the duration of the work of the Commission.
- The Italian Provincial Director and members of the Italian Province will be kept informed of the work of the Commission and the current situation in the Vicariate.

This Decree is issued on January 25, 2011 in Rome by the Very Reverend Francesco Bartoloni, CPPS, Moderator General, with the approval of the General Council.



Francesco Bartoloni, CPPS