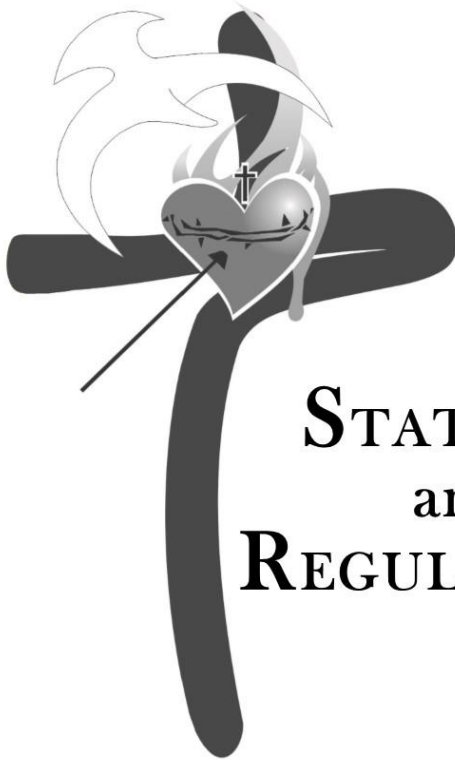


STATUTES and REGULATIONS

Apostleship of the Cross
Christ the Priest Region



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Apostleship of the Cross
Christ the Priest Region

Editorial Director:

Regional Council

Christ the Priest Region

Cross design:

Lucero Castañeda Sánchez

Translation:

Madeleine Brink and Marcia Giménez

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APOSTLESHIP OF THE CROSS REGIONAL COUNCIL CHRIST THE PRIEST REGION

March 3, 2020

Dear sister/brother Apostle of the Cross,

May the Holy Spirit enlighten your understanding and strengthen your will so that we, as priestly people, may promote the growth of the Apostleship of the Cross in the Christ the Priest Region according to the signs of the times.

This document is the new edition of the *Statutes* of the Apostleship of the Cross (SAC) approved on October 5, 2014, now enriched with the *Regulations* of the Christ the Priest Region (RCPR) approved on October 7, 2019. Many people, with great generosity and service, threw themselves into this work to make this document available to you. It is now your turn to study and bring to life the guidelines and essential elements contained therein and ensure their observance for all people within the Region.

We encourage you to go forward exercising trust and obedience to God and grow in Christian love and service. May Blessed Concepcion Cabrera's — laywoman, mystic and apostle — desire to «extend throughout the whole world the Apostleship of the Cross, showing the true journey of holiness» (AC CCA 10,174), burn in your own heart.

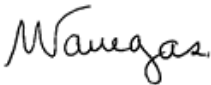
Receive our love and prayer for you and yours, your sisters and brothers of the Regional Council of the Christ the Priest Region,



Marcia Giménez



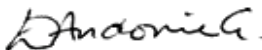
Dagoberto Orozco



Myrla Vanegas



Lucero Taboada



Estela Andonie



Roberto Saldivar, M.Sp.S.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STATUTES

Dear sisters and brothers of the Apostleship of the Cross in the Christ the Priest Region,

I pray that the Virgin Mary accompanies you on your journey in search of God, communal life, apostolic service, and permanent formation.

1. You have in your hands the newly revised edition of the *Statutes* of the Apostleship of the Cross (SAC). They were approved in the Central Council's session on October 5, 2014. Since the *Statutes* «become effective immediately upon approval» (SAC 83), the earlier versions are no longer effective.

2. The Ninth General Assembly (2005), in keeping with the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, decreed that the *Statutes* and *Regulations* of the Apostleship of the Cross should be renewed. Then, the Tenth General Assembly (2009) reiterated the decree.

Since 2010, the Central Council has been working to respond to this decree. In order to accomplish this task, a Commission was designated to write many of the sections of the *Statutes*. Each section was revised and corrected multiple times by the Central Council and the Commission. Both groups consulted with a number of Apostles of the Cross from each Region.

At the Eleventh General Assembly (2014) the amendments were voted on and finally, «the Director General, with the consent of the Central Council, and based

on what was approved by the General Assembly, [gave the] final approval to the *Statutes*» (SAC 84).

3. The Central Council's objective regarding the *Statutes* was to offer a text that would reflect the relationship between the Apostleship of the Cross and the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, as well as delineate the current organization of the Apostleship of the Cross into Regions.

The criteria for the reformulation of the *Statutes* were:

- 1) Integrity: that they contain all of the elements that are fundamental to the identity of the Apostleship of the Cross.
- 2) Brevity: that they only state what is essential.
- 3) Simplicity: that they are written in clear and simple language.
- 4) To update the language, while maintaining its theological and legislative precision.
- 5) The *Statutes* have to do with the entire Work of the Apostleship of the Cross; each Regional Council will formulate *Regulations* for its Region.

4. «The *Statutes* are general principles and norms that apply to the entire Apostleship of the Cross» (SAC 83). The text of the *Statutes* contains a theology, some laws, and an organizational and operational proposal... but above all, they contain a spirituality: the Spirituality of the Cross that God gifted to the Church through Concepción Cabrera de Armida. The *Statutes* also contain a charism: that of the Apostleship of the Cross which captivated Archbishop Ramón Ibarra, Father Félix, and many other people — *including you and me*. And, finally, they contain a missionary project: «to extend the reign of the Holy Spirit, building the priestly people, fostering serious and mature lives of holiness, and strengthening the Christian commitment to solidarity» (SAC 29).

