

30th General Chapter

Congregation of the Resurrection

**27 June 1999 – 17 July 1999
Rome, Italy**

A Vision of Hope **Plan for the Future**

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Vision / Charism

“Hope will never leave us disappointed because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ... (Romans 5:5)

At the threshold of the third millennium of the Christian era, we believe as members of the XXXth General Chapter of the Congregation of the Resurrection, that the gift (charism) which Bogdan Jański and his disciples received from the Holy Spirit for the good of the Church and human society finds its expression in the Christian virtue of hope. This hope is founded on the unconditional love of God, which is expressed in the paschal mystery of Jesus and has as its object our own resurrection and that of society, and, ultimately, the full sharing in Christ's resurrection.

Mission

Ourselves enlivened by hope, we will awaken and nourish hope in others by:

a) Being community:

- (i) *“Our Congregation must be a model of Christian community in which people are one in heart and mind” (Mission Statement)*. Therefore, sacrifice, personal discipline, and the setting aside of personal agenda are necessary for the religious to become more active members of their local houses and to advance the common good of the Congregation.
- (ii) We foster hope and a sense of Resurrectionist identity by assisting one another to live more deeply the paschal mystery. This could be achieved by regular house meetings and other gatherings which are not of an administrative character but rather provide an atmosphere where the brothers have an opportunity for leisure, social interaction, and for growth in the spiritual life,
- (iii) The common life makes visible our charism and is a sign of hope to contemporary society which is seeking the experience of community to remedy situations of isolation, alienation, and individualism. We recognize that living alone is necessary at times, for various reasons, but this situation should never be considered customary, much less permanent, within the Congregation. Those who by exception must live apart from a community house maintain the common life by their fraternal contact with members of a local house and participation in their activities.
- (iv) An expression of a strong common life is that hospitality which invites our own Resurrectionist brothers and others not only into our home but also into our lives of faith, and ultimately attracts new members to our Congregation.

b) Creating communities in collaboration with the laity:

Our collaboration with the laity is the most traditional characteristic of the apostolate of the community, which was founded by a lay person, Bogdan Jański, and which, through many years of its original history, not only collaborated with lay persons but also, thanks to them, flourished. The presence of the laity in our ministry ought to mean a real collaboration – the laity working *with us*, not *for us* or *instead of us*.

A special expression of our collaboration with the laity which belongs to the foundational charism of the Congregation (cf. §20, original *Rule of 1842*) is the presence of lay Resurrectionists, apart from the Congregation, who through promises constitute communities of the risen Christ. They share our charism and mission and are assisted by the religious regarding their spiritual formation; but in their community life, they are governed by their own statutes.

With great joy we welcome, after many years, the first communities of that kind in the Polish Province and we express the hope that we will also be able to establish such communities in the remaining sectors of the Congregation, basing ourselves on already existing or yet-to-be-created forms of collaboration with the laity.

In this way, the Congregation could enter the Third Millennium with a fully realized vision of the Founder who, from the very beginning, wanted Resurrectionists "with two lungs": the vowed religious and their lay collaborators.

