

LAY CLARETIAN MOVEMENT

STATUTES

Introduction

When the reorganization of the Lay Claretian Movement began in 1979, the primary concern was to clarify its identity. Of secondary importance was the creation of means of communication and coordination among the existing groups of Lay Claretian which up to his time lacked cohesiveness.

At the First General Assembly of the Lay Claretian Movement (1983) Statutes were approved which dealt with the coordination of the different levels of the Movement. These first Statutes, along with the Sourcebook, were published in a pamphlet entitled: "The Lay Claretian, Sourcebook and Organization."

The Second General Assembly (1987) modified the above mentioned Statutes previous to presenting them to the Pontifical Commission for the Laity for approval. The Statutes of the Lay Claretian Movement were approved on April 20, 1988. It is recognized by the Church as a "private association" whose aims are the perfection of life and the encouragement of apostolic work. (CC 299)

Since the Statutes and Sourcebook have different purposes, the 1987 General Assembly decided to publish them separately. The Sourcebook is a reading of the Gospel from the viewpoint of the Lay Claretian charism and the manner of following Jesus. The Statutes deal with the organization of the Movement.

When dealing with a movement based on a charism, it is logical that the Statutes contain only the minimal rules necessary for the successful functioning of the movement. These norms are so minimal and open that they in no way curtail the freedom and creativity of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Nor do they stifle the uniqueness of each group or community of the Lay Claretians.

July 28, 1987

STATUTES

1. The Lay Claretian Movement (L.C.M.) is an international private association of believers. (CC 299)

2. The Movement has its headquarters in Rome, Via Sacro Cuore di Maria, 5.

The General Council can, for a serious reason, move the headquarters by making this known to all the groups.

3. The Movement seeks to promote the understanding, lifestyle and mission of a lay Claretian as stated in the Sourcebook.

1. Groups

4. Groups who identify with the charism of St. Anthony Claret and accept the Sourcebook and the these Statutes, can become members of the Lay Claretian Movement.

The incorporation of a group to the Movement will be approved by a Regional Council to which the group has applied, or by the General Council if the group is not part of any Region.

5. Within the framework of the Sourcebook and the Statutes of the Movement, each group maintains its own characteristics and identity, has its formation plan, its proper goals, and is regulated by its own rules of order.

6. A lay person becomes a member of the Movement by admission to one of its groups.

Each group is competent to establish, with determined criteria, the procedure of incorporation of new members.

7. Groups must give the utmost care in the formation of all members, devoting special attention to Claretian formation and making them apt agents of evangelization.

2. Coordination

8. The Lay Claretian Movement is organized on three levels: group, regional and general.

2.1 Regional Coordination

9. A Region is made up of groups within a surrounding territory. The General Council, after consulting the affected groups, determines the Regions.

10. An Assembly of the Region with its Council are responsible for the coordination of the Movement in that region.

11. A Regional Assembly is made up of the members of the Regional Council and as many delegates of each group as determined in the previous Assembly.

12. The Regional Assembly, convoked by the Regional Council, meets every two years. The Regional Council will call an extraordinary session of the Assembly when requested by at least one-half of the groups of the Region, or when deemed necessary by judgement of the Council for exceptional circumstances.

13. The Regional Assembly has the following functions:

- a) To promote understanding, sharing and mutual support among its members.
- b) To elect the Regional Council, set its course for action and evaluate its endeavors.
- c) To study and to reflect upon the various aspects of the life and mission of the Lay Claretian.
- d) To encourage the sharing of resources among the groups of a Region and among other groups within the Movement.

14. The Regional Council is elected by the Regional Assembly for a period of two years. No one can be a member of the Regional Council for more than two consecutive terms. As an exception, one can be reelected for a third term by a two-thirds majority of the votes of the Assembly.

15. The Regional Council is made up of the number of members determined by the Regional Assembly, with a minimum of three and a maximum of five, including the Religious Assessor.

