


**THE CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES
OF THE CONGREGATION
OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER**



GUIDING THE LIVES OF PROFESSED REDEMPТОRISTS
INSPIRING THE LIVES OF PARTNERS IN MISSION

0:46 1

**CHAPTER I
THE MISSIONARY WORK OF THE
CONGREGATION**

FIRST SECTION: EVANGELIZATION OF THE POOR

SECOND SECTION: THE WORK OF EVANGELIZATION

ART. 1: THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION

ART. 2: EVANGELIZATION ITSELF

ART. 3: THE PURPOSE OF THE MISSIONARY WORK


**THIRD SECTION: THE MANNER OF PERFORMING THE WORK OF
EVANGELIZATION**

ART. 4: DYNAMISM IN MISSION WORK

ART. 5: CO-OPERATION IN THE CHURCH

ART. 6: DIALOGUE WITH THE WORLD


THE REDEMPТОRIST MISSIONARY



2:29 2

**CHAPTER II
THE APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY**


ART. 1: THE COMMUNITY ITSELF
ART. 2: THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY
ART. 3: A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER
ART. 4: A COMMUNITY OF PERSONS
ART. 5: A COMMUNITY OF WORK
ART. 6: A COMMUNITY OF CONVERSION
ART. 7: AN OPEN COMMUNITY
ART. 8: AN ORGANIZED COMMUNITY



3.33 3

**CHAPTER III
THE APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY
DEDICATED TO CHRIST THE REDEEMER**


ART. 1: THE MISSION OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER, THE REASON FOR THEIR DEDICATION
ART. 2: SIGNS AND WITNESSES
ART. 3: THE MISSION UNIFYING THEIR WHOLE LIFE
ART. 4: ALL ARE MISSIONARIES
ART. 5: PROFESSION, A RESPONSE OF LOVE
ART. 6: CHASTITY
ART. 7: POVERTY
ART. 8: OBEDIENCE
ART. 9: THE VOW AND OATH OF PERSEVERANCE



4:38 4

CHAPTER IV
FORMATION OF THE APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

ART. 1: THE SCOPE OF FORMATION
ART. 2: THE FOSTERING OF VOCATIONS
ART. 3: FORMATION IN GENERAL
ART. 4: DIRECTORS OF FORMATION
ART. 5: FIRST FORMATION IN THE APOSTOLIC LIFE
ART. 6: CONTINUING FORMATION



5:44 5

CHAPTER V
GOVERNMENT OF THE APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

GENERAL PRINCIPLES


FIRST SECTION: THE STRUCTURE OF THE CONGREGATION
ART. 1: THE PARTS OF THE CONGREGATION AND ITS INSTITUTIONS
ART. 2: CHAPTERS AND SUPERIORS IN GENERAL

SECOND SECTION: GOVERNMENT AT THE GENERAL LEVEL
ART. 3: THE GENERAL CHAPTER
ART. 4: THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT
I. THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AND HIS VICAR
II. THE GENERAL CONSULTORS
ART. 5: THE OFFICIALS OF THE GENERAL CURIA


THIRD SECTION: GOVERNMENT AT THE (VICE)PROVINCIAL LEVEL
ART. 6: THE PROVINCE
I. THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER
II. THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
III. OFFICIALS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE PROVINCE
ART. 7: THE VICEPROVINCE
ART. 8: GOVERNMENT OF COMMUNITIES IN THE (VICE)PROVINCES
ART. 9: CO-OPERATION BETWEEN (VICE)PROVINCES

FOURTH SECTION: THE TEMPORAL GOODS OF THE CONGREGATION
ART. 10: PURPOSE OF TEMPORAL GOODS

FIFTH SECTION: DEPARTURE FROM THE CONGREGATION



5:51 6



CONSTITUTION 1

THE CONGREGATION OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER, FOUNDED BY SAINT ALPHONSUS, IS A CLERICAL MISSIONARY RELIGIOUS INSTITUTE OF PONTIFICAL RIGHT, ENJOYING THE PRIVILEGE OF EXEMPTION, AND HAVING MEMBERS BELONGING TO VARIOUS RITES. **ITS PURPOSE IS TO "FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS CHRIST, THE REDEEMER, BY PREACHING THE WORD OF GOD TO THE POOR, AS HE DECLARED OF HIMSELF: 'HE SENT ME TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR.'"**