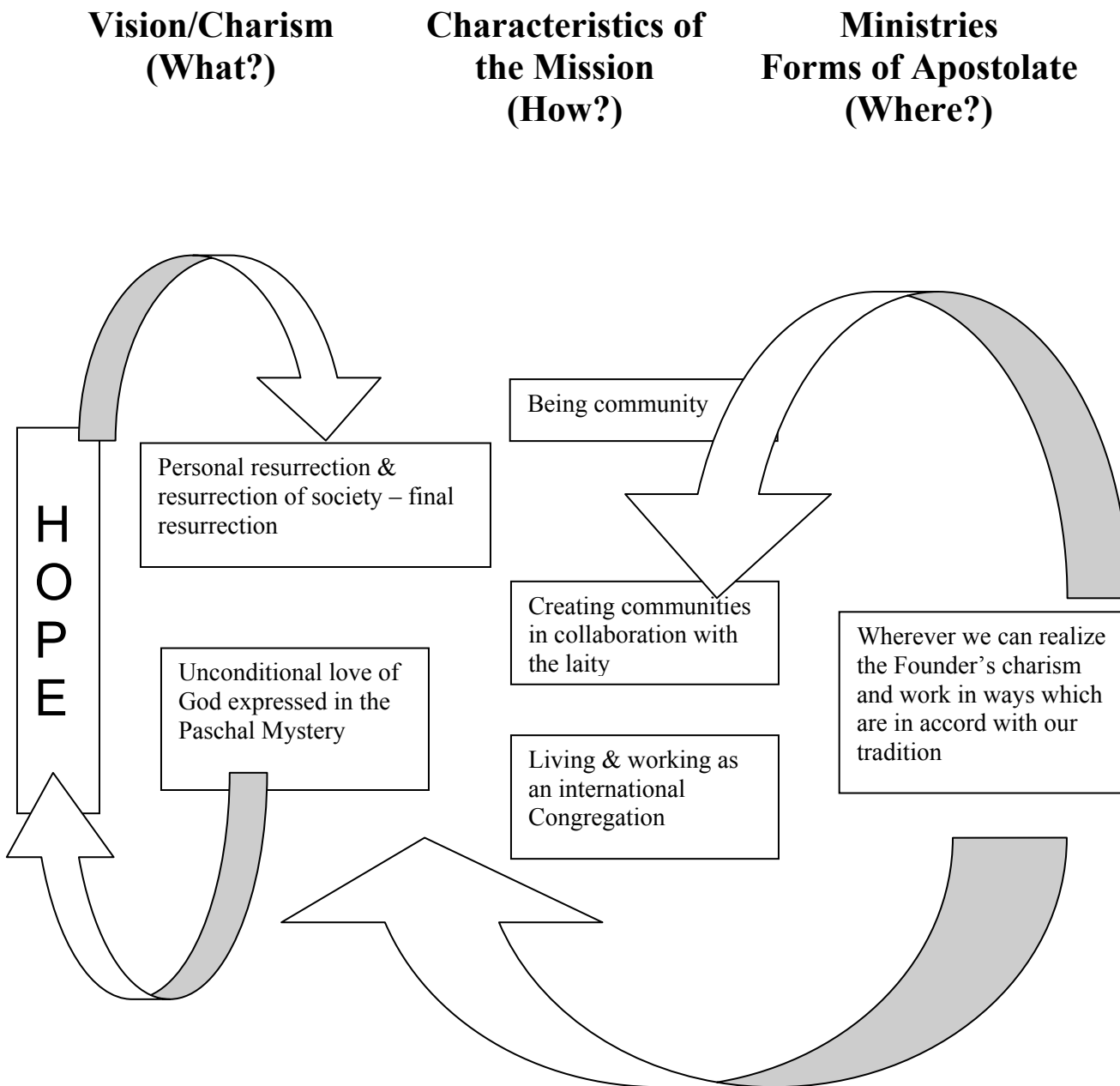
c) Living and Working as an International Congregation:

From the very foundations of our community, there has been an evidently international character to our Congregation. The following are some of the ways in which we continue to do this.

- (i) Solidarity: compassion for others (social justice), mutual help among the provinces/region, sharing of personnel and financial resources
- (ii) Formation of International Mentality – which is already fortified by existing structures:
 - International Seminary
 - Resurrectionist Renewal Program
 - International Center for Resurrectionist Spirituality
 - Notitiae*
- (iii) Informal International Exchanges: Vacations, foreign-language courses, even a one-year North American teacher of English in Poland and/or vice-versa.
- (iv) Greater central authority and a larger understanding of missiology as a project of the entire Congregation, not just of the individual provinces. Projects such as beatification, spirituality, and a statement of models of personnel exchange might also be brought under the umbrella jurisdiction of the superior general and his curia.
- (v) Our formation programs which ought to stress the possibility and also encourage those in formation to consider mission fields in all forms – to foreign cultures within our own lands, to lands beyond ours, and to those marginalized by unjust structures, wherever they may be.

