

**CONGREGAZIONE
PER GLI ISTITUTI DI VITA CONSACRATA
E LE SOCIETA DI VITA APOSTOLICA**

Prot. n. E. 16-1/2004

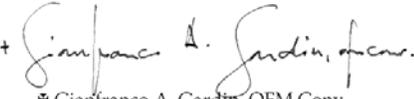
DECREE

The Heralds of Good News, a Clerical Missionary Society of Apostolic Life of Pontifical Right, in their General Assembly of 2009 voted to accept a revised text of the Constitutions which had been first approved in 1999.

After careful study of the documents and some subsequent modifications, with this Decree the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life approves this revised text of Constitutions.

May the living of this renewed expression of their Constitutions provide inspiration and strength for all of the members as they seek to preach the Good News of Jesus throughout the world, by word and example, under the protection of their patrons, Mary Queen of Apostles and St. Joseph the Worker.

*Given at the Vatican, 15 August 2009
Feast of the Assumption of Mary*

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✠ Gianfranco A. Gardin, OFM Conv.
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THE CONSTITUTIONS



OF

HERALDS OF GOOD NEWS

A MISSIONARY SOCIETY

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NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

1. Our Lord Jesus Christ who was sent by the Father and anointed by the Holy Spirit, to announce the glad tidings of the message of Salvation, in turn, sent His disciples to all the world for the same purpose and continues His Mission in the world through the Church. In conformity with the Divine Plan, communities which dedicate themselves to this apostolic mission arise in the Church from time to time.
2. The Missionary Society of Heralds of Good News is a Clerical Society of Apostolic life of Pontifical Right, according to the universal law of the Church and the proper law of the Society. The members live a fraternal life in common in their own special manner, according to the proper law of the Society, and undertake to live the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience, through a promise made in accord with these Constitutions.
3. The members of the Society form one family of God in the Church and strive after perfection through the practice of Evangelical Counsels, dedicating themselves to the service of God and their fellow human beings.
4. The object of the Society is to work for the glory of God by the evangelisation of the people and by the sanctification of its members following the rules and regulations of the Society.
5. The specific purpose of the Society is to train and supply wherever there is need, dedicated, hardworking and saintly missionaries.
 - a) Obeying the command of Christ and following the examples of Christ Himself and His Apostles and saintly missionaries through the centuries, the members of the Society shall preach the Good News by word and example wherever they are sent to.
 - b) To make our ministry fruitful we shall ever strive to attain perfection by endeavouring to practice, according to our strength, the virtues which Our Lord and Master condescended to teach by word and example.
 - c) We shall preach the Good News of Salvation at all times to all the people by word and by our exemplary lives. Evangelisation of people and their Christian advancement should be the indestructible bond that unites all of us as one family and the compelling force behind our apostolate.
 - d) We shall ever endeavour to assess and regulate all our activities in the light of our specific aim and continually renew the Society in the same light and according to the needs of the Church.
 - e) For the above purpose we shall strive to give expression to the spirit of Christ resplendent in the virtues of simplicity, humility, meekness,

mortification and zeal for the salvation of souls.

6. The Society shall have Mary Queen of Apostles and St. Joseph, the Worker as its heavenly patrons.

LIFE IN THE SOCIETY

7. Every Christian is called to perfection as Our Lord would have it: "Be you perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." Because of our special dedication, the members are all the more bound to strive after perfection. Our vocation urges us collectively to strive after perfection and to give a collective witness to the holiness of Christ and His Church.
8. The members shall foster an intimate union with Christ by earnestly making use of the spiritual aids available in the Church.
9. The members should cultivate a genuine devotion towards the Holy Eucharist, the center of all Christian life.
10. Priests are strongly urged to celebrate the Divine Liturgy every day. Brothers and seminarians shall actively participate in the Sacred Liturgy every day.
11. All the members shall be diligent about the daily meditation, annual spiritual exercises and frequent approach to confessions.

The members shall practice and foster devotion to Our Blessed Mother, especially the daily recitation of the Holy Rosary.

12. All the members of the Society shall have the same mode of life. In life and habit the lay brothers shall not be distinguished from the priest members of the Society.
13. The members of the Society shall live in a community of at least three members. The Superior General, or in the case of a house belonging to the Province or Region, the Provincial Superior can give a dispensation to have a lesser number for valid reasons.
14. Those members, who for valid reasons are living alone, shall spend at least a week every year in one of the communities that they may not lose the spirit of community life.
15. Members who retire due to sickness, old age, weak health or any similar reason shall be looked after by the Society.
16. The members of the Society are those who are incorporated into it for their sanctification by means of its apostolate, by dedicating themselves to God, for

the work of evangelisation and promising to live according to the rules and regulations of the Society for a temporary or perpetual period of time.

17. All the members of the Society, both clerical and lay, shall have active and passive voice after their final incorporation in the Society, according to these Constitutions.
18. All the perpetually incorporated members enjoy the same spiritual and material privileges and rights of the Society.

ADMISSION

19. Any male catholic, who is free from canonical impediments, who is motivated by the right intention and willing to live and work according to the rules and regulations of the Society, is eligible for admission in the Society.
20.
 - i) No one who is dismissed from a seminary, postulancy, novitiate, religious congregation or order and whom the sacred canons consider as unfit either to become priests or religious shall be admitted in the Society.
 - ii) The following persons cannot be validly admitted for training in the Society.
 - a) Those who have abandoned the Faith and joined some non-catholic sect.
 - b) Those who are liable to punishment because they have committed some grave offence or crime of which they have been or can be accused.
 - c) Those who have not completed their 17th year. (Can. 643.1)
 - d) Those who enter the Society under the influence of violence, grave fear or those whom the superiors had received under the same influence. (Can.643.4)
 - e) Married persons as long as the marriage bond lasts. (Can. 643.2)
 - f) Those who are currently bound by a sacred bond to some Institute of Consecrated Life, or is incorporated in some Society of Apostolic Life, without prejudice to Can. 684. (Can. 643 #1, 3)
 - g) Those who have concealed their incorporation in an Institute of Consecrated Life or Society of Apostolic Life. (can 643 #1, 5)
 - iii) The following persons cannot be licitly admitted:-
 - a) Clerics in major orders without consulting the Local Hierarchy, or against his will, if his objection be based on serious harm to souls that the withdrawal of such clerics would cause and if such loss can not be avoided by any other means.

- b) Persons who are in debt or are insolvent.
 - c) Persons who are charged with the administration of temporal affairs which might cause the Society to be involved in law suit or in any other difficulties.
 - d) Children who are obliged to look after their parents or grand parents who are in grave need. Likewise parents whose help is needed for the support and education of their children.
21. Before he admits any candidate to the Society, the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior shall require from his parish priest, or person concerned, certificates of baptism, confirmation, free status, good conduct, studies and health.
 22. In case of scholastics from religious institutes or seminaries and in case of priests, the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior shall ask for testimonials from their superiors.
 23. The age of admission for candidates to the Society shall be from the age of 17 to 30 years in ordinary cases. Exception in the case of those over thirty years may be made by the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior with the consent of his Council, on account of some special qualification of the person concerned.

TRAINING AND FORMATION

PROMOTING VOCATIONS

24. The Provincial Superior/Regional Superior shall appoint a vocation promoter whose task will be to foster vocations and seek suitable candidates. However all the members, especially those engaged in pastoral and educational ministries have a special responsibility to seek, detect, foster and promote vocations.
25. The candidates shall be properly and carefully examined and selected keeping sound standards, even when there is shortage of vocations.
26. It is the responsibility of the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior to appoint suitable staff members to the houses of formation with the consent of his Council. He accepts their resignations with the consent of his Council.
27. Rectors of Major Seminaries, including the Spiritual Orientation Institute, shall be appointed by the Superior General with the consent of his Council from among suitable members who are perpetually incorporated. The appointment of the Rectors of Minor seminaries will be the competence of the Provincial/Regional Superior and his Council. There should be representation for each Province on the staff of the major seminaries as far as possible.

28. To ensure better co-ordination between the various stages of formation, the General Formation Coordinator shall convene a meeting of rectors of different formation houses at least twice a year to discuss problems and programmes affecting formation. They shall present their observations, suggestions and recommendations to the Superior General, which he may enforce with the consent of his Council. Any innovation in the formation programme requires the approval of the Superior General.
29. The Rectors, after consulting the staff, shall prepare two reports on each student: a mid-term evaluation which would be communicated to the student himself and a yearly report which would be sent to the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior.
30. There shall be special handbooks for each stage of formation which give the disciplinary rules, pious practices, customs, curriculum of studies and directions for other extra curricular activities. They shall be drawn up by the Formation Committee in consultation with the staff of various formation centers and approved by the Superior General with the consent of his Council.

FORMATION OF BROTHERS

31. The Vocation Promoters shall promote worthy candidates for the brotherhood. As a rule candidates who have studied up to 10th grade may be given admission in the Society by the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior. If needed they are allowed to study further.
32. Aspirants to brotherhood shall undergo an intensive training of two years under a director appointed by the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior with the consent of his Council.
 - a) During this period the candidates are to be given special Spiritual orientation
 - b) They shall be initiated into the spirit of the Society.
33. Aspirants to the brotherhood shall be taught:
 - a) Coherent and systematic catechism to a higher level.
 - b) Introduction to the Sacred Scriptures.
 - c) Explanation of the Sacred Liturgy and other sacred functions.
 - d) Languages necessary for their future apostolate and other allied matters such as different approaches in evangelisation.
 - e) Management of temporalities.

- f) Good manners and other relevant subjects, especially regarding the customs and manners of the people among whom they will have to work in the future.
34. At the end of these two years of intensive training, the candidates, if found fit and suited for life according to the rules and regulations of the Society, will be temporarily incorporated into the Society.
 35. After the temporary incorporation, they are to be given, if needed, more advanced academic, technical or professional training according to their abilities and the needs of the Society and the people among whom they are to work.
 36. They shall remain as temporarily incorporated members for at least five years.
 37. Before perpetual incorporation, they shall spend a year of intensive spiritual training in preparation for their perpetual commitment. They shall be given cassock at the time of their perpetual incorporation.

INCORPORATION

38. a) The Provincial Superior, with the consent of his Council and after having heard those responsible for formation, has the right to admit candidates, if judged suitable, to temporal and perpetual incorporation in the Society.
b) The Provincial Superior, with the consent of his Council and after having received the recommendation of the Regional Superior, is the competent authority to admit candidates belonging to the Region which is dependent on his province, to temporal and perpetual incorporation in the Society.
39. Those who seek to join the Society as priests are temporarily incorporated at the time of admission and shall spend three years in the Society before they are perpetually incorporated with the consent of the General Council.
40. At the time of incorporation, the candidate gives a written commitment to the Society in the prescribed form.
41. Incorporation is an act by which one dedicates himself to God for the work of evangelisation in the Society and promises to become its member for a temporary or perpetual period of time.
42. By this act the members of the Society are bound to live and practice the life of a missionary before God and the Society and to obey the rules and regulations of the Society.
43. This act which constitutes the bond between the Society and its members is a promise which does not place its members in the state of consecrated life.
44. Clerics are incardinated in the Society. (Can. 736. 1)

45. a) It is the competence of the Provincial Superior and the Superior General, if the need arises, to accept candidates in the Society and for Sacred Orders.
- b) Provincial Superior may grant dimissorial letters for the diaconate and the priesthood to his subjects who are, in accordance with the Constitutions, perpetually incorporated in the Society. (Can. 1019. 1).
- c) Provincial Superior may also grant dimissorial letters for the diaconate and the priesthood to the subjects of the Region which depends on the Province in question, who are, in accordance with the Constitutions, perpetually incorporated in the Society. (Can.1019.1).
- d) The Regional Superior does not have the competence to issue the dimissorial letters.
46. The formula of the Promise shall be:

"Longing to love God more intimately and with an ardent desire to follow Christ more closely, emulating the examples of the Apostles in the ministry of salvation throughout the world, and to share in the Church's mission, I, do hereby make/renew my promise before God and you, Superior, to keep for one year/permanently, the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience, according to the Constitutions of our Society.

