

**GENERAL DIRECTORY
FOR THE
STATUTES OF THE CONFERENCES**



*Consilium Generale CSSR
Romae 2010*

INTRODUCTION

The XXIV General Chapter decided that “a General Directory of Conferences will be drawn up by the General Council to facilitate each Conference in drawing up its Statutes” (Decision 2.7).

This Document is the implementation of that decision. It presents directives and guidelines to help Conferences draft their own Statutes. Besides the aspects presented here, each Conference may add further elements particular to its reality. This work should always be done in the spirit of restructuring for mission, which was the driving force of the XXIV General Chapter.

We are offering this Directory specifically to the respective committees entrusted with the task of drafting and presenting the Statutes to the Conference Assembly. In order to assist these Committees, we have opted for the methodology of using different font styles. By doing so, we make a clear distinction among the different categories of texts. The font styles are used in the following manner:

1. Text in bold print

This is to be inserted into the directory without making any changes. It is usually a direct quotation from the Constitutions, General Statutes, or the decisions of the XXIV General Chapter.

2. TEXT IN MAJUSCULES/SMALL CAPITALS

THE CONTENT OF THESE TEXTS MUST BE PRESENT IN THE STATUTES OF EACH CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, ITS CONCRETE FORMULATION AND EXPRESSION DEPEND ON THE CONFERENCE.

3. *Text in italics*

The elements presented in these texts are to be determined by each Conference.

4. Text in Times New Roman (font size 10)

This is only found in Number 51 which concerns Congregational Networking. It is offered as an explanation and suggestion.

The final draft of these Statutes should be presented for consideration to the Conference Assembly in a single, uniform font style.

This Directory is a work in progress. Since this is the initial stage of establishing Conference structures for the Congregation, the General Council will indicate, when necessary, further requirements to be incorporated into the text. Please do not hesitate to consult the General Council if you need any clarifications concerning elements presented in this Directory.

The Statutes of the Conference must be approved and promulgated by the General Council. They will then be considered binding until the XXV General Chapter.

May the Spirit of the Redeemer guide this work, so that these statutes will be words of spirit and life that inspire and impel us to a greater commitment and zeal in our mission of proclaiming plentiful redemption to the abandoned and particularly the poor.

General Directory for the Statutes of the Conferences

The Conference: A Call to Conversion in the Service of the Mission

1. In order to be more faithful to the call to “follow the example of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, by preaching the word of God to the poor” (Const. 1), attentive to the signs of times, and to facilitate wider missionary discernment and decision making, the Congregation is organized into five Conferences (cf. XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, 2.1 and 2.2):

- Conference of Redemptorists of Asia-Oceania
- Conference of Redemptorists of Africa and Madagascar
- Conference of Redemptorists of Europe
- Conference of Redemptorists of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Conference of Redemptorists of North America.

The goal of these new structures is to stimulate a re-awakening of our *Vita apostolica* and to prompt a new availability for our mission among all the Redemptorists and lay associates, “urged on by the apostolic spirit, and imbued with the zeal of their founder”, “as helpers, companions and ministers of Jesus Christ in the great work of redemption” (Const. 2).

2. The following Principles guide the process of restructuring for mission:

- Principle 1: Restructuring is for Mission.
- Principle 2: Restructuring for Mission should stimulate a re-awakening of our *Vita apostolica*. It should prompt a new availability for mission.
- Principle 3: Restructuring for mission should seek out and accompany the most abandoned, especially the poor. To this end it should be a restructuring within Units and Conferences, and also across the boundaries of Units and Conferences.
- Principle 4: Solidarity in mission includes an ability to optimize resources, both human (professed members and lay associates) and financial.
- Principle 5: Restructuring for mission requires association among Units, always searching for a common way forward.
- Principle 6: A vital part of our mission, both historically and in our time, is theological reflection rooted in spiritual and pastoral experience. New deployment of our theological resources is essential to the challenge of restructuring for mission today.
- Principle 7: Participation and Co-Responsibility: the restructuring process will involve all Redemptorist confreres and lay associates and in some way all those people in the midst of whom we exercise our mission. For this, a process of conscientization will accompany the Process of Restructuring (XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, Principles).

