

Order of the Servants of the Sick

# CAMILLIAN FAMILY

## GENERAL STATUTE



Ordine dei Ministri degli Infermi

# FAMIGLIA CAMILLIANA

## STATUTO GENERALE

Generalate - Casa Generalizia  
2002

## Decree of approval



CONGREGATIO  
PRO INSTITUTIS VITAE CONSECRATAE  
ET SOCIETATIBUS VITAE APOSTOLICAE

Prot. n. M. 73 - 1/98

### DECREE

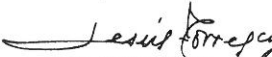
"*The Camillian Family*" Association of the religious Institute of Clerics Regular Ministers of the Sick (Camillians), whose Generalate is in the diocese of Rome, is an Association of the faithful who wish to share the charism transmitted by St. Camillus de Lellis to his sons, while adapting it to the state of life of its members.

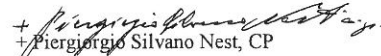
The members of the Association, while remaining in the world are sensitive to the call of the Church, and share the ideal, spirit and apostolic mission of the above mentioned Institute.

This Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, after having attentively examined the submitted Statute, declares that this Association is an organisation (opera) proper to the Institute, and as such must be recognised by all.

The Dicastero (department) recommends that the Statute, approved by the General Chapter of the Institute celebrated in the month of May 2001, be followed by the members of the "Camillian Family". Furthermore, with this present decree, the same dicastero entrusts to the General Chapter the approval of any modifications to the Statute, which may be required in the future».

The Vatican, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2001.

  
Jesús Torres, CMI  
Under-secretary

  
+ Piergiorgio Silvano Nest, CP  
Secretary

## PRESENTATION

---

*I am delighted to have the duty to present this Statute to the Lay Camillian Family scattered throughout the world. It affords me the welcome opportunity of acknowledging the very important work being carried out under the Camillian banner by so many very committed lay people. Through your work for the sick and suffering you are helping bring to fruition the dream of St. Camillus who foresaw that his little shrub would spread throughout the world, and his prayer that he might have a hundred hands so as to care for still more suffering members of our society. Your ever growing and constantly developing presence is one of the most encouraging signs of the times for the religious of the Order of St. Camillus, and I joyfully acknowledge and welcome your presence as part of the Order.*

*On the recommendation of the Camillian laity the General Chapter held in Bucchianico in 1995 requested that the Lay Camillian Family be provided with a statute which would unite the various groups around the world. It was hoped that the Statute would define and clarify the role of the family. The expressed desire of the laity at the time was that the clarification of their identity would respect their autonomy and right to run their own affairs while at the same time enshrining their desire to be closely bonded with the male branch of the Camillian Order. I believe the document I have the pleasure of presenting honours these aspirations as it clarifies and defines the objectives, spirituality and organisation of the Camillian Family, and clearly distinguishes between independence and autonomy.*

*In response to the request of the General Chapter a commission was put in place by the Consulta General in 1995 resulting in a Statute being presented to the Camillian Family in 1998 for a three year ad experimentum period. In the light of the lived experience the family members submitted their recommendations and comments on this document, and these were amalgamated into the text presented by the General Consulta to the General Chapter in Mottinello in 2001 for approval.*

*With a few minor changes the Statute was unanimously approved by the 55<sup>th</sup> General Chapter in May of last year. The text was then presented to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Their decree of approval is reproduced on the preceding page.*

*I pray that this Statute may serve as a structure for assuring the continuity of the great spirit which animates the Camillian Family, and that the merciful love of Christ for the sick may continue to be expressed with great creativity by all who seek to live by the spirit of this document.*

**Fr. Frank Monks, M.I.**  
Superior General

## CONTENTS

A. DEFINITION .....	page 11
B. OBJECTIVES.....	» 12
C. SPIRITUALITY.....	» 12
D. ORGANISATION.....	» 14
AT GENERAL LEVEL .....	» 14
1. The General Assembly is the supreme authority of the Association .....	» 14
2. The Central Commission .....	» 15
AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL.....	» 17
1. The General Assembly .....	» 17
2. The Presidential Council.....	» 18
AT LOCAL LEVEL .....	» 19
E. ECONOMY .....	» 20
F. CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR ADMISSION.....	» 20
G. FORMATION .....	» 21
H. ANNOTATIONS.....	» 21
From "The Testament" of St. Camillus.....	» 22

