



CROSIER GENERALATE

Starting Afresh from *A Place of Light*

Decree of Promulgation

The General Chapter of 2009 defined several new general statutes and made an authentic interpretation of the General Constitutions. These acts of the chapter have been published and made available to all members in the official Relict of the General Chapter, issued at the conclusion of the sessions, 18 August 2009.

In light of the provision of canon law, that general statutes and authentic interpretations become law upon promulgation [cf. Canons 7 & 16 §2], let this letter serve as an official decree of promulgation for the legislative acts of the general chapter of 2009, which require the further promulgation by the master general.

Those acts of the 2009 general chapter which rescinded particular statutes or parts of statutes are also thereby removed from the general statutes of the Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross.

In accord with the code of Canon Law [Canon 94§1 and §3] the general statutes of the Order of the Holy Cross, defined by the general chapter, as the legislative body charged with deliberating and determining general statutes, by this official act of promulgation now bind all members of the Order.

The promulgation of the general statutes and authentic interpretation in no way prejudices the issuance of further general executory decrees to apply and implement the acts and ordinances of the general chapter [Canon 31 §1 & §2].

Finally, I hereby promulgate the entire relict containing the acts of the General Chapter of 2009 [GS 35.12].

Given at Rome,
8 October 2009

Glen Lewandowski, O.S.C.
Master General

General Statutes

GS 0.0 Introduction to the General Statutes

GS 0.1 In accordance with the Code of Canon Law, we distinguish between the Constitutions of the Order, which are more permanent principles, and these General Statutes, which can more easily be changed. The existence of General Statutes in no way prejudices the adoption of provincial statutes.

GS 13.0 Vow of Poverty

GS 13.1 The poverty, which we profess, implies for us personally that, before our first profession, we surrender and entrust the control of our temporal goods to whomever we choose. Before our solemn profession, we renounce all our possessions and the capacity to acquire temporal goods. Individuals thus may acquire property only for the Order, province and communities. Provincial statutes should provide norms about these arrangements so that they also have the force of civil law. In any case, our observance of the vow of poverty should always be fair to others and respect their rights.

GS 15.0 Conciliation and Recourse

GS 15.1 For validity, an administrative act imposing an obligation, restricting a right or refusing a request affecting a right shall be in writing and shall contain a notice of the right to recourse, the procedures for recourse, and the time frame for recourse.

GS 15.2 Provincial statutes should provide a method of conciliation for resolving disputes within the province. This process should provide for recourse to the master general within the timeframe of ten available days.

GS 15.3 If a matter cannot be resolved on the provincial level, an aggrieved party may make recourse in writing to the master general.

GS 15.4 The master general, after seeking appropriate advice, may reject the recourse because an additional conciliation process would not be useful or he may invite the parties to participate in a conciliation process under his direction.

GS 15.5 Any expenses of recourse to the master general are to be borne by the province or provinces involved.

GS 15.6 Recourse against an administrative decision issued by a prior or by formation personnel is made to the prior provincial. Recourse against an administrative decision issued by the prior provincial is made to the master general. Further appeal is made to the Apostolic See.

GS 15.7 In the case of recourse against an administrative act, the decision of the superior who posited the act remains in force until the matter is resolved unless suspended by the person to whom the appeal is made.

GS 15.8 The recourse is made in writing and must be made within the time frame specified in the Code of Canon Law. However, if a confrere chooses the conciliation process, the time for administrative recourse against a superior does not begin to run until the conciliation process is abandoned

by at least one of the parties.

GS 15.9 The parties may be invited to resolve their differences through the conciliation process of the province from which the grievance arises. If one of the parties rejects the conciliation process, the recourse follows the norms of administrative recourse of the Code of Canon Law and the proper law of the Order.

GS 15.10 Any expenses of recourse to the master general or the Apostolic See are to be borne by the province or provinces involved.

GS 19.0 Specific Guidelines

GS 19.1 Shortly after the death of a confrere, each community of the Order shall remember the deceased confrere at the conventual Eucharist or in another liturgical service.

GS 19.2 The habit should be made of inexpensive material, it should be without a cowl, and should not be longer than down to the instep. The scapular, mozetta, cincture, and biretta should be black, while the tunic and collar should be white. On the scapular, at breast level, a cross made of cloth should be sewn, of which the horizontal part should be white, and the vertical part red. The mozetta should be open in front, and adorned with buttons. The lay brothers may wear this habit, or else a black tunic, with a cincture and a scapular with a cross as described above.

