

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL INTERNATIONAL SERVICE (CHARIS)

STATUTES

PREAMBLE

What we know today as Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) is part of an ecumenical current of grace. It was born by the sovereign will of God in the Catholic Church in 1967 and emerged as a fruit of the second Vatican Council.

Today it is estimated that there are more than 120 million people worldwide who will testify to a life changing experience of the Holy Spirit through their contact with CCR. However, this grace of the Holy Spirit with a worldwide character and many expressions is not a single unified movement like others. It does not have a founder or founding group but is a sovereign work of the Holy Spirit. It is a current of grace that allows individuals, groups, communities, activities and ministries to express themselves in different ways with different forms of organisation.

One of the characteristics of CCR is the wide variety of expressions and ministries that form a unity in diversity. The various expressions and realities in CCR may be at different stages of development with differing emphases nevertheless, they share in the same fundamental experience of ‘baptism in the Holy Spirit’; and espouse the same general goals. In some places CCR organises itself like an ecclesial movement but the very nature of CCR means we are different from other ecclesial movements. Indeed, Cardinal Leon-Joseph Suenens, who was appointed by Saint Pope Paul VI in 1974 as Episcopal advisor to CCR, quickly recognised what was happening as a ‘current of grace’; inspired by the Holy Spirit for the whole Church. He said: “the Renewal is not a ‘movement’ in the usual sociological sense: it has neither founder nor statutes; it is not homogeneous; it includes a wide range of manifestations. It is a flow of grace, a renewing breath of the Holy Spirit, intended for all the members of the Church – lay people, religious, priests and bishops. It is a challenge to us all”¹.

Generally, CCR focuses on relationships and networks rather than rigid structures. Therefore, patterns of informal relationships can be found at local, diocesan, national and international levels. These relationships are often characterised by free association, dialogue and cooperation. The nature of leadership in CCR is characterised by service rather than governance that demands obedience and conformity.

In 1972, the first international communications office (ICO) was established in Ann Arbor (USA) in order to facilitate communication between the various charismatic realities which were rapidly emerging in the Catholic Church worldwide. Then in 1976, the ICO office was

¹ L.-J. SUENENS, *The Hidden Hand of God*, (Veritas, Dublin 1994), p. 253.

transferred from the USA to Malines-Brussels (Belgium), the diocese of Cardinal Suenens. He created a coordinating team for CCR, transforming the ICO office into ICCRO (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office) in 1978.

This office was moved to Rome in 1981. In 1984, Saint Pope John Paul II appointed Bishop Paul Josef Cordes as Episcopal advisor of ICCRO, in succession to Cardinal Suenens. Then, in 1985, at the invitation of the Holy Father, the ICCRO office was established in the Vatican.

In 1990, a network of CCR international covenant communities was recognised at Pontifical level as a private association of the faithful, under the name of ‘Catholic Fraternity of Covenant Communities and Fellowships’. Its mission was to consolidate the bonds of these communities to the Catholic Church and to encourage evangelization.

In 1993 the Pontifical Council for the Laity granted pontifical recognition to ICCRO, approving its statute as an international organism of service. The name changed from ICCRO to ICCRS, thus emphasising that it was a pastoral ministry service to CCR worldwide rather than merely an administrative office.

In April 2016, Pope Francis appointed Michelle Moran and Pino Scafuro to work on the new One Service and to carry things forward until its realisation, with Julia Torres and Oreste Pesare as secretaries, and with the accompaniment of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

For many years ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity worked together presenting seminars on various topics specific to Charismatic Renewal. Together they organised the 50th anniversary of the CCR in Rome at Pentecost 2017. It was at this time that the Constitutive Act of the One Service, leading to the establishment of CHARIS was signed.