3. The Conference, established by the XXIV General Chapter, is a structure of the Congregation embracing a certain number of provinces, vice-provinces, regions and missions. The confreres and their collaborators join their efforts to better promote the mission of the Congregation in the whole territory of the Conference, in accordance with general and particular law.

The following Profile describes the nature and role of the Conferences (cf. XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, 6.1-6.11):

The pastoral challenges of our time demand a structure which facilitates wider missionary discernment and decision making. The Conference provides such a forum, thus avoiding the tendency toward provincialism while still taking local needs seriously. In this manner, the Conference assists the General Government in its governance of the Congregation.

The structure of the Conference will enable a more effective realization of the mission of the Congregation. The Conference provides a forum for collaboration in the areas of apostolic priorities, missionary initiatives, personnel, the establishment of international and interprovincial communities, formation, finances, etc.

The Conference will provide security for fragile Units as well as an appreciation and development of particular churches within the Congregation. The Conference will provide a setting, in the area of initial and ongoing formation, where current and future generations of Redemptorists will be shaped by a more culturally diverse worldview.

Chapter I: The Missionary Work of the Congregation

4. **Fidelity to our Redemptorist charism demands that we continually discern where the most abandoned are, especially the poor, and how we are called to serve them (cf. Const. 1). The Conference provides a forum in which this discernment can be done. Every Conference moved by “missionary dynamism” (Const. 14), determines its pastoral priorities. This discernment should always be made in the light of Const. 5 which states: “preference for situations, where there is a pastoral need, that is, for evangelization in the strict sense together with the choice in favor of the poor is the very reason why the Congregation exists in the Church, and is the badge of its fidelity to the vocation it has received”.**
5. THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CONFERENCE, AFTER DIALOGUE WITHIN THE UNITS OF THE CONFERENCE, DETERMINES ITS APOSTOLIC PRIORITIES. THIS TASK REQUIRES A PERIODIC EVALUATION AND REVISION BY THE ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, THESE PRIORITIES WILL ALWAYS INCLUDE PASTORAL CONCERN FOR THOSE INVOLVED AND AFFECTED BY THE MASS MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES AND THOSE WHO SUFFER BECAUSE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. (CF. DECISIONS, PRINCIPLE 3). THESE APOSTOLIC PRIORITIES, WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE MISSIONARY CHARACTER OF THE CONGREGATION, SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVAL (CF. CONST. 17).
6. *This process is to be followed in determining the apostolic priorities:*
 - *first, discern to WHOM we are sent, in the concrete context of the Conference. In other words, who and where are the abandoned, especially the poor – whom the Conference is called to serve;*
 - *second, describe WHAT is the content of the evangelization we proclaim within the concrete context of the Conference;*
 - *third, determine HOW the Conference is going to respond to these pastoral needs. What strategies and pastoral methods should be used?*

In developing its apostolic priorities, the process should take into consideration the human and material resources available, the historical and cultural conditions, pastoral methods and traditions of the countries, local Churches and Units.

7.
 - a) **Meetings of the members of the Conference should be promoted under the inspiration and guidance of the Coordinator and with the collaboration of the secretariats concerned. They should deal with theological, pastoral and similar branches of knowledge and with the adaptation of methods in the apostolate. Such meetings must be held regularly so as to maintain continuity and stability**
 - b) **To develop the apostolate, it seems very opportune that the Coordinator and the Assembly, in conjunction with the secretariat dedicated to the mission, should set up particular groups of members to experiment with new types of missionary work. Experiments of this kind should be carried out in collaboration with the local church (cf. Gen. St. 025).**

