

to his Council, he should ask the Council to send its observations to the local Ordinary in a separate and sealed letter.

Article 196. It is incumbent upon the local Ordinary of the Diocese in which is located the Motherhouse of the Congregation to inform the Ordinaries of other dioceses in which houses exist, of the situation, and to accept or reject the proposed resignation. The messages of the Superior General and of his Council to the local Ordinary ought to be made early enough to enable the Ordinary to give a final answer before the meeting of the General Chapter, so that it may proceed, if need be, with the election of a new Superior General.

Article 197. In the event of the dismissal, the removal from office, the resignation, or the death of the Superior General, the General Chapter is assembled according to the terms of Article 147 by the Vice-Superior, if there is one, or for want of one, by the second Consultor.

CHAPTER III

THE VICE-SUPERIOR

Article 198. From the death of the Superior General until the election of his successor, the Congregation is governed by the Vice-Superior, or the first among the Consultors who would have the title and the office of Vice-Superior.

Article 199. In the event of the death of the Superior General, the Vice-Superior directs the affairs of the Congregation, both general and ordinary, with the Consultors. He must appoint another Consultor to fill the place vacated by himself.

Article 200. The Vice-Superior can change nothing in the Congregation. However, he can, together with his Consultors, name to all vacant positions to which the Superior General can appoint; however, the future Su-

perior General, with his Council, has the right to confirm or to revoke the appointments.

Article 201. If the Superior General, because of a serious and prolonged illness, is prevented from attending to his duties, he can delegate the Vice-Superior to act with such commission as he will be pleased to give him.

CHAPTER IV

THE GENERAL CONSULTORS

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Article 202. The Superior General is assisted in the ordinary government of the Congregation by a Council composed of four Consultors.

Article 203. These Consultors are elected by each General Chapter according to Articles 178, 179 and 180. They may always be re-elected.

Article 204. The polls are successive and determine the rank of the Consultors. The one who is named first has the title of a Vice-Superior.

Article 205. If a vacancy occurs in the ranks of the Consultors, the Superior General with the consent of his Council, shall fill the said vacancy, until the next Chapter.

Article 206. The meetings of the Consultors under the presidency of the Superior General take place at least once a month, or whenever necessity demands.

Article 207. Let the members of the General Council be of one heart and mind with the Superior General, giving to all others outstanding example of submission and reverence toward him.

Article 208. At least two of the Consultors shall live in the Motherhouse, one of them being the Vice-Superior.

Article 209. Let the Consultors assist the Superior General in his rule accordingly as their consent or counsel is

required by the provisions of the Constitutions and the prescriptions of Canon Law.

Article 210. If the consent of the Consultors is required, the Superior General may not validly act contrary to their vote; if it is their counsel only that is required, it is sufficient for validity that the Superior General has received it.

Article 211. Business of the Congregation that requires a deliberative vote of the General Council is:

- 1) The erection of houses and the suppression of already existing houses, with the consent of the local Ordinary;
- 2) Admission to the Novitiate and to First Profession; the selection of local Superiors, of the Master of Novices and his Socius; deposition of the same from office;
- 3) Deposition of a member of the General Council, with the permission of the Ordinary of the Motherhouse; selection of his successor;
- 4) Deposition and replacement until the next General Chapter of the General Secretary or the Treasurer General;
- 5) Approval of the report on the financial condition of the Congregation which is to be submitted at times stated by the Constitutions; of contracts for the sale of property, of new obligations, of loans, with the previous consent of the local Ordinary of the House assuming the obligation and in conformity with the norms laid down by the General Chapter;
- 6) Business which Canon Law or the Constitution leaves to the decision of the General Council;
- 7) All other things which the General Chapter may have designated to be important matter.

Article 212. The Consultors will observe secrecy concerning all that pertains to their office.

CHAPTER V

OTHER GENERAL OFFICIALS

Article 213. In addition to the Consultors, there will be a General Treasurer and a General Secretary. They are named by each General Chapter. They may always be re-elected (Cf. Articles 178 and 203).

Article 214. The General Treasurer administers the property under the direction of the Superior General and under the supervision of the Council of Consultors, taking into account the prescriptions of the Code of Canon Law.