I promise to live the apostolic life in the community of the Heralds of Good News, according to its constitutions. I shall observe all its clauses with all possible care and diligence. I, therefore, call upon Mary, Queen of Apostles and St. Joseph, the Worker, special patrons of our Society to be witnesses to my promise and to incessantly intercede with God, that I may ever be faithful to the promise I have just made and that through my instrumentality and efforts, the Gospel of Christ may be spread far and wide; and that many more may find meaning in their lives for whom the peace and joy of Christ are not ever known or at best are only a far distant dream."

The Provincial Superior or his representative accepts the promise saying, "(name of the candidate) In the name of our Society and the Church, I accept the promises you have just made and incorporate you in our Society for a period of one year/permanently. May the dedication you have just made of yourself be acceptable to our Heavenly Father. May our heavenly patrons help you to be faithful to these promises, and may the good God bless and reward you most abundantly, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

EVANGELICAL COUNSELS

A. CHASTITY

47. Through the promise of evangelical counsel of chastity, members are bound to observe perfect continence in celibacy (cfr. Can. 599). Therefore, they have to abstain from every act internal and external, which are contrary to this virtue, as binding in conscience, under a new motive.
48. Since self guidance and presumption are very detrimental to chastity, timely advice of an experienced and mature spiritual director is necessary. Members shall, therefore, openly manifest their conscience to him and get his advice and counsel.
49. In order to safeguard this virtue member shall practice mortification and penance with discretion and in accordance with the guidance of their spiritual director.
50. The members shall keep vigilant control over their internal and external senses. Let them gladly accept all the burdens and turmoil of their duties and keep themselves always engaged in some useful work.
51. Emotional and psychological maturity is very necessary in the observance of chastity. Therefore adequate knowledge of celibate life consecrated to God is to be acquired. Members shall always keep watch over their inclinations and passions and try to sublimate them through mutual collaboration and personal and intimate relations with all the members. Every one shall remember that chastity has stronger safeguards in the community where fraternal love thrives.

B. POVERTY

52. Members shall make a private promise of poverty according as their apostolate demands.
53. Members are called to form an apostolic community engaged in the service of the poor following the example of Christ who "became poor for our sake, even though He was rich. He emptied Himself so that out of His poverty we might all become rich."
54. Through the promise of the evangelical counsel of poverty, they free themselves from all undue concern for worldly riches and material goods; they show their reliance on divine providence. Hence they shall be content with the minimum requirements, even accepting privations cheerfully.
55. The members should bear witness to the poverty of Christ both collectively and individually. Hence their way of living and their houses shall be adapted to the conditions and circumstances of the place and persons whom they serve.
56. Members shall be ready to employ themselves, their talents and good for the advancement of the apostolic work, for the needs of the Church, for the betterment of the people and for the benefit of their own confreres,

avoiding all distinctions among them. Being fully aware of the miseries of the people, members should be solicitous to help them, seeing God in them.

57. Every one of them should labour earnestly to contribute his share to the work of the Society.
58. Every one shall remember that in the use of material goods it is necessary that each one should judge, whether it is expedient and suitable to his state of life and ministry, according to the spirit of the Society.
59. Communities themselves, renouncing their own advantage, should be united to one another by the bond of solidarity.
60. Members' poverty should become a sign of charity, a fortress of their community and a mark of authenticity of their vocation in the Church and in the world.

GOODS OF THE SOCIETY

61. The following goods belong to the Society:
 - a) Movable and immovable goods which are given to the community or for its works or acquired from the goods of the Society and all income or revenues from all these goods.
 - b) Income from the labour or talent of the members.
 - c) Salaries, pensions, allowances etc. given for the office or on account of age, infirmity or accident etc.
 - d) Scholarships and other premiums given to the members for studies or any other merit in art, literature, sports etc.
 - e) Gifts received from persons other than the close blood relatives specified in Art. 63 c, and money given by benefactors and friends.
 - f) Movable goods of the members which are not disposed of before the perpetual incorporation and which will be acquired afterwards by any legitimate means even if with one's own money, provided they are suited to their state of life.

GOODS OF THE MEMBERS

62. Members have the ownership of the following things, but the exercise of this right must be done in accordance with the Constitutions and Directory of the Society:-

- a) Immovable goods or their equivalents and the income thereof, which a member possesses at the time of incorporation, or will possess in future by hereditary rights or legacy or by other legitimate means according to the regulations.
- b) Stipends for the Divine Liturgy and Stole Fees.
- c) Money given by close blood relatives, namely parents, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts, grandparents, direct nephews and nieces and first cousins.

The above mentioned goods the members are free to make use of as they wish, provided it is in keeping with their state of life and ministry.

- 63. Members should make arrangements for the administration of their immovable properties before they are definitively incorporated.
- 64. Goods or money mentioned above as goods of the members shall go to the Society, if the members die without making a will or manifesting their desire otherwise.
- 65. All perpetually incorporated members who have no other personal income may be given each month a small amount of money for their personal and daily needs, alms, etc. The amount is to be determined by the General Assembly.
- 66. All members shall keep an account of their income and expenditures and it shall be submitted annually to the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior or his representative appointed by him for that purpose.

C. OBEDIENCE

- 67. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, all, including superiors and members mindful of their own limitations, shall strive in common concern to obey the salvific will of Christ which manifests itself to them in many ways.
- 68. Through the promise of obedience, we surrender fully our own will as a sacrifice of ourselves, to God and are united permanently and securely to God's salvific will.
- 69. Following the example of our Master and Saviour, who came to this world to do the will of His Father by being obedient even unto the death of the Cross, we subject ourselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to our superiors whom faith presents to us as God's representatives.
- 70. Through the promise of the evangelical counsel of obedience, members are bound to obey their Superiors when they command according to the Constitutions (cfr. can 738 # 1).

Individual members are bound to obey the Supreme Pontiff as their highest Superior, by reason also of their promise of the evangelical counsel of obedience (cfr. Can. 590. 2).

The Heralds of Good News are subject to the authority of the Bishops of the dioceses where they live and work, whom they are bound to treat with sincere obedience and reverence (cfr. Can. 678. 1).

71. Superiors in a special way will strive to exercise authority in a spirit of love, concern and service, knowing fully well that each of the members has been called to the building up of the same body of Christ according to his own charism and office. With confidence in the confreres they shall promote initiative and collaboration among the members and in a special way strive to achieve unity in the community, since a fellowship of mind and heart helps greatly towards knowing and fulfilling the designs of God.
72. Obedience is not to be thought of as a mere passive carrying out of orders but rather as a free and generous acceptance of God's salvific will for each one, for the community and for mankind. In the discharge of assignments let each one actively and with a sense of responsibility employ himself, the resources of his mind, will and gifts of nature and grace.
73. Through the exchange of experiences in open and responsible dialogue, in which different ages and mental attitudes react upon one another, goals and aspirations mature and the superiors will be helped in making decisions. They shall carry out the decisions in the light of faith even though they may think their own opinion better. Thus mutual understanding and union of hearts between superiors and members will be fostered.

APOSTOLIC ACTIVITIES

74. The apostolic activities of the Society are participation in the Mission of Christ in the Church, by announcing the Good News and the reality of the love of God towards mankind.
75. Our apostolic activities should spring from an intimate union with Christ. They shall be based on the principles of the Gospel and the spirit of the Society which give us unity and dynamism.
76. In imitation of Christ who assumed our human nature and conditions and dwelt among us, we shall become all things to all men, sharing their lot and serving them in a spirit of openness, understanding and dialogue.
77. Members shall dedicate themselves to the apostolic activities in a spirit of service and without any desire for worldly gains or advancement, renouncing their own conveniences and seeking above all the Kingdom of God and His Justice. They shall bear witness to Christ by a truly evangelical life, 'with much patience, in long suffering, in kindness and in unaffected love'.

78. Our apostolic activities should be in co-ordination with the local and Universal Church. Under the direction of the Superior General we should always be ready to respond to the manifold requirements of evangelisation, all the more willingly and readily if the situation is difficult and the task arduous and wrought with peril.
79. Members should be of assistance to other missionaries, both clerical and lay, working in the area by fraternally helping them in their life and ministry.
80. We should accommodate our varied apostolic activities such as charitable, educational and social, according to the more urgent needs of the Church and country.
81. Missionaries are subject to the jurisdiction, visit and correction of their Local Ordinaries in all matters concerning the administration of sacraments, the management of schools and offerings to the Mission, the execution of pious causes etc.
82. In the matter of Divine Worship and ecclesiastical discipline the members shall follow the laws, Rites, ceremonies and discipline of the local Church and see that nothing novel is introduced in these matters without the permission of the Local Ordinary (cfr Can. 678. 2&3 Can. 738 #2).
83. Let faith and love of God guide the members in troubles, difficulties, sufferings and in case of discord and differences of opinion among either the members or the members and the superiors.
84. The superiors shall see that the mission work does not suffer because of the poor circumstances in which the missionaries are placed.
85. Not content with their own instrumentality in the work of evangelisation they shall instil in others especially those around them the awareness and spirit of serving others, especially the poor and the needy.
86. In order that their apostolate in the Church may be more effective, they shall share the better experiences of others and also employ all modern media available.

GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIETY

87. The Society is subject to the authority of the Church according to the provisions of the Universal Law of the Church and these Constitutions. All the directives of the Church should be strictly complied with.

88. The authority which the superiors of the Society receive from God through the ministry of the Church is to be exercised in a spirit of service (cfr. Can. 618)

In the Society, authority is exercised in a personal and collegial way.

The Superior General, with the assistance of his Council, has ordinary authority over the whole Society, Provinces, Regions, houses and members, governing them in accordance with the universal Law of the Church and the proper law of the Society. Other Superiors have authority within the limits of their office (cfr. Can. 622).

The General Assembly while in session is the supreme collegial authority in the Society.

The members of the General Council should be from the different Provinces.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

89. The General Assembly is to be convened every six years, at the time and place determined by the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, and whenever the office of the Superior General becomes vacant.
90. The Superior General with the consent of his Council may call an Extraordinary General Assembly to examine important and urgent matters regarding the Society.