IN THIS WAY THE CONGREGATION SHARES THE MANDATE GIVEN TO THE CHURCH, WHICH, SINCE IT IS THE UNIVERSAL SACRAMENT OF SALVATION, IS MISSIONARY OF ITS VERY NATURE.

IT DOES SO BY RESPONDING WITH MISSIONARY THRUST TO THE PRESSING PASTORAL NEEDS OF THE MOST ABANDONED, ESPECIALLY THE POOR, AND BY DEVOTING ITSELF ENTIRELY TO EVANGELIZATION.

THE REDEMPTORIST CONGREGATION TRULY FOLLOWS THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST IN THE APOSTOLIC LIFE, WHICH COMPRISES AT ONE AND THE SAME TIME A LIFE SPECIALLY DEDICATED TO GOD AND A LIFE OF MISSIONARY WORK.

6:12

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CONSTITUTION 2

IN CARRYING OUT ITS MISSION IN THE CHURCH THE CONGREGATION UNITES MEMBERS WHO LIVE TOGETHER AND FORM **ONE MISSIONARY BODY**. THESE DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO GOD BY PROFESSION, AND SO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO THEIR MISSION AS A LIVING UNIT, EACH CONTRIBUTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY THAT BELONGS TO HIM.

ALL REDEMPTORISTS, URGED ON BY THE APOSTOLIC SPIRIT, AND IMBUED WITH THE ZEAL OF THEIR FOUNDER, CONTINUE THE TRADITION DEVELOPED BY THEIR CONFRERES IN THE PAST, AND ARE EVER ATTENTIVE TO THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES. "SENT AS HELPERS, COMPANIONS AND MINISTERS OF JESUS CHRIST IN THE GREAT WORK OF REDEMPTION:" TO PREACH THE WORD OF SALVATION TO THE POOR (CHAPTER I), THEY BUILD UP AN APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY (CHAPTER II), SPECIALLY DEDICATED TO THE LORD (CHAPTER III), SUSTAINED BY ADEQUATE FORMATION (CHAPTER IV), AND BY SUITABLE FORMS OF GOVERNMENT (CHAPTER V).

7:00

8




CONSTITUTION 3

THE MOST ABANDONED, TO WHOM IN PARTICULAR THE CONGREGATION IS SENT, ARE:

- **THOSE FOR WHOM THE CHURCH HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT MEANS OF SALVATION,**
- **THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD THE CHURCH'S MESSAGE, OR AT LEAST DO NOT RECEIVE IT AS THE "GOOD NEWS",**
- **AND FINALLY THOSE WHO SUFFER HARM BECAUSE OF DIVISION IN THE CHURCH.**

AT THE SAME TIME THE CONGREGATION DIRECTS ITS APOSTOLIC ZEAL TOWARDS THE FAITHFUL WHO ENJOY ORDINARY PASTORAL CARE; FOR THEY NEED TO BE STRENGTHENED IN FAITH, CONTINUALLY CONVERTED TO GOD, AND BEAR WITNESS TO THE FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE.


7:23 9



CONSTITUTION 4

4. AMONG GROUPS OF PEOPLE MORE IN NEED OF SPIRITUAL HELP, THEY WILL GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE POOR, THE DEPRIVED AND THE OPPRESSED. THE EVANGELIZATION OF THESE IS A SIGN OF MESSIANIC ACTIVITY (CF. LUKE 4:18), AND CHRIST, IN A CERTAIN SENSE, WISHED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF WITH THEM (CF. MATT. 25:40).