Chapter II: The Apostolic Community

8. **Each Unit should carry out its missionary mandate in cooperation with the whole Congregation (Const. 141). Such cooperation is to be conducted in a spirit of mutual harmony (Const. 142).**
9. **No Unit should act in isolation. New associations among Units should be established, always for better service to the mission, overcoming unacceptable rivalries or divisions which can be a source of scandal, and enabling a more fruitful understanding of Redemptorist identity (cf. XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, Principle 5.)**
10. A SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY SHOULD PERMEATE ALL DIMENSIONS OF THE LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION, ON ALL LEVELS OF OUR STRUCTURES AND IN THE LIVES OF THE CONFRERES. THIS SOLIDARITY SHOULD BE EXPRESSED IN PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATIVE, ECONOMIC DECISIONS AND IN THE WHOLE PROCESS OF DISCERNING AND PLANNING APOSTOLIC ACTIVITIES. SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE UNITS EXPERIENCING FRAGILITY WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RESOURCES.
11. INTERNATIONAL AND INTERPROVINCIAL COMMUNITIES PROVIDE A STRIKING WITNESS TO OUR COMMON REDEMPTORIST VOCATION. THEY ARE A CONCRETE, NECESSARY MEANS TO RESPOND TO THE PASTORAL URGENCIES OF THE WORLD TODAY. THEY SHOULD BE APPRECIATED AND SUPPORTED BY THE WHOLE CONFERENCE. CONFRERES SHOULD MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE TO BE SENT TO THESE COMMUNITIES, FOLLOWING THE DISCERNMENT OF THE CONFERENCE. THE UNITS WILL GENEROUSLY SHARE THEIR HUMAN RESOURCES WITH THE WHOLE CONFERENCE IN THIS AREA.
12. THE ASSEMBLY, IN THE LIGHT OF THE PASTORAL PRIORITIES OF THE CONFERENCE, WILL DECIDE WHERE INTERNATIONAL OR INTERPROVINCIAL COMMUNITIES MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED AND THEIR PARTICULAR MISSION. THESE DECISIONS, ALONG WITH THE REASONS FOR ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES AND THEIR PROGRAM OF PREPARATION, SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT FOR CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL.
13. *Each Conference should establish an adequate program for the immediate preparation of the Confreres assigned to live and work in international and interprovincial communities. The following are some elements which could be included in the program:*
 - *the place and time when the Confreres designated for an international or interprovincial community are to live together for some time to get to know each other, to plan their apostolic life together, to work out their plan of community life, to learn how to resolve tensions and conflicts, etc.;*
 - *a facilitator (and maybe a team) to accompany the community in this process;*
 - *particular goals to be achieved in the process;*
 - *ways of financing this preparation.*

The Coordinator is directly responsible for supervising the whole process of preparation. According to the special role outlined in No. 33 of this Directory, he will also accompany these communities in their apostolic life.
14. THE UNITS, COMMUNITIES AND ALL CONFRERES SHOULD DEVELOP AN ATTITUDE OF TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST IN THEIR MUTUAL RELATIONS. *For this purpose the Conference Assembly*

should determine the ways in which the Units will present to the Conference their situation in the areas of pastoral planning, finances, and personnel resources.

- 15. The Assemblies of the Conferences should indicate specific ways in which Units, communities and confreres could be involved in actions and events on common and local levels (XXIV General Chapter, Decision 2.7)*
- 16. Each Assembly will determine ways of integrating lay people through participation in our life and mission, and ways of exercising their co-responsibility for the mission.*

Chapter III: The Apostolic Community Dedicated to Christ the Redeemer

- 17. Restructuring for mission is a call to individual and communal conversion and to a profound renewal of our *Vita Apostolica* in all its dimensions. This conversion is a challenge to all Redemptorists, irrespective of age. (cf. XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, Principle 2)**

- 18. Religious profession makes every Redemptorist available to the whole Congregation and not only to a particular Unit. Hence, confreres should overcome any attitude of provincialism, which closes them within the limits of their own Units. Every Redemptorist should esteem the cultures of others, recognize cultural limitations and give evangelical countercultural witness.**

- 19. Religious profession calls Redemptorists to a new availability. This requires them to leave secure and comfortable places and lifestyles, for the sake of the mission. (cf. Const. 15).**

20. THE COORDINATOR OF THE CONFERENCE, WITH THE HELP OF APPROPRIATE SECRETARIATS, WILL PROMOTE AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES, INsofar AS POSSIBLE,
 - FOR COMMON INTERPROVINCIAL RETREATS AND DAYS OF REFLECTION;
 - TO HELP CONFRERES GROW IN A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR COMMON REDemptorist VOCATION, MISSION, SPIRITUALITY AND CHARISM;
 - TO REVIEW THEIR LIVES IN INTERACTION WITH CONFRERES FROM DIFFERENT UNITS AND COUNTRIES.