The Extraordinary General Assembly shall be celebrated in the same manner as the Ordinary General Assembly. During the Extraordinary Assembly, no elections are held. In case the Superior General wants to present his resignation from his office to the Extraordinary Assembly, this Assembly may accept it or not. If it accepts the resignation, the Extraordinary Assembly is then changed into an Ordinary Assembly. In case of dismissal of the Superior General cfr. Article 116, c of these Constitutions

91. The convocation of the General Assembly is made at least three months before the date fixed for its opening.

In a letter to the members, the Superior General shall indicate the date, place and purpose of the Chapter and prescribe special prayers for its success.

The principal functions of the General Assembly are:-

- a) to protect the spiritual patrimony of the Society;
- b) to foster appropriate renewal in accord with that patrimony;

- c) to elect the Superior General, the Assistant Superior General, the three General Councilors and the Treasurer General;
 - d) to deal with matters of greater importance; and
 - e) to issue norms which all are bound to obey (Can. 631. 1).
92. Provinces, local communities and individual members may freely submit to the General Assembly their wishes and suggestions (Can. 631. 3).
93. The following are the members of the General Assembly:-
- a) By right of office (ex officio):-
 - The Superior General
 - The General Councilors
 - The Secretary General
 - The Treasurer General
 - The former Superior General (the last one)
 - Provincial Superiors
 - Regional Superiors (if any)
 - b) A proportionate number of perpetually incorporated members elected according to the norms given in the Directory.
94. Elected members should not be less than the ex officio members.
95. The number of delegates and the mode of election is ruled according to the norms fixed in the Directory.
96. Unless duly dispensed by the Superior General for valid reasons, all the persons mentioned above in Art. 94 are in duty bound to attend the General Assembly.
97. At the beginning of the General Assembly, the Superior General shall present to the Assembly a detailed report of the spiritual and temporal status of the Society signed by him and his Council.
98. Similarly the Treasurer General shall present a detailed statement of the temporalities of the Society, giving well-ordered accounts of receipts and expenditures. This financial statement should be previously approved by the Superior General and his Council. And these reports have to be approved by the General Assembly with absolute majority.
99. If it is expedient, two members of the Society may be admitted as consultors by the Superior General with the consent of his Council to help the assembly in its work, without the right to vote.

100. Decisions of the General Assembly, unless the Assembly decides otherwise, are approved by an absolute majority (more than half) of those present, according to Can. 119. 2.

Changes in the Directory are approved by 2/3rd majority of those present.

Changes in the Constitutions, to be presented for the approval of the Holy See, require 2/3rd majority of votes of those present.

101. Before the General Assembly all the perpetually incorporated members cast a secret postal ballot to indicate who in his opinion is to be elected Superior General and Assistant Superior General. These secret ballots are opened in the General Assembly. The General Assembly takes into consideration those who have secured the most number of votes (cfr. Can. 170).
102. One who has obtained 2/3rd majority of valid votes cast shall be elected Superior General. If the required majority has not been obtained in the first two ballots, following the provisions of Can. 119.1, vote is to be taken in the third ballot, between the two candidates with greatest number of votes, or if there are more than two candidates, between the two senior by first temporal incorporation in the Society, and if the year and date of their first temporal incorporation is the same, between the two senior by age, and the one who secures the absolute majority shall be declared elected. In case of tie, the one who is senior by age is deemed elected. At the end of the ballots, the ballot papers shall be burned.
103. The election of the Superior General is presided over by one of the members of the Assembly, elected for this purpose, in the first session of the Assembly itself.
104. If the newly elected Superior General accepts his election, the President of the Assembly proclaims him elected Superior General. He immediately gets all the rights of the Superior General and becomes the president of the assembly for the remaining sessions.
105. If the General elect is absent from the place of election, he shall be notified of his election to ask his consent and be asked to proceed immediately to the place of the assembly.
106. First the Superior General shall be elected, then the Assistant General, then the three General Councilors and lastly the Treasurer General, all by separate ballots.
107. After his election the Superior General makes a profession of faith, according to the formula approved by the Holy See (Can. 833. 8).
108. The General Forum consisting of all the members of the General Administration and all the members of the provincial administration/Regional administration shall be convoked by the Superior General in consultation with his Council

twice in a sexannium. The scope and purpose being to re-assess the progress of the Society as well as to better implement the resolutions of the previous General Assembly.

PERSONAL SUPERIORS OF THE SOCIETY

SUPERIOR GENERAL

109. The Superior General is elected for a term of six years. The six year term shall be computed to last till the newly elected Superior General accepts the office.
110. The Superior General can be re-elected but not for a third term consecutively.
111. The Superior General shall have the following qualifications:
 - a) He shall be a priest.
 - b) At least ten years of life in the Society after the first formal incorporation and at least five years as a permanent member (cfr. Can. 623).
 - c) Not less than 35 years of age at the time of the election.
112. Besides other duties determined in the Universal Law of the Church and these Constitutions, it is also the particular duty of the Superior General:-
 - a) to make every effort that the spirit of the Society shall be fostered, that the Constitutions and statutes shall be diligently observed and that the apostolic activities of the Society and its renewal shall constantly be promoted.
 - b) to make the canonical visit of the houses and other places wherein the members are residing, either by himself or by his delegates, at least once in three years.
 - c) to convoke and preside over the General Assembly and to dissolve it with the consent of the General Assembly.
 - d) to promulgate the decrees of the General Assembly as early as possible.
 - e) to make use of the prerogative of breaking the tie of votes after the third balloting in all the meetings where he presides over by right, except in the case of elections.
 - f) In disciplinary matters, for a just reason, the Superior General can dispense the members from the observance of the Constitutions in

particular cases.

- g) For the needs of the formation houses, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council and in consultation with the Provincial Superior/ Regional Superior, can call a member from any Province/Region.
- h) The Superior General, after the Celebration of the General Assembly, shall send a report of the state and life of the Society to the Apostolic See (Can.592. 1)
- i) To periodically convene and preside over meetings of the Provincial Superiors.

113. According to the universal Law of the Church and proper Law of the Society, the Superior General requires the consent of his Council in the more serious affairs of the Society, chief among which are the following:-

- a) to issue ordinances for the good of the whole Society which shall remain in force until they are changed by himself or by his successors or by the General Assembly.
- b) to appoint superiors of houses, where the General Administration has taken up specific works, after suitable consultation.
- c) to erect new houses, or to suppress existing houses, in accordance with canons 609. 1 and Can. 616. 1.
- d) to make contracts of great importance after fulfilling all the juridical conditions.
- e) to accept the resignation of the Assistant Superior General or of a General Councillor due to personal reasons, and to appoint new ones.
- f) to appoint the heads of formation houses at the major seminary level.
- g) to determine the contribution (percentage of income) which each house has to send to the general fund of the Society.

114. The Superior General shall not be the superior of the house where he resides, so that he may be able to devote himself fully to the government of the whole Society.

115. The Superior General ceases to hold office:

- a) With the acceptance of the election by his successor.
- b) By his resignation. If the Superior General considers it his duty to resign from his office, outside an extraordinary General Chapter, he should present his motives to the Holy See, after having informed the General Council.

- c) If for grave reasons, it is considered necessary to substitute the Superior General, the Councillors should present the case to the Holy See and follow its instructions.

ASSISTANT GENERAL

- 116. The Assistant General shall help the General and shall take his place when he is absent or impeded or his office has fallen vacant according to the norms of our Society.
- 117. The Assistant General shall be elected for a period of six years, along with the Superior General. He shall have the same qualifications as the General. By his very election he becomes one of the Councilors. He can be re-elected but not for a third consecutive term.
- 118. In the absence of the Superior General, the Assistant is endowed with the same authority as the Superior General except in matters that are reserved by law or by the Superior General himself.
- 119. When the office of the Superior General falls vacant on account of any reason:
 - a) the Assistant shall act as the Superior General till the new General accepts the office.
 - b) he shall see that the General Assembly is held within six months to elect the new Superior General and his Council.
 - c) until the new Superior General accepts the office, he shall look after the daily administration of the whole Society without making any change in the policy or government, unless urgency demands and then too only with the consent of the Council.
- 120. The Assistant ceases to hold office the same way as the Superior General. If for grave reasons, the Superior General with the consent of his Council, retains it opportune to remove the Assistant General from his office, he should present the case to the Holy See and follow its instructions.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

- 121. The General Council is made up of the Superior General who convokes it and presides over it, the Assistant Superior General, the three Councilors.
- 122. The Councilors shall have the same qualifications prescribed by these rules for the Superior General.
- 123. All the Councilors are eligible for re-election.

124. The resignation of a member of the General Council shall be made before the Superior General and the rest of the Council members. When the office of a Councilor becomes vacant for personal reasons, the Superior General and the rest of the Councilors shall elect a substitute who shall remain in office until the convening of the General Assembly, at which the Superior General is elected.
125. For the validity of any Council meeting, all the Councilors must be convoked and the majority of the members must be present. The presence of the four Councilors is required in case of dismissal of a member from the Institute (cfr. Can. 699. 1). In case of necessity, the Superior General may substitute a perpetually incorporated member for an absent Councilor.
126. When the consent of the Council is required, the voting shall be secret. In other cases it is left to the choice of the President or the members to have it in secret or not.
127. For serious reasons, a General Councilor may ask for resignation from his office. In this case, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council shall appoint another one if resignation is accepted.

If on the other hand, for grave reasons, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, retains it opportune to remove a General Councilor from his office, he must present in writing his motives to the Holy See and follow its instructions.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

128. The Secretary General of the Society shall be appointed by the Superior General with the consent of his Council. He shall remain in office as long as the Superior General and his Council decides otherwise. He takes an oath of secrecy concerning all official matters when he assumes office.
129. The Secretary General can be one of the Councilors. Otherwise he is not a member of the General Council.
130. The duties of the Secretary General shall be to write, transcribe and keep the minutes and documents and take care of the correspondence entrusted to him by the Superior General. He shall countersign all documents to be kept in the archives. He has no vote in the Council, unless he is one of the Councilors.

THE TREASURER GENERAL

131. The duty of the Treasurer General shall be to administer the temporalities of the Society according to the prescriptions given by the Superior General and his Councilors and the norms of common and proper law.
132. Every six months he shall give the Superior General and his Council a statement of the said temporalities, showing their status and giving an account of all revenues and expenditures.

133. He shall keep the accounts in the form prescribed by the government.
134. The Treasurer General is elected for six years. He goes out of office along with the rest of the General Council, but he is not a member of the General Council and has no vote. If for serious reasons, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, retains opportune to remove him from his office, the Superior General must present in writing his motives to the Holy See and follow its instructions.

