

## THE INTERNATIONAL CVS

International Confederation for the apostolate of the suffering people

### HISTORICAL FRAMEWORK

The Silent Workers of the Cross have received by their founder, Monsignor Luigi Novarese, the task to support a wider laic movement called “the Volunteers of the Suffering”.

A particular task explicitly acknowledged and appreciated by the apostolic breve “Valde probandae” of the 24<sup>th</sup> November 1960 in which Pope John XXIII states with satisfaction that “the lively and bright strength” of the Silent Workers of the Cross “has been encouraging and fostering for thirteen years by now other zealous associations such as ‘the volunteers of the suffering’, made up of sick people who voluntarily offer their pains to the Holy Virgin Mary”.

This responsibility has been confirmed again by the Holy See at the beginning of the third millennium with the approval of the new statutes of the Silent Workers where it is reminded that they “encourage the establishment and the development of associations of diocesan right called Centre of the Volunteers of the Suffering (CVS), such associations gather all people who want to share the spirituality of the Silent Workers of the Cross and to help them positively to reach their apostolic objects” (art.3).

And, in fact, while the Silent workers of the Cross constitute an only *consociatio*, now acknowledged by the Papal Council for the Laymen as a private international association of believers (decree May 17<sup>th</sup> 2001), the Centre of the Volunteers of the Suffering creates associations approved by their diocesan bishops.

In these last decades such associations have spread and increased remarkably above all thanks to the valuable teaching of the present Pope about the vocation and the mission of the laymen (apostolic exhortation “Christifideles laici”) and about the meaning of the Christian suffering (apostolic letter “Salvifici doloris”). Therefore it is necessary to show with greater strength, at institutional level, the deep unity of spirit which joins the Silent Workers of the Cross to the Centres of the Volunteers of the Suffering and these last ones to each other, so as to encourage either a more and more genuine acceptance of the common charisma or a greater efficacy of the apostolic action.

For this purpose the Silent Workers of the Cross, in order to agree to the requests of the different diocesan associations belonging to the CVS, have thought to create a new *consociatio*, “the International CVS”. An international Confederation for the apostolate of the sufferers, able to join all the associations of believers engaged in such apostolate based on Monsignor Luigi Novarese’s spirituality.

## **STATUTE**

### **ARTICLE 1- Name, kind, office.**

The international CVS Confederation , created by the Silent Workers of the Cross and acknowledged by the Papal Council for the Laymen as a private consociation, gathers the associations of believers engaged in the apostolate of the sufferers inspired by Monsignor Luigi Novarese's spirituality, such associations are called Centre of the Volunteers of the Suffering (CVS).

The Confederation is in Rome.

### **ARTICLE 2- Aim**

The Confederation aims to encourage, to support and to guarantee among the associations which belong to it the realisation of Monsignor Luigi Novarese's charismatic intuition, which sees in the suffering offered by the sick person a participation in Christ's Easter Mystery; the sick person becomes an apostle and so first fruits and prophecy which makes every form of suffering present in the life of man valuable. All this following a spirit of deep acceptance of the demands of prayer and penance peculiar of the spirituality of Mary of Lourdes and Fatima, which are recognised by the Confederation as moments and places of its own spiritual foundation.

### **ARTICLE 3- Activity**

In order to pursue its aims the Confederation carries on a methodical action of coordination and promotion of the associations which belong to it through all the initiatives considered useful, suitable or necessary, and that it will be able to realize by itself or with the help of other organizations.

The Confederation particularly

- a) formulates formative plans and undertakes initiatives in order to increase and to spread single associations and the Confederation itself;
- b) it brings out publishing aids and instruments;
- c) it promotes days of spiritual exercises, courses and study congresses, meetings and pilgrimages;
- d) it organizes qualifying courses to carry out rehabilitation, socio-cultural, sports and recreational activities.

### **ARTICLE 4- Patrimonial estate**

The Confederation provides for the needs relating to the pursuit of the aims of the Statute, through:

- a) contributions and collaborations of the confederate associations;

- b) benefits, offerings, bequests, donations, gifts, by institutions or private citizens;
- c) proceeds of the administration of its own business.

In the patrimonial conduct the following aspects must be considered as records of extraordinary administration: the alienation of both personal and real estate and of other shops which can worsen the patrimonial estate; the decision of new expenses as regards to those ones prescribed in the approved estimate; the execution of building work, restructure, extraordinary maintenance of any value; the hiring of a staff with no time limit.

The extraordinary administration acts must be approved by the Council of Presidency.

As for the alienation of the property whose value exceeds the amount of a million euros; the permit of the Papal Council for the Laymen is necessary.

### **ARTICLE 5- Adhesion of the Associations**

If an association, recognized or approved by the competent ecclesiastical authority, wants to federate it must submit a written and justified application to the President of the Confederation. Such application will be submitted to the unquestionable judgement of the Council of Presidency of the Confederation itself.

Apart from respecting carefully what is expected by the articles of the Statute, a Confederate Association engages

- a) to take actively part in all the initiatives promoted by the Confederation;
- b) to carry out the formative plans arranged in advance by the Confederation;
- c) to send a detailed account of its life and activity every year to the Council of Presidency;
- d) to pay to the Confederation the annual contribution estimated by the article 7.