Ministries / Forms of Apostolates

Jański identified no specific work as uniquely Resurrectionist, but included all ministries which could fulfill his vision. Examples of these ministries may include parish work and education, and surely could include such works as ministry among those most “unlovable.” These apostolic forms are most conducive to our response to God’s unconditional love for us, which we strive to extend towards those of God’s children “least deserving” of human attention or love.



Action Resolutions

The resolutions of the 30th General Chapter are arranged below in three groups, corresponding to the three identified characteristics of the Resurrectionist mission, as given in the chart above.

1) “Being community”

Expressions of Our Vision of Hope

Status Questionis: At this XXXth General Chapter the Holy Spirit has led us to realize that we Resurrectionists are called to be men of hope – a hope founded on God’s unconditional love, ongoing conversion (personal resurrection) and, ultimately, our participation in Christ’s resurrection and glory.

Goal: to assist our brother Resurrectionists, especially those who were not participants at this general chapter, to hear and accept the call to be men of hope and to engage in some specific actions as a Congregation to help us express our Resurrection vision and charism as men of hope.

Action Resolution #1: The delegates to the 30th General Chapter appeal to all members of the Congregation to respond personally and as local communities to the Church’s call to conversion (personal resurrection) during the Holy Year of Jubilee, looking upon the Jubilee as a grace-filled opportunity to grow in our Resurrectionist charism.

Action Resolution #2: At least once during the next six years, our annual community retreat will be devoted to reflection and prayer on our Constitutions (Resurrectionist charism, mission, and spirituality). All the members of the province or region will be expected to participate in this community retreat.

Community Discernment for Our Apostolic Life

Status Questionis: The dawn of the Third Millennium of Christianity provides us a challenge to revise our present apostolates and to consider the new aeropagi on the horizon. At the same time, the *Instrumentum Laboris* for the XXXth General Chapter calls attention to our growing “diocesan lifestyle.” This general chapter is concerned that “the common life makes visible our charism and is a sign to contemporary society.” We also have stated clearly that living alone is necessary at times, but this situation should never be considered customary, much less permanent, within the Congregation.

Action Resolution #3: The provincial and regional superiors will exert effort to insure that religious living alone have real opportunities for participation in community life and in the activities of the local religious house.

Action Resolution #4: Provincial and regional superiors and their councils should review present apostolates of the members to determine whether the situation of religious living alone is absolutely necessary and whether the situation is becoming permanent. The superior general will review this question with the provincial and regional superiors at the time of the general visitation.

Action Resolution #5: The importance of the common life in the charism and mission of the Congregation should be given serious consideration by the provincial and regional superiors in determining whether a new apostolate absolutely requires a religious to live alone.

Vocation Directors/Ministry

Status Questionis: We believe That God continues to call people to a religious vocation in the midst of a contemporary culture of death and unfreedom, that our manner of fostering vocations to the Congregation needs to be more active, less passive, and that we must diligently pray for vocations.

Action Resolution #6: We acknowledge the role of the vocation director as three-fold:

Primarily, he will animate the membership to foster religious vocations. He will encourage and challenge the membership to recognize that their pastoral activity is vocational. He will help the membership with ways to identify and give special attention to potential candidates within their pastoral ministry by introducing them to the principles of religious life and the Congregation.

Secondarily, he will have direct contact with potential candidates that the membership have identified to further introduce the person(s) to the principles of religious life and to the Congregation.

Thirdly, he will encourage and assist the laity to respond to their baptismal commitment by giving witness to Christian values and by offering their special gifts of service to the church and society.

Action Resolution #7: We direct that the Provincial/Regional Superior directly encourage and challenge the membership to take leadership in their respective ministry to foster religious vocations and to support the efforts of the vocation director.