Chapter IV: Formation of the Apostolic Community

- 21. Initial formation is a significant dimension of the *Vita Apostolica* of the Congregation. It should be shaped by the international character of the Congregation. It must help and challenge the candidates to grow in their sense of belonging to the whole Redemptorist family. It should stir in them availability for mission that goes beyond the borders of their native Units. For this reason:**
- a) **Formation programs should include elements of preparation for the international mission, for example: studying foreign languages and other cultures, meeting with Confreres from other Units, living in international or interprovincial communities.**
 - b) **As far as possible, during their initial formation, the candidates should have an experience of life in another Redemptorist Unit or country.**
22. *To achieve a better quality of formation, and to avoid dispersion of its resources and strength, the Conference will establish adequate structures, especially at the level of the Novitiate, Theologate and immediate preparation for perpetual profession (cf. Const. 142).*
- a) *Each Conference will determine the number of common Novitiates that will be established in its territory. These common Novitiates will have their proper directories.*
 - b) *Each Conference will determine the number of common Theologates that will be established in its territory. These common Theologates will have their proper directories.*
 - c) **BESIDES DIRECTORIES PROPER TO EACH HOUSE OF FORMATION, THE PARTICIPATING UNITS WILL MANAGE THESE HOUSES ON THE BASIS OF A COMMON AGREEMENT. *The Conference Statutes should determine ways in which this should be done.***
 - d) *Each Conference will organize adequate programs for the immediate preparation for perpetual vows. In so far as possible, this should be realized as a common project of the various Units in the Conference.*
- 23. Special attention should be given to the selection and preparation of Formators. Units should select the confreres most suitable for this task. The appointment of Formators should have precedence over other appointments. *The Conference Statutes should determine the process for choosing Formators for international and interprovincial formation communities. They should guarantee means and opportunities for the ongoing formation of Formators, using local resources, the means proposed by the General Secretariat for Formation, the Center for Redemptorist Spirituality and other resources.***
24. *The Conferences will establish programs for the ongoing formation of all confreres. They will use the means proposed by the General Secretariat for Formation, the Center for Redemptorist Spirituality, and other resources. Special attention should be given to the period of transition to ministry, i.e., the period of the first five years after perpetual vows or ordination.*

Chapter V: Government of the Apostolic Community

First section: The Structure of the Conference

Art. 1: Members of the Conference

25. The Conference is an intermediate structure between the General Government and individual Units. It includes all Redemptorists who live and work within its borders (XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, 2.1)

26. The Statutes of the Conference should determine:

- *which Units belong to the Conference, after consultation with the General Government;*
- *the possibility of creating Sub-Conferences;*
- *the representation of the confreres in the Assembly.*

Art. 2: The Assembly of the Conference

27. The Assembly is the decision making body of the Conference. It is the function of the Conference Assembly to:

- **determine the apostolic priorities of the Conference and revise them in accordance with the missionary character of the Congregation;**
- **enact, amend, authentically interpret or abrogate the Conference Statutes;**
- **propose three candidates for the office of Coordinator to be presented to the General Government.**

Besides these, the Statutes may determine other tasks and competencies of the Assembly, according to its situation.

28. The Redemptorists of a Conference are represented in the Assembly by:

Representatives with voting rights:

- **General Consultor(s) from the Conference;**
- **Coordinator of the Conference;**
- **(Vice)Provincial and Regional Superiors;**
- **Superiors of Missions;**
- *Vocals – to be determined by the Statutes of the Conference;*
- **AT LEAST ONE BROTHER SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF THE CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY. IF NO BROTHER IS ELECTED AS A VOCAL, AT LEAST ONE SHOULD BE APPOINTED. THE STATUTES WILL DETERMINE HOW THAT APPOINTMENT WILL BE MADE.**

When the Superior General participates in the Assembly meeting, he is always the President of the Assembly and has voting rights.