Article 215. The General Treasurer submits the accounts of his administration to the Council of Consultors once each year. Not the Congregation, but each House may legally possess and administer its own goods, movable and immovable.

Article 216. The General Secretary keeps the records and sees to the correspondence necessary for the administration of the Congregation under the supervision of the Superior General.

Article 217. It is the duty of the Secretary to keep a book in which are inscribed the names of the members of the Congregation, with dates of birth, reception of Holy Orders, admission into religion, temporary and perpetual profession, and death.

Article 218. The Congregation will be represented at Rome by a Procurator General, whose appointment is reserved to the Superior General in council with his Consultors (Article 6). He is appointed until the next General Chapter, and during that interval he cannot be changed without the authorization of the Holy See. He can always be appointed again.

CHAPTER VI

THE CANONICAL VISITATION

Article 219. Every three years the Superior General will, personally or by delegate, make a visitation of the houses of the Congregation. (Article 192).

Article 220. The scope of the visitation includes all the temporal and spiritual interests of the house. The Superior General, or he who takes his place, shall interview privately the priests of the Congregation assigned to the house, and the local Superiors. During the visitation he can lay down whatever rules he judges most conducive to the welfare of the house.

Article 221. If the Superior General does not make the visitation personally, he shall send in his place a Consultor, or a priest of the Congregation chosen by himself in council with his Consultors, and shall give him a socius.

Article 222. It is the duty and the office of the Visitor to interrogate all the religious in a given House and to inform himself of all that has reference to the purpose of his visit; the religious on their part are obliged to reply truthfully, nor may the Superiors justly in any manner render difficult the fulfillment of this obligation or seek to limit the scope of the visit. Superiors or subjects who shall personally or through others, directly or indirectly, induce religious to remain silent when questioned by the Visitor, or to dissimulate the truth in any way, or to be insincere in their statements, or who shall molest them under any pretext whatever because of the replies they made to the Visitor, shall be punished, depending on the gravity of their guilt, according to the prescriptions of Canon 2413, 1.

Article 223. In his visitation of the houses, the delegated Visitor shall conform exactly to the instructions he has received. On his return he shall make an exact report

to the Superior General of all he has ascertained. The Superior General will refer the matter to his Council. He shall decide nothing during his visits unless the question be urgent. In this case he shall give a provisional decision, pending a final decision of the Superior General.

Article 224. The delegated Visitor shall preside over the local council meetings which he shall convene for his visitation; but, since his authority extends only to the visitation, he shall not preside over the community exercises.

Article 225. The expenses of the visitation are defrayed by the House visited.

CHAPTER VII

THE TEMPORAL GOODS OF THE CONGREGATION

Article 226. All the property of the Congregation, whether movable or immovable, as such, is administered by the Treasurer General under the direction of the Superior General and the control of his Council. The Treasurer General shall take an oath of secrecy and fidelity, and is bound by this oath even if he leaves the Congregation.

With regard to pious foundations it is the duty of the Treasurer General:

- 1) to prepare a list of the obligations arising by reason of the pious foundation;
- 2) likewise, to keep a book in which are recorded each individual obligation, whether perpetual or temporary, as well as the date on which the obligation was fulfilled, and the amount of income received, so that an exact account regarding all these obligations may be given to the Superior General twice a year;
- 3) to procure the observance of the conditions laid

down by Canon or civil law, or by the founder, the donor, or other legitimate authority;

4) to demand with care and at the right time the income and profits from properties, and to keep them in a safe place. To procure the use of an endowment according to the intentions of the founder or the rules of the Congregation.

Article 227. The Treasurer General shall render an account to the Superior General as often as the latter requests it. Once a year he shall make an official report for the entire year to the Superior General and the Council of the Consultors, who in turn shall report this to the next General Chapter.

Article 228. All the property of each house and the goods belonging to it are administered by the Treasurer of the house under the supervision of the local Superior.

PART III

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PART III

Functions and Offices of the Congregation

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CHAPTER I

THE LOCAL SUPERIOR

Article 229. The Superior of each House is appointed by the Superior General with the consent of his Council. His term of office is for three years; nevertheless, he may be kept in the same position for a second term of three years, but not for a third term immediately consecutive in the same house. The local Superior chosen should have the qualities needed to direct, at the same time, the priests of the Congregation confided to his care, and the priest-guests in residence.

