

STATUTE OF THE PARISHES AND RECTORIES ENTRUSTED TO THE CAMILLIANS

Background

The religious assigned in the parishes and rectories entrusted to the Camillians met in S. Paulo, Brazil from April 19-23, 2017, offer a common framework for the development, promotion and harmonization of these structures entrusted to them with particular attention to draw out a missionary and Camillian physiognomy having in their hearts the charism of the Order of “reliving the ever-present merciful love of Christ for the sick” (Const. 1) which “is expressed and realized in our ministry, in the world of health, illness and suffering”. (Const. 10).

In a particular manner, the Provinces, Vice-Provinces and Delegations of the Order are called to respond to “the more urgent needs of the Church and neighbor”, with openness “to other forms of ministry, especially on behalf of those in need”. (Const. 10).

The clear goal of the participants during this meeting in Sao Paulo was to identify appropriate guidelines for the parishes and rectories in order to realize, in addition to the healthcare facilities, the necessity of responding to our classical ministry of home care assistance (*mare magnum*) and to the appeal of Pope Francis to build “field hospitals”.

Introduction

The Order of the Ministers of the Sick, a living part of the Church, has received from God, through its Founder St. Camillus de Lellis, the gift of reliving the ever-present merciful love of Christ for the sick and bearing witness to it to the world. (Const. 1)

Therefore, the charism which has been granted in a special way to our Order and which establishes its character and mandate, is expressed and realized in our ministry, in the world of health, illness and suffering. Nevertheless, with the consent of the General Consulta, in particular circumstances of time and place or in response to the more urgent needs of the Church and neighbor, we are open to other forms of ministry, especially on behalf of those in need. (Const. 10).

The Camillian parish carries out its ministry in full harmony with the universal and the local church. *In visits to the sick in health facilities, in silently being with the sick person, kind treatment, sensitive care for the requirements of the disease, the motherhood of the church is expressed through the professionals and volunteers, disciples of the Lord. The church enfolds them with its kindness, strengthens the heart, and for the dying, accompanies them in the final passage. The sick person lovingly receives the Word, forgiveness, the sacrament of Anointing, and gestures of charity from brothers and sisters. (Aparecida, 420).*

The Camillian Identity and the Pastoral Ministry

Art. 1. The Order of the Ministers of the Infirm (Camillians) actualizes its mission in their ministry to the world of health delivering:

- a. “holistic service to all categories of sick people, disabled, elderly and their families, the socially excluded, with preferential attention given to the poorest;

- b. promotion of health, prevention and the integral care of the sick person, scientific research, and the relief of pain;
- c. humanistic, professional and ethical formation and Christian animation of health-care workers, both professionals and volunteers in the world of health;
- d. humanization of health care institutions and services;
- e. pastoral care in health, exercised in the Christian community in both ecclesiastical and civil health care and socio-health care institutions;
- f. help for developing countries, the promotion of the life and the dignity of the person.” (GS 13)

Parishes and Rectories

Art. 2. The parishes and rectories assumed with pastoral responsibility by the Camillian religious of the Provinces, Vice Provinces and Delegations “with the consent of the General Consulta and in conformity with the article 10 of our Constitution” (GS 35) are “open hospitals” and an irradiation of our charism.

§1. A parish is understood according to the Canon Law as "a certain community of Christ’s faithful stably established within a particular Church, whose pastoral care, under the authority of the diocesan Bishop, is entrusted to a parish priest as its proper pastor. (Can. 515§1).

§2. A rectory is "a church that, although it is in a parochial territory, does not function as a parish and depends on the local parish church as regards to canonical issues and pastoral directives.” (Catholic Encyclopedia – online; cf. Can. 515, 1)

Art. 3. It is to the responsibility of the local Ordinary and the Provincial, Vice-provincial and Delegate superior with the consent of his Council, to stipulate an agreement between the diocesan curia and the Camillian Province, Vice-province and Delegation.

It is the duty of the local Ordinary to appoint the parish priests, parochial vicars and rectors and to exercise his episcopal authority, the Magisterium, in the doctrinal and pastoral matters with due respect to the religious priests who minister in the parish and rectory towards the faithful entrusted to their pastoral responsibility as parish priests and rectors.

Parish Priest, Parochial Vicar and Rector

Art. 4. The parish priest, parochial vicar and rector are nominated by the provincial, vice provincial and delegate Superior and appointed by the local Ordinary.

