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# **STATUTES**

**of the LAY CLARETIAN MOVEMENT**

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Approved by the  
**X General Assembly**  
**of the Lay Claretian Movement**  
(Medellin, 18 July 2019)

Ratified by Decree of the  
**Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life**  
**of the Holy See**  
(Vatican City, 12 September 2019)

# STATUTES

## of the Lay Claretian Movement

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# **STATUTES**

## **of the LAY CLARETIAN MOVEMENT**

### **Chapter 1: NAME AND PURPOSE**

- E.1. The Lay Claretian Movement is a private association of the faithful, of international scope, recognized by the Holy See and enjoys juridical personality.**
- E.2. The Movement is a non-profit entity and has as its purpose to promote the understanding and experience of the vocation, mission and spirituality of the Lay Claretian in accordance with its Source Book.**
- E.3. The Movement has its headquarters in Rome at Via Sacro Cuore di Maria, 5. The General Council can agree to moving the headquarters by informing all the groups of the change.**

## Chapter 2: ORGANIZATION

- E.4. **The Lay Claretian Movement is organized on three levels: group, regional and general.**

### 2.1 THE GROUPS

- E.5. **The group is the basic element in the organization of the Movement. Each group preserves its own characteristics and name, makes its group project and is governed by its own rules, all of which are reported to the respective council, in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes.**

**Whenever possible, the groups will be integrated into a Region. Those groups in an area where there is no established Region will be accompanied by the General Council.**

- E.6. **Each group will establish an Animation and Coordination Team to animate its functioning in accordance with its reality and needs in fidelity to these Statutes and their Regulations.**

- E.7. **Each group must place much interest in promoting the formation of all its members, paying special attention to the claretian formation, to the training for evangelization and understanding the documents of the Church. To do this, it will draw up its own formation plan under the guidance of the corresponding councils and assemblies.**

### 2.2 THE REGIONS

- E.8. **A Region comprises the groups in its territorial area. The determination of the regions is within the competence of the General Council, after consultation with the groups concerned.**

- E.9. **The animation and coordination of the movement at the regional level is the responsibility of the Regional Assembly and the Regional Council.**

#### The Regional Assembly

- E.10 **The Regional Assembly is formed by the members of the Regional Council and as many delegates of the groups in the Region as approved at the previous Regional Assembly.**

**The Assessors of the groups in the Region, or a representation of them and**

other invited guests as determined by the Regional Council, participate in the Regional Assembly, although without the right to vote.

- E.11. The Regional Assembly will ordinarily meet every three years having been convened by the Regional Council. The same Regional Council will convene an extraordinary session of the Assembly when so requested, in writing, by at least half of the groups in the Region or one-third of the members of the Region, or when, in the judgement of the Council, there are exceptional circumstances.
- E.12. The Regional Assembly has, among others, the following functions:
- a) Promote mutual understanding, friendship and support.
  - b) Elect the Regional Council, set the guidelines for its performance and evaluate its management.
  - c) Study and reflect on the different aspects of the identity, mission and spirituality of the Lay Claretian.
  - d) Foster the sharing of goods between the groups of the Region and, from these, with the Movement, and to set the regional quota.
  - e) Establish the criteria for participation in the next Regional Assembly.
  - f) Approve the rules for the functioning of the Assembly itself, in which the conditions and procedures to be followed for decision making on the part of the same are established.

### **The Regional Council**

- E.13. The Regional Council is elected by the Regional Assembly for a period of three years. No one may be a member of the Regional Council for more than two consecutive full terms. Exceptionally, it is possible to be re-elected for a third term by a majority of 2/3 of the votes of those present in the Assembly at the time of the vote.
- E.14. The Regional Council will be composed of the number of members to be determined by the Regional Assembly with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5, including the Assessor.
- It will meet as often as necessary for the performance of their duties and at least once a year in person.
- E.15. The Regional Council has, among others, the following functions:
- a) Encourage communication and coordination between the groups in the Region.
  - b) Stimulate the ties and participation of the groups in the life of the