Article 230. As they take office, Superiors must, even though they already exercise similar authority, make a Profession of Faith and take the Oath against Modernism before the one making the appointment or his delegate.

Article 231. If the Superior of the Novitiate is also the Master of Novices, he may continue in his office as Master of Novices, but not as Superior at the expiration of six years. (Article 25).

Article 232. The governing or ruling of each penitential or retreat house rests on the local Superior. He presides over all the community exercises, he watches over the observance of the rule, the discipline, and the temporal-

ities of the house. He works, above all, for the spiritual welfare of those in residence by giving series of spiritual and doctrinal conferences, by opportune advice, by clear and practical counsel.

Article 233. The local Superior is charged with the responsibility:

- 1) of giving notice of and carrying into execution the decrees of the Holy See having reference to religious, and of procuring their observance among his subjects;

- 2) of having the Constitutions publicly read at established times, so that they are covered at least twice a year; also, once a year those decrees which the Holy See has prescribed for public reading.

- 3) of providing at least twice a month a devotional sermon or conference for all the residents of the House.

Article 234. Local Superiors shall take care to see that the religious of the Congregation under their charge enjoy full and entire freedom for confession, (Canon 519).

Article 235. At least four times a year he should write to the Superior General to give a complete account of the state of his house, and to ask his advice.

Article 236. He cannot make a change of any importance in the rules and community customs without asking the advice of the Superior General.

Article 237. Each year, and any time at the request of the local Ordinary, he shall give an account of the finances to the Superior General. This summary should be first submitted to the house council.

Article 238. When the local Superior is prevented from fulfilling his duties, or when he is absent, he is replaced by the assistant Superior named for this purpose by the Superior General.

CHAPTER II

THE ASSISTANT SUPERIOR

Article 239. The assistant Superior whom the Superior General has named to take the place of the local Superior when he is prevented from fulfilling his duties, or when he is absent, shall occupy the first place after the Superior; for the other priests of the Congregation in the house, precedence is determined by seniority, based on date of ordination to the sacred priesthood. Should this be the same for any members, then seniority in age will decide.

Article 240. The assistant Superior ought to look carefully after good order, the observance of the Constitutions, so as to give account in meetings, and when necessary, to the Superior.

Article 241. In order to preserve in the house the spirit of subordination and dependence, the soul of a holy community, the assistant Superiors shall reserve to the Superior alone permissions, invitations, and appointments to different offices in the house. Nevertheless, the assistant Superior, as regards the exercise of functions under his care, should insure assiduity, punctuality, correct deportment, with recourse to the Superior for the correction of transgressions.

Article 242. Assistant Superiors are requested to write, when they judge it useful, to the Superior General and acquaint him with the state of the house or of their own personal interests. This correspondence with the Superior General is a right which is above any control on the part of the local Superior.

CHAPTER III

THE TREASURER

Article 243. In each house, one of the priests of the Congregation fulfills the duties of Treasurer. He is named

to this position by the Superior General with the consent of his Council.

Article 244. The Treasurer receives all subsidies, makes all the ordinary expenditures, and keeps accurate account of these in special books.

Article 245. Extraordinary expense, major repairs, in a word, anything passing beyond the bounds of ordinary administration, should be submitted to the house council and, through them, for the approval of the Superior General and his Council, and of the local Ordinary.

Article 246. The Treasurer should give an account to the local Superior every month; they should always be prepared to submit an account to the Superior General.

CHAPTER IV

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROPERTY AND REVENUES OF THE CONGREGATION

Article 247. A report of the treasury should be made at least four times a year to the local Ordinary and to the Superior General, in accordance with the prescriptions of Article 237.

Article 248. Foundations of Masses and donations with obligations attached, must be approved by the local Ordinary and the Superior General. They should be recorded in books kept in a safe place, and the obligations which they entail should be discharged on the days appointed.

Article 249. Investments should be unquestionably sound. They will be managed by the Superior General, the local Superior and his Treasurer.

