



The Year dedicated to Leadership for Mission in the Congregation

Aid for Community Reflection and Prayer: I

(The Community gathers together in the spirit of prayerful reflection for reading, reflection, sharing and prayer together)

Resources Needed: A Bible; The Letter of Fr Rogério Gomes, C.Ss.R to the entire Congregation at the inauguration of the Year dedicated to Leadership for Mission in the Congregation (15th March 2026); Communicanda 2 (2019) of the previous Sexennium.

Introduction

Our Congregation has taken on the challenge of renewing its structures at all levels—among its confreres and mission. To carry out this process, we need leadership that guides sound discernment so that the restructuring fosters faithful, generous, and committed Redemptorists, witnesses of the Redeemer.

In Communicanda 2 (2019) of the last Sexennium, “Revitalizing our Apostolic Life: The Service of Leadership in the Style of Jesus Christ,” Father General at the time invited us to reflect on the Crisis of Leadership in the Congregation, the Crisis of community life, and the Crisis of structures (Nos 8-21).

At this historic moment in our Congregation, we want leaders who, following the example of Jesus, are critical, reflective, and autonomous; capable of looking beyond established limits; and capable of helping others overcome resignation, disillusionment, weariness, and burnout.

(The Community is invited to read the Letter of Fr Rogério Gomes, C.Ss.R (15th March 2026) in prayerful silence)

Reflection:

That Superiors are *called to guide, to care for, to encourage and to reconcile* in the exercise of their mission:

a. A Master of the Spiritual life:

- They strive to nurture the spiritual life of individuals and communities according to their own charism.
- Superiors have a grave obligation to foster, by all means at their disposal, the fidelity of the religious to the charism of Saint Alphonsus, our founder.
- Superiors have the mission and authority of a master of spirituality in relation to the Gospel content of our C.Ss.R Spirituality

- Therefore, superiors are responsible for the collective spiritual direction of the community, that is, the function of continual spiritual feedback, according to the needs of the whole, in order to avoid the risk of settling into a certain institutionalized mediocrity.

b. The Function of Sanctification

- It is proper to superiors to have the mission and mandate to perfect, through various responsibilities, all that pertains to the life of charity in accordance with the way of being of our Institute.
- This manifests itself in a genuine concern for the “renewal or ongoing formation” that the superior must guarantee and strive to encourage appropriately, particularly regarding personal and communal fidelity within the lifestyle or charism of the C.Ss.R.
- “Above all, they will ensure that the religious are prepared for the renewal prescribed by the 2nd Vatican Council and demanded by the times, with adequate formation that responds to the needs of the times.”

c. The Exercise of Authority

- The superior bears a significant responsibility, which “must be exercised in a spirit of service by the authority received from God through the Church,” with a view to ordering the life of the community according to its own charism and mission and its ecclesial integration.
- In this way, the integral personal and communal development of the members of the community will be fostered.

For Further Reflection: *(Each of the following verses are read slowly with a short pause after each verse allowing the Spirit to speak to the heart)*

- Matthew 20:26: “But it shall not be so among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:24: “Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour.”
- Exodus 18:2: “Moreover, select capable men from all the people, men who fear God, men of integrity, who hate covetousness; and appoint them as rulers over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.”
- Luke 14:11: “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”
- Psalms 78:72: “He shepherded them with integrity of heart and led them with skilful hands.”
- Philippians 2:5-7: “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness.”
- John 13:14: “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”

For Quiet Reading and Reflection:

Canon 618: "Superiors are to exercise with a spirit of service the power they have received from God through the ministry of the	Canon 619: "Superiors are to devote themselves diligently to their office and, in union with the members entrusted to them,
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<p>Church. Therefore, showing themselves docile to God's will in the fulfilment of their office, they are to govern their subjects as children of God, fostering their voluntary obedience with respect for the human person, listening to them willingly, and encouraging their initiatives for the good of the institute and the Church, while always preserving their authority to decide and command what must be done."</p>	<p>strive to build up a fraternal community in Christ, in which, above all else, God is sought and loved. They are to nourish the members with the frequent sustenance of the Word of God and lead them to the celebration of the sacred liturgy. They are to give them an example in the exercise of virtue and in the observance of the laws and traditions of their own institute; they are to assist them appropriately in their personal needs, to care for and visit the sick, to correct the unruly, to console the fainthearted, and to be patient with all."</p>
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For Sharing in Community:

1. What are the symptoms of a leadership crisis in the C.Ss.R?
2. What are the symptoms of good and poor quality of community life?
3. What are the structures in our Congregation, Unit, community in crisis at this time?
4. What is your personal contribution to overcoming this crisis?

Prayer: *The leader invites the confreres to prayer in petition for the Leadership of the Congregation: The Superior General and Council, the (V) Provincial/Regional/Mission Superior and Council, the local Superior and Council, for various confreres of the Unit and Community who exercise roles of leadership at the service of the Mission in the Congregation.*

Conclude with the Our Father, Haily Mary and Glory Be to the Father and finally a suitable hymn.

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