PROVINCE

135. A Province is a union of several houses which, under one superior constitutes an immediate part of the same Institute, and is canonically established by lawful authority. (Can. 621).
136. The Superior General, with the consent of his Council and in consultation with the respective Provincial Council, is the competent authority to establish a Province/Region. A province shall consist of at least 30 permanent members.
137. Division of the Society into Provinces and Regions or any other kind of subdivisions is to be made without any consideration of language, caste or any other such criterion which may jeopardize our very being and working as one family in the Church.
138. The Superior General with the consent of his Council may establish a province for 1) the better administration and more effective co-ordination of missionary efforts; 2) to promote better and more efficient apostolate in an area or country; 3) to promote the welfare of the members; 4) to assist in the growth of the Society in a given area, etc.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

139. The Provincial Superior shall be elected with a 2/3rd majority by the Provincial Assembly; but his election is subject to confirmation by the Superior General (cfr. Can. 625.3). He remains in office for a period of three years, and can be re-elected but not for a third term consecutively.
140. Provincial Council consists of the Provincial Superior and his 4 Councilors, one of whom is the Vice Provincial. The Provincial and Vice provincial must be priests and have the same qualifications required for the Superior General in Art. 112. Other Councilors also must have been permanent members for at least five years at the time of election.
141. In exceptional circumstances, the Superior General with the consent of his Council may permit a smaller number of Councilors, but in any case not less than two.
142. The Provincial Superior has authority over all the members of the Provincial community and over all the houses and exercises his authority according to the universal Law and norms of the Constitutions and General Directory and also of the Provincial Statutes.
143. Four months prior to the expiry of his term of office, the Provincial Superior should inform the Superior General of the same.
144. The following are the members of the Provincial Assembly:-
 - a) By right of office (ex officio):-
 - The Provincial Superior
 - The Provincial Councilors
 - The Provincial Treasurer
 - The Provincial Secretary
 - The former Provincial Superior (the last one)
 - The Regional Superiors (if any)
 - b) By Election:

A proportionate number of perpetually incorporated members elected according to the norms given in the Directory.

Elected members should not be less than the ex officio members.
145. The election of the Provincial Councilors takes place during the same assembly that elects the Provincial Superior. It is the right of the Superior General to confirm the choice of the Vice Provincial and the Councilors.
146. The election is to be conducted in the manner prescribed in our Constitutions for the election of the General Administration. It is presided over by the Superior General or his Delegate.

147. The Provincial Treasurer is appointed by the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council. He does not become a member of the Provincial Council and has no vote.
148. The Provincial Superior and the Provincial Council goes out of office:
- a) With the acceptance of the election by his successor.
 - b) By his resignation. If the Provincial Superior considers it his duty to resign from his office, outside an extraordinary Provincial Chapter, he should present his motives to the Superior General, after having informed his Council.
 - c) If for grave reasons, it is considered necessary to substitute the Provincial Superior, the Provincial Councilors should present the case to the Superior General and follow his instructions.
149. In case the office of the Provincial Superior becomes vacant for reasons mentioned in Article 149 b) and c) or the death of the Provincial Superior, the Superior General shall call for new elections within six months.
150. Resignation / Removal:
- 1) For serious reasons, a Provincial Councilor may tender his resignation to the Provincial Superior. If accepted by the Provincial Superior after consultation with his Council, he then forwards it to the Superior General who in consultation with his Council appoints a replacement from three names proposed by the Provincial Administration.
 - 2) If on the other hand, for grave reasons, the Provincial Superior, with the consent of his Council, retains it opportune to remove a Provincial Councilor from office, he must present in writing his motives to the Superior General and follow his instructions.
 - 3) In very rare cases, such as for example, the following:
 - a. The Provincial/Regional Administration repeatedly disregards the Constitutions and the General Directory and the directives of the General Administration.
 - b. The Provincial/ Region Administration does not govern the Institute according to the charism of the Society.
 - c. There are prevalent moral and financial scandals in the Province/Region which the Provincial/ Regional Administration does not correct.
 - d. The Provincial/ Regional Administration openly rebels against the General Administration and runs the Province/Region like a separate congregation.

In such cases, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, is empowered to remove the Provincial Council/Regional Council after having approached the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and for Societies of Apostolic Life.

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

151. I. The Provincial Assembly is to be convoked every three years at the time and place determined by the Provincial Superior, with the consent of his Council and in consultation with the Superior General.
- II. The convocation of the Provincial Assembly is made at least three months before the date of its opening.
- III. The Provincial Assembly is presided over by the Provincial Superior and a Delegate of the Superior General shall be present.
- IV. The principal functions of the Provincial Assembly are:
 - a) to promote knowledge, information and co-responsibility in all the members of the Province, reinvigorate the apostolic spirit and favour its renewal.
 - b) to elect the Provincial Superior, and Vice Provincial and the three provincial Councilors.
 - c) to deal with matters of great importance.
 - d) to prepare a Provincial Directory, if need be, and issue other norms to the members of the Province.
- V. Every Provincial Assembly shall fix the number of delegates and the mode of electing the delegates for the next Provincial Assembly which needs the approval of the Superior General with the consent of his Council.
- VI. The Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council may convoke an extraordinary Provincial Assembly after consulting the Superior General.
- VII. To become effective, any major decisions of the Provincial Assembly need the approval of the Superior General with the consent of his Council.
- VIII. The Provincial Forum consisting of all the members of the provincial administration, a delegate of the General Administration, Regional Superiors if any, all local Superiors, all heads of institutions and the vocation promoter as well as all the permanent members of the Province at their choice shall be convoked by the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council twice in a triennium. The scope and purpose being to re-assess the progress of the Province as well as to better implement the resolutions of the previous Provincial Assembly.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE PROVINCIAL

152. I. The Provincial Superior shall look after the spiritual and temporal needs of the members of the Province with charity, kindness and solicitude. He makes sure of the observance of the rules of the Institute, the directives of the Local Ordinary and Institute's own superiors. In word and action he fosters the missionary spirit within his jurisdiction and is ever mindful of the overall growth and development of the Province and the interests of the Institute.
- II. He shall make the canonical visit of every house at least once a year. The Provincial visitation has the aim of strengthening the members' conviction that the Society cares for each and every one of them. It also helps to give the provincialate a first-hand information of the life and work of the members and a realistic picture of the conditions and needs of the various areas of the Province.
- III. The Provincial has the right and duty to oversee the spiritual and material activities of both individual houses and members. During the canonical visit, he meets each of the members of the community privately and as a community. He will examine every record of the community, particularly the register of the spiritual and pastoral activities of the house such as recollections and retreats of the community. He will also check all the documents concerning the movable and immovable goods of the community, statements of the financial accounts of the house, which he signs affixing the date and the official seal. He should also make sure that the suggestions given and the decisions taken during the previous visit of himself or of his predecessor are implemented. He will check the Mass Register of the individual members and their financial Statements. The members should make available to him their personal financial accounts according to the provisions of the Constitutions (Art. 67).
- IV. He is responsible for the administration of the temporalities of the Province. He sends the financial and other reports to the Superior General at specified periods and also when called for. He should also send whatever information the Local Ordinaries require concerning the various apostolic activities of the houses and members under their jurisdiction.
- V. Keeping in view the general needs of the Institute and the Province, he has the right to acquire new properties.
- VI. He shall seek and find the necessary financial resources for carrying on the work of the province and to assist the members in the discharge of their apostolate.

VII. Mindful of the specific and primary objective of our Institute he shall actively encourage all the members to detect and foster suitable vocations to the Institute.

153. a) He requires the consent of his Council for the following cases:

- I. It is the right of the Provincial Superior, with the consent of his Council, to officially establish or abolish local communities or other special works after having heard the opinion of the General Administration and with due respect for the rights of the Local Ordinary.
- II. Appointment of local superiors.
- III. Approval of the yearly budget, and financial and other reports for the General Council.
- IV. Request to the General Council for authorization to proceed in affairs outside the ordinary administration.
- V. Determination of the monthly allowance to be given to the members of the Province and of the form of support, medical assistance and other expenses regarding studies, trips, etc.
- VI. Permission for residence, for legitimate reasons, outside the communities of the Institute, for a period not exceeding one year.
- VII. To enter into agreements with the Local Ordinaries or other Religious Communities or Institutes regarding various types of apostolate within the Province. Copies of such agreements should be submitted to the Superior General.

b) The approval of the General Council is necessary in the following cases:-

- I. To establish a new community when men and means are not readily available in the Province.
- II. Permission for a member to reside outside the houses of our communities for a period longer than one year.
- III. To alienate properties worth more than the amount fixed by the General Administration.
- IV. To undertake projects, that involve high running costs or maintenance expenditure.

PROVINCIAL TREASURER

154. I. It is the duty of Provincial Treasurer to administer the temporalities of the Province according to the norms given by the Constitutions and the Directory and according to the directions given by the Provincial Superior and his Council.

- II. In the discharge of his duties, he will be assisted by a Property and Finance Committee to be set up by the Provincial Superior.
- III. He shall prepare and submit an annual budget to the Provincial Council for its approval at the beginning of the financial year.
- IV. Every six months or as often as is called for he shall submit a statement of the temporalities showing their status and giving an account of the revenues and expenditures to the Provincial Superior. At the end of the financial year he shall prepare a consolidated statement of account for the year to be submitted to the treasurer general by the Provincial Superior. It shall be done in the manner and within the time frame demanded by the Treasurer General.
- V. Every house shall submit its account and hand over the money not required for the regular routine expenses of the house to the Provincial Treasurer every month. The income bearing institutions shall hand over the account and money not required for the routine expenses to him at the time specified for it by the Provincial Superior.
- VI. He has the right and duty to inspect the accounts of each house at least once a year. Any discrepancy or irregularity in matters of financial administration has to be brought to the notice of the Provincial Superior and his instruction in the matter is to be followed.
- VII. The Provincial Treasurer, on his own, cannot sanction any money to any one. He is simply to follow the directives of the Provincial Administration.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

155. Provincial Secretary is appointed by the Provincial Administration to write, transcribe, and keep the minutes and documents and to take care of the correspondence entrusted to him by the Provincial Superior. In the absence of a separate chancellor he maintains also the Provincial Archive.

He can be chosen from among the elected members of the Provincial Council. If he is not one of the elected Councilors, he does not have vote.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE PROVINCE

156. Membership in a particular Province or Region or any other form of subdivision, as the case may be, is acquired by one's opting for it.
157. All permanent members of the Province have active voice in the Province, according to these Constitutions. However, all the permanent members with the required qualifications only have passive voice.

158. I. Serious medical care and retirement of members is the competence of Provincial/Regional Administration.
- II. The General Administration can take up specific works in a provincial circumscription after due consultation with the Provincial Council /Regional Administration

The members assigned to these communities and activities are assigned in a normal way by the Superior General with his Council to the Circumscription within the borders of which their formation community or other such works are situated.

REGION

159. A Region is a quasi autonomous unit of the Society like a Province, established in view of being erected as a Province in future, but is dependent on a Province (under the supervision of the Superior General). It will not have its own Assembly but shall join the Assembly of its Province.
160. A Region shall consist of at least 15 permanent members.
161. The Superior General with the consent of his Council and after consulting the Provincial Superior, may establish a Region for a) the better administration and more effective co-ordination of missionary efforts; b) to promote better and more efficient apostolate in an area or a country; c) to promote the welfare of the members; d) to assist in the growth of the Society in a given area etc.

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION

162. A Regional Superior is appointed by the Provincial with the consent of his Council from among the panel selected by the members of the Region. The members residing in a particular Region will select a panel of 2 persons by secret ballots. The top two who receive the highest amount of votes will be the members of the panel. If there are more than two, those senior by age will be selected. The Regional Superior remains in office for a period of three years and he may be reappointed for another term. His appointment needs the confirmation from the Superior General.
163. The Regional Administration consists of the Regional Superior and his 2 Councilors, one of whom is the Secretary and Treasurer. The Regional Superior must be a priest and should have the same qualifications required for the Superior General in Art. 112. Other Councilors also must have been permanent members for at least 3 years at the time of appointment. The Councilors are appointed by the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council after gathering the opinion of the members of the Region.