10:27 10




CONSTITUTION 5

5. PREFERENCE FOR SITUATIONS WHERE THERE IS PASTORAL NEED, THAT IS, FOR **EVANGELIZATION IN THE STRICT SENSE TOGETHER WITH THE CHOICE IN FAVOUR 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.

INDEED THE CONGREGATION'S MANDATE TO EVANGELIZE THE POOR IS DIRECTED TO THE LIBERATION AND SALVATION OF THE WHOLE HUMAN PERSON. THE MEMBERS HAVE THE DUTY OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL EXPLICITLY AND OF SHOWING SOLIDARITY WITH THE POOR BY PROMOTING THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TO JUSTICE AND FREEDOM. THE MEANS EMPLOYED MUST BE EFFECTIVE AND AT THE SAME TIME CONSISTENT WITH THE GOSPEL.

11:20 11



CONSTITUTION 6


ALL REDEMPTORISTS, EVER FOLLOWING THE MAGISTERIUM OF THE CHURCH, MUST BE HUMBLE AND COURAGEOUS SERVANTS AMONG PEOPLE OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, THE REDEEMER AND LORD, WHO IS THE HEAD AND MODEL OF THE NEW HUMANITY.

THIS MESSAGE HAS FOR ITS SPECIAL OBJECT **PLENTIFUL REDEMPTION**; IT PROCLAIMS THE LOVE OF GOD THE FATHER "WHO FIRST LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON TO BE THE EXPIATION FOR OUR SINS" (1 JOHN 4:10) AND THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES LIFE TO ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM.

THIS REDEMPTION AFFECTS THE ENTIRE PERSON. IT BRINGS TO PERFECTION AND TRANSFORMS ALL HUMAN VALUES, SO AS TO UNITE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST (CF. EPH. 1:10; 1 COR. 3:23), AND THUS LEAD THEM TO THEIR COMPLETION IN A NEW EARTH AND A NEW HEAVEN (CF. REV. 21:1).

14:27 12


CONSTITUTION 8



8. ACCORDING TO THE SITUATIONS IN WHICH THEY FIND THEMSELVES, THEY WILL EAGERLY TRY TO DISCOVER WHAT THEY SHOULD DO OR SAY: WHETHER TO PROCLAIM CHRIST EXPLICITLY, OR CONFINE THEMSELVES TO THE SILENT WITNESS OF BROTHERLY PRESENCE.

15:24 13

CONSTITUTION 9




9. SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM AT TIMES TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL DIRECTLY AND IMMEDIATELY OR TO PREACH IT FULLY, THEN THE MISSIONARIES, WITH PATIENCE AND PRUDENCE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE, MUST GIVE WITNESS TO THE CHARITY OF CHRIST AND DO ALL IN THEIR POWER TO MAKE THEMSELVES NEIGHBOURS TO EVERYBODY.

THIS CHARITY WILL SHOW ITSELF IN PRAYER, IN GENUINE SERVICE TO OTHERS AND IN WITNESS OF LIFE WHATEVER FORM IT MAY TAKE.

THIS FORM OF EVANGELIZATION GRADUALLY PREPARES THE WAYS OF THE LORD, AND IS A TRUE EXERCISE OF THE REDEMPTORIST MISSIONARY VOCATION.

18:20 14




CONSTITUTION 10

WITNESS OF LIFE AND CHARITY OPENS THE WAY TO THE TESTIMONY OF THE WORD (CF. ROM. 10:17), ACCORDING TO ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE CAPABILITIES OF EACH. INDEED REDEMPORISTS HAVE AS THEIR SPECIAL MISSION IN THE CHURCH THE EXPLICIT PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD TO BRING ABOUT FUNDAMENTAL CONVERSION.

WHEN THE OPPORTUNE TIME COMES, AND THE LORD OPENS THE DOOR TO THEM FOR THE PREACHING OF THE WORD (CF. COL. 4:9), THE MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS READY TO GIVE WITNESS TO THE HOPE THAT IS IN THEM (CF. 1 PET. 3:1-). THEY BRING TO COMPLETION THE SILENT WITNESS OF THEIR BROTHERLY PRESENCE BY PREACHING THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST WITH CONFIDENCE AND CONSTANCY (CF. ACTS 4:13, 29, 31).