The *Statutes* are an incarnation of the charism of the Apostleship of the Cross in the current circumstances of the Church and of the world. As an echo of the Gospels, the *Statutes* are the soul, the blood, the very life of the Apostleship of the Cross. They give identity, unity, direction, and dynamism to the entire Work and to each Apostle of the Cross.

5. One of the tasks the Christ the Priest Regional Council has to achieve is to translate the *Statutes* into English, since the materials in the Region are provided in both English and Spanish. Another task is «to develop the *Regional Regulations*» (SAC 68.b), keeping in mind the many places in the United States where groups are found, as well as the various cultures that the Apostles of the Cross belong to within the Christ the Priest Region. The *Statutes* clearly indicate which elements must be stipulated within said *Regulations* (cf. SAC 86).

6. The revision of the *Statutes* will serve no purpose if the members of the Apostleship of the Cross do not know them, or if, knowing them, they do not live by them. For this reason, each Apostle of the Cross — *you* —, moved by the Holy Spirit and from your own cultural perspective, should read the *Statutes*, study them, prayerfully meditate them, and above all, live them. You should also make these Statutes known to others, in order to encourage them to follow «Jesus Christ priest and victim, contemplative and solidary» through the Apostleship of the Cross (SAC 1).

I ask our God, Creator-Redeemer-Sanctifier, to give each Apostle of the Cross — *including you* — the grace to receive

these revised *Statutes* with a faithful soul, a disciple's mind, and an ardent heart, so that the fruits that God desires and that the world needs may be forged in each of them — *in you*.

Your brother and servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fernando Torre, MSPS". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fernando Torre, MSPS
Director General
October 14, 2014

DECREE OF APPROVAL FOR THE REGULATIONS OF THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE CROSS IN THE CHRIST THE PRIEST REGION

I, Fr. Francisco Daniel Rivera Sánchez, M.Sp.S, Director General of the Apostleship of the Cross, in accordance with #87 in our *Statutes*, do hereby extend the current Decree of Approval for the Regulations of the Apostleship of the Cross in the Christ the Priest Region.

We raise our prayers to the Lord, asking that each Apostle of the Cross may receive the grace to live in communion with Jesus and the Church, building the Priestly people, inspiring others to holiness by giving witness by the way they live, and strengthening their commitment to solidarity (cf. SAC 28, 29).

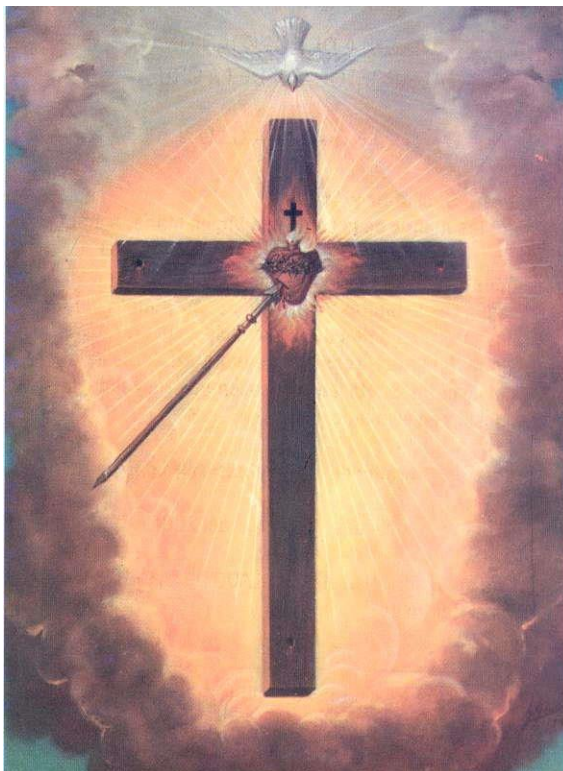
Your brother in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Rivera Sánchez' with 'M.Sp.S.' written below it in a smaller, more cursive script.

Francisco Daniel Rivera Sánchez, M.Sp.S.
Director General

Given on October 7, 2019 in Mexico City.
On the Feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary.

SYMBOL OF THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE CROSS



CROSS OF THE APOSTOLATE

CHAPTER I



NATURE, ORIGINS, AND SYMBOL

1. The Apostleship of the Cross is an association of Christians in the Church who, moved by the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus Christ priest and victim, contemplative and solidary, and who, in communion with Jesus, collaborate with His salvific mission.
2. The Apostleship of the Cross is open to all People of God: lay persons, religious, and ordained ministers.
3. Mrs. Concepción Cabrera de Armida was inspired by God to begin the Apostleship of the Cross. It was founded on May 3, 1895 by Archbishop Ramón Ibarra y González with the collaboration of Father Alberto Mir, SJ. Pope Leo XIII approved the Apostleship of the Cross on May 25, 1898. On July 9, 1926, Pope Pius XI entrusted the care and direction of the Apostleship of the Cross to the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit at a time when the Superior General was Father Félix de Jesús Rougier, an enthusiastic advocate of the Work (cf. 52).
4. The Apostleship of the Cross is the first of the five Works of the Cross. The others are the Sisters of the Cross of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Covenant of Love with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Fraternity of Christ the Priest, and the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit.
5. The Apostleship of the Cross and the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit are two distinct Works united by their

I. Nature, origins, and symbol

common spirituality, mission, and history. The governance and drive of the Apostleship of the Cross is carried out jointly between the two Works.

6. Our symbol is the Cross of the Apostolate, and the intercessory cry of Conchita, «Jesus, Savior of all people, save them!» embodies our life-long mission.