## CAMILLIAN FAMILY GENERAL STATUTE

---

### A. DEFINITION

1. The Camillian Family (CF) is an association which gathers together people who feel called, as lay people, to live out their baptismal obligations, by witnessing to the Lord's love for the sick and suffering, in accordance with the charism which St. Camillus de Lellis received from God, and transmitted to the Order he founded.
2. The life and activity of the CF is based on the example of the merciful Jesus, the teachings of the Church, the charism, the spirituality and the mission of the Camillian Order.
3. Although in essence lay, the CF is also open to priests, deacons, male and female religious who wish to share the Camillian charism within the bounds imposed on them by their membership of the diocesan clergy or their religious family.
4. The CF is a public ecclesial association which the Holy See (*the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life*) has recognised, as part of the Camillian Order, by approving its Statute.
5. The CF is one form of collaboration between Camillian religious and the laity. Besides the CF there are other meaningful forms (of collaboration) for the purpose of establishing and maintaining significant relationships between Camillian Religious and the Laity.

## B. OBJECTIVES

The CF will pursue the following objectives:

6. To exercise the corporal and spiritual works of mercy towards the sick.
7. To sensitise the ecclesial community and the health-care world to the dignity of the sick, by promoting a service based on authentic human values in accordance with Christian ethical principles.
8. To collaborate in the promotion of a culture of life and healthcare in line with the Christian vision of man.
9. To deepen the knowledge of the charism of the Order, and engage in the practical application of the same, through collaboration with Camillian religious in evangelising and humanising the healthcare world, and in missionary initiatives.
10. To treasure prayer both as an effective apostolic instrument and as an aid to faithfully coping with the difficulties involved in illness. The members of the CF are open to collaborating in the service of the sick with those of other religions.
11. To seek to have the role of the sick as evangelisers within the ecclesial community recognised and promoted.
12. To cultivate fraternity within the CF through mutual spiritual and material aid, so that every member may experience support especially in moments of difficulty.

## C. SPIRITUALITY

13. The spirituality of the CF is to be distinctly lay in orientation, centered on the person of Christ and the

following of Him, and on the example of St. Camillus as expressed in the Constitution of the Camillian Order:

*“God loved us first, and it is our wish to respond to his love. For this reason, we seek to personalise more and more our relationship with the Father, who is full of tenderness, through Jesus Christ his Son, in whose name we serve the sick, and through a readiness to allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit throughout our life” (C. 61).*

*“We strive to understand ever more intimately the mystery of Christ and to cultivate a personal friendship with him. Our entire religious life must be permeated with the friendship of God, so that we may know how to be ministers of Christ’s love towards the sick. In this way we manifest that faith which in Camillus was expressed in charity and by means of which we see Christ himself in the sick” (C. 13).*

14. Members will seek to reach human and Christian maturity through diligent attention to the Word of God, frequent participation in the Eucharist and Reconciliation, devotion to Our Lady Health of the Sick, and familiarity with the life and teachings of St. Camillus.
15. Union with God is effectively manifested through an openness and availability to dialogue and collaboration with all people.
16. It is most important that participation in Church life, with particular reference to the diocese and parish, be fostered.
17. In non Christian countries the members of the CF are open to collaboration with other confessions in serving the sick.

## D. ORGANISATION

18. The CF, an arm of the whole Camillian Order, is divided into Provincial, Delegational or National (*those groups which have arisen where the Camillian Order is not present*) CFs, which in turn are divided into local CFs.

### AT GENERAL LEVEL

*At general level the CF is made up of the following organisations:*

#### 1. The General Assembly is the supreme authority of the Association

19. This is made up of the Presidents of the CF within the Provinces, Delegations and Nations, and by the members of the Central Commission.

21. The General Assembly will meet every six years, always one year prior to the Ordinary General Chapter of the Camillian Order.

21. An extraordinary General Chapter may be convened during the six years should the Central Commission deem it necessary or if two thirds of the CFs of the Provinces, Delegations or Nations request it.