THEY WILL NEVER GROW WEARY OF INVOKING THE HOLY SPIRIT, SO THAT THEY MAY ALWAYS BE ABLE TO CO-OPERATE MORE WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN BRINGING THE MYSTERY OF REDEMPTION IN CHRIST TO FULL EFFECT. FOR THE SPIRIT HAS COMMAND OF EVERY SITUATION, PUTS THE APPROPRIATE WORD ON THE LIPS OF THE PREACHER AND OPENS HEARTS TO RECEIVE IT.

20:34 15




CONSTITUTION 14

INDEED THE APOSTOLIC WORK OF THE CONGREGATION IS DISTINGUISHED MORE BY ITS **MISSIONARY DYNAMISM** THAN BY ANY PARTICULAR FORMS OF ACTIVITY; IN OTHER WORDS, BY EVANGELIZATION IN THE TRUE SENSE, AND BY SERVICE OF PERSONS AND GROUPS WHO ARE POOR AND MORE NEGLECTED WITHIN THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY (CF. CC. 3-5).

22:15 16

CONSTITUTION 21




21. TO FULFIL THEIR MISSION IN THE CHURCH, REDEMPTORISTS PERFORM THEIR MISSIONARY WORK **AS A COMMUNITY. FOR APOSTOLIC LIFE IN COMMON PAVES THE WAY MOST EFFECTIVELY FOR THE LIFE OF PASTORAL CHARITY.**

THEREFORE, AN ESSENTIAL LAW OF LIFE FOR THE MEMBERS IS THIS: THAT THEY LIVE IN COMMUNITY AND CARRY OUT THEIR APOSTOLIC WORK THROUGH COMMUNITY. FOR THIS REASON THE COMMUNITY ASPECT MUST ALWAYS BE KEPT IN MIND WHEN ANY MISSIONARY WORK IS BEING ACCEPTED.

COMMUNITY DOES NOT TRULY EXIST WHEN MEMBERS MERELY LIVE TOGETHER; IT REQUIRES AS WELL GENUINE SHARING ON THE HUMAN AND SPIRITUAL LEVEL.

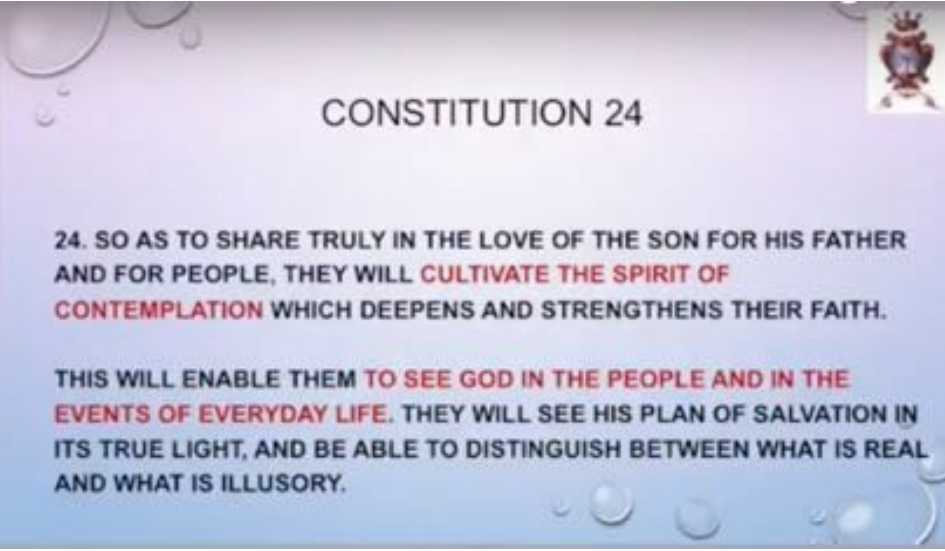
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CONSTITUTION 23