CHAPTER II



COMMITMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

COMMITMENT

7. Belonging to the Apostleship of the Cross entails a commitment. It is essential to this commitment:
 - a) To follow Jesus Christ priest and victim, contemplative and solidary;
 - b) To do the will of the Father, with love;
 - c) To be docile to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit;
 - d) To lovingly embrace our daily cross, and, inspired by the Gospel, fulfill our duties according to our state of life;
 - e) To offer Jesus to the Father, and offer ourselves in union with Him in all realities of life;
 - f) To offer Mass and Communion for ordained ministers and vocations;
 - g) To give witness to the faith and proclaim the Gospel;
 - h) To commit ourselves to building a more just and dignified world;
 - i) And thereby, to extend the reign of the Holy Spirit through the formation of a priestly people, in union with the Virgin Mary and following her example.
8. This commitment is lived out according to the specific approaches suggested by each Region and the possibilities of each person, through the search for and willingness to have a personal experience of God, through living the communal life according to each person's vocation, through ministry with social and

ecclesial impact, through their engagement in comprehensive formation, and through any other actions proposed by the Regional Council.

8.1 In order to fully live this commitment, all Apostles of the Cross ordinarily take part in the community life of a Small Community (cf. 51.6), according to the guidelines of the Center to which they belong.

8.2 The Apostles of the Cross renew their commitment every year (cf. 9.4). It is advisable that this renewal take place within a liturgical celebration, and if possible, on an important date for the Center or the Work (cf. 19.2).

MEMBERSHIP

9. Membership in the Apostleship of the Cross entails the following requirements:

- a) Be familiar with and accept the *Statutes* of the Work and the *Regional Regulations* (cf. 83, 85);
- b) Request membership and be accepted (cf. 86.a);
- c) Publicly express the Commitment to the Work;
- d) Participate in the Rite of Taking the Cross of the Apostolate.

9.1 It is the Local Council's responsibility to accept candidates.

9.2 Membership is made manifest through the following external signs:

- *Conferral of the Commitment Card;*
- *Inclusion in the Center Registry.*

9.3 The Rite of Taking the Cross may happen after having completed the second year of Basic Formation and active participation in the Small Community. It is advisable that the rite take place in a communal liturgical celebration, and if possible, on an important date for the Center or the Work (cf. 19.2).

9.4 The following Prayer of Consecration is used for the Rite of Taking the Cross and the Renewal of Commitment:

Jesus, Priest and Victim, through the hands of Mary, I consecrate myself to your Sacred Heart in the Apostleship of the Cross, and I commit myself to live according to its Statutes and Regulations. Accept me as a living host in union with your sacrifice on the Cross for the glory of God the Father, the consolation of your Heart, and the reign of the Holy Spirit in your priests, in all the Church, and in the whole world. Jesus, Savior of all people, save them!

DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

10. Members can voluntarily leave the Apostleship of the Cross by notifying their immediate authority of their decision.
11. The Regional Council is responsible for studying and resolving cases that may merit the dismissal of a member or group from the Work. With transparency and charity, the member or group will be notified of the dismissal, and the reasons for it.

- 11.1 *If serious reason arises to remove a member of the Regional Council from office, that removal will be decided by the vote of the absolute majority of the members of said Council, after due consult of or confirmation from the Director General.*
- 11.2 *If the removal pertains to a member of the Local Council, the separation will be decided according to the vote of the absolute majority of the members of the Local Council, after consultation with the lay Representative of that Area.*
- 11.3 *When, at any level, a lay Council member dies or leaves office due to disability, resignation or dismissal, the remaining members of the Council shall elect by absolute majority a person who can take the position temporarily until the following elections or assembly are held, as the case may be. If the person in question is the Coordinator, an extraordinary election will be held.*



CHAPTER III

EXPERIENCE OF GOD



12. We live in gratitude to the Father because, through Jesus, He has made us His children, and through the Holy Spirit He has brought us into His life of communion. Through our Baptism and Confirmation, we participate in the paschal mystery of Christ and His priesthood. We identify ourselves as brothers/sisters to all people and collaborate in building His priestly people, in order to create a more just and loving society.

12.1 We encourage an experience of God through our baptismal priesthood in its three dimensions of prophet, priest and king.

12.2 We are agents of peace, communion and reconciliation and we show this through acts of solidarity, especially towards the needy.

13. We respond to Jesus' invitation: «If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me» (Lk 9:23). This requires that we live with Jesus, imitate Him, adopt His ideals, and assume His mission, so we are transformed into Him.

13.1 We live the «Chain of Love» in faithfulness to God and our brothers and sisters, making a continuous offering of our lives. We study its basis and encourage its practice through virtues.

14. The Holy Spirit is the interior teacher that leads us to adopt the priestly attitudes of Christ: love, purity, and sacrifice, and to intercede before the Father for the salvation of His people, giving witness to, and promoting the values of the Kingdom, according to one's own state of life.

14.1 With purity of intention we make a commitment to live coherently, walk in truth and be transparent in all our actions.

15. Following Mary's example, we are docile to the actions of the Holy Spirit, and like her, we express solidarity with, and compassion for, those who suffer, sharing our experience of God with them and committing ourselves to them. In this way, we demonstrate the saving power of suffering.

15.1 We live and promote devotion to Mary Most Holy, mother of God and our mother; she is the model we follow in our transformation into Jesus Christ priest and victim.

16. The Liturgy is the source and summit of our lives, and we fully, actively, and consciously participate in the celebration of the Sacraments.

16.1 We participate in the Eucharistic celebration on Sundays and as frequently as we can during the week, as well as the main liturgical celebrations of the Work (cf. 19.2) and the Center.