Action Resolution #8: We direct that the Provincial/Regional Superior publicly support the efforts of the vocation director so that the membership is made aware that vocational ministry is crucial to the continuance of the Congregation and that the vocation director is the coordinator of the efforts of the membership. Thus, both the membership and the vocation director are to collaborate jointly to foster religious vocations.

Beatification

Status Questionis: The beatification processes of Bogdan Jański and Jerome Kajsiewicz have not yet been opened and the process of Peter Semenenko has to be reopened in the future if so desired.

Goal: To promote the development of the cause of Bogdan Jański.

Action Resolution #9: Open the cause of Bogdan Jański as soon as we are able to.

Action Resolution #10: Promote the “Fama Sanctitatis” of Bogdan Jański among our membership and beyond.

The Major Superior or the Regional Superior will encourage the use of the Intercessory Prayer to Bogdan Jański in each parish/institution of each province/region

The Major Superior or the Regional Superior will encourage a retreat by the Postulator about Bogdan Jański in each province/region

The Major Superior or the Regional Superior will encourage each province/region to give special emphasis to the year 2000 in memory of the 160th anniversary of the death of Bogdan Jański

Action Resolution #11: Components of the Beatification Process will include:

The postulator will prepare a detailed description of what is involved in a beatification process to be disseminated in each province/region.

The postulator will prepare a detailed description of where we are in Bogdan Jański's Beatification Process and its most immediate needs to be disseminated in each province/region.

The postulator will prepare materials to be used at a house meeting at each local level before the end of the year 2000 for a discussion on the Beatification Process of Bogdan Jański

Action Resolution #12: An annual report will be presented at each EGC meeting detailing the status of the Beatification Process of Bogdan Jański by the Postulator and each province/region will present a report on what specific efforts have occurred in each respective province/region.

Action Resolution #13: The funds for the Beatification Process of Bogdan Jański will come first from donations made for this purpose and then \$5000 (US dollars) annually from each province, \$1000 (US dollars) annually from the South American region, and \$1000 (US dollars) annually from the houses dependent on the Superior General.

Action Resolution #14: The General Curia will provide a camera-ready copy of Bogdan Jański's Diary to each province/region that wishes to publish it.

Center for Resurrectionist Spirituality

Status Questionis: With the creation of the Center for Resurrectionist Spirituality at the 29th General Chapter, it is now useful to identify some specific details.

Action Resolution #15. That the Center be retained and continue to have its locus in Rome both as a way of emphasizing its international character and because the sources are there.

Action Resolution #16: That the qualifications for the Director continue to be those enunciated in the minutes of the Vows and Spirituality Committee of the 1993 Chapter, #4c.

Action Resolution #17: That the Director be allowed to respond to requests to give retreats, conferences, workshops, symposia in Resurrection spirituality and the Paschal Mystery. In this he could be assisted by others.

Action Resolution #18: That the Director of the Center also coordinate the work of the International Resurrection Studies Commission.

Action Resolution #19: That the periodical "*Caritate et Veritate*" continue to be published and that its focus be expanded to include contemporary themes in Resurrection Spirituality and the Paschal Mystery.

Action Resolution #20: That the Center continue publication of materials from our community patrimony.

Action Resolution #21: That the Center explore the possibility of creating a website which would facilitate dissemination of its work and publications and interaction among members and others.

Action Resolution #22: That the Center continue to receive adequate financial support from the Curia for the general good of the Community.

Action Resolution #23: That the Director in collaboration with the provincial superior of the U.S.A. Province identify people who can assist with Polish to English translations.

2) “Creating communities in collaboration with the laity”

Lay Resurrectionists

Status Questionis: Embracing the historical and spiritual heritage of the Founder and his disciples, we recognize as an expression of our charism and mission the fact that apart from the Congregation there are communities of lay Resurrectionists.

Action Resolution #24: May the religious, in collaboration with the laity, join in the establishment of such communities in order to actualize fully the vision of the Resurrectionists, outlined and begun by Bogdan Jański!