23. SINCE THE MEMBERS ARE CALLED TO CONTINUE THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST AND HIS MISSION OF REDEMPTION IN THE WORLD, THEY CHOOSE **THE PERSON OF CHRIST AS THE CENTRE OF THEIR LIFE, AND STRIVE DAY BY DAY TO ENTER EVER MORE INTIMATELY INTO PERSONAL UNION WITH HIM. **THUS, AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY, TO FORM IT AND SUSTAIN IT, IS THE REDEEMER HIMSELF AND HIS SPIRIT OF LOVE. AND THE CLOSER THEIR UNION WITH CHRIST, THE STRONGER WILL BECOME THEIR UNION WITH EACH OTHER.****

24:58 18

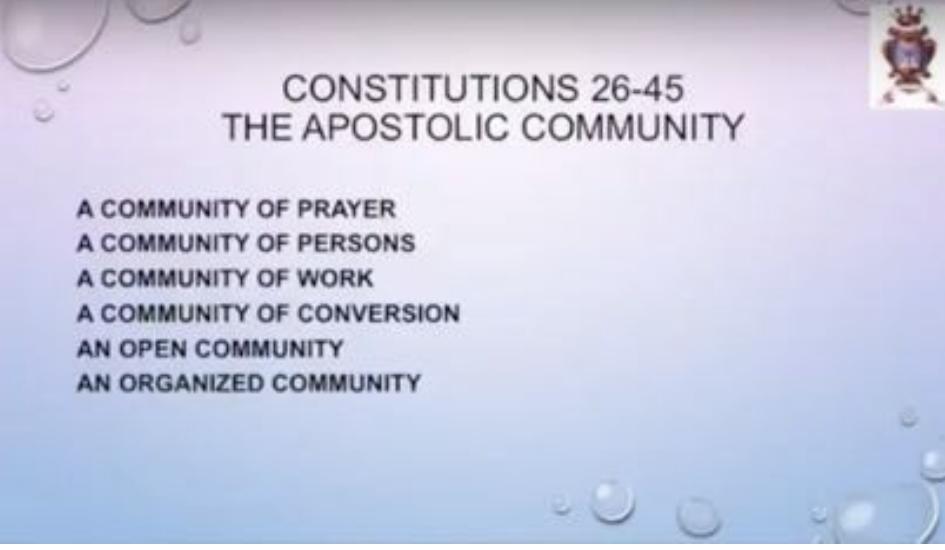


CONSTITUTION 24

24. SO AS TO SHARE TRULY IN THE LOVE OF THE SON FOR HIS FATHER AND FOR PEOPLE, THEY WILL **CULTIVATE THE SPIRIT OF CONTEMPLATION** WHICH DEEPENS AND STRENGTHENS THEIR FAITH.

THIS WILL ENABLE THEM **TO SEE GOD IN THE PEOPLE AND IN THE EVENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.** THEY WILL SEE HIS PLAN OF SALVATION IN ITS TRUE LIGHT, AND BE ABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN WHAT IS REAL AND WHAT IS ILLUSORY.