17. We identify ourselves as women and men of prayer, and we nourish our interior life through the Eucharist, the Sacred Scriptures, the Magisterium of the Church, and the sources of the Spirituality of the Cross.

17.1 We promote personal and community prayer.

17.2 We incorporate the prayers of the Work into our prayer time.

17.3 As a result of our loving attention to God, we pray every day, and as often as possible, the «Offering of the Incarnate Word».

17.4 We attend as much as we can retreats, workshops, encounters and celebrations hosted by the Region or Center.

18. We heed the call to be contemplatives in the world. We acknowledge God's presence, particularly in the signs of the times. Drawing upon this, we listen to His invitation to serve, in solidarity with those who suffer or are in need.

19. We give thanks to God for His gifts, especially by celebrating the feasts and important dates of the Work.

19.1 We celebrate important feasts and anniversaries of the Work and the Centers in an effort to confirm our belonging to the Apostleship of the Cross and as an external sign of the commitment we have undertaken.

- 19.2 *The most significant dates of our Work are:*
- *January 14, 1894 — Birth of the Works of the Cross;*
 - *February 4, 1903 — Providential encounter between Venerable Servant of God Félix de Jesús Rougier and Blessed Concepción Cabrera;*
 - *March 3, 1937 — Death of Blessed Concepción Cabrera;*
 - *March 25, 1906 — Mystical Incarnation, Blessed Concepción Cabrera's central grace;*
 - *May 3, 1895 — Foundation of the Apostleship of the Cross.*
20. We feel called to live a deep and intimate experience of God in all areas of our lives.
- 20.1 *We encourage a process of spiritual direction for all our members.*



CHAPTER IV

COMMUNAL LIFE



21. We are a priestly people forming vibrant and dynamic communities, centered on Jesus Christ priest and victim, contemplative and solidary, and moved by the Holy Spirit. The Small Community is the ordinary space where we learn to live as Christians, mature in faith, enliven our hope, and strengthen our solidarity.

21.1 Communion is lived in Small Communities (cf. 51.6) which are directed by the signs of times and promote a life of faith and mission.

21.2 The frequency of the meetings is determined by each Center.

22. We welcome people in all stages of life, all social and economic classes, all states of life, and any new circumstance that may arise. This requires us to be open to inculturation, adapt to the new cultures in which we live, to have an open mind and heart, and to respect different expressions of life.

23. The flexibility in the style and organization of our small communities allows each Region to adapt to the diverse characteristics, needs, and requirements of its members.

24. Because the Small Community is a way of being members of the Church, we strive to maintain communion with all levels of the Church.

24.1 We actively participate and cooperate in the activities of our Dioceses and Parishes.

25. The spirit of fraternal communion that animates members of the Apostleship of the Cross is the foundation for establishing deep relationships of solidarity, charity, and respect among the various members of the priestly people – the laity, religious, and ordained ministers. This is made manifest through the complementarity of the different vocations, and through working as a team.
26. Our ministry of communion will extend beyond the church setting, seeking cooperation and communion with those who dream of building a more fraternal, just, and humane world.
27. Our communal life allows us to participate responsibly in events and activities organized at the local, regional, or general level, as well as those of the Works of the Cross and the Family of the Cross.
- 27.1 *We promote fraternity among the different institutions of the Family of the Cross, sharing in community the joy, faith and spirituality that gives us life.*



CHAPTER V

MINISTRY WITH SOCIAL AND ECCLESIAL IMPACT



28. The call to be Apostles of the Cross and of the Holy Spirit asks us to live in communion with Jesus and the Church, inspiring others to holiness by giving witness with our way of life.
29. As Apostles of the Cross, we are sent to extend the reign of the Holy Spirit, building the priestly people, fostering serious and mature lives of holiness, and strengthening the Christian commitment to solidarity.
30. We have communal services and ministries, in accordance with our charism and identity. These projects stem from the Regions, and are planned, inculturated, relevant, inspired by the Gospel, and engaging, according to the gifts and talents of each person.
 - 30.1 *It is the responsibility of each Center to identify and promote service projects at the pastoral-ecclesial and civic-social level.*
31. At the example of Jesus, and in response to our apostolic commitment, we seek to encounter those who live in need or are suffering.
 - 31.1 *We promote solidarity in favor of our brothers and sisters most in need and most vulnerable around us.*

32. We establish fraternal relationships with ordained ministers and take an interest in their spiritual and material needs.

32.1 We promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life through concrete actions set up by each Center.

33. Faithful to our charism we collaborate – like living stones of the Church – in the parishes and dioceses where our communities are established.

34. Faithful to the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, we participate in the transformation of political and socio-economic structures throughout the world. This allows us to live Christian charity seeking to form networks of collaboration and solidarity at the local, national, and international levels.

34.1 We concern ourselves with circumstances of discrimination, marginalization or oppression.

35. We encourage our members to join civil associations and organizations and, as agents of change, pursue the common good through political and economic action, as well as the promotion of culture, human rights, and care for the environment.



CHAPTER VI



COMPREHENSIVE FORMATION

PRINCIPLES

36. Members of the Apostleship of the Cross follow a process of comprehensive formation. Imbued with the Spirituality of the Cross, this process is progressive and structured, continuous and permanent, so that the spirit of the Cross becomes the inspiration that animates our life.
37. Our formation will have a marked ecclesial and social orientation.
38. The purpose of our formation is to guide us personally and communally towards the transformation into Jesus Christ priest and victim, contemplative and solidary, in order to give glory to God, console the Heart of Jesus, and extend the reign of the Holy Spirit. This process encompasses the building of a Priestly People, fostering mature lives of holiness, and strengthening the Christian commitment to solidarity in the style of the Good Samaritan portrayed in the Gospel (cf. Lk 10:25-37).
39. Formation unfolds according to the principles and criteria of the Church and of these *Statutes*, and in accordance with the guidelines of the Regional Councils acting within their jurisdictions.