22. The General Assembly must be called by the General President or, in his absence, by the Vice President, with at least three months notice, and include an indication as to the agenda.

23. The General Assembly will:

- \* examine the state of the CF in the Provinces and Delegations (Nations) through the written presentations of the Presidents:

- \* protect and foster the Camillian spiritual and charismatic heritage of the CF;
- \* promote the spiritual renewal, updating, and apostolic zeal of the CF;
- \* examine and deal with the issues of the CF of the world;
- \* give directives and orientations for the life and activity of the CF;
- \* examine the economic report of the treasurer and approve the six year budget;
- \* elect the following members of the Central Commission: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, but not the Spiritual Assistant.

24. The Fr. General participates with full rights in the General Assembly.

#### 2. The Central Commission

25. It is made up of: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Spiritual Assistant. It would be preferable if the last mentioned was a General Consultor.

26. Apart from the Spiritual Assistant who will be nominated by the Superior General with the consent of his Council, the other members of the Central Commission will be elected by the General Assembly and confirmed by the Superior General and his Council.

27. The function of the Central Commission:

- \* to check that the statutes of the CF of the Provinces, Delegations and Nations are in harmony with the General Statutes;
- \* to strengthen the bonds between the CF of the Provinces, Delegations and Nations through the

sharing of information and other practical suggestions;

- \* to promote initiatives at international level;
- \* to settle the juridical and disciplinary conflicts of the CF;
- \* to meet once a year.

28. The function of the President:

- \* to govern the Association in the spirit of the General Statute;
- \* to preside over and animate the sessions of the General Assembly and of the Central Commission;
- \* to officially represent the Association;
- \* to cultivate contacts and strengthen relationships with the CFs of the Provinces, Delegations and Nations.

29. The function of the Vice-president:

- \* to assume responsibility when the President is impeded from doing so, with all the rights of the President.

30. The function of the Secretary:

- \* to assume responsibility for the drafting of records of meetings, debates, correspondence, the keeping of the archives and mass media promotion.

31. The function of the Treasurer:

- \* to administer the finances of the Association and be responsible for accurate accounts.

32. The function of the Spiritual Assistant:

- \* to promote the spiritual growth of the CF, its fidelity to the Gospel, to the teachings of the Church, and to the principles of Camillian spirituality.

## AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL

*At Provincial, Delegational and National Level the CF is made up of the following organisms:*

### 1. The General Assembly

33. The General Assembly is made up of the delegates from the local CFs as stipulated in the provincial statutes.

The Assembly will meet whenever it is considered necessary: at least once every three years and where possible annually. An Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened during the course of the year at the request of two thirds of the members, and when this is considered necessary by the Presidential Council. General Assemblies must be announced at least one month in advance and include an indication as to the agenda.

34. The functions of the General Assembly:

- the approval of provincial (or delegational) statutes and any modification to same;
- the election of the presidential council, except the spiritual assistant;
- the approval of the work carried out by the presidential council;
- to examine the economic report of the treasurer and approve the annual budget.

35. The Provincial or Delegate participates in the General Assembly at Provincial level with full rights.

36. The responsibilities of the spiritual assistant will be defined in a common agreement between the Provincial/Delegate and the Association.



## 2. The Presidential Council

37. The Presidential Council is made up of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Spiritual Assistant.

Except for the latter who is elected by the Superior (or Delegate) Provincial, the other members of the presidency are elected by the Assembly and confirmed by the Superior (or Delegate) Provincial.

38. The functions of the Presidential Council:

- to animate the CF, to encourage spiritual growth and apostolic activities through formative programmes;
- to accept new applicants and to decide on the dismissal of members;
- to establish new branches of the CF and to check the branches already in existence;
- to convene the General Assembly for specific purposes such as financial matters or for elections;
- to settle the juridical, disciplinary or economic problems of the local CFs;
- to draw up an annual report which is to be sent to the Central Commission.

39. The function of the President

- to govern the Association in accordance with the Statute;
- to convene and animate the meetings of the General Assembly and of the Presidency;
- to officially represent the Association;
- to foster contacts with the various CFs.