Charism and Mission in Resurrectionist Pastoral Ministry

Status Questionis: Many bishops provide their pastors with detailed information about the manner of administering and caring for the parish. We have long spoken of a need for a comparable manual which would enunciate the manner in which the Resurrectionist charism and mission might be carried out.

Action Resolution #25: Each province and region, during the next six years, will draft a handbook of principles for pastoral work, based on the vision/charism and mission of the Congregation as outlined by the 30th General Chapter.

Policies regarding allegations of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct

Status Questionis: We are deeply concerned by accusations of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct both in the Church and society at large.

Action Resolution #26: Each province and region must have a written sexual abuse policy and a sexual misconduct policy. These policies must be sensitive to civil law, canon law, and legislation of the dioceses in which we work.

Action Resolution #27: At the Extended General Council meeting in 2001 the sexual abuse and sexual misconduct policies of each province and region will be reviewed.

3) “Living and working as an international Congregation”

Resurrectionist Renewal Program

Status Questionis: The Roman Renewal Program contained values useful to every Resurrectionist and constituted an important element of ongoing formation. But now a new program is needed which could be more attractive as well as promote the sense of the internationality of the Congregation through the contact with local communities.

Action Resolution #28: To name the new program “Resurrectionist Renewal Program.”

Action Resolution #29: To hold the program at least twice before the next general chapter -- not only in Rome but also in the provinces and region.

Action Resolution #30: To determine the location, the time, and other details of the program, as well as to designate the coordinator, at the meetings of the Extended General Council.

Action Resolution #31: To include the use of specialists in Resurrectionist patrimony and spirituality, religious life in general, and contemporary theology.

Missio ad Gentes

Status Questionis: Our Constitutions acknowledge that we are not a missionary institute (§220). However, the Church universal and all religious in the Church are called to *Missio ad Gentes*. Since the rewriting of our Constitutions in 1969, responsibility for the missionary efforts of the Congregation has been delegated to the Provinces. In recent times, our Provinces have had to withdraw from some of our foreign missions due, primarily, to a lack of sufficient personnel. At the same time, our superior general and curia, from their perspective of the whole Congregation and the Church universal, have insisted on the need for foreign missions in our Congregation as a sign of hope and as a response to the Church’s call to *Missio ad Gentes*.

Goal: to place responsibility for promoting the missionary apostolate of the Congregation in the hands of the superior general and curia.

Action Resolution #32: Establish a fund for the support of our missions.

Action Resolution #33: Recognize the authority of the superior general to recruit and appoint members to service in missions of the Congregation after consultation with the provincial or regional superior.

Action Resolution #34: Members appointed to the missions will be appointed for a specific term and they will come under the jurisdiction of the superior general as members of a house directly dependent upon the superior general.

Action Resolution #35: Education and formation regarding the missions should occur for religious from their earliest formation, as also for those who would agree to such appointment after formation.

International Communication

Status Questionis: During this chapter we have frequently felt the need for more dissemination of information and news about the Congregation on an international level.

Goal: That the Generalate publication, *Notitiae*, would serve to increase our sense of internationality and strengthen the solidarity among the provinces and region of the Congregation (cf. Constitutions §114).

Action Resolution #36: *Notitiae* will be produced and disseminated three times a year by the general curia, assisted by members of their choice and liaisons from the provinces and region. The contents of *Notitiae* may include the following:

- a. reports of the conclusions of the general chapter and of each meeting of the Extended General Council;
- b. updates of the beatification processes;
- c. vocational updates from the provinces and region, such as profession of vows, ordinations, etc.;
- d. testimonies and experiences of the spirituality, common life, and ministries of the members of the Congregation;
- e. testimonies and experiences of lay Resurrectionists;
- f. reports on international Resurrectionist activities, such as the International Renewal Program, International Seminary, etc.

International Seminary

Status Questionis: With profound gratitude to Bishop Robert Kurtz and Fr. Tadeusz Kaszuba for the initiation of this most beneficial venture we acknowledge the truly important need to increase the number of candidates enrolled in the International Seminary in Rome.