164. The Regional Superior has authority over all the members of the Region according to the norms of the Constitutions and the General Directory.
165. Three months prior to the expiry of his term of office, the Regional Superior should inform of the same to the Provincial Superior. Two months before the expiry of the term of office of the Regional Superior, who is in charge at that time, the Provincial Superior, after consulting the Superior General, shall call all the members residing in the Region together to elect the panel and to gather the opinion from the members as to who could be appointed Regional Councilors.
166. Such a gathering for the election of the panel is to be presided over by the Provincial Superior or his delegate.
167. The Regional Superior and the Council goes out of office:-
- a) With the appointment of his successor.
 - b) By his resignation. If the Regional Superior considers it his duty to resign from his office he should present his motives along with his letter of resignation to the Provincial Superior, after having informed his Council.
 - c) If for grave reasons, it is considered necessary to substitute the Regional Superior, the Regional Councilors should present the case to the Superior General and follow his instructions.
168. In case the office of the Regional Superior becomes vacant for reasons mentioned in Article 168 b) and c) or due to the death of the Regional Superior, the Provincial Superior shall call for a meeting of the permanent members in the Region to elect the panel within three months. In the interim period the first Councilor will take the place of the Regional Superior.
169. For serious reasons, a Regional Councilor may ask for the resignation from his office. If the resignation is accepted by the Provincial Superior, the Provincial Superior, after consulting with the Regional Superior, appoints another one.

If on the other hand, for grave reasons, the Regional Superior retains it opportune to remove a Regional Councilor from office, he must present in writing his motives to the Provincial Superior and follow his instructions.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE REGION

170. An Annual meeting of the members residing in a Region must be convened by the Regional Superior after consulting his Council for the purpose of promoting knowledge, information and co-responsibility in all the members of the Region, reinvigorating the apostolic spirit and favoring its renewal. Such a meeting is presided over by the Regional Superior. A delegate of the Provincial Superior shall attend the meeting.

The decisions taken by such a meeting need the approval of the Superior General with the consent of his Council.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL SUPERIOR

171. a) The Regional Superior shall look after the spiritual and temporal needs of the members of the Region with charity, kindness and solicitude. He makes sure of the observance of the rules of the Society, the directives of the Local Ordinary and Society's own superiors. In word and action he fosters the missionary spirit within his Regional jurisdiction and is ever mindful of the overall growth and development of the Region and the interests of the Institute.
- b) He shall visit every house at least once a year to assess and to explore the possibilities of developing the activities of the house, and to take note of the problems they face.
- c) He has the right and duty to oversee the spiritual and material activities of both individual houses and members.
- d) He is responsible for the administration of the temporalities of the Region. He sends the financial and other reports at specified periods and also when called for to the Superior General and to the Provincial Superior on which the Region depends. He should also send whatever information the Local Ordinaries require concerning the various apostolic activities of the houses in the Region.
- e) He shall seek and find the necessary financial resources for carrying on the work of the Region and to assist the members in the discharge of their apostolate.
- f) Mindful of the specific and primary objective of our Society he shall actively encourage all the members to detect and foster suitable vocations to the Society.
- g) He requires the consent of his Council for the following cases:-
- i) approval of the yearly budget, and financial and other reports for the General Council.
 - ii) to request to the General Council for authorization to proceed in affairs outside the ordinary administration.
 - iii) determination of the monthly allowance to be given to the members of the Region and of the form of support, medical assistance and other expenses regarding studies, trips, etc.
 - iv) request for finances to the General Council.

- v) permission for residence, for legitimate reasons, outside the communities of the Institute, for a period not exceeding one year.
 - vi) to appoint a vocation director for the Region.
 - vii) to recommend to the Provincial Superior candidates for temporary and permanent incorporation into the Society.
 - viii) to recommend to the Superior General/Provincial Superior members of the Region for Sacred Orders.
- h) The Regional Administration requires the approval of the General Council in the following cases:
- i) to officially establish or abolish local communities or other special works.
 - ii) to appoint local superiors and staff members to the formation houses.
 - iii) to enter into agreements with the Local Ordinaries or other Religious Communities or Institutes regarding various types of apostolate within the Region.
 - iv) to acquire new properties, or to undertake projects costing more than the amount fixed by the General Administration for the discretion of the Region.
 - v) to alienate properties worth more than the amount fixed by the General Council.
 - vi) permission for a member to reside outside the houses of our communities for a period longer than one year.
 - vii) To undertake projects, which cost more than the amount fixed by the General Council.
172. The Superior General or his delegate will make the canonical visits to the houses in the Regions.
173. It shall be the right of the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council to promote candidates to temporary and the final promise as well as to the minor orders, diaconate and priesthood. It belongs to the Provincial Superior to grant dimissorial letters for diaconate and priesthood (Art. 46 c of the Constitutions).

The Regional Superior does not have power to issue dimissorial letters on his own.

REGIONAL TREASURER AND SECRETARY

174. a) It is the duty of Regional Treasurer and Secretary to administer the temporalities of the Region according to the norms given by the Constitutions and the Directory and according to the directions given by the Regional Superior and his Council.
- b) He shall prepare and submit an annual budget to the Regional Council for its approval at the beginning of the financial year.
- c) Every six months or as often as is called for he shall submit a statement of the temporalities showing their status and giving an account of the revenues and expenditures to the Regional Superior. At the end of the financial year he shall prepare a consolidated statement of account for the year to be submitted to the Treasurer General by the Regional Superior. It shall be done in the manner and with in the time frame demanded by the Treasurer General.
- d) Every house shall submit its account and hand over the money not required for the regular routine expenses of the house to the Regional Treasurer & Secretary every month. The income bearing institutions shall hand over the account and money not required for the routine expenses to him at the time specified for it by the Regional Superior.
- e) He has the right and duty to inspect the accounts of each house at least once a year. Any discrepancy or irregularity in matters of financial administration has to be brought to the notice of the Regional Superior and his instruction in the matter is to be followed.
- f) The Regional Treasurer and Secretary, on his own, cannot sanction any money to any one. He is simply to follow the directives of the Regional Superior.
- g) He shall write, transcribe, and keep the minutes and documents and to take care of the correspondence entrusted to him by the Regional Superior. He maintains also the archive of the Region.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

175. The Local Superior is the one who is entrusted with the administration of a single community of the Society. He should be a priest with at least three years of life in the Society as a definitively incorporated member.
176. The Superior of a local community is appointed by the Superior General/Provincial Superior / Regional Superior, as the case may be, after suitable consultation with the members of the house and with the consent of his Council.
177. Unless the good of the community or the need for the personnel elsewhere makes advisable his transfer or removal, the Local Superior remains in office for a period of three years and may be reconfirmed for another three years, but not

for a third term consecutively, unless the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, permits this for serious reasons.

178. The Local Superior's resignation is accepted or rejected by the Superior General/ Provincial Superior/Regional Superior, as the case may be, with the consent of their Council. His mandate can be revoked by the same authority, with the consent of their Council, for serious reasons (cfr. Can. 624. 3).
179. In communities of at least eight perpetually incorporated members, the Local Council is made up of the Superior who presides over it and at least two Councilors, appointed by the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior, as the case may be.

The first appointed Councilor is the local Vicar, whose principal duty is to ensure the continuity of authority in the absence of the Superior.

So far as possible, a Treasurer distinct from the Local Superior shall be appointed (cfr. Can 636) by the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior as the case may be.

The local Treasurer shall administer the temporal goods of the community, according to the proper law of the Society, under the direction of the local Superior. He shall send the reports to Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior, as the case may be at required intervals.

In smaller communities the Council is made up of all the perpetually incorporated members.

180. The duties of the Local Superior shall be to look after the spiritual and temporal needs of his subjects with charity and kindness, to see to the observance of the rules of the Society, the directives of the Local Ordinary, to obey the instructions of his superiors, and to foster missionary spirit in word and action in the community. He shall also maintain the register of spiritual and pastoral activities of the house.
181. The Local Superior is bound by the law of residence and shall not leave the place for a notable period of time without the prior permission of the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior.

SEPARATION FROM THE SOCIETY

182. In case of separation of perpetually incorporated members from the Society, the norms of the Canon Law are to be observed (Can. 742-746).

The Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council can dismiss temporarily incorporated members, if found unfit. In case of serious and urgent need to dismiss a temporary member, the Provincial Superior can act by himself. An

indult of departure to temporarily incorporated members may be granted by the Provincial Superior.

TEMPORALITIES AND THEIR ADMINISTRATION

183. The Society, the Provinces and the houses are juridical persons which can acquire, possess, administer and alienate temporal goods, observing of course what is prescribed by common and proper law, taking also into consideration the civil laws of the place.
184. The Superior General, Provincial Superiors, Regional Superiors and the Local Superiors shall see that through solid and well established means they have funds to meet the temporal needs of the communities.
185. The Superior General shall give the necessary directives to the Treasurer General, and other treasurers for the proper administration of the goods of the Society.
186. The acquisition of properties whether movable or immovable shall be done according to the civil law of each place. The norms shall be followed even when money, properties or buildings etc. are entrusted to the Society or mission for charitable or other religious purposes.
187. The Superior General, the Provincial Superiors, Regional Superiors and the local Superiors shall keep copies of all relevant documents connected with the acquisition of properties.
188. The Superior General/Provincial Superiors/Regional Superiors shall obtain the consent of their Council before the acquisition of new properties for the Society
189. In case of alienation of objects of value or for contracting debts and assuming liabilities the provisions of Canon 638 is to be followed.
190. They shall conform themselves to the regulations of the Code of Canon Law in accepting and fulfilling the obligations of pious causes.
191. The members of the Society shall remember their serious obligations to act according to the will of the donors in the matter.
192. The superiors of the Society and other members who may also be heads of institutions or activities belonging to other juridical entities shall have separate administration and accounts of temporal goods of those institutions and of the Society.

OBSERVANCE OF THE CONSTITUTIONS

193. ALL THE MEMBERS MUST DIRECT THEIR LIVES ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTIONS AND THUS STRIVE FOR PERFECTION OF THEIR STATE OF LIFE (CAN. 598.2). THE AUTHENTIC INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONS IS RESERVED TO THE HOLY SEE. THE SUPERIOR GENERAL, WITH THE CONSENT OF HIS COUNCIL, MAY GIVE A PRACTICAL INTERPRETATION WHENEVER IT IS NECESSARY.

**THE DIRECTORY
OF
HERALDS OF GOOD NEWS

A MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

Introduction:

The final article of our Constitutions reminds us that “all the members must direct their lives according to the Constitutions and thus strive for perfection in their state of life...” (Art.194). Our Directory helps us precisely in this regard by interpreting for us the nuances of the Constitutions and giving us practical guidelines as to how to direct our daily lives according to the ideas and principles enshrined in our Constitutions.