I. Ecclesial and Canonical Nature

Art. 1. Name and Purpose

§ 1. *Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service*, also known as CHARIS, is the international service organism for all expressions for Catholic Charismatic Renewal (or CCR), a current of grace whose appearance in the Catholic Church in 1967 came as a fruit of the Second Vatican Council. Common to all expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal is the experience of the fruits of Pentecost through an outpouring of spiritual gifts called baptism in the Holy Spirit, involving a personal encounter with Jesus Christ as Saviour, an openness to the Word of God, to exercising the charisms and to evangelization in faithful service of the Church. CHARIS promotes and strengthens communion among all Charismatic realities, fostering a sense of the worldwide family of Catholic Charismatic Renewal

§ 2. Recognising Catholic Charismatic Renewal as part of an ecumenical current of grace, CHARIS is an instrument to promote and work for unity in the body of Christ, as expressed in the prayer of Jesus Christ (Jn:17).

§ 3. As an organism of service, CHARIS exercises no jurisdiction over Catholic Charismatic Renewal, since all expressions of CCR are directly under the jurisdiction of the competent ecclesiastical authorities. CHARIS's role of service does not limit the freedom of individuals or groups within CCR in their contacts with ecclesiastical authorities.

Art. 2. Constitution and Canonical Erection

§ 1. CHARIS was created by a Constitutive Act, signed in Rome on May 29th 2017 by the persons nominated by the Holy Father Pope Francis on April 27th 2016 as responsible for the creation of a new single service for all the expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

§ 2. CHARIS has been erected by the Holy See, through the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, with public juridical personality according canons 116-123 of the Code of Canon Law. It is governed by these statutes and, by analogy, by canons 312-320 of the Code of Canon Law, as well as by the other universal norms of Church law.

II. Objectives

Art. 3. General Objectives

The general objectives of CHARIS are:

- a) To help deepen and promote the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the Church;
- b) To promote the exercise of charisms not only in Catholic Charismatic renewal but also in the whole Church;
- c) To encourage the spiritual deepening and holiness of people who live the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit;
- d) To encourage commitment to evangelization, particularly through the new evangelization and the evangelisation of culture, while respecting religious freedom;
- e) To encourage cooperation between communities born from Catholic Charismatic Renewal, with a view making the experience of particular communities available for the good of all;
- f) To promote the ecumenical dimension of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and foster the commitment to serving the unity of all Christians;
- g) To identify and promote specific topics that can help deepen the grace of Pentecost;
- h) To encourage networking and cooperation between realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the areas of formation, evangelization etc.;
- i) To promote service of the poor and social action through Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- j) To organize training and formation opportunities, according to the needs expressed by the General Assembly;
- k) To enable clerics and religious to deepen their experience of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and to participate more fully in it;
- l) To foster communion: among persons involved in various realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal; with ecclesial movements that do not refer to this current of grace; and with other Christian Churches and Communities, especially those living the experience of Pentecost;
- m) To organise major events, colloquia, leader's gatherings, in order to share and exchange the various experiences flowing from the Holy Spirit.

III. Services

Art. 4. Services Offered

§ 1. CHARIS is at the service of all realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and is available to serve and assist bishops and priests who request its help.

§ 2. The permanent services of CHARIS are:

a) Communion and Information: ensuring communication with and between the national and continental services, and with and among all realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal (prayer groups, communities, networks, schools of evangelisation, religious institutes, publishing houses and ministries);

b) Formation and Training: meeting the training and formation needs expressed by the General Assembly or by other realities, inspired by the living experience of people and groups within Catholic Charismatic Renewal;

c) Advice: through a Doctrinal and Canonical Commission.

§ 3. Temporary bodies can be created to respond to particular needs.

IV. Structure

Art. 5. Services of Communion

§ 1. CHARIS is formed at worldwide level by the General Assembly and the International Service of Communion.

§ 2. Each continent has a Continental Service of Communion.

IV. 1. General Assembly

Art. 6. Vision

The General Assembly reflects the reality of Catholic Charismatic Renewal across the whole world. It seeks to share and discern what the Spirit is saying worldwide. It provides an opportunity to foster relationships and build communion within the worldwide family of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, sharing experiences, concerns and testimony.