STAGES

40. There are two stages in the formation process: the Catechumenate (which includes the first experience of evangelization and basic catechesis) and on-going formation.

40.1. The stage of Basic Formation (or Catechumenate) is at least two years long.

41. Following the Basic Formation, the Apostles of the Cross continue with on-going formation, which prepares them to respond to the needs of the Church and the world.

SCOPE

42. Formation in the Apostleship of the Cross is comprehensive. It encompasses the different dimensions of the person: human (as an individual, in family and community life, socially), spiritual, apostolic, and intellectual.
43. As Apostles of the Cross we strive to grow in missionary spirit and ability to collaborate with others, to develop an interest for what happens around us, and to assume the responsibilities of being mature citizens who promote a more solidary world.

MEANS

44. For our formation, we focus our attention on fostering a genuine experience of God (in our prayer,

discernment, interest in what happens in the world, study...), a profound community life (in dialogue, fraternity, sharing of experiences...), and a commitment to social and ecclesial service to all (through compassion, solidarity, apostolic action, expansion of the Work...).

45. Each Region will provide the necessary means to support the formation of the Apostles of the Cross.

45.1 The process of formation for the Apostles of the Cross may be developed utilizing different materials prepared by the Christ the Priest Region, as well as other materials that have been approved by the Regional Council.

AGENTS

46. Each Apostle of the Cross has the primary responsibility for his or her own formation.
47. The Regional Councils are responsible for promoting and ensuring that formation is carried out in accordance with these *Statutes*, through the mid-level representatives of the Region, paying special attention to the election and training of Facilitators.
48. Facilitators fulfill their ministry in the name of the Apostleship of the Cross. In this way they effectively contribute to the development and life of the Work, ensuring the comprehensive formation of all members, and serving both the community and each individual.

- 48.1 In order to become a Facilitator, one must have finished the Basic Formation stage, and have completed the Regional program of Formation for Leaders.*
- 48.2 It is the responsibility of the Local Councils to choose and assign the Facilitators of the Center and prepare them according to the Regional program of Formation for Leaders.*
- 48.3 It is advisable that the same Facilitator accompanies the Small Community during its Basic Formation stage.*



CHAPTER VII



ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

ORGANIZATION

49. The Apostleship of the Cross is organized into Regions. A “Region” is the combination of persons and/or groups of the Apostleship of the Cross who are under the pastoral care of a Regional Council. Every person or group belongs to a Region.

49.1 The Christ the Priest Region encompasses all of the United States.

50. The term “group” refers to Local Centers, sections, small communities, etc., of the Apostleship of the Cross, according to the individual structure of each Region.

50.1 The Christ the Priest Region is organized into Areas, Centers and Small Communities.

51. Regions are self-sufficient in their internal leadership, organization, formation, and finances. They are connected to each other and, through their regional representatives, maintain a direct relationship with the Central Council of the Work for all intents and purposes.

Areas

51.1 Areas are determined and established by the Regional Council with the goal of facilitating the organization of the Centers, accompanying the life of the members, and serving as an effective liaison with the Regional Council.

51.2 A lay Representative heads the Area, he/she is a member of the Regional Council.

Centers

51.3 Several Small Communities make up a Center.

51.4 The minimal requirements to establish a Center are:

- It must be autonomous in its organization and operation;*
- It must have enough resources to guarantee the formation of its members;*
- It must have recognition from the Diocese to which it belongs;*
- It must be approved by the Regional Council.*

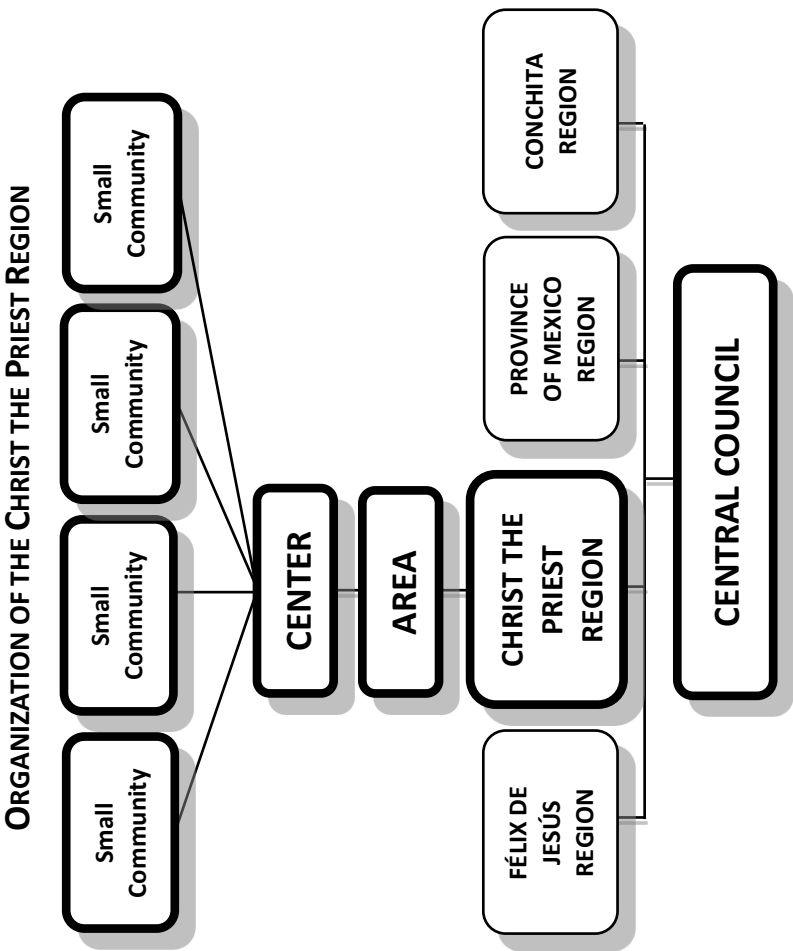
51.5 A Local Council leads each Center (cf. 69.1).