The Directory sets out clear guidelines regarding the different aspects of our life in the Society. It makes us aware of our patrimony and helps us to safeguard it as many of the rules we have adopted in this Directory are reflective of the timely guidelines given by our Founder and the previous administrations.

**Chapter I
Vocation Promotion & Formation**

In the history of salvation we see God calling Abraham to found a new people. He called Moses to free Israel from Egyptian hands. He called the prophets to be the heralds of truth and witnesses of his will. He called Mary to be the Mother of the Saviour. During his earthly mission Jesus of Nazareth called and appointed certain men “to be with him, and to be sent out to preach” (Mk. 3:14).

During his public ministry and most fully after his death and resurrection, he had conferred on Peter and the twelve special powers with regard to the future community and the evangelization of all peoples. He conferred upon the Apostles the same authority which he had received from the Father: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to

observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Mt. 28:18-20). From this and other instructions of the Lord it is evident that the mission of the apostles is the same mission of Jesus (Cf. Lk. 10:16; Jn. 15:5).

Pope John Paul II in his apostolic exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis* says that “In their turn, the Apostles, appointed by the Lord, progressively carried out their mission by calling, in various but complementary ways, other men as bishops, as priests and as deacons, in order to fulfill the command of the Risen Jesus who sent them forth to all people in every age” (15). The Holy Father further says that “priests exist and act in order to proclaim the Gospel to the world and to build up the Church in the name and person of Christ the Head and Shepherd”.

The mission of Jesus was to glorify the Father and to save souls. In the same way as Christ, the priest must do everything to glorify God and to save souls through Christ, in Christ and with Christ.

It is in obedience to the mandate of the resurrected Jesus and to prolong his mission on earth that our Society was founded with the specific aim of training and supplying wherever there is need, dedicated, hardworking and saintly missionaries. (Cf. Const. Art.5)

We aim at an integral formation of our seminarians and priests. We who are chosen to be the prolongation of the only Mediator between God and men should always remember the invitation of Christ to be perfect as the Heavenly Father is perfect. The Decree on Priestly Training of the Second Vatican Council exhorts us that through our spiritual exercises we should learn to live according to the Gospel ideal and be strengthened in faith, hope and charity. Through the different spiritual exercises we hope to acquire the spirit of prayer, learn to defend and strengthen our vocation, obtain an increase of other virtues and grow in the zeal to gain all people for Christ.

A. Vocation promotion

1. Vocation promotion & Formation of the seminarians are very important as far as the specific aim of the Society is concerned and it will be the primary duty of all the members.
2. All the members are to be earnest in this task especially those in the education and pastoral ministries (Const. Art.24).
3. Each seminarian will endeavour to bring at least one new member a year to our family. Each should feel it is a duty for him. Only when we are proud of our family and our state of life, we can honestly talk to others to join our family and our company. In fact that is one of the main reasons for the decline of vocations in many parts of the world. Priests and nuns are often ashamed or at least do not any more speak to young boys and girls about vocations. Let us prove that we are proud members of our family.
4. There has to be a vocation promotion co-coordinator as part of the Provincial/Regional Administration.

5. A full time vocation promoter is needed in every Province/Region.
6. There should be regular meetings among various levels and agents of vocation promotion.
7. To coordinate the vocation promotion, a committee is to be set up with the vocation promoters in each Province/Region as the case may be.
8. The vocation promoters of each Province/Region will meet at least twice a year and evolve methods to improve the vocation promotion and send the report to the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior. Any modifications in the method need his approval.
9. Any request for additional helpers for vocation promotion, either priests or seminarians, is to be made to the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior (as the case may be) at least two months before the end of each academic year. This will facilitate the arrangements for the holidays of the students and especially the summer training programme for the students.
10. Before selecting a candidate for the Society, the vocation promoters should see that the certificates mentioned in Art. 21 of our Constitutions are secured by the candidate.
11. Besides this, it should be made a practice to visit the house of the candidates and enquire about the family background of the candidate.
12. A personal talk with the parish priest of the candidate is a requirement. Quality rather than quantity should be the criterion.

B) Formation

a) Formation Committee

13. There shall be a formation coordinator as part of the General Administration.
14. A Formation Committee is to be set up consisting of the rectors of the formation houses and anyone else appointed by the Superior General in consultation with his Council.
15. The Committee will meet at least twice a year and it is its duty to draw up a comprehensive plan and syllabus for formation and also to review the existing syllabus and programme for formation. They will also make a plan for the ongoing formation of the staff members of the formation houses.
16. The report has to be submitted to the Superior General for approval. Any major change in the formation programme requires the approval of the Superior General (Const. Art.28). The Committee remains in operation for a period of three years.

17. The syllabus and programme thus drawn up should give importance to the following:

- a) The harmonious growth and integration of human, social, intellectual and spiritual dimensions in the person's life.
- b) The value of manual labour and the importance of hard work is to be highlighted.
- c) The programme drawn up should see that no overlapping of courses takes place at different stages of formation.

18. The Committee will draw up a format on which the annual report on the student is based, to be sent to the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior by the rectors of the different formation houses.

19. The Committee members will keep themselves and all the others informed of the directives of the Universal Church and the Episcopal Conferences.

20. For the running of Major Seminaries, a Board consisting of the Superior General and the Provincials/Regional Superiors would be created. The Board would meet the seminary Staff and Students at least once a year.

b) Formation Programme

i) Intellectual formation

21. The programme of formation for the minor seminaries should include the subjects specified in the respective Formation Handbooks. Those who have not done the pre-university course will have to do it during the Minor Seminary stage of formation.

22. All the seminarians from every province will attend the Spiritual Orientation course at Kurukuru and the Philosophy course at Kurnool. There will be a qualifying exam for students prior to beginning their Philosophy studies. During the Philosophy years, the student must do a graduation at a secular university so that by the time he enters theology, he has acquired a graduation certificate.

23. At the level of philosophy and theology courses, the students should be directly involved in the pastoral ministry. There should be a pastoral coordinator from the staff to oversee the pastoral activity of the students.

24. The provinces are allowed to send students to study theology in the seminary of their choice. The Centre would pay for the board/lodge & studies of one student per year sent by a province for theology to a seminary in India. All the other expenses (books, computer etc.) would be met by the student from his pocket money or by the province.

25. For the integral development of the students, summer training programs and extracurricular activities should be included in the plan of formation.

26. The seminarians are entitled to get a month of home holidays each year. But the rest of the time of holidays are to be spent in one of our houses.

ii) Spiritual Formation

27. At the level of the spiritual orientation course:

- a) The students should be systematically initiated into the study of the Constitutions and Directory of the Society.
- b) They should be made aware of the charism, history and spirituality of the Society.

28. Each seminarian will select a Spiritual Father for himself and visit him time to time. At the end of the academic year each student will have to report to the Rector as to the number of times he has visited the Spiritual Father.

29. The following devotional practices should be uniformly followed in all our formation houses:

- a) Daily praying of the rosary
- b) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday
- c) Monthly Recollection
- d) Prayers to Mary Queen of the Apostles and St. Joseph the Worker, after the daily Eucharist
- e) Annual retreats

30. In minor seminaries and in spiritual orientation there should be three days of annual retreat and in major seminaries there should be option for retreats up to five days.

31. Seminarians are strongly recommended to meet Christ in the Sacrament of Reconciliation more often than the routine monthly confession.

32. The rectors and animators of the formation houses should make it a point to have personal talks with the students to help them in their formation.

iii) PERIOD OF TRAINING

33. The period of training and formation of candidates shall comprise of six stages:

- a) Minor Seminary:
 - i. Minimum 3 years for those who have completed the 10th class.
 - ii. Minimum 2 years for those who have completed the 12th class or equivalent.
 - iii. Minimum 1 year for those who have completed graduation.
- b) A year of spiritual orientation.
- c) Study of philosophy lasting three years.

- d) A year of intensive training in pastoral life in the mission field. After this year, before the seminarian goes to theology, the Provincial will arrange for the seminarian to make his temporary promise which will be renewed every year until the perpetual promise.
- e) Theology course lasting seven semesters.
- f) A Period of Diaconate Ministry.
- g) Candidates for priesthood, if judged suitable, make their Perpetual Promise at the beginning of the fourth year of theology.
- h) The programme of doctrinal, spiritual and apostolic probation and formation of members must be adapted to the purpose and character of our Society, so that the members can recognise their divine vocation and be suitably prepared for the mission and the way of life of the Society (cfr. Can. 735 #3). The norms concerning the secular clergy apply to the programme of studies and reception of orders, except in the matter of incardination (cfr. Can. 736 # 2).

c) Promotions/Dismissals & Higher Studies

- 34. Promotion or dismissal of a student is the competence of the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior and his Council.
- 35. Deputing members for higher studies and getting them qualified in ecclesiastical and civil subjects will be within the competence of the General Council and of the Provincial/Regional administration.

d) Permissions

- 36. Minor Seminary: With regard to the minor seminary students, the rectors of our Minor Seminaries can give the necessary permission to the students as far as routine matters are concerned.
- 37. If an out of the way permission for holidays or other permissions of extraordinary nature are to be given, then the rectors of the minor seminaries will consult the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior.
- 38. Major Seminary Students: All the routine requests for permissions and holidays are to be made to the Rectors.
- 39. All requests for out of the way permissions are to be referred to the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior. This holds good both in the case of the students residing in our major seminaries and the students who are sent to other major seminaries.

40. It is up to the rector of the seminary to forward the request of the student to the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior for extraordinary permissions.

e) Pocket Money for Students

41. All the students who are in the major seminaries will be given a monthly allowance so as to meet their personal expenses. The allowance will be fixed from time to time by the Superior General in consultation with his Council.

42. The students are expected to meet their own personal expenses. If any additional financial assistance is required, the student has to request to the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior with recommendation of the rectors of the formation houses.

f) Application for Various Rites and Orders

43. The applications for admission to various rites, orders, promise and its renewal, has to be made to the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior.

44. The deacons who are to be ordained priests, must inform the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior well in advance regarding the place of their ordination; i.e. whether they would join the common ordinations or they want to keep it at their home parishes.

45. The Provincial Superior/Regional Superior will ask for the report on each student from the respective seminaries, before presenting the matter of promotion to his council.

g) Common Gathering and Celebrations:

46. The Society will celebrate with special prayers, functions and appropriate solemnity the following important days in its life...

- 1) 14th October, the Foundation Day - holiday
- 2) 2nd February, the day the pioneer members made their promise.
- 3) 5th May, the canonical erection of the Society and the day on which pontifical right was granted.
- 4) The feast days of the heavenly patrons: 1st May and 22nd August

Chapter II

Mission

Every Christian is endowed with the mandate “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt. 28:19). In a very special way, the disciples of Christ are called upon to proclaim the Good News to the ends of the earth. And we, sharing the ministerial priesthood of Christ, are called upon to dedicate our entire lives for the same task by being true and living witnesses of the Gospel. Therefore, we, the Heralds, being well aware of our special call, need to live up to the teachings of Christ living in accordance with the norms of the Church and the Constitutions of the Society.