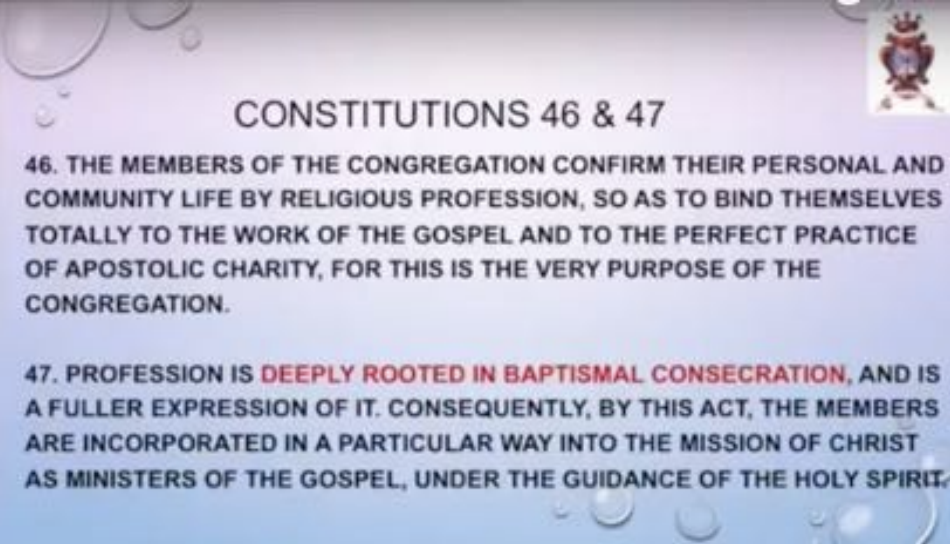
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CONSTITUTIONS 26-45 THE APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER
A COMMUNITY OF PERSONS
A COMMUNITY OF WORK
A COMMUNITY OF CONVERSION
AN OPEN COMMUNITY
AN ORGANIZED COMMUNITY

28:13 20

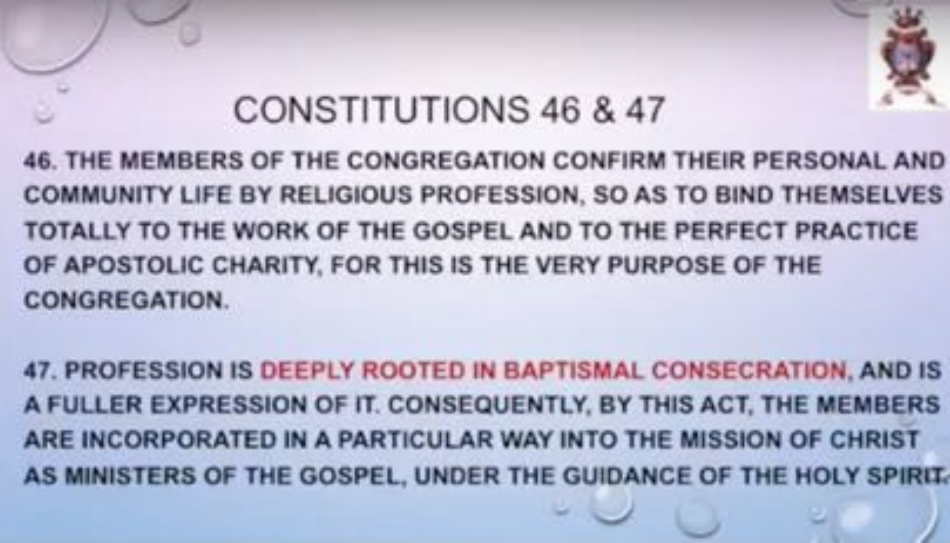


CONSTITUTIONS 46 & 47

46. THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION CONFIRM THEIR PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY LIFE BY RELIGIOUS PROFESSION, SO AS TO BIND THEMSELVES TOTALLY TO THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL AND TO THE PERFECT PRACTICE OF APOSTOLIC CHARITY, FOR THIS IS THE VERY PURPOSE OF THE CONGREGATION.

47. PROFESSION IS **DEEPLY ROOTED IN BAPTISMAL CONSECRATION**, AND IS A FULLER EXPRESSION OF IT. CONSEQUENTLY, BY THIS ACT, THE MEMBERS ARE INCORPORATED IN A PARTICULAR WAY INTO THE MISSION OF CHRIST AS MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