Small Community

51.6 The life and mission of the Apostleship of the Cross in the Region becomes a reality through the Small Communities, where Christian maturity and community formation are fostered (cf. 8.1).

51.7 The number of members of the community must be such that they foster fraternal communion and a solid Christian and spiritual formation.

51.8 The Small Communities meet periodically and are under the guidance of a Facilitator.



GOVERNANCE

52. The governance of the Apostleship of the Cross has been entrusted by the Holy See to the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit (cf. 3), whose Superior General is thus the Director General of the Work. He is supported in his duties by the Vice-Director General and the other members of the Central Council.

52.1 The leadership and coordination of the Christ the Priest Region is the responsibility of the Regional Council (cf. 66).

53. The central offices of the Apostleship of the Cross are located at: Av. Universidad 1702, Barrio de Santa Catarina, Delegación Coyoacán, 04010 México, D.F.

LEADERSHIP SERVICE

54. Leadership in the Apostleship of the Cross has the duty to seek and put into practice the will of God.
55. All members serving in the Governance of the Work, at every level, be they lay, religious, or ordained ministers:
- a) Exercise authority with an evangelical attitude of service, openness, dialogue, respect, and shared responsibility;
 - b) Promote the identity and the unity of the Work, and seek the well-being of each person;
 - c) Foster relationships with the rest of the Works of the Cross, with the Family of the Cross, and with Church related organizations and leadership relative to them;

- d) Possess a deep knowledge and experience of the Spirituality of the Cross, love for the Apostleship of the Cross, and the ability to offer this service;
- e) Are attentive to the signs of the times to ensure that the Work responds to the changes God presents through the events of history.

55.1 Authority at the different levels is exercised with a spirit of shared responsibility.

55.2 People in leadership service at the different levels within the Region must identify with the mission, vision and objectives of the Apostleship of the Cross and have basic knowledge of the structure and history of the Work in the Region.

55.3 If the leader is a lay person, he/she must be an active member of the Apostleship of the Cross and must have taken the Cross of the Apostolate.

55.4 The length of the term of service for a lay person in any position is three years.

55.5 Lay people in any function within the Region can be elected for a second term in the same position.

COUNCILS

Central Council

56. The Central Council is a sign and agent of unity, a source of vitality for the life and mission of the Work as a whole, and a promoter of its growth and expansion.

57. The Central Council consists of:
 - The Director General;
 - The Vice-Director General;
 - The Regional Directors or their respective Delegates;
 - Two lay people from each Region, at least one of whom is a member of the Regional Council, appointed or elected in accordance with their respective *Regional Regulations* (cf. 86.c).
58. The Director General has authority over the entire Apostleship of the Cross. He is the agent of unity in the Central Council and in the Work as a whole.
59. The Vice-Director General is a Missionary of the Holy Spirit from their General Council and is appointed to this position by the Superior General.
60. The Regional Director, in the case of the Provinces of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, is the Provincial Superior, who can appoint a Missionary of the Holy Spirit from his Province or a member of his Provincial Council to be the Regional Delegate. In the case of the Region Conchita Cabrera de Armida, the Regional Director is a Missionary of the Holy Spirit appointed by the Superior General; he may also be the Vice-Director General.
61. The Regional Delegate represents his Regional Director, both in the Region and in the Central Council.

62. All members of the Central Council, except the Vice Director General, have the right to speak and vote in the Council's sessions. The Vice-Director General always has a right to speak; he will only vote if the Director General is absent.
63. A secretary and a treasurer will be appointed from among the members of the Central Council.
64. The functions of the Central Council are to:
 - a) Promote the identity, renewal, and deepening of the life and mission of the Work as a whole, in accordance with its charism, the guidance of the Church, the signs of the times, and the urgent pastoral needs of the world;
 - b) Foster an appropriate relationship of unity and plurality between the Central Council and the Regional Councils in the leadership of the Work;
 - c) Create new Regions or suppress them;
 - d) Coordinate everything related to the General Assembly (cf. 70);
 - e) Implement the directives issued by the General Assemblies;
 - f) Care for the material goods of the Work (cf. 88);
 - g) Participate in other meetings that pertain to the Work as a whole.
65. To fulfill its commitment, the Central Council meets as often as it deems necessary, and, at the discretion of the Director General, whenever important matters require it.

Regional Council

66. The Regional Council is a sign and agent of unity, a source of vitality for the life and mission of the Work in the Region, and a promoter of its growth and expansion (cf. 96). By itself or through its mid-level representatives, the Council should maintain frequent communication with the groups and people of the Region.
67. The Regional Council consists of:
- The Regional Director or his Delegate (cf. 60, 61);
 - Lay persons, men and women religious, and ordained ministers that each Region deems suitable, appointed or elected in accordance with the respective *Regional Regulations*.
 - At least two-thirds of the members of the Regional Council are lay persons (cf. 86.d).
- 67.1 *The Council of the Christ the Priest Region consists at least of the following members:*
- *The Regional Director, who by office is the Provincial Superior, or his Delegate (MSPS);*
 - *One lay Coordinator for the Region;*
 - *Two lay Representatives to the Central Council, one of which must be the lay Regional Coordinator;*
 - *One lay Representative for each Area;*
 - *One Secretary;*
 - *One Treasurer.*

67.2 Members of the Regional Council must be available for the necessary travels and must meet the specific requirements for their particular function.