Art. 7. Composition

§ 1. The General Assembly is composed of: the members of the International Service of Communion; one representative of each National Service of Communion; one representative of each association of the faithful with its origins in Catholic Charismatic Renewal, recognized by the Holy See; and one representative of each large Network of Communities, covering communities from several countries, with canonical recognition, in communion with their national services of communion, and recognized by the General Assembly. The International Service of Communion can designate other realities that participate in the National Service of Communion of their respective countries to take part in the General Assembly without voting rights.

§ 2. The General Assembly is chaired by the Moderator of the International Service of Communion.

§ 3. The Moderator, with the agreement of the International Service of Communion, may invite to the General Assembly as special invitees or observers people capable of contributing to the common good.

§ 4. The General Assembly meets every 3 years.

§ 5. Participation in the General Assembly does not signify canonical recognition of any participating reality. Canonical recognition remains the responsibility of the competent ecclesiastical authorities.

IV. 2. International Service of Communion

Art. 8. Functions

The International Service of Communion has the following functions:

- a) To uphold, expand and promote the objectives of CHARIS;
- b) To be in touch with and to study the situation of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in its many expressions at National, Regional and Continental levels;
- c) To assure that the diversity of Catholic Charismatic Renewal is respected in the programmes, projects, relationships with other Churches and Christian communities, and activities of CHARIS;
- d) To discern and give attention to the needs of formation within Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- e) To work with the Moderator and ensure that the international office delivers an efficient and comprehensive service.

f) To elect, following the procedure set out in art. 11§2, a temporary Moderator, who will serve until the next General Assembly, in the case of death, incapacity, serious illness or another just cause preventing the Moderator from carrying out his or her regular functions.

Art. 9. Composition and meetings

§ 1. The International Service of Communion is composed of eighteen elected members.

§ 2. Twelve members are Continental representatives: two for North America and the Caribbean (one English or French speaking, and one Spanish speaking); one for Central America (Spanish speaking); one for South America (Spanish speaking); one for South America (Portuguese speaking); two for Asia; one for Africa (French speaking); one for Africa (English speaking); two for Europe and one for Oceania.

§ 3. Six members are elected as follows: one from the diverse CCR ministries; one charismatic priest or religious; two from communities; one from associations of the faithful with Holy See recognition; one young Catholic under 30 years old.

§ 4. The International Service of Communion meets annually and is led by the Moderator.

Art. 10. Election Procedure

§ 1. Candidates are nominated at the assemblies of the Continental Services of Communion in the year prior to the General Assembly. The General Assembly elects the International Service of Communion by secret ballot, valid when at least fifty percent of those entitled to vote take part, with a two thirds majority being required to secure election.

§ 2. Members of the International Service of Communion serve a term of three years, renewable consecutively for one term only.

Art. 11. The Moderator

§ 1. The functions of the Moderator are:

a) To promote and develop Catholic Charismatic Renewal as a current of grace in the Church and for the Church;

- b) To promote the work of unity in the Body of Christ;
- c) To ensure good communication between the ecclesiastical authorities and Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide, and in particular with the Holy See through the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life;
- d) To convoke, encourage and co-ordinate the work of the International Service of Communion;
- e) To convoke and lead the General Assembly;
- f) To visit and serve international realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal as the need arises. With the agreement of the International Service of Communion, the Moderator can delegate some responsibilities;
- g) To oversee the work of the International Office.

§ 2. The Moderator is elected by the General Assembly from a minimum of three nominations, received from the Continental Services of Communion, and previously approved by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life at least three months prior to the General Assembly. The election is by secret ballot, valid when at least fifty percent of those entitled to vote take part, with a two-thirds majority being required to secure election. The term of office is three years, renewable once.

§ 3. The Moderator is in the service of all, and diligently avoids the promotion of any specific reality within Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

IV. 3. Continental Services of Communion

Art. 12. Functions

The functions of the Continental Services of Communion are:

- a) To build communion together through unity of hearts rather than rigid structures;
- b) To reach out, embracing all realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal and to live unity in diversity;
- c) To create space for listening, sharing and discernment;
- d) To facilitate training and formation;
- e) To help nations establish a National Service of Communion where currently this does not exist.