Other persons may be elected or appointed from among:

- *the members of the Congregation, as determined by the Statutes of the Conference;*
- *lay associates, other persons, etc., (without voting rights).*

29. At the Assembly, a two-thirds majority vote is required to enact, amend, authentically interpret or abrogate the Conference Statutes. But in other matters, an absolute majority of votes is sufficient, unless the contrary is stated in the common or particular law (cf. Gen. Stat. 0141).

30. The Statutes of the Conference, as well as decrees issued by the Assembly, which pertain to the subject matter of the Constitutions and Statutes, cannot be promulgated until they have been approved by the General Council (cf. Gen. Stat. 0142).

31. The frequency of the meetings of the Assembly and the manner of its convocation, should be determined by the Statutes.

Art. 3: The Coordinator of the Conference

32. Each Conference has a Coordinator, who is appointed by the General Council for the sexennium from a list of three candidates proposed by the Conference Assembly. (XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, 2.3)

The Statutes of the Conference should determine:

- *how the three candidates are to be selected;*
- *whether or not a Major Superior can be presented as a candidate for Coordinator.*

Three candidates must be presented to the General Council within a year after the Canonical Phase of the General Chapter.

The Coordinator of the Conference remains in office until his successor is appointed by the General Council.

33. The Coordinator will exercise his authority as delegated by the Superior General in the following areas:

- **International and interprovincial communities and initiatives;**
- **Initial and ongoing formation;**
- **Promotion and implementation of economic solidarity;**
- **Development of a social apostolate;**
- **Assistance to weaker Units that need help in organizing their structures;**
- **Promotion and facilitation of a process of fusion or federation, or other forms of association, where appropriate; and**
- **Accompaniment during General Visitations (XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, 2.4).**

34. The Coordinator is chairman of the Conference and of the Assembly. (XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, 2.3)

35. The Statutes should determine the tasks of the Coordinator. Among them there should be the following:

- **TO GUIDE THE PROCESS OF WIDER MISSIONARY DISCERNMENT IN THE CONFERENCE;**
- **TO CHAIR THE CONFERENCE’S REVIEW OF LIFE IN A MISSIONARY PERSPECTIVE;**
- **TO ACT AS “ANIMATOR” AND SUPPORT FOR NEW MISSIONARY INITIATIVES IN THE CONFERENCE;**
- **TO BE ATTENTIVE TO THE NEEDS OF FRAGILE UNITS AND TO FACILITATE NECESSARY DECISIONS;**
- **TO ENSURE THAT THE CONFERENCE FINDS GOOD STRUCTURES FOR INITIAL FORMATION;**
- **TO FACILITATE ONGOING FORMATION FOR CONFERRERS CALLED TO NEW INITIATIVES, WHICH MAY INCLUDE ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES; AND**
- **TO ACT AS LIAISON WITH THE GENERAL COUNCIL IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CONFERENCE (XXIV GENERAL CHAPTER, DECISIONS, 2.6.)**

36. Coordinators will participate at least once a year in one of the extraordinary meetings of the General Council, as indicated by the General Council. (XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, 2.5.)

37. THE COORDINATOR IS ASSISTED IN HIS WORK BY A COUNCIL (XXIV GENERAL CHAPTER, DECISIONS, 2.3.) *The Statutes should determine the composition of the council, the process by which it is chosen, and the manner of its functioning.*

38. *Each Conference should determine the location of the office of the Coordinator.*

39. The Coordinator is an *ex officio* member of the General Chapter. (XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, 4.8.)

Second Section: The Conference and the General Chapter
(cf. XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, 4.3 – 4.11)

40. The General Chapter will be celebrated as a process in three phases:

Phase 1: The Initial Phase (Pre-Chapter Meeting);

Phase 2: The Canonical Phase of the General Chapter;

Phase 3: The Implementation Phase (Post-Chapter Meeting).