GS 25.0 Members

GS 25.1 A confrere living outside a community of the Order with a legitimate indult of excommunication granted by the master general or the Holy See remains bound to celibacy and is subject to his major superior. His right to active and passive vote is suspended; he is not counted in determining the number of delegates for chapters or for tax due the Generalate; he may not wear the religious habit. He shall be responsible for all his financial obligations and the Order shall not be responsible for any of his financial obligations.

GS 25.2 A confrere who leaves his community or assigned residence without the permission of the major superior remains bound to the observance of his vows. He loses his right to active and passive vote; he is not counted in determining the number of delegates for chapters or the tax due the Generalate; he may not wear the religious habit. Such a person cannot act validly as an agent of the Order and the Order is not responsible for any financial obligations he acquires. The major superior is to issue a decree to this effect according to the norms of the provincial statutes. The confrere is subject to dismissal or other sanctions which the prior provincial and his council may determine.

GS 25.3 Besides the causes provided in canons 694, 695, and 696, a member in temporary vows may be dismissed for the following causes if these causes are external and juridically proven (Code 696): continuous disruptive behavior which is detrimental to community life; for psychological reasons after consultation with a professional counselor; inability to live the life of the Order; sexual activity; substance abuse.

GS 26.0 Local Community

- GS 26.1 A priory is a public juridic person. The degree of autonomy of a priory is determined in the provincial statutes.
- GS 26.2 In order to bring to life ever-more the Crosier charism of fraternal living in service to the Church and world and to support the well-being of individual confreres in living their vocation as Crosiers, normative community life in the Crosier Order includes the following constitutive components:
- GS 26.2.a A genuine commitment to fraternal life by being brothers to one another, actually living together in the love of Christ.
 - GS 26.2.b A daily and dynamic conventual liturgical life, open to the public.
 - GS 26.2.c A functioning chapter which deliberates and makes decisions, assures ongoing formation of members, elects the prior, exercises responsibility for finances.
 - GS 26.2.d A communal witness of fraternal charity is our most immediate Crosier apostolic service to the Church and society. Other works of the apostolate which the Gospel requires of us receive their energy from Crosier life.
- GS 26.3 The priory chapter should have at least eight solemnly professed members, with at least six of them actually living together. Other forms of community life also need to serve our fraternal charism in the world. Major superiors assure a sufficient number of confreres to accomplish this goal.
- GS 26.4 Before receiving approval for the erection of a community, a prior provincial must present the rationale and plan for its erection to the master general.
- GS 26.5 Before receiving approval for the suppression of a community or for reducing the status of a priory, a prior provincial must present a juridically sound rationale and a pastorally sensitive plan for its suppression or reduction in status to the master general. Normally, the plan is acted upon only after approval is received.

GS 29 Community Leadership

- GS 29.1 The appointment, election, and duties of the council of the prior, and if needed a subprior, business manager or other positions, are to be determined by the community chapter according to the provincial statutes.

GS 30.0 Provinces

- GS 30.1 To become a province, a proprovince should have adequate number of members, prospect of sufficient new members, leadership, and healthy finances. In requesting the status as a province, the chapter of the proprovince presents appropriate documentation, including a list of those members who ask for membership in the new province, to the respective provincial chapter for approval. The establishment of the new province must also have the approval of the master general with the consent of his council.

- GS 30.2 A province is suppressed normally by a general chapter. The master general with the consent of his council may suppress a province between general chapters under extraordinary circumstances. A provincial chapter or the master general with the consent of his council can initiate the suppression of a province. Upon the initiation of a suppression of a province, the master general and his council plan a juridically just and pastorally sensitive process to prepare the act of suppression. A similar procedure is followed in changing the status of a province.
- GS 30.3 A provincial chapter by a two-thirds majority vote may request the master general to appoint an administrator.
- GS 30.4 The term of an administrator is from one to three years. The administrator may have limited jurisdiction.
- GS 30.5 For serious reasons, the master general with the consent of his council may suspend fully or partially the right of governance of a province. This means that he may suspend the provincial statutes, the provincial chapter, and the right to elect a prior provincial and provincial council. This suspension should not exceed more than three years without renewed evaluation by the master general and his council in consultation with the province.
- GS 30.6 By permanent transfer (*affiliatio*) one loses all rights and obligations in his former province and acquires all rights and obligations in the province to which he transfers. By temporary transfer (*assignatio*) one acquires rights and obligations in the province to which he transfers, and retains rights and obligations in his own province according to the statutes of the respective provinces.
- GS 30.7 Residing in a community in another province for a time (for instance, because of studies or health care) does not affect the rights and obligations that a confrere has in his province and the community of which he is a member. In this case, however, he is under the authority of the prior of the community where he is staying and should adapt himself to the customs of the community.
- GS 30.8 A province can be established, changed, or suppressed by the provincial chapter, or in urgent cases, outside of a provincial chapter, by the prior provincial with the consent of his council. The approval of the master general with the consent of his council is required.
- GS 30.9 In a special case, a province may be a province of the Order under the governance of the master general with his council with certain autonomy specified in the proper law.
- GS 30.10 All other divisions of a province are to be provided for in the provincial statutes.
- GS 31.0 Provincial Chapter**
- GS 31.1 The norms of an ordinary provincial chapter are to be applied to an extraordinary provincial chapter except the term of the convocation and the specific agenda. The provincial statutes may determine further norms and procedures for provincial chapters.