It will meet as often as is necessary to fulfill its functions and at least once a year.

16. The Regional Council has the following functions:

- a) To foster communication and coordination among the groups of the Region.
- b) To organize meetings and formative activities in the Region, or if desired and with the approval of the affected Regional Councils, interregional activities.
- c) To convene and to organize the Regional Assembly.
- d) To stimulate the creation of new groups.
- e) To determine the acceptance of groups to a region upon requests of incorporation to the Movement.
- f) To decide upon the exclusion from the Movement of those groups that stray from the Sourcebook and from the Statutes of the Movement, without curtailing the right of the affected group of appeal to the General Council.
- g) To maintain beneficial communications with the General Council.
- h) To establish the means of financing the activities of the Region.
- i) To provisionally cover the vacancies that occur on the Council until the meeting of the next Assembly.

The Regional Council does not have any authority in the internal matters of the Groups.

2.2 General Coordination

17. The coordination of the Movement on the general level falls to the Assembly and to the General Council.

18. The General Assembly is made up of the members of the General Council, a representative from each of the Regional Councils, and as many delegates of each Group as the previous General Assembly has determined.

19. The General Assembly will meet every four years by previous convocation of the General Council.

The General Council will call an extraordinary session of the General Assembly when requested by at least one-half of the groups of the Movement, or when deemed necessary by judgement of the General Council for exceptional circumstances.

20. The General Assembly has the following functions:

- a) To encourage mutual understanding, sharing, and support.
- b) To study and reflect upon the diverse aspects of the life and mission of the Lay Claretian.
- c) To evaluate the status of the Movement in general.
- d) To elect the General Council, set its course for action and evaluate its endeavors.
- e) To encourage the sharing of resources among the Groups and Regions.
- f) To modify the Sourcebook and the Statutes of the Movement.

The decisions of the Assembly should be respected by the groups and by the Regions.

21. The General Council is elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years. It is constituted up by the number of members decided upon by the General Assembly and with General Assessor as member. No one can be a member of the General Council for more than two consecutive terms. By exception, one can be re-elected to the General Council for a third term by a two-thirds majority of the Assembly.

22. The General Council has the following functions:

- a) To represent the Movement.
- b) To decide upon the establishment of Regions.
- c) To ensure the participation of the Movement in international matters and in world organizations of Lay Christians.
- d) To promote communication among the regions and groups of the Movement.
- e) To provide assistance in the formation Lay Claretians.
- f) To administer the funds of the Movement and to decide upon the dues of the groups.
- g) To convene and to organize the meeting of the General Assembly.
- h) To temporarily cover the vacancies that may occur in the General Council until the next General Assembly takes place.
- i) To convene, in agreement with the Groups involved, the constituent Regional Assembly and to determine the criterion for representation of the Groups to attend this Regional Assembly.
- j) To admit Groups to the Movement and exclude them when they are not included within any Region.
- k) To interpret the rules of the Statutes of the Movement.

3. The Economy

23. Each group administers its resources according to its rules, always keeping in mind the following criteria:
! Groups more financially able to share resources with those that need assistance.
! Avoid of all concern for profit or extravagance.
! Self subsistence is necessary, remembering the autonomous nature of each group.
! Always to direct resources to serve the Group's goal: evangelization.

24. The expenses of the Movement on the General level are to be covered by dues from the Groups. So that all Groups contribute to the financial support of the Movement, the General Council will determine the minimal dues. However, those groups not able to met this quota are dispensed.

4. Religious Assessors

25. On each level will have an attached Religious Assessor, preferably belonging to the Claretian family. This Assessor will be elected by the Group or corresponding Assembly depending on authorization from his respective superior.

The Regional Assessors are elected for two years and the General Assessor for four years.

The Assessors collaborate mainly in the formation of Lay Claretians, above all in the doctrinal, spiritual, pastoral and Claretian issues.