#### **Movement.**

- c) Organize the formation in the Region in coordination with the internal dynamics of the groups.**
- d) Convening the Regional Assembly and organizing its celebration.**
- e) Organize other regional and inter-regional encounters and activities.**
- f) Stimulate the creation of new groups.**
- g) Resolve the requests for incorporation into the Movement of new groups as well as the new members of groups already admitted.**
- h) Ensure compliance with the criteria for admission into the Movement established by these Statutes.**
- i) Determine the exclusion from the Movement of individuals or groups that depart from the Source Book and the Statutes of the Movement, without prejudice to the right of appeal to the General Council by the group or individuals affected.**
- j) Maintain appropriate communication with the General Council.**
- k) Establish means of financing the activities of the Region and to co-ordinate with the General Council the payment of the prescribed quota.**
- l) Provisionally cover the vacancies occurring in the Council itself until the next Assembly.**
- m) Inform the General Council, at least once a year, on the state of the Movement in the Region: the highs and lows, the formation activities, the sharing of goods, and any relevant aspect of the same.**
- n) Inform the General Council of the convening and conclusions of the Regional Assembly and the composition of the new Council.**
- o) Submit to the Regional Assembly, the report of the management performance in the three years of its function.**
- p) Prepare for submission to the General Assembly a report of the quadrennium in the region, according to the criteria established by the General Council.**
- q) Ensure the representation and participation of the Movement in the coordinating bodies of the Claretian Family and the local church in its area.**

**E.16. With regard to the internal functioning of the groups, the Regional Council will only have authority over those matters expressly provided for and regulated by the present Statutes or the Regulations.**

### **2.3 THE MOVEMENT AT THE GENERAL LEVEL**

**E.17. The animation and coordination of the Movement at the general level rests**

with the General Assembly and the General Council.

### The General Assembly

**E.18. The members of the General Council, one representative from each of the Regional Councils and as many delegates of the groups as approved in the previous General Assembly form part of the General Assembly.**

**In addition, the Assessors of the Regional Councils and other invited guests, as determined by the General Council, can participate in the General Assembly, although without the right to vote.**

**E.19. The General Assembly will ordinarily meet every 4 years having been convened by the General Council.**

**The General Council will convene an extraordinary session of the General Assembly when at least half of the groups of the Movement or one-third of the members admitted make a request in writing or when, in the judgement of the Council, exceptional circumstances arise.**

**E.20. The General Assembly has, among others, the following functions:**

- a) Promote mutual understanding, friendship and encouragement.**
- b) Study and reflect on the different aspects of the identity, mission and spirituality of the Lay Claretian.**
- c) Assess the situation of the Movement at a general level.**
- d) Elect the General Council, set the guidelines for its activity and evaluate its management.**
- e) Foster the sharing of goods between those groups and regions and fix the quota of the Movement at a general level.**
- f) Modify the Source Book and the Statutes of the Movement and establish its Regulations.**
- g) Approve the rules of functioning for the Assembly, in which the conditions and procedures to follow for decision making on the part of the same are established.**

**The resolutions of the Assembly are to be respected by the General Council, the regions and groups.**

**E.21. The Source Book and these Statutes may only be modified by a qualified majority of at least 2/3 of the votes of those present in the Assembly at the time of the vote. For the Regulations it will require an absolute majority of votes on the first and second ballot, and a simple majority in the third ballot.**

**The amendments to the Statutes need to be approved by the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life before coming into force.**

## **The General Council**

**E.22. The General Council is elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years. No one may be a member of the General Council for more than two consecutive full terms. Exceptionally, they may be re-elected for a third term by a majority of 2/3 of the votes of the Assembly.**

**E.23. The General Council will be composed of four people with the following services: General Secretariat, Secretariat of Formation, Secretariat of Economy and the Assessor. It will meet at least once a year.**

**E.24. The General Council has, among others, the following functions:**

- a) Represent the Movement.**
- b) Ensure the participation of the Movement in international affairs and in global organizations of lay people.**
- c) Promote communication between the regions and groups of the Movement.**
- d) Assist in the formation of Lay Claretians.**
- e) Administer the goods of the Movement.**
- f) Promote the sharing of goods and propose to the General Assembly the minimum quotas that each member should contribute through their group.**
- g) Convene the General Assembly and arrange its celebration.**
- h) Provisionally cover the vacancies occurring in the General Council until the next Assembly.**
- i) Determine the constitution of the Regions with the agreement of the groups involved.**
- j) Convene, with the agreement of the groups, the constituent Regional Assembly for the new Regions and determine the criteria for the representation of these groups.**
- k) Accompany the groups without a region.**
- l) Determine finally the admission to or exclusion from the Movement of individuals or groups without a Region as set out in E.29 and E.30.**
- m) Interpret the Statutes and Regulations of the Movement.**