Art. 13. Composition and Meetings

§ 1. There are four Continental Services of Communion, as follows: America, Africa, Asia/Oceania and Europe.

§ 2. Each Continental Service of Communion is composed of one representative from each National Service of Communion; one representative from each Network of communities present in the region; one representative of each International network of evangelization schools present on the region; two representatives from specific ministries in the continent; and two Catholics under 30 years old.

§ 3. Each Continental Service of Communion meets at least every three years.

Art. 14. Elections

§ 1. Each Continental Service of Communion elects a Continental Co-ordinating Team composed of seven persons whose function is to facilitate the work of the Continental Service of Communion. The Continental Co-ordinating Team meets at least once a year.

§ 2. The election is held in a spirit of prayer and discernment. Each member of the Continental Service of Communion has the right to speak and vote in the election.

§ 3. For the election of members of the Co-ordination Team, voting is by secret ballot, valid when at least fifty percent of those entitled to vote take part, a two thirds majority being required to secure election.

§ 4. When a member relinquishes a position on the Service of Communion, the replacement can also come from another country, although consideration must be given to the geographical area represented.

§5. Members of Continental Services of Communion serve a term of three years, renewable consecutively for one term only.

IV. 4. National Services of Communion

Art. 15. Functions

The goal of National Services of Communion is to build and strengthen the wide and diverse family of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. They should therefore be as inclusive as possible and open to new and emerging realities. The model focuses on communion rather than government or structure.

Art. 16. Composition

National Services of Communion should consist of representatives from realities and expressions of the current of grace who identify themselves as a part of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and who are seeking to build communion within the wide and diverse family of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. This may include prayer groups, communities, networks, schools of evangelisation, religious institutes, publishing houses, particular ministries, ecumenical initiatives, youth etc.

V. THE ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT

Art. 17. The Ecclesiastical Assistant

§ 1. The Ecclesiastical Assistant is the bishop or priest tasked with accompanying all the activities promoted by CHARIS from a doctrinal and spiritual point of view, and of guaranteeing the faithfulness of all actions undertaken by CHARIS to the magisterium of the Catholic Church.

§ 2. The Ecclesiastical Assistant takes part in the General Assembly and in International Service of Communion meetings and in other activities where his presence is deemed helpful or necessary by the Moderator of the International Service of Communion. He participates without voting rights.

§ 3. The Ecclesiastical Assistant is appointed by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life Laity from a list of three candidates presented by the International Service of Communion. For candidates who are priests, the prior consent of their Ordinary must be obtained.

§ 4. The Ecclesiastical Assistant's term of office is three years, renewable consecutively for one term only.

VI. THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Art. 18. Functions

§ 1. In order to carry out its administrative functions, CHARIS has an International Office, situated in Rome in Palazzo San Calisto, a building belonging to the Holy See.

§ 2. The tasks of the International Office are:

- a) To facilitate collaboration and communion within Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- b) To deal with the day to day enquiries and requests made to Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- c) To maintain the flow of information with and between the many realities of Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- d) To facilitate the organisation, facilities and resources required for training courses, programmes, and events, as directed by the International Service of Communion;
- e) To coordinate the practical organisation of International Service of Communion meetings and of the General Assembly;
- f) To serve as the secretariat for administrative contact with the Holy See, and particularly with the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life;
- g) To maintain a database of the realities forming part of Catholic Charismatic renewal worldwide;
- h) To assist with the publication, translation and distribution of specific resources relating to international Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- i) To maintain an updated website and an adequate presence on social media;
- j) To provide an efficient and transparent accountancy service for CHARIS.

Art. 19. The Secretary of the International Office

§ 1. The International Office is under the authority of the International Service of Communion. The Moderator of CHARIS is responsible for overseeing the International Office. In order to maintain the service, the International Office has a Secretary. The Secretary is tasked with the general coordination of the International Office and CHARIS operational services.

§ 2. The Secretary is appointed by the Moderator with the agreement of the majority of members of the International Service of Communion. The term of the Secretary of the International Office is 3 years, renewable consecutively for one term only.