Art. 1: The Initial Phase (Pre-Chapter Meeting)

41. THE FIRST PHASE OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER PROCESS WILL TAKE PLACE AT CONFERENCE LEVEL AND DEALS WITH THE TASKS OUTLINED IN CONSTITUTIONS 107 AND 108. THIS WILL OFFER THE POSSIBILITY OF A BROADER PARTICIPATION OF UNITS, CONFERRERS AND LAY ASSOCIATES. AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER PROCESS, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONFERENCE WILL EXAMINE ITS LIFE, MISSION AND PRIORITIES.

42. TASKS OF THE INITIAL PHASE

- TO EVALUATE THE APOSTOLIC LIFE OF THE UNITS WITHIN THE CONFERENCE, IN FIDELITY TO OUR MISSION AND THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES: LOOKING AT COMMON EXPERIENCES, MISSIONARY PRIORITIES, NEW PASTORAL SITUATIONS ETC.;
- TO DETERMINE THE APOSTOLIC PRIORITIES OF THE CONFERENCE IN LINE WITH THE REDEMPTORIST MISSION;
- TO EXAMINE COMMON INITIATIVES OF INITIAL AND CONTINUING FORMATION;
- TO PROMOTE INTER-UNIT COLLABORATION AND POSSIBLE NEW INITIATIVES;
- TO NOMINATE, FOR ELECTION AT THE CANONICAL PHASE OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER, CANDIDATES FOR SUPERIOR GENERAL;
- TO NOMINATE, FOR ELECTION AT THE CANONICAL PHASE OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER, AT LEAST TWO CANDIDATES FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL, NOT NECESSARILY FROM THAT PARTICULAR CONFERENCE;
- TO PREPARE FOR THE CANONICAL PHASE OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER.

43. Representation and Participation in the first phase of the General Chapter (Pre-Chapter Meeting)

Representatives with voting rights:

- **Superior General and General Consultor(s);**

- **Secretary General, Treasurer General and Procurator General participate in one Initial Phase Meeting as designated by the General Government;**
- **Members of the Canonical Phase belonging to the Conference;**
- **Superiors of Missions;**
- **Provinces, Vice-Provinces, Regions with more than 20 members which do not already have a vocal for the Canonical Phase will elect one vocal to attend the Initial Phase;**
- **Provinces with more than 200 but less than 300 confreres will elect one more vocal;**
- **Other members designated by the General Council;**
- *Other members designated by the Conference Statutes.*

Participants without voting rights:

- **One moderator from the canonical phase of the General Chapter;**
- **Experts (Periti);**
- **Lay associates;**
- **Other persons designated by the General Council;**
- *Other persons designated by the Conference Statutes.*

Art. 2: The Canonical Phase of the General Chapter

44. TASKS

- TO BRING TOGETHER THE EVALUATIONS AND PRIORITIES OF EACH CONFERENCE AND THEIR MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF A WORLDWIDE DISCERNMENT OF THE CONGREGATION'S MISSION;
- TO PROPOSE TO THE CONGREGATION THE NECESSARY ORIENTATIONS TO ENSURE GREATER FIDELITY TO ITS CHARISM, ENABLING IT TO RENEW ITSELF IN THE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH AND HUMANKIND;
- TO ELECT THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AND THE GENERAL COUNCIL;
- TO FULFILL ANY FURTHER RESPONSIBILITIES INDICATED IN THE CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES AND DIRECTORY OF CHAPTERS.

45. Representation and Participation

The representation and participation at the Canonical Phase of the General Chapter will follow the Directory of Chapters 700, with the addition of the five Conference Coordinators who will be *ex officio* members.

Art. 3: The Implementation Phase (Post-Chapter Meeting)

46. THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CONFERENCE LEVEL NO MORE THAN TWELVE MONTHS AFTER THE CANONICAL PHASE OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER.

47. TASKS

THE PRIMARY TASK WILL BE TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE AND DIRECTION SET BY THE CANONICAL PHASE OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER AS IT RELATES TO THE MISSION OF THE CONGREGATION IN THE CONFERENCE. OTHER SUITABLE EVENTS, SUCH AS WORKSHOPS, RETREATS, ETC., MAY BE ORGANIZED TO FACILITATE THIS IMPLEMENTATION.