Action Resolution #37: We seriously encourage the Provincial Superiors/Regional Superiors and their respective Formation Commissions to consider sending candidates to our International Seminary for the following important reasons.

The International Seminary develops a greater awareness of the internationality of our Congregation such as the opportunity to study foreign languages.

The International Seminary leads those formed to a greater willingness to share ministerial experiences on an international level.

The International Seminary offers a more personalized formation program with the small number of candidates in the program.

The International Seminary utilizes the Gregorian University to provide a more universalized theological approach to specific studies.

The International Seminary allows candidates opportunities to receive their pastoral ministerial training in their own respective countries.

Jubilee Year Cancellation of Debt

Status Questionis: On the occasion of the Jubilee Year, the Church wishes that wealthier nations would cancel the debts of poorer countries.

Action Resolution #38: The debt of the Polish Province owed to the Generalate is cancelled in celebration of the Jubilee Year.

South American Region

Status Questionis: The administration of our work in South America and an appreciation of the work of the Bolivian House will be enhanced by the change of name of the Region.

Action Resolution #39: That the name of the Brazilian Region be officially changed to that of the South American Region.

Accountability

Status Questionis: Good ideas and words need implementation. This general chapter seeks assurance that such implementation will indeed occur.

Action Resolution #40: The provincial or regional superior, during his visitation, will take into consideration the introductory points of the general chapter plan when he confers with local houses and the local superior.

Action Resolution #41: At all superiors' conferences, the provincial or regional superior will make sure that these points are taken into account.

Action Resolution #42: Every year, at the Extended General Council, the general chapter plan will be discussed, after which interim progress reports will be published by the general curia in *Notitiae*.

Appendix One: Constitutional Changes

#15 – [Add words in bold type.]

The vows are a visible sign to the people of God. They point to the possibility of living according to the counsels of Jesus. **They are a prophetic witness of the primacy of God and of higher values: the supernatural and the eternal as contrasted with the natural and the temporal.** Our faithfulness in living the vows will serve as an inspiration to all, encouraging them to live their own Christian vocation more fully.

#18 – [Replace current paragraph.]

Since chastity is a gift of God, we pray that God grant it to us and assist us to grow in this virtue. Growing in affective maturity and the integration of our sexuality through our celibate love is a lifelong challenge for us. A chaste person not only avoids unchaste actions but also learns to use the gift of his sexuality in acts of celibate love. In addition to prayer, we must add the practice of mortification to help us to grow in the self discipline which enables us to avoid what endangers our observance of this vow. True fraternal charity realized in our community life is a strong aid to chastity.

#42 – [Add words in bold type.]

By our profession of obedience we make ourselves totally available to the church through the Congregation for bringing to completion the salvific mission of Christ which he has entrusted to his church. (20) By bringing about a unity of purpose and action, this vow renders our apostolic life more fruitful. In the same way it strengthens the bonds of our common life. It is also a response to Christ's invitation to share in his paschal mystery because when we sacrifice our will to the Father we die to self and rise to new life in which we accept him as Lord and Master. Our dedication through this vow serves as a prophetic sign of the resurrected life where the will of every person will be united to God. **It also challenges the individualism and abuses of freedom in our world.**

#76 – [Replace current paragraph.]

Mass shall be offered in each house for the superior general and for the provincial or regional superior on the anniversary of his election.

#84 -- [Add the following paragraph at the end of the existing paragraph.]