**E.25. The service of the General Secretariat will have the following functions:**

- a) Represent the Movement legally.**
- b) Maintain, on behalf of the Movement, the relationship with the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life; with the general coordination of the members of the Claretian Family; with other**

ecclesial organizations; and with other bodies the Council may consider.

- c) Coordinate the functioning of the General Council and ensure compliance with its functions.

E.26. All members of the General Council will be elected separately by the General Assembly in the following order:

1. General Secretariat
2. Secretariat of Formation
3. Secretariat of Economy
4. Assessment Service

### Chapter 3: ECONOMY AND SHARING OF GOODS

E.27. Each group manages its assets according to their rules, always taking into account the following guiding criteria:

- a) The obligation to always orient the goods to the service of the Gospel in the development of the group's mission.
- b) The sharing of goods between the economically stronger with those in need of help.
- c) The commitment to be governed by principles of austerity, renouncing all desire for profit.
- d) The need to be self-financing, given the autonomous status of each group.

E.28. The expenses of the Movement will be covered as follows:

- a) At the general level, by the contributions from all its members made through their groups, in order to enable them to cooperate in the financing of the Movement. The General Council will propose the minimum contribution, which will be approved by the General Assembly.
- b) At the regional level, by the contributions from its members collected through its groups following, at the regional level, the same criteria as at the general level.
- c) The groups can have their own contributions for their internal operation.

The groups that may not be able to meet even the minimum contributions of all the individuals who are members, may request a waiver, partial or total, which will be considered and determined individually by the corresponding Council.

## Chapter 4: ASSESSMENT SERVICE

E.29. At each of the levels (General Council, Regional Councils and groups), there will be an Assessor who will collaborate especially in the formation aspects. They do not necessarily have to form part of the Lay Claretian Movement, but belong preferentially to the Claretian Family. They will be chosen by the group or corresponding assembly.

## Chapter 5: MEMBERSHIP

E.30. Any lay person, feeling identified with the Claretian charism and its community dimension, who accepts the Source Book of the Movement and the present Statutes, and lives the Claretian identity in a group already admitted in the same, can be part of the Lay Claretian Movement.

### 5.1 INCORPORATION

E.31. The incorporation of lay people into the Movement is carried out through by the personal admission, with a connection to any of its groups, or through the admission of a new group.

Each group is able to establish, with suitable criteria, and following the general and regional guidelines, the procedure for the incorporation of new members, following these minimum criteria:

- Over 18 years old, a baptized Catholic and to have received the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Having made a prior discernment for a period of at least six months and a maximum of two years, extendable to three years with prior authorization from the corresponding Council.
- The requirements defined in E28

The final decision for incorporation into the Movement is the responsibility of the Regional or General Council, as appropriate, at the request of the person or group concerned.

## 5.2 EXCLUSION

**E.32. A person who ceases to feel identified with the Claretian charism and its community dimension and is not consistent with the Source Book of the Movement or fails to comply unjustifiably with its Statutes will be excluded from the Lay Claretian Movement.**

**To proceed to the expulsion, the corresponding Council will initiate a process recording the prior warning to the person concerned; if they persist in their attitude, the process will continue by giving a hearing to the individual involved.**

**The person concerned may appeal against the resolution for expulsion adopted by a Regional Council to the General Council. If the resolution of expulsion is adopted or endorsed by the General Council, they may appeal to the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life within two months.**

## Chapter 6: DISSOLUTION OF THE MOVEMENT

**E.33. The Lay Claretian Movement can be wound-up by a decision of the General Assembly taken in a single scrutiny, with the qualified majority of two thirds of the votes of those present.**

**In the event of the winding-up or dissolution of the Lay Claretian Movement, the assets of the same will be handed over by the General Council to institutions of the Claretian Family in accordance with the provisions as determined by the General Assembly, in the extraordinary session of dissolution, as provided for in E.19.**