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- GS 31.2 For serious reasons, provincial statutes may determine other forms for the election of prior provincial, his council, and other offices.
- GS 31.3 The provincial statutes are to determine: the requirements for active and passive vote; the nature of and procedures for elections held in the province; the determination of the various offices and their terms; the procedures to be followed in cases of resignation, removal from office, and vacancy. The election of officers may be held in advance of the date on which they take office. In such cases the person elected does not take office until the date specified; meanwhile, the incumbent continues to function in office. Upon taking office, a superior makes a profession of faith. Other stipulations for voting and election are to be regulated by the statutes of each province.
- GS 31.4 The master general must be informed of all decisions made in the provincial chapter. If he should judge that they are contrary to the Constitutions or General Statutes, he is to inform the involved province of this as soon as possible; final decisions in this matter, however, are reserved to the master general with the consent of his council.
- GS 31.5. General Statutes 35.14 and 35.15 apply unless provincial statutes provide otherwise for the provincial or proprovincial chapters.
- GS 31.6 A province may enact statutes governing the publications of written materials.

GS 32.0 Prior Provincial

- GS 32.1 The prior provincial and his council may be assisted by standing or ad hoc committees formed to undertake needed research and to submit proposals for the various areas of work in the province. The responsibilities of these committees are to be described in the provincial statutes.
- GS 32.2 Whenever Canons 641-661 (novitiate and formation) and 684 (provisions for transfer) mention that certain specifications are left to the proper law of the institute, each prior provincial, with the consent of his council, is authorized to make such determinations.
- GS 32.3 The removal of a prior provincial is reserved to the master general with the consent of his council. Such action can be taken for the same reasons as the removal of the master general. If a prior provincial wants to be relieved of his office, he is to submit a request to that end to the master general. The master general can accept the resignation or, after consultation with his council, refuse it.

GS 33 Council of the Prior Provincial

- GS 33.1 The council of the prior provincial consists of at least two elected members, but can be expanded in accordance with the provincial statutes. The provincial statutes shall also determine how these members are to be elected, what their qualifications are, and what their term of office shall be.

GS 35.0 General Chapter

- GS 35.1 At least eight months before the opening of the general chapter, the master

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general is to send a letter of convocation to all superiors and communities of the Order. In it he should indicate the time and place of the chapter and direct that topics to be discussed be submitted to him within two months. Three months before the beginning of the chapter, he is to send a list of all the topics to be treated in the chapter to all its members, so that they may prepare for it.

- GS 35.2 All members, chapters, councils, and other groups of the Order have the right to submit topics to the general chapter.
- GS 35.3 The body of delegates to the general chapter is as follows. From each province: three delegates for the first fifty professed members or fraction thereof, and one delegate for each additional fifty members or fraction thereof (not counting those who belong to a proprovince). From each proprovince: two delegates for the first fifty professed members or fraction thereof, and one delegate for each additional fifty members or fraction thereof. In calculating the number of members in each province or proprovince, those confreres who are *assignati* are to be included only in the province or proprovince to which they are assigned. The provincial statutes should provide for possible alternates for delegates and major superiors.
- GS 35.4 The number of elected delegates per province and per proprovince is determined on the date of the convocation of the general chapter by the master general.
- GS 35.5 The provincial statutes provide for the methods of the selection of delegates to an ordinary general chapter and to an extraordinary general chapter.
- GS 35.6 On his own initiative or at the request of a prior provincial and his council, the master general can invite experts and interpreters to the chapter. The current master general invites to the chapter former masters general
- GS 35.7 By virtue of his office, the incumbent master general is chairman. The master general with the advice of his council appoints a committee to assist in planning the general chapter.
- GS 35.8 The general chapter is opened by the celebration of the Eucharist, to which all communities of the Order are to unite themselves..
- GS 35.9 After invoking the Holy Spirit, the master general addresses the chapter and proposes an agenda which includes the items to be considered and discussed at chapter, as well as the proposed course of elections during the chapter.
- GS 35.10 Among the elements always presented at a general chapter is an address by the master general which includes a report on the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Order and provinces, a necrology of members who have died since the last chapter, as well as other pertinent items.
- GS 35.11 The master general with the consent of his council appoints the chairman of this election. The chairman is to appoint two tellers to assist him. The master general is elected by an absolute majority of the valid votes. When the person elected consents to his election, he is thereby confirmed in office. He is then to make a profession of faith in the presence of the chapter.