Many of the Heralds are directly involved in the parish administration and missionary activities in different parts of the world. As far as Heralds are concerned mission work has a special place in their very lives as per the object and the specific purpose of the Society itself indicated in the Constitutions: “The object of the Society is to work for the glory of God by the evangelization of people and by the sanctification of its members following the rules and regulations of the Society.” (Const. Art. 4)

Therefore, we are invited to reflect over the missionary work we carry on in different dioceses to suggest ways and means to improve it.

A. Mission Life

47. All the members shall foster a zeal for the missions and encourage the missionaries working in difficult situations being closer to them with their support and prayers.

48. Members shall dedicate themselves to the missions in a spirit of love and service.

49. All the missionaries shall co-operate with their local Bishop, the diocesan clergy and the religious of the missions to have the maximum effect of the mission activities.

50. Missionaries working in countries outside India may visit their homeland for holidays at regular intervals as per the policy of the Province/Region.

51. Two years of pastoral ministry in the missions is the minimum requirement to be sent to the first world countries for ministry. Those who join the Society as priests should not be sent to the first world countries before a period of six years of ministry in India or in their home country.

52. The Provincial Superior/Regional Superior shall visit the proposed mission/parish before the missionaries are sent.

53. The superiors shall make a written agreement with the dioceses to which missionaries are sent. The agreement shall include:

- period of work in the diocese/mission center.
- stipend and other allowances to the priests.
- medical care of the priests.

- travel allowance when the missionaries are far from the Provincial/Regional administration.
- getting permanent parish or mission center for the congregation after a few years.
- any other matters of concern.

The agreement shall be made known to the priest concerned so that he may be aware of it.

54. There should be a Mission Center for training the priests who are to go to mission areas. It shall be a common center for all the provinces. The Central Formation Committee will organize periodically on-going formation courses for members at this Center.

B. Education

55. Education is the medium through which we encounter the young minds of today who will constitute the society and the Church of tomorrow. Our schools will seek to foster the integral development of the students for a better tomorrow.

56. A committee is to be constituted to look after the educational institutions of the Society. It shall be headed by one of the Councilors and will have at least three members to be nominated by the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior with the consent of the council. The tenure of the committee is co-terminus with that of the respective administration.

57. The competence of the committee shall be:

- a) To identify areas where new schools or other educational institutions could be set up. Making a feasibility study of the possible projects and reporting to the Central/Provincial/Regional administration.
- b) Recommending the acquisition of movable and immovable assets for the educational institutions.
- c) Ensuring the collaboration with the women religious wherever necessary to staff the educational institutions and preparing an agreement with them to be signed by the concerned administration.

58. The Provincial Directories will spell out the relationship between the School Headmaster and Correspondent and their respective duties as well as other details of administration of the school.

59. Those who are in charge of the schools or other educational institutions have to submit detailed accounts thrice a year:

- a) at the end of August
- b) at the end of November
- c) at the end of April

60. They have also to furnish a copy of the audited statement of accounts at the end of every financial year to the Treasurer General/Provincial Treasurer/Regional Treasurer.

61. The net income, after payment of the salaries to the employees and doing routine maintenance, has to be entrusted to the Treasurer General/Provincial Treasurer/Regional Treasurer. No other expenditure is to be incurred by the institutions without the prior approval of the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior.

CHAPTER III

Community Life

Even though mission has priority for us as a Missionary Society, community life is important. Art. 7 of our Constitutions urges us to “collectively strive after perfection and to give a collective witness to the holiness of Christ and His Church”. We have to reconcile the two aspects of our lives i.e., to be a missionary as well as our obligation to lead a community life.

62. The superiors shall seek to ensure that the members form community of three or more wherever possible. If a member lives alone for pastoral reasons, the superiors and confreres will, as far as possible, visit him to strengthen him in his pastoral works. The members living alone shall make it a point to maintain a close contact with confreres working in the nearby areas. Such members could be attached to the nearest community, if feasible.
63. Superiors shall see to it that members are not left alone for a long period of time. While maintaining stability for smooth pastoral running, efforts should be made to effect transfers in such a way that these members have an experience of community life.
64. Members should make it a point to be present for community exercises such as prayer, meals, recreation etc.
65. In each community one member will be appointed as superior and one as procurator to carry out the duties specified in the Constitutions and Directories.
66. Each province shall formulate its policy regarding the absence of a member from the community. Any absence of more than five days would need the permission of the Superior General/Provincial Superior/ Regional Superior, as the case may be. Before granting the permission the Superior General/Provincial Superior/ Regional Superior will refer this matter to the local superior.
67. The Superior General/Provincial Superior/ Regional Superior shall see that the members get their vacation as per the specification of their respective Directories and will support the effort of the member concerned to make the necessary arrangements during his absence. Any other visit, besides the home vacation, would need the explicit permission of the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior.
68. The Provincial Superior/Regional Superior shall visit the communities/ members under his jurisdiction at regular intervals.

Chapter IV

Life in the Society and Ongoing Formation

“You must be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.” (Mt. 5:48). This invitation of the Lord is directed to every Christian, but priests are bound by a special reason to acquire this perfection. They are consecrated to God in a new way in their ordination and are made the living instrument of Christ, the eternal Priest. Formation is a fruit, which matures little by little, through daily effort. The Constitutions of our Society clearly indicate that the members shall lead a community life. Community life is a binding force, which would help the members to live and grow in fraternal love. The community life is strengthened by mutual love, and collaboration and community prayer has a vital role in building up the community.

Ongoing formation also means continuity. Gradual progress over a limited span of time is not enough, it must continue. It would be a grave error to think that a person reached the goal on the day of his ordination. Evangelical perfection and complete identification with Christ stand always before and above us as the ideal we strive for. On the day the candidate receives the sacrament of orders, God invites him to set out on the path once again. Modern pedagogy calls this ongoing formation. It means to be up to date in the complete living of his priestly vocation, continual growth in his friendship with Christ, his love for the Church, his pastoral zeal, his attitude of generous self-giving to others.

A. Spiritual Life

69. A priest is advised to celebrate the Holy Eucharist daily even when there is no congregation. In communities concelebration is encouraged.
70. We spend sufficient time each day in reading the Scriptures and studying spiritual and theological subjects.
71. Being Heralds of Good News, it is our hallmark to live and propagate the Biblical spirituality through para-liturgical services of the Word of God.
72. Each member is personally responsible for the growth of his spiritual life. However, a loving community of prayer offers everyone a valuable help. We should make serious efforts to pray together even when we are few in number. The local superior is immediately responsible for the spiritual life of the community.
73. In a special way we honour Mary, Queen of Apostles, by celebrating the mysteries of her life as she is our principal heavenly patron.
74. Among the other saints we look particularly to St. Joseph, the Worker, our heavenly co- patron.
75. In the course of the day we spend time with Our Lord present in the Eucharist to deepen our love and friendship with Him.
76. The daily meditation should last at least half an hour.

77. In our daily examination of conscience we reflect on our lives and our missionary vocation keeping alive within us the will to repent.
78. We make the annual retreat together with other members of the Society, if possible, for at least five full days.
79. We make recollection at least four times a year. Communal penitential services are recommended on days of recollection, during retreats and similar occasions.
80. Frequent and regular meeting with Christ in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is highly recommended.
81. Each member should freely choose that form of asceticism which is suitable to his missionary service, personal situation and conditions of the region he works in. In our efforts to live in a selfless way, restraint shall be practiced in the use of consumer goods.
82. Fasting is a form of penance and an aid to prayer. Along with the general fast days, individual communities may choose fasting or other practices as signs of solidarity with the poor and as a support for our prayer for God's blessing on our missionary work. The money so saved should be used for the poor.
83. Conscious of her union with the departed, the Church cherishes the memory of those who have gone before us and remembers them in prayer. Therefore, we remember our dead with gratitude. All the members should remember our deceased members in the Holy Eucharist particularly on their anniversaries.
84. When the parents and close relatives of a member die, the local community celebrates the Holy Eucharist for them and attends the funeral whenever possible.

B. Masses for the Intention of the Society

85. All the priests members are to maintain a mass register showing the receipts and fulfillment of the intentions. And the register should be open for inspection when the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior is on visitation.
86. All the priests members are obliged to offer 3 masses a month for the intention of the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior, towards the maintenance. The members are obliged to intimate the fulfillment of this obligation to the Provincial Treasurer/Regional Treasurer every six months, i.e. at the end of June and at the end of December.
87. According to the Law of the Church, apart from Christmas Day, a priest can keep only one offering a day, even when, for pastoral reasons, he celebrates more than one Mass a day (Canon 951). The offerings for the Binated Masses, if any, are to be sent to the Provincial Treasurer to be credited into the Welfare Fund to be established in each province. When there are Binated Masses without an offering, those Masses may be offered for the intentions of the Province.

88. Those who are working outside India, will follow the rules regarding Mass intentions prevailing in the place of their service.

C. Allowances for the priests

89. Those who are residing in parishes and missions (in India) and where there is no regular mess will receive a fixed sum from Provincial/Regional administration towards the mess expenses. If there are seminarians doing regency in such places an amount will be paid for their food expenses too. The amount will be fixed from time to time by the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior.

90. Medical bills for any serious illness will be paid from the welfare fund of members, maintained and administered by the Provincial/Regional administration.

91. Ordinary medical bills will have to be paid by the individual concerned. When for any serious reason, even that is not possible, the members can have recourse to the common fund.

92. Those who, either due to age or sickness, are incapacitated to offer Holy Masses, will also receive some pocket money for their personal needs on par with the others who receive Mass stipends.

D. Higher Studies

93. Before sending any one for higher studies his seminary report and academic performance should be looked into.

94. Two years of pastoral ministry in the missions is necessary to be sent for higher studies.

95. Licentiate studies are to be usually done in India. The possibility of going abroad for doctoral studies is kept open for those who have proved themselves by competence in the field of teaching or in any other way. Those in houses of formation will be sent for further studies only if, besides competence in teaching, they have proved themselves to be good formators.

96. Promotion for higher studies should not be based on region or language but the best one should be sent.

E. Justice Cell

97. The General Assembly empowers the General Council to establish an impartial justice cell to arbitrate on matters of concern and serious grievances.

Members those who write anonymous letters should be suspended and subjected to the Civil and Ecclesiastical Censure. It is the competence of the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council and after having heard the opinion of the General Council to suspend a permanently incorporated member.

F. Holidays

98. With the approval of the superiors of the Society and the local ordinary, wherever applicable, the members can take a holiday for a month every year. The superiors shall see that the missionaries get proper convenience for the holidays.

G. Travel

99. For the travels undertaken by the members for the official work of the Society, the Society may be asked to meet the expenses. Any private travel of the members is to be paid for by the members themselves.

H. Vehicles

100. As far as missionaries in India are concerned, though the vehicles are given for the mission station in question, it is deemed to be of the missionary. He has to take care of them and maintain them and can take them along with him if he is transferred within a diocese.

101. For those missionaries working outside India, the policies of the diocese in question and the agreement entered into by the Society with such a local church will have to be followed.

Chapter V The Governance of the Society

The governance of the Society is done according to the Universal law of the Church and the Constitutions of the Society (Articles 88-135). The Society is having a three tier system of administration viz. General, Provincial and Regional administrations and this section explains how this hierarchical order of administration is to be carried out in the day to day life of the Society.