28:42 21

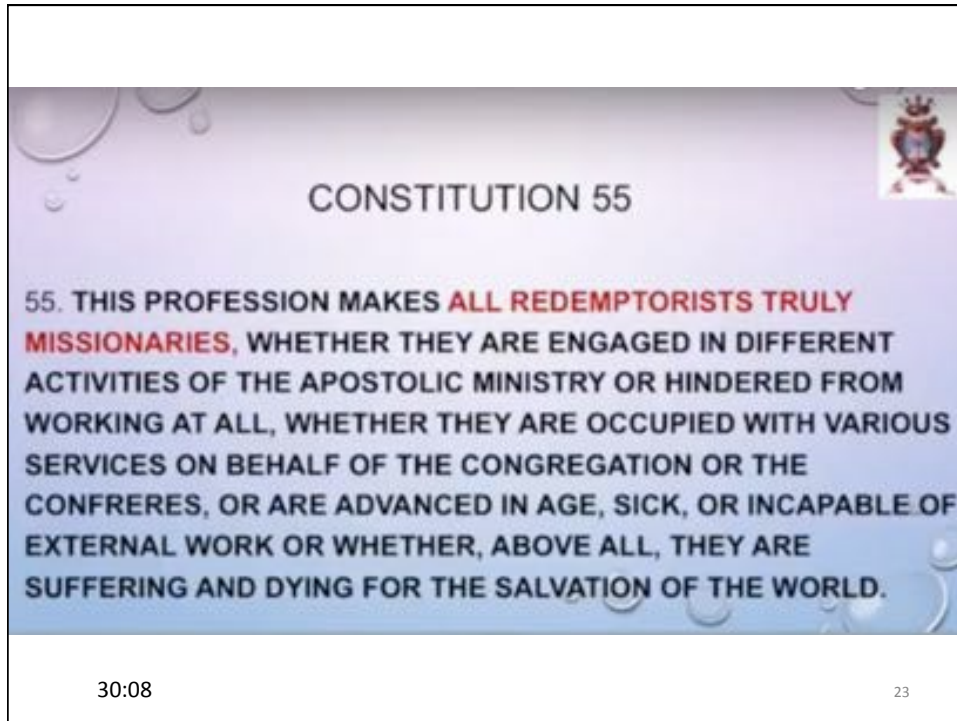


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15:24 22



CONSTITUTION 55

55. THIS PROFESSION MAKES ALL REDEMPТОRISTS TRULY MISSIONARIES, WHETHER THEY ARE ENGAGED IN DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES OF THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY OR HINDERED FROM WORKING AT ALL, WHETHER THEY ARE OCCUPIED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CONGREGATION OR THE CONFRERES, OR ARE ADVANCED IN AGE, SICK, OR INCAPABLE OF EXTERNAL WORK OR WHETHER, ABOVE ALL, THEY ARE SUFFERING AND DYING FOR THE SALVATION OF THE WORLD.

30:08 23

0:00 - 30:44
Anne's
presentation to:

“That’s what I think about the constitutions. But, it’s not what I think. What do you think?”

(Discussion from 30:44 to 40:20)

SLIDE SUMMARY

S1 0:46 Title slide
S2 2:29 Chapter I The Missionary Work - Overview
S3 3:33 Chapter II The Apostolic Community - Overview
S4 4:38 Chapter III The Apostolic Community - Christ the Redeemer
S5 5:44 Chapter IV Formation of the Apostolic Community
S6 5:51 Chapter V Government
S7 6:12 Constitution 1 Purpose: Preaching the good news to the poor
S8 7:00 Constitution 2 One Missionary Body
S9 7:23 Constitution 3 The Most Abandoned
S10 10:27 Constitution 4 The Poor
S11 11:20 Constitution 5 Evangelization
S12 14:27 Constitution 6 Plentiful Redemption
S13 15:24 Constitution 8 proclaim and/or silent witness
S14 18:20 Constitution 9 Witness
S15 20:34 Constitution 10 Preaching the word
S16 22:15 Constitution 14 Missionary Dynamism
S17 24:09 Constitution 21 Missionary/Community
S18 24:58 Constitution 23 Person of Christ as the Center
S19 27:49 Constitution 24 Spirit of Contemplation
S20 28:13 Constitutions 26-45 The Apostolic Community
S21 28:42 Constitutions 46 & 47 Baptismal consecration
S22 30:08 Constitution 55 All Redemptorists are missionaries
S23 30:28 to 40:20 - Discussion

24