68. The functions of the Regional Council are to:
- a) Implement within the Region the decisions of the General Assembly and the guidelines issued by the Central Council;
 - b) Develop the *Regional Regulations* and monitor their application (cf. 86);
 - c) Establish the internal organization and functions of the Region;
 - d) Coordinate everything related to the Regional Assembly (cf. 77);
 - e) Ensure that the groups have their canonical status in order;
 - f) Foster fellowship and collaboration among the various groups in the Region;
 - g) Care for the material goods of the Region (cf. 88);
 - h) Promote the growth and expansion of the Apostleship of the Cross in the Region (cf. 86.e, 90).

68.1 In all circumstances, the Regional Council will strive to respond to the signs and needs of the culture in which the Region is immersed, assuming the commitment to provide all communications and materials in Spanish and English.

69. To fulfill its commitment, the Regional Council meets as often as it deems necessary, and, at the discretion of the Regional Director or his delegate, whenever important matters require it.

Local Council

69.1 The Local Council is a sign and agent of unity, a source of vitality for the life and mission of the Work in the Center, and a promoter of its growth and expansion.

69.2 The Local Council consists at least of:

- The Center Coordinator;*
- One Secretary;*
- One Treasurer;*
- One representative from each parish where there is a community.*

69.3 If possible, and with the approval of the Regional Council, the Local Council could incorporate an Advisor.

69.4 The functions of the Local Council are to:

- a) Care for the suitable application of the Statutes and Regional Regulations;*
- b) Apply to the Center the agreements emanated from the Local and Regional Assemblies, and those that come from the Regional Council;*
- c) Coordinate everything related to the Local Assembly (cf. 81.1);*
- d) Organize the Center and its operation;*

- e) Foster fellowship and collaboration among the various Small Communities that belong to the Center;*
- f) Provide the necessary means of formation following the directives from the Regional Council;*
- g) Care for the material goods that belong to the Center;*
- h) Promote the growth and expansion of the Apostleship of the Cross in the Center.*

69.5 The Local Council meets as often as is necessary, as determined by the Council itself, and when the matters require it.

ASSEMBLIES

General Assembly

- 70. The General Assembly is ordinarily held every three years. At the discretion of the Director General, and with the consent of the Central Council, this period may be extended or shortened.
- 71. It is the responsibility of the Director General to convene the General Assembly, working in collaboration with the Central Council to schedule the date and location, determine the theme and dynamics of the meeting, and coordinate the details.
- 72. There are three ways to participate in the General Assembly:
 - By office: the members of the Central Council;
 - By election or appointment: representatives from each Region;

- By invitation (with the right to speak, but not to vote): whomever the Central Council deems appropriate.
73. In each case, the Central Council, keeping in mind the number of those participating by office, will establish the total number of participants in the General Assembly, as well as the ratio of participants from each Region.
74. In the General Assembly:
- The number of people who attend by election or appointment will be greater than the number who attend by office;
 - At least two-thirds of the participants will be lay persons;
 - Each Regional Council determines how to elect or appoint its representatives for the General Assembly. A Regional Council may choose, for any reason, to send fewer representatives than it has the right to send.
- 74.1 *Lay people attending the General Assembly must be active members of the Apostleship of the Cross and must have taken the Cross.*
- 74.2 *It is the responsibility of the Area Representatives together with the Local Councils, to choose or designate the candidates to take part in the General Assembly, in accordance with the number of participants by Region agreed upon by the Central Council, as well as the number of participants by Area agreed upon in the Regional Council.*

75. For the General Assembly to be considered legitimate, a quorum of at least two-thirds of those who have a right to both speak and vote is required.
76. The objectives of the General Assembly are to:
- a) Promote the unity, vitality and growth of the Work, as well as its fidelity to its spirit and mission within the Church;
 - b) Reflect on and evaluate what has occurred since the previous Assembly;
 - c) Ensure the Work continues to be relevant, in accordance to the direction and most urgent needs of the Church, and the signs of the times;
 - d) Study the amendments to the *Statutes*, to approve them provisionally, and refer them to the Central Council for final approval (cf. 84).

Regional Assembly

77. Each Region periodically holds a Regional Assembly. It is the responsibility of the Regional Council to convene the Regional Assembly, as well as to organize and coordinate it.

77.1 The Regional Assembly will take place ordinarily every three years. The Regional Council may extend or shorten this period.

78. Participation in the Regional Assembly may be:
- By office: the Director General or his delegate; the Regional Director, his Regional Delegate — if he has one — and the remaining members of the Regional Council;

- By election or appointment: lay persons, men and women religious, and ordained ministers, ensuring proper representation of the entire region;
- By invitation (with the right to speak but not to vote): whomever the Regional Council deems appropriate.

78.1 Lay people attending the Regional Assembly must be active members of the Apostleship of the Cross and must have taken the Cross of the Apostolate.

78.2 It is the responsibility of the Area Representatives, together with the Local Councils, to choose or designate the candidates to take part in the Regional Assembly, in accordance with the number of participants by Area agreed upon in the Regional Council.