40. The function of the Vice President:

- To assume all powers whenever the President is impeded.

41. The function of the Secretary:

- to assume responsibility for the drafting of the minutes of meetings, of debates, for sending correspondence, for the archives and the mass media.

42. The function of the Treasurer:

- his office requires that he administer the finances of the Association and be responsible for the orderly keeping of accounts.

43. The function of the Spiritual Assistant:

- to promote the spiritual growth of the CF, its fidelity to the Gospel, to the teachings of the Church, and to the principles of Camillian spirituality;
- to offer his assistance and guidance at group level;
- if possible to visit each local group once a year.

### AT LOCAL LEVEL

44. *At local level the CF:*

- is made up of a limited number of members, to be established by the local statutes;
- is animated by a President, aided by a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. They are elected by members of the local CF, and must be confirmed by the Provincial, Delegational, or National Presidency.

45. *Those who hold office are required:*

- to inform the Diocesan Ordinary of the existence of the CF and to request from him the necessary authorisation should one intend setting up one's own facility (houses, centres...);
- to establish the frequency and the agenda for meetings (prayers, information, formative and social encounters...);

- to examine closely the tasks to be accomplished;
- to encourage contact between members of the CF;
- to draw up an annual report to be sent to the Provincial Presidency.

#### E. ECONOMY

46. The financial resources of the Central Commission will come from:

- an annual contribution from the Provincial, Delegational and National CFs, to be established by the General Assembly;
- from the contribution of each province and delegation of the Order in which the CF is present;
- from donations and various type gifts.

47. The financial resources of the Provincial, Delegational and National CFs will come from:

- a contribution which shall be established by each Provincial, Delegational or National Presidential Council.

48. The financial resources of the local CFs will come from:

- the contributions of the members and from the communities to which they are bonded.

#### F. CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR ADMISSION

49. Participation in the CF requires:

- a period of personal and community discernment with those responsible for the local CF or others delegated by them;
- a written request addressed to the local president of the CF;

- a formation period in accordance with the criteria established by local Statutes;
- a commitment to be publicly undertaken, where possible, during a liturgical ceremony.

#### G. FORMATION

50. Both initial and on-going formation will seek to promote human, spiritual and apostolic development, and will be dictated by circumstances, personal requirements, and the resources available in each place.

51. Special attention will be given to:

- growth in self awareness;
- the ability to discern in a Christian fashion the signs of the times;
- the acquisition of a certain sensitivity in relating to the sick;
- a knowledge of the healthcare world and its socio-political characteristics;
- a deep understanding of suffering, illness and death in the light of faith;
- updating on ethical and bioethical issues facing the healthcare world.

52. Formation will be pursued through:

- participation in courses, seminars, congresses, conferences, retreats and spiritual exercises;
- structured meetings, the frequency of which is to be established by local needs.

#### H. ANNOTATIONS

53. Members who have publicly declared their allegiance to the CF participate by right in the General Assembly, they enjoy active and passive voice, and

shall be kept informed as to the life of the Association. They are bound by the dictates of the Statute, and are to show loyalty to the Church and the Camillian Order.

54. All elections and decisions require an absolute majority.
55. The tenure of office at Central Level will be for six years, and at Provincial and Local level for three years; these offices may, as a rule, be renewed only once.
56. A request to leave the CF may be made at any time, but always in writing.
57. The Association may be dissolved by the authorisation of a 2/3's majority of the General Assembly. In which case its material goods pass to the Camillian Order, who in turn shall assign them to charity.
58. In drafting the Provincial or Delegational Statutes due consideration will be given to local needs.
59. When the good of the Association requires the changing, cancelling or formulation of a new article in the statute, an appropriate motion will be presented in the Assembly. Those articles which refer to the relationship with our Order cannot be changed or suppressed without the consent of the legitimate superiors of the Order.

---

FROM "THE TESTAMENT" OF ST. CAMILLUS

---

*"I conclude by sending to each of you,  
insofar as it is granted to me by the Lord my God,  
a thousand blessings, not only to today's confreres  
but also to those of the future  
who will carry out the work of this holy Order,  
until the end of the world".*