§ 3. It is the responsibility of the Moderator of CHARIS, in conformity with canons 231 and 281 of the Code of Canon Law, by way of contracts of employment, to guarantee for the persons serving in the International Office an adequate salary, health and pension cover, and other rights inherent to social security cover.

VII. ADMINISTRATION OF FINANCES

Art. 20. Management and juridical nature of goods and property.

§ 1. The property and goods of CHARIS, following canon 1257 § 1 of the Code of Canon Law are ecclesiastical goods and are governed by canonical norms.

§ 2. It is the responsibility of the Moderator, with the agreement of the International Service of Communion, to request from the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life the permission required from ecclesiastical authority to prior to making valid acts of extraordinary administration, that is to say acts that might involve a diminution in stable patrimony.

§ 3. Ordinary acts of administration can be undertaken not only by the Moderator but also by the Secretary of the International Office and by a delegate of the Moderator.

Art. 21. Origin of goods and property

§ 1. CHARIS is sustained by voluntary donations and financial contributions from the various realities and individuals involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide. Other sources of funding are the possible revenue from events, congresses, training courses, books and multimedia material, etc.

§ 2. CHARIS respects the laws of the countries in which it carries out its work and activities. It is a service and is not responsible for legal financial organisation at national or continental level.

Art. 22. Annual budget and financial statement

The Secretary of the International Office has the task of preparing the annual budget and the annual financial statement, in order to insure the availability of sufficient resources for the ordinary management of CHARIS. The budget and financial statement must be approved by the International Service of Communion by a majority vote.

Art. 23. Annual account to the ecclesiastical authority

Before June 30th of every year, the Moderator of CHARIS will present to the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life an annual financial statement concerning the administration of goods and the use of gifts and offerings received, in accordance with canon 319 of the Code of Canon Law.

VIII. INTERPRETATION AND CHANGES TO STATUTES

Art. 24. Interpretation

§ 1. The International Service of Communion has the competence of interpretation of the Statutes, through a vote with a two thirds majority.

§ 2. When the majority in the International Service of Communion considers it opportune, it can request clarification on a point of interpretation from the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, which will then proceed to give a binding interpretation.

Art. 25. Changes to the Statutes

Changes to the statutes, proposed by the International Service of Communion, require the consent of the General Assembly, through a vote with a majority of two thirds, after prior approval for proposed amendments from the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

IX. SUPPRESION AND DISSOLUTION

Art. 26. Suppression

In compliance with canon 320 of the Code of Canon Law, CHARIS can be suppressed only by the Holy See, through the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

Art. 27. Dissolution

A motion to dissolve CHARIS on its own initiative requires consent of the General Assembly with a majority of two thirds of its members and, prior to this, the consent of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

Art. 28. Destination of goods and patrimony

In the case of suppression or dissolution, remaining goods and patrimony are to be destined by the International Service of Communion to entities with purposes identical or similar to those of CHARIS, with the prior consent of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

X. TRANSITIONAL NORMS

One

These Statutes come into force on June 9th 2019, Solemnity of Pentecost, and are approved *ad experimentum*. On the day these statutes come into force, the *Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships* and *International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services* cease to exist. The goods and patrimony of these two entities are transferred to CHARIS.

Two

On the date these statutes come into force, the first Moderator and International Service of Communion for CHARIS will begin their respective mandates for a period of three years. This first Moderator and International Service of Communion are appointed, respecting the rules of composition of the International Service of Communion set out in these statutes, by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, on the basis of a proposal made by the persons nominated by the Holy Father Pope Francis as responsible for the creation of a new single service for all the expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Three

The first General Assembly will be held at Pentecost 2019, and CHARIS will begin its service at the same time.

Four

Once these statutes have come into force, all National, Regional and Continental Committees are to be restructured as organisms of service including all local expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, in accordance with the new statutory composition of CHARIS set out in these statutes.

This final text was presented at a meeting in the offices of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life by the undersigned on March 6th 2018.

Michelle Moran
Responsible

Pino Scafuro
Responsible

Oreste Pesare
Secretary

Julia Elena Torres
Secretary