A. Delegates for the Assemblies

102. Norm for and Mode of electing the delegates for the General Assembly

- a) For the General Assembly, there shall be one delegate for every 15 members and when there is a fraction of ten members or more, they too will have one.
- b) The Province will group together those members living in contiguous areas by fractions of 15 and they will elect one delegate by secret ballot. These ballots are sent to the Superior General and the scrutiny will be done by the General Council.
- c) Those who consistently violate the Constitution and Directory which involve moral and financial irregularities can not be elected as delegates and hold a Major Superior office and other important offices.

103. Norm for and mode of electing delegates for the Provincial Assemblies

When there are 30-35 members in the province the representation will be one delegate for three members.

36-50	: one delegate per 4
51-70	: one delegate per 5
71-100	: one delegate per 6
100 and above	: one delegate per every 8

The mode of electing the delegates of the Provincial Assemblies fixed by the Provincial Directories

B. Role of the Founder

104. The role of the Founder shall be only that of a spiritual Father who inspires and guides the Society especially in the spiritual formation of the members.

C. Elections

105. Before the deliberations of the General/Provincial Assembly start two scrutinizers and the secretary of the Assembly shall be elected by the assembly with a relative majority of secret votes. Immediately after their elections, they take an oath of secrecy as regards the matters pertaining to their office, even after the adjournment of the Assembly.

106. It is the responsibility of the secretary to keep proper Minutes of all the proceedings of the Assembly. The Scrutinizers shall collect all votes, check their numbers and examine them in the presence of the president.

107. The General/Provincial Assembly starts with a Holy Mass concelebrated by all the members of the Assembly for its success. A homily suited to the occasion is preached.

108. Every meeting of the Assembly shall begin with the invocation of the Holy Spirit and supplications to our heavenly patrons for their special assistance.

109. If there has to be an election of the Superior General/Provincial Superior and other office bearers, it shall be done in the beginning.

110. Before the Assembly proceeds to the elections, each of the electors shall take an oath to elect the one who according to God, he thinks, must be elected. The form of the oath shall be: "I swear to elect only those whom, I think, according to God is worthy to be elected. So help me God."

111. The electors are strictly forbidden to canvas votes either for themselves or for others.

D. Provincial/Regional Administration

112. The Provincial Administration has to submit to the Superior General a yearly report on the spiritual and material affairs of the Province.

113. The report of the provincial forum should be sent to the General Administration within 30 days of the completion of the forum.

114. Expanding Missions: Agreements with the Bishops in the territories entrusted to the Province/Region will be made by the Provincial/Regional Administration.

115. It is the responsibility of the Province/Region to see to the expansion of the missions in the dioceses/countries entrusted to it. Each province will restrict itself to its territory. However, it would be allowed to open houses outside its territory for transit purposes, retirement of priests, vocation promotion, along with one house linked to vocation promotion. So also houses for special ministries (e.g. Prison Ministry etc.) would be permissible. Before opening any house for ministry the permission of the Provincial Superior concerned is required.

116. A province would intimate the other provinces and the General Council when it has received a formal invitation from a diocese for priests.

117. It is within the powers of the General Council to appoint members for specific assignments from any of the Provinces/Regions on consulting the Provincial Superior/Regional Superior as per the provisions of Art. 113,g of the Constitutions.

E. Local Communities

118. The local administration can take up projects costing up to Rs. 50,000.00 in any given financial year, provided finances are locally available. For extra-ordinary expenses beyond that the permission of the General/Provincial/Regional Administration is required.

119. The amount of money a local community outside India can transact in a given financial year will be determined by the General Council from time to time.

F. Appeal to Higher Authority

120. While having recourse to a higher authority, it is presumed that the person has already had recourse to the lower authority. To avoid confusion it is imperative that the person approaching a higher authority let such authority know what had transpired at the lower level.

Chapter VI

The Temporal Administration

Our Constitutions give the general principles for the temporal administration when it states that: "The Society, the Provinces and the house are juridical persons which can acquire, possess, administer and alienate temporal goods, observing of course what is prescribed by common and proper law, taking also into consideration the civil laws of the place" (Art.184). Following this directive of the Constitutions, this section gives practical guidelines to administer the temporalities taking into consideration the principle of collective responsibility and accountability of those entrusted with the finances of the Society.

A. Construction Projects

121. There shall be a committee for overseeing the construction activities undertaken by the Society. The committee will be headed by the Treasurer General/Provincial Treasurer/Regional Treasurer and the other members of the committee are to be nominated by the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior with the consent of his council. The committee shall have at least three members. The tenure of the committee shall be co-terminus with the respective administration.

122. Every proposal regarding a new construction project has to be submitted to the committee and the committee will analyze the cost estimate and the plan and will recommend the feasibility or otherwise of the project to the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior and their Councils.

123. All the project applications have to be submitted to the committee by those who are intending to take up construction activities.

124. Once a project has been approved by the respective administration, it is the duty of the respective committee to supervise the ongoing construction work and to report to the concerned superiors.

125. The members who are directly in charge of the projects are requested to follow the suggestions of the said committee.

B. Temporal Administration & Accounts

126. It is the duty of the Treasurer General/Provincial Treasurer/Regional Treasurer to administer the temporalities of the Society (Const. Arts. 132, 155 & 175)

127. He will take care of all the regular, routine money matters such as Mass Intentions, regular maintenance and repairs of the seminaries, bills from other seminaries, and the execution of the projects already sanctioned. Any thing beyond that is to be approved by the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior and his Council. The Treasurer General/Provincial Treasurer/Regional Treasurer has to keep the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior informed of all important matters. (Cf. Const. Arts. 133, 155 & 175).

128. All the local treasurers entrusted with the care of money are expected to submit their accounts of the previous month by the 10th of every month to the respective treasurers. The accounts as well as cheques are to be signed both by the local treasurer and the local superior.
129. Each institution is to be considered a separate entity and any inter-institutional transaction of goods like furniture, farm products etc, is to be considered as either income or expense as the case may be. It should be entered in the account books likewise.
130. Any income from movable or immovable property has to be entered into the account and the amount be handed over to the Treasurer General/Provincial Treasurer/Regional Treasurer.
131. Any expense incurred, besides the routine running of the institutions, is to be done only with the prior approval of the General/Provincial/Regional administration. This includes furnishing of rooms, purchasing of immovable and movable properties etc. which the individual member may consider necessary. No reimbursement will be made for expenses incurred without the prior approval of the concerned administration.
132. No cash balance of the Society funds should remain with the members on 31st March, which is the end of the financial year. If any money remains, it will have to be returned to the Treasurer General/Provincial Treasurer/Regional Treasurer to facilitate him to credit it back to the bank.
133. The General Administration will take care of the expenses of running the major seminaries.
134. The contributions made by the dioceses towards the retirement of priests will go to the Provincial/Regional administration and be credited to the pension fund.
135. The annual financial report of the Provinces/Regions should be submitted to the General Administration by 31st May at the latest.
136. The term of service of a priest sent to the Developed Countries by the Society would be ten years from the time he starts earning a salary. After that, he would return to his home country and be replaced by another priest from the province to which he belongs. However, the completion of his tenure rests on his good behavior and on the fulfillment of his obligation to the Society, as mentioned in the Constitutions and in the Directory, the chief of which are:
- a) Maintaining a good rapport with the members of the Province
 - b) Visiting the Provincial during his annual vacation to India
 - c) Participating in the Gatherings organized by the Province/Society
 - d) Regularly paying the salary contribution to the Province

The share of the salary due to member priests working in the first world countries will be fixed by the General Council from time to time to maintain uniformity. A priest who does not fulfill his obligations to the Society is liable to be recalled even before the end of the ten -year term. Regarding the excardination, it is left to the discretion of the General Council in consultation with the Provincial Council (of the applicant) to study and decide upon the applications of the individual cases for excardination.

137. The net income from the members working abroad (that is after reducing the due share of the members concerned) will be shared between the General Administration and the Province/Region to which they belong. The ratio should be 85 to 15 in favor of the Province/Region. The Province Mission Superior will collect the entire amount and each month transfer to the Society's Legal Representative the amount that is due to the Centre.
138. The Legal Representative of the Society in a country is appointed by the Superior General in consultation with his Council. He will serve as the representative of the Central Administration of the Heralds of Good News as a registered society in its relationship with the civil authorities. He will work in close collaboration with the Province Mission Superiors and will maintain copies of the statements of accounts received from them and oversee the Center's financial administration in that country. He will be in charge of the official mission appeals. He will also act as the Center's representative promoting the life and mission of the Heralds of Good News. He will try to organize periodical retreats for the members in that country and foster a kind of community life amongst the members. He will be in charge of the priests sent for studies by the Central Administration. He will keep himself updated on the current status of the Society's mission in that country and communicate the same to the Central Administration from time to time. The Society will have a Procurator General in Italy appointed by the Superior General in consultation with his Council.
139. There shall be a Province Mission Superior appointed by the Provincial Superior in consultation with his Council. He serves as the representative of the Province and follows the directives and guidelines of the Province. He works in collaboration with the members of the Province and also with the Legal Representative of the Society for any material concerns, e.g., fund raising etc. He will try to organize reflection days and get-togethers among the Province members whenever possible to foster a kind of community life.
140. The Provinces/Regions can apply for and do mission appeals in the dioceses entrusted to the Province/Region. The General Administration/Provinces/Regions will apply for and do mission appeals in other dioceses.
141. The collections taken up from the parishes where the member priests are working will go to the Province/Region to which they belong.

142. A token amount (2%) of the net income from the institutions (after paying the salaries and routine expenses of the institutions concerned) should be sent to the General Administration by the Provincial/Regional Administration.

143. Members of the Society cannot start any institutions/charitable societies/trusts/foundations in their own name independent of the Society. If any one has started one, he should surrender it to the Province. The Ex-officio Managing Trustee/President of all charitable societies/trusts/foundations of the Society will be the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior or a nominee of theirs.

a) Priests working in other missions

144. No project is to be taken up by the local superiors in the missions without the explicit written permission of the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior. This holds good even when the funds for such projects are not directly given from the Society.

145. When projects are recommended by the bishops and the amount is to be channeled through the Society, a copy of the project application is to be furnished to the Treasurer General/Provincial Treasurer/Regional Treasurer.

b) Priests sent on contract to other dioceses

146. Those entrusted with the construction projects or other projects under the direct supervision of the bishops in the respective dioceses, will follow the directives of the diocese in question. However a copy of the audited statement of accounts is to be given to the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior.

c) Collection for Pious Causes

147. All collections taken in our institutions for charitable purposes are to be handed over to the General/Provincial/Regional administration. The concerned administration will hand over the amount to the respective dioceses or pious foundations.

148. The Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior and the local Superiors shall keep a register showing the exact state of obligations arising out of pious foundations of the Society and shall see that they are faithfully fulfilled.

d) Inventory

149. All our houses, including parishes that are administered by our priests, should maintain an inventory of things which should be updated at the end of every calendar year and a copy of the same must be forwarded to the Superior General/Provincial Superior/Regional Superior. At the time of the transfer of the superiors of the houses, the inventory has to be verified together by both the incoming and outgoing superiors and the parish priests as the case may be.