It is under the responsibility of the provincial, vice provincial and delegate Superior with the consent of his Council:

§1. To present the religious priests, in accordance with the law, to be appointed by the local Ordinary as parish priests, parochial vicars and rectors.

§2. To transfer the office of the parish priest, parochial vicar and rector to any religious whom he nominated, after a prior notice made, within an adequate period of time to the local Ordinary, if it is not to the detriment of the pastoral care to the faithful in the diocese. (cf. Can. 682, 2; GS 98).

Art. 5. The parish priest, parochial vicar and rector can be removed from their office upon the request of the local Ordinary or the provincial, vice provincial and delegate Superior, after a prior notice within an adequate period of time.

The Parish Priest/Rector and the Religious Community

Art. 6. The relationship and duties of the parish priest/parochial vicar/rector to his Camillian religious community:

§1. The parish/rectory entrusted to the Camillians is administered by a parish priest or rector legitimately appointed according to the norms established by the Diocese.

§2. As the parish priest or rector administers the parish or rectory by right, he is to identify pastoral areas allocated to the members of his community in coordination with the local superior of the community.

Art. 7. The parish priest/rector must submit an annual accomplishment report of its main pastoral activities and a quarterly economic-financial report of the parish/rectory to the provincial, vice provincial or delegate Council.

Art. 8. The income of the religious with full-time involvement at the parish/rectory as parish priest, parochial vicar or rector will abide the norms and regulation established by the local Ordinary. Each parish/rectory will contribute an established percentage of its monthly income by common agreement with the provincial, vice provincial or delegation Council, apart from the dues to the Diocese, for the ministerial activities of the province, vice province or delegation.

§1. The income of the parish priest, parochial vicar and rector coming from mass intentions and other offerings will be submitted to his religious community.

§2. The offerings and donations intended for pastoral activities or projects will be submitted to the parish or rectory.

Art. 9. The Province, Vice Province and Delegation has the duty to help the parish or rectory with financial difficulty.

Art. 10. The religious priests as parish priests, parochial vicars or rectors are entitled to a period of holidays every year; it has to be organized in coordination with the religious community in such a way that there is always a priest who will take care of the pastoral ministry.

The Pastoral Program of the Parishes and Rectories

Art. 11. Every parish or rectory entrusted to the Camillians must give a special attention to pastoral health on the following dimensions: solidarity, communitarian, political- institutional, etc.

Art. 12. The extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and other lay collaborators are formed according to the Camillian charism to better serve the sick who requests their presence.

Art. 13. The parish or rectory entrusted to the Camillians seeks to establish good relations with the local health institutions in order to offer quality healthcare assistance especially to those

more indigent. Where it is possible, dispensaries, social centers or socio-pastoral initiatives can be organized.

Art. 14. The parish or rectory entrusted to the Camillians, conforming with its own potentials, put into practice the aspects of the Camillian charism that may not possibly done in hospital chaplaincies, such as assistance to the sick in their homes, the formation of the laity and in general to volunteers of pastoral health ministry. It also takes care in a special way the Lay Camillian Family and the promotion of vocations.

Art. 15. They are to celebrate the liturgy with solemnity of the feasts of the blessed and the saints of our Order: Conversion of St. Camillus (February 2), World Day of the Sick (February 11), Blessed Enrico Rebuschini (May 10), Blessed Maria Domenica Brun Barbantini (May 22), Birth of St. Camillus and the Martyrs of Charity (May 25), St. Camillus de Lellis (July 14), Blessed Luigi Tezza (September 26), Blessed Giuseppina Vannini (October 16), Our Lady of Health of the Sick (November 16).

It is expected that in the organization of the parish pastoral activities, a time should be dedicated to the celebrations of the prayers for the sick, to the sacrament of the sick and other celebrations as indicated by the provincial, vice provincial or delegation Council.

Final Note

Art. 16. In particular cases and in situations not mentioned in this Statute, are left to the competence of the Province, Vice Province or Delegation and the Diocese by way of a reciprocal agreement.

Art. 17. The interpretation in case of a doubt and the modification of an article in this present Statute are reserved to the General Consulta of the Order.

References:

- Can.* Code of Canon Law, 1983.
- Const.* Constitution of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, 2016.
- GS* General Statutes of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, 2013.
- Aparecida* V General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, Concluding Document, 2007

Approved in Rome, 18th of May 2017 by the General Consulta of the Ministers of the Infirm.