48. Representation and Participation

The representation and participation at the Implementation Phase will be determined by the Conference Statutes.

Third section: Secretariats and Commissions

49. *Some Secretariats and/ or Commissions may be established at the Conference level. The following areas should be taken into consideration:*

- EVANGELIZATION;
- FORMATION;
- JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION;
- SOCIAL MINISTRY;
- BROTHERS;
- YOUTH MINISTRY;
- PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION.

Each Conference will decide which Secretariats and Commissions are necessary.

The Statutes should determine the composition of the Secretariats and Commissions, the scope of their activities, and how they will be financed.

50. 'LIAISON' WITH THE GENERAL COUNCIL

THE SECRETARIATS OF THE CONFERENCE WORK IN CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT. TO THIS PURPOSE, A CONFRERE APPOINTED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL SERVES AS 'LIAISON'. THIS WILL ALLOW THE FLOW OF INFORMATION, SHARING IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES, ADVICE AND COORDINATION AMONG THE CONFERENCES.

Fourth section: Congregational Networking

51. *The Assembly should identify the areas in which a wider collaboration with other Conferences is necessary or useful. It should be done in the spirit of the following decisions of the XXIV General Chapter:*

The General Government, in dialogue with the Assemblies of the Conferences, will develop effective structures, including financial arrangements, to promote apostolic work beyond the limits of the Conference, especially in the following areas:

- Ministry to those involved and affected by the mass movement of peoples;
- Ministry to those who suffer because of human trafficking;
- Redemptorist Communications (including new forms of mass media);
- Shrine Ministry;
- A Network for Africa and Madagascar;
- Theological Reflection in our Redemptorist tradition;
- Popular Missions;
- Youth Ministry;
- Missionary Parishes;
- Social Justice Ministry.

The General Government will ensure that these structures will be sufficiently dynamic and flexible, with progressive targets that can be evaluated, so as to respond efficiently to the challenges of a fast changing world. The Assembly in dialogue with the General Government should determine specific areas in which such

networking should be realized and prepare a realistic plan to develop this collaboration. (cf. XXIV General Chapter, Decisions, 3.1. and 3.2.)

Fifth section: The Temporal Goods of the Congregation in the Conference

52. *Each Conference will determine how to finance:*

- *the office of the Coordinator, including his travels;*
- *meetings of Secretariats and Commissions;*
- *assemblies and other meetings;*
- *communications;*
- *other activities of the Conference.*

53. THE COORDINATOR WILL PRESENT TO THE ASSEMBLY, *according to the parameters determined by the Conference*, A PROPOSAL OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND A FINANCIAL REPORT.

54. THE HOUSES AND PROGRAMS OF FORMATION FUNCTION ACCORDING TO THE FINANCIAL BUDGETS APPROVED AS INDICATED IN THEIR DIRECTORIES. AN ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE AUTHORITY DETERMINED BY THESE DIRECTORIES.

55. THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CONFERENCE WILL PURSUE WAYS, IN WHICH AN EFFECTIVE FINANCIAL SOLIDARITY COULD BE REALIZED WITHIN THE CONFERENCE FOR THE SAKE OF THE REDEMPTORIST MISSION. THIS WILL INCLUDE MUTUAL HELP IN MANAGING FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND AN ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF TRANSPARENCY IN THEIR USE. PARTICULAR ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE SITUATION OF THE MOST FRAGILE UNITS.

56. THE FUND FOR AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR IS AN EXPRESSION OF FINANCIAL SOLIDARITY IN THE WHOLE CONGREGATION.

THE PROCURATOR FOR AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR WILL ADMINISTER THE FUND, ASSISTED BY A COMMISSION. (CF. XXIV GENERAL CHAPTER, DECISION 9)

The Procurator and his Commission will present, for consideration, rules governing the administration of the Fund to the Assembly of the Conference of Africa and Madagascar. These rules will then be presented to the General Government for approval.