Apart from the Congregation, there are also lay communities in whom the Congregation recognizes an authentic expression of its charism and mission. They are guided by their own statutes. (Add footnote: *"But we believe that it is also the will of God that this Community have other branches of brethren. We believe that God has inspired certain men with His Spirit to be one with Christ in this Community. Therefore we shall have a branch of spiritual co-operators and another of lay co-operators."* – Rule of 1842, §20)

#91-f and #91-g– [Add words in bold type.]

f) elected delegates from each of the provinces **and an elected delegate from each region** or their elected substitutes according to the rules of order established by the general chapter,

g) one **elected** delegate or his **elected** substitute for all those houses directly dependent on the superior general. **He who participates in the election of a delegate for a general chapter in his home province or region does not enjoy active voice in this election.**

#106-k [Add a line lettered “k” to #106. Existing “k” and all subsequent letters should be appropriately re-lettered.]

k) to give permission to a province or region to open a new religious house outside the country where the provincial or regional headquarters is located.

#107-e: [Letter “e” of #107 should be deleted.]

#116 – [Add words in bold type.]

The promoter of the community patrimony promotes research and publishes materials on the history and spirituality of the congregation. He coordinates the work of the international Resurrection studies commission.

The coordinator of formation serves as the chairman of the international formation commission. **As a permanent body, this commission has as its aim the promotion of international cooperation according to the constitutions of the congregation, the sharing of information and experiences in the field of formation with specific reference to the history, spirituality, traditions, and current formation programs of the congregation. The coordinator of formation assists in the formulation of formation programs consistent with the charism and mission of the congregation.**

The Generalate archivist is responsible for the historical archives at the Generalate.

#118 – [Replace the first part with the words in bold type.]

The provincial chapter or regional chapter, which is composed of perpetually professed members of the province or region according to its statutes, is to be so formed that, the entire province or region is adequately represented. It will meet at least every three years . . .

#146 – [Add words in bold type.]

The Congregation desires that the religious formation of its members should develop along the lines established by the Church. The directives of the Church include great concern for the suitable human, spiritual, doctrinal, pastoral and professional development of the religious. These directives place a strong emphasis on preserving the spirit of the Founders together with a better understanding of the **charism and mission** of the Congregation.

#158 – [Replaces current paragraph.]

Although the candidate becomes familiar with certain aspects of religious life in the pre-novitiate program, formal introduction to the religious life begins with the novitiate. Under the guidance of a novice master, the novice becomes acquainted with the evangelical counsels and their practice, with the charism and mission of the Congregation, its history and life. He continues to discern whether he is being called by the Lord to the religious life and to the Congregation. Superiors must also discern whether the novice has a true vocation.

#190 – [Replace the current paragraph.]

The Congregation considers itself called to every kind of ministry in which the charism of our Founder and his disciples can be realized: to enliven the hope based on God's unconditional love and to work for our personal resurrection and that of society. It is necessary, however, that the manner of realizing this mission be in accord with our tradition. Therefore, the Congregation recognizes as its own those ministries in which religious – themselves being a model of Christian community – will be able to create communities, to work together with the laity, and to maintain and deepen their international character.

Examples of these ministries which had and still have great significance for us are education and parish work. Also, it is essential to carry on these ministries according to the charism of the Founder and in a manner which is in accord with our tradition.

#212 -- [Change “the sacrament of confirmation” to “the sacraments of Christian initiation.”]

[Move the revised paragraph to the section on “Principles of Apostolic Life,” immediately after Paragraph #195.]

Appendix Two: Other Changes

Changes in the “*General Directory on Chapters*”

[The new articles will read as follows.]

#17 Each province is entitled to be represented at the general chapter by three elected delegates or their elected substitutes. **Each region is to be represented by one elected delegate or his elected substitute.** The method of election is determined by the provincial **or regional** chapter and is set down in the provincial **or regional** statutes.

#18 The delegate and his substitute who represent the houses directly dependent on the superior general are **elected by the members of the houses directly dependent upon the superior general.**

#19 All elected delegates and their substitutes are to be announced at least five months prior to the ordinary general chapter.

Change in the “*General Directory on Temporal Goods*”

After consulting the proper Vatican office, the Econom general, at the annual Extended General Council meeting, will update section III-5 of the “*General Directory on Temporal Goods*” regarding the monetary figures for the alienation of temporal goods in the countries in which we work.