Article 250. Without the permission of the Holy See, those contracts lack validity which provide for the sale of goods exceeding a value of \$3000, or for contracting obligations in excess of the indicated amount, or for the disposition of highly valuable articles; otherwise, it is

required, and suffices, to secure the written permission of the Superior General, whose permission in turn is granted with the consent of his Council manifested by secret ballot, and to observe the norms in these matters established by the General Chapter. In petitioning for permission to contract debts or obligations, mention must be made of other debts and obligations with which the moral person is burdened as of that day; otherwise the permission obtained is invalid.

Article 251. The Superiors are to be on guard against contracting obligations that cannot be provided for out of safely anticipated income, and against allowing amortization of the principal sum to extend over too long a period.

Article 252. All extraordinary expenditures must first be proposed to the Council. Nevertheless, the common consent of the Superior and the Treasurer may override a contrary opinion of the Council, on condition, however, that the matter be referred to the Superior General and to the local Ordinary. Borrowing must be approved by the majority of the local Council, with the approbation of the above mentioned authorities; and if there be need, the matter is referred to the Holy See.

Article 253. In parishes confided to the Congregation, the general rules of Articles 247 - 249 are to be applied to the goods belonging to the community, and the treasury reports are to be presented monthly to the Superior of the house and quarterly to the Superior General.

CHAPTER V

MEETINGS IN EACH HOUSE OF THE PRIESTS OF THE CONGREGATION

Article 254. The local Superior should call a meeting of the priests of the Congregation entrusted to his care, once a month, or better every fortnight, or as often as business demands it.

Article 255. All priests of the Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Paraclete who have made perpetual profession and who are fulfilling at least one of the ordinary functions of the house are entitled to a hearing at these meetings and must be called thereto, unless the Superior General has decided otherwise.

Article 256. At least on important questions, the Secretary shall take down in a special book all the deliberations and all the reasons which shall be expressed for or against. These assemblies and the ensuing discussions assist the Superior General in the administration of the house.

Article 257. In each local assembly the following rules shall be observed:

- 1) After the recitation of the customary prayers, the minutes of the last meeting are read and signed by the Superior, after which one or more sections of the Constitutions is read. If the Superior has received some communication from the local Ordinary or the Superior General, he announces it at the meeting so that it may be carried out by all. He then proposes the measures which he believes will be useful to the welfare of the house and calls for discussion. He then asks the Fathers if they have any proposals to make.

- 2) When a priest wishes to make an important proposal, it is necessary that the Superior be acquainted with it beforehand, that he may have time to consider it and to inform the other priests of the house about it: Thus, no one will be exposed to the embarrassment which is inevitable when one finds himself obliged to decide matters at short notice.

- 3) In discussing the questions, each one shall speak in turn according to rank, without being interrupted by anyone; each shall be satisfied with stating his opinions and the reasons for them without bitterness and without contention. Finally, each shall submit peacefully to the

decision of the majority, whatever contrary opinion he might have.

4) The meetings end with the customary prayers.

Article 258. All important matters should be put before the local assembly and decided by a majority vote. The Superior should then submit the decision to the Superior General if need be. If the execution of a decision allows of no delay, it can be carried out at once, but it is to be referred afterwards to the Superior General.

Article 259. In all local assemblies when the votes are equal, the local Superior shall, after the third ballot, decide the question. The use of this privilege is optional with the Superior.

Article 260. The Secretary of the local assembly, whose duty is to record the minutes of the meetings, is named by the Superior General.

Article 261. One should never speak to outsiders concerning the confidential matters that go on in the assembly meetings. The reason for this restriction should be evident. Let nothing be said which might be turned to the disadvantage of the house in general, or of the individuals who live in it.

Article 262. The Superior alone can speak in the name of the assembly and communicate its decisions or recommendations either to the local Ordinary, to the entire community, or to individual members of the community who are not entitled to be in attendance at the assemblies.

CHAPTER VI

THE FORCE OF THE CONSTITUTIONS

Article 263. The prescriptions of the Constitutions based on Divine or ecclesiastical laws maintain the obligation proper to those laws. Those prescriptions which refer to the vows, or determine the remote or proximate