79. In the Regional Assembly:

- The number of people who attend by election or appointment will be greater than the number of those who attend by office;
- At least two-thirds of the participants will be lay persons.

80. For the Regional Assembly to be considered legitimate, a quorum of at least two-thirds of those who have a right to both speak and vote is required.

81. For its Assembly, each Regional Council will establish *Guidelines for the Regional Assembly*. This document will at least contain: the objective of the Assembly, the topics to be discussed, the number of participants, the method for electing or appointing participants, and the date and place of the Assembly.

Local Assembly

81.1 The Local Assembly of a Center takes place once a year.

81.2 The objectives of the Local Assembly are to:

- a) Review and invigorate the life and development of the Center;*
- b) Deal with the matters that pertain to the fidelity, spirit and mission of the Apostleship of the Cross in the Center;*
- c) Elect the Coordinator of the Center when necessary.*

81.3 It is the responsibility of the Local Council to convene the Local Assembly, as well as to organize and coordinate it.

81.4 By office, the following people have a right to participate in the Local Assembly with a right to both speak and vote:

- Not mandatory: The Regional Director or his Delegate, and the Regional Coordinator;*
- Recommended and advisable: The lay Representative of the Area;*
- Mandatory: The Local Council and all the active members of the Small Communities who have already taken the Cross of the Apostolate.*

81.5 All active members of the Small Communities of the Center who have not taken the Cross and any other people the Local Council wants to invite, have a right to participate and speak in the Local Assembly, but not to vote.

81.6 For the Local Assembly to be considered legitimate, a quorum of at least two thirds of those who have a right to both speak and vote is required.

THE LAW THAT GOVERNS US

82. The Apostleship of the Cross is governed by the *Code of Canon Law*, and by our own law, which is contained in these *Statutes*, and the *Regional Regulations*.

Statutes

83. The *Statutes* are general principles and norms that apply to the entire Apostleship of the Cross. They become effective immediately upon approval (cf. 84).

- a) Prior to the General Assembly, any person or Group of the Apostleship of the Cross may propose amendments to the *Statutes*; these will be sent to the appropriate Regional Council by a deadline determined by the same Council.
- b) The Regional Council studies all the amendments it receives, decides which ones should be considered by the General Assembly, and sends them to the Central Council. The Central Council will determine the deadline for receipt of suggested amendments.
- c) The Central Council organizes the amendments it receives and sends them in a timely manner to the people that will have the right to speak and vote in the General Assembly.

- d) The General Assembly studies the amendments, approves them provisionally, and refers them to the Central Council (cf. 76.d).
84. The Director General, with the consent of the Central Council, and based on what was approved by the General Assembly, gives final approval to the *Statutes*.

Regional Regulations

85. The *Regional Regulations* contain norms particular to a specific Region. They become effective immediately upon approval (cf. 87).

85.1 The Regional Council has the ability to develop Addendums as they deem necessary, which, though not being part of these Regulations, serve to complement them and to help their understanding.

86. Each Region develops its own *Regional Regulations*, being sure to include the following:
- a) Procedures for incorporating new members into the Apostleship of the Cross, from the moment when the candidate requests membership in the Work, how a member is incorporated and other formalities, if they exist (cf. 9);
 - b) Procedures for electing or appointing those who serve in leadership roles at various levels, as well as the length of their terms of service;
 - c) Procedures for appointing or electing lay persons to the Central Council, and the length of their terms of service (cf. 57);

- d) The number of people in the Regional Council, the procedures for appointing or electing them, and the length of their terms of service (cf. 67);
 - e) The plan for numeric and geographic growth for the Region (cf. 97);
 - f) Other guidelines that the Regional Council deems necessary.
87. The Regional Director has the authority, in collaboration with the Regional Council, to propose any necessary corrections to any text of the *Regional Regulations*, having listened to the members of the Region and, if necessary, the Regional Assembly. The Director General must give final approval of the *Regional Regulations*.

MATERIAL GOODS OF THE WORK

88. The Work, Regions, and groups (the latter, with the approval of the Regional Council) can acquire and hold material goods, under the responsibility of the respective leadership, for the maintenance and growth of the Apostleship of the Cross, and to accomplish its objectives, as deemed appropriate.
89. The criteria for the use and administration of economic resources are honesty, transparency, austerity, communication of resources with other levels of the Work, and assistance of ordained ministers in need and the poor.



CHAPTER VIII

GROWTH AND EXPANSION



90. The Apostleship of the Cross, as an ecclesial group, has a missionary vocation. It is called by God to grow and expand. Therefore, each Apostle of the Cross should have a missionary heart that yearns to extend the reign of the Holy Spirit in the world.
91. It is an international group, both because of the diverse countries where it is present and because of the nationalities of its members.
92. Its growth can also be numerical, by the incorporation of new members into a group, and by the creation of new groups in a region.
93. We are grateful to our heavenly Father for having called us to be part of the Apostleship of the Cross. Therefore we commit ourselves to making it known through various ways (person-to-person, mass media, Internet, etc.); to inviting others to become part of the Work; and to establishing it in diverse places and cultures.
94. Each Apostle of the Cross is responsible for the growth, expansion, and internationalization of the group to which he or she belongs, as well as of the entire Work.
95. Each group cultivates in its members a missionary passion and the desire to help the Work grow and expand.

96. The Regional Council is ultimately responsible for driving the growth, expansion, and internationalization of the Apostleship of the Cross in the Region (cf. 66).
97. The Regional Council has a numeric and geographic growth plan, in accordance with the *Regional Regulations* (cf. 86.e).