### **ARTICLE 6- Withdrawal**

An association withdraws from the Confederation because of:

- a) dissolution or extinction;
- b) abandonment;
- c) relief by the Council of Presidency caused by a behaviour seriously opposite to the spirit and to the Statute of the Confederation. Anyway the Council will previously have to notify the charges to the Association in order to enable it to state possible reasons for its own defence.

### **ARTICLE 7- General Assembly**

The General Assembly, made up of the members of the Council of Presidency and by the heads of the single confederate associations, voices the whole Confederation in its unity and identity.

The General Assembly

- a) appoints the elective members of the Council of Presidency;

- b) it approves, on the President's proposal, the formative plans and the general guide-lines relating to the spirituality and to the strengths of the Apostolate of the Confederation;
- c) it deliberates about the final and programmatic account established by the Council of Presidency;
- d) it approves the final and preventive statement of the debit and credit presented by the Council itself;
- e) it establishes the amount of the economical contribution that each confederate association must yearly pay to the Confederation;
- f) it determines the other matters due to itself and all that is subjected to it by the Council;
- g) it fixes and approves the body of the Directorate and other texts subsidiary to the Statute;
- h) it decides possible changes of the Statute to submit to the approval of the Papal Council of the Laymen.

### **ARTICLE 8- Summons and Practice of the General Assembly**

The General Assembly is usually summoned every three years but it can be summoned every time the Council thinks it convenient or if at least half of the confederate associations ask for it. In order to encourage the involvement of all the confederate Associations, the Council of Presidency encloses in the Directorate a regulation for the national sessions preparatory to the General Assembly. The heads of the single confederate associations of each nation take part to such sessions.

The summons, the definition of the agenda and the chairman of the Assembly are established by the President of the Confederation.

The summons takes place at least twenty days before the meeting by a registered letter, fax or e-mail.

The meetings of the General Assembly are valid:

- in first summons with the participation, through their own representatives, of more than the half of the confederate associations;
- in second summons, to be carried out no less than twenty-four hours after the first one apart from the present people.

Each member of the Council of Presidency and each confederate association have the right to give a vote.

The resolutions are assumed both in first and in second summons, with the favourable vote of more than the half of the present people.

As for the changes of the Statute, for the approval and the changes of the Directorate the majority of the two third is necessary.

### **ARTICLE 9- The President**

The head of the Apostolate of the Silent Workers of the Cross is by right the President of the Confederation. He has to

- a) preside and coordinate the life and the activity of the whole Confederation;

- b) to take particularly care of the apostolic activity of the Confederation, taking trouble to direct and support the formative way and the missionary dynamism of the confederate associations;
- c) to take if necessary or urgent extraordinary measures about the matters pertaining to the Council, letting the Council know them before the next meeting;
- d) to represent the Confederation in every respect.

If the President is absent or unable to, his tasks will be carried out by a substitute chosen by the Council of Presidency among its members.

### **ARTICLE 10- The Council of Presidency**

The Council of Presidency is made up of

- the President of the Confederation;
- the six Councillors elected by the General Assembly among the subscribers of the confederate associations;
- the secretary chosen, by the President, among the Silent Workers of the Cross. The secretary takes part to the meetings of the Council of Presidency without the right to vote.

The Council, in addition to the peculiar tasks foreseen by the articles of the Statute, has to decide the ordinary and extraordinary management of the Confederation and it's its duty the practise of very power considered necessary, useful or suitable to reach the Statute objects.

The Council will have the chance to delegate the tasks concerning the management of the Confederation to one or more special proxies ad negotia, by choosing them among people alien to the Confederation.

### **ARTICLE 11- Meetings of the Council**

The Council meets at least twice a year and every time the President considers it necessary or if it asked by more than the half of its members.

The President has to summon the Council, to fix the agenda and to preside at the meeting. The summons must be done by a registered letter sent at least seven days before the date of the meeting, or if it is urgent and/or necessary, by telegram, fax or e-mail to be sent at least forty-eight hours before such date.

The meetings are valid with the presence of more than the half of the members.

The resolutions are undertaken with more than the half of the members' votes. In case of absolute parity of votes the President's vote is predominant.

### **ARTICLE 12- The Secretary**

The secretary, in conformity with the instructions received by the proper statute organs

- a) provides for the records of the General Assembly and of the Council of Presidency;

- b) he ensures the availability of the necessary secretarial services and of supplies and communications;
- c) he takes care of the Confederation archives.

#### **ARTICLE 13- The Accountant**

Under the management of the Council of Presidency, in compliance with the orders of the universal right of the Church and of this Statute, the accountant

- a) carries out the management of the Patrimonial estate;
- b) he plans every year the statement and the estimate of the debit and credit and he submits them to the Council of Presidency's approval.

#### **ARTICLE 14- The term of the offices**

All the elective offices provided by this Statute last six years and they are immediately renewable for once.

#### **ARTICLE 15- The end of the Confederation**

The Confederation ends

- a) because of the recess of the founder Association, the Silent Workers of the Cross;
- b) for a decision justified by serious reasons and approved by the General Assembly with the two third of the majority.

In any case if the Confederation ends all its estate is devolved to the Silent Workers of the Cross, and if they can't or they don't want to accept it, it is devolved to the Holy See.

#### **ARTICLE 16- Directorate**

The General Assembly will provide to approve a directorate for the realization of this Statute.

#### **ARTICLE 17- Final Rule**

As far as all that is not established by this Statute the disposals of the Universal right of the Church are valid.