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- GS 35.12 When the general chapter has completed its work, the master general and his council are to draw up a relict that records all decisions. After the relict is approved by the chapter, it is to be signed by all the members. The relict shall be promulgated by the master general and distributed to all members of the provinces by the priors provincial. The original copy is to be placed in the archives of the Order.
- GS 35.13 With the consent of his council, the master general should provide a glossary of significant terms used in the Constitutions and General Statutes. A definition or description given in the glossary shall be the official interpretation of the term unless an authentic interpretation is given by a general chapter.
- GS 35.14 A confrere who is a member of a chapter by reason of an office and who goes out of office during the respective chapter, continues as a member of the chapter with full rights.
- GS 35.15 A confrere elected to an office with chapter rights, but previously not a member of the chapter, becomes a member of the chapter with full rights upon acceptance of the office and, if required, confirmation.
- GS 35.16 Membership with its right and obligations in the general chapter ceases at the close of the general chapter.

GS 36.0 Master General

- GS 36.1 Since one of the most important duties of the master general is to stimulate and coordinate religious life in our Order, he is to arrange for a program of reappraisal and renewal in each of the provinces and other areas at least once every term. He is himself to participate actively in the most important meetings in each of these areas, and at the same time to use the opportunity to keep himself well informed of the course of affairs in the provinces, especially through contact with the respective major superiors and councils. Only in the event that his work or health does not permit him to be present, may he delegate a representative.
- GS 36.2 The master general after consultation with his council may appoint ad hoc committees and define their duties and responsibilities.
- GS 36.3 With the consent of his council, the master general shall determine the place of his residence and of the general offices. The place of residence shall have the resources available for a normative community life, as in a priory.
- GS 36.4 In the event that the master general dies or becomes seriously ill, no one may consult documents in his custody or remove them unless commissioned to do so by the member of the council of the master general who is senior in office. His personal effects, moreover, are to remain undisturbed.
- GS 36.5 If the master general determines that he is unable temporarily to fulfill his duties of office, he may delegate some or all duties of his office, with the consent of his council, to a member of his council but for no longer than one year.
- GS 36.6 The master general may be temporarily suspended from office for the following reasons: mental health attested to by a mental health

professional; physical health attested to by a health care provider; substantial inability to perform temporarily the duties of his office.

GS 36.7 The master general may be suspended temporarily from office according to procedural norms adopted by the general chapter.

GS 36.8 The master general may be removed from office permanently only for the following reasons: inability to carry out the duties of office because of psychic or physical reasons; serious malfeasance in office; offenses and causes given in canons 695 and 696.

GS 36.9 The master general may be removed permanently from office according to procedural norms adopted by the general chapter.

GS 36.10 Whenever the office of master general becomes vacant, responsibility for current affairs is assumed by his council, with the senior in office acting as chairman. The council shall then choose an acting master general. The acting master general is thereupon chairman of the council and directs the Order until the following ordinary general chapter, if that chapter would occur within a year. If not, the acting master general is to convoke and prepare an extraordinary chapter as soon as possible. He is to preside over this chapter and also has the right to vote. This chapter is to meet within one year after it is convoked. The norms concerning the composition of an ordinary general chapter apply.

GS 36.11 The staff of the master general is made up of the secretary general, the procurator general, the general econome, the general archivist, and other persons so-defined and appointed to their positions by the master general with the advice of his council.

GS 36.12 A secretary general, procurator general, general econome and general archivist are appointed by the master general with the consent of his council. The master general may appoint, with the advice of his council, persons to other general positions as are appropriate and needed. The terms of office, duties and responsibilities for all general positions are approved by the master general. All persons appointed to a position with the consent of the general council may be removed only with the consent of his council. A resignation does not need consent.

GS 36.13. A member of the general staff may live in the community in which the master general lives, called the generalate, or may live in another community of the Order.

GS 36.14 The master general with the advice of his council shall develop policies covering the costs of health insurance, pension program payments, and other costs incurred by provinces for confreres assigned or elected to the generalate community. The provinces normally bear the costs of confreres assigned to this community for study.

GS 37.0 Council of the Master General

GS 37.1 The council of the master general is to be called together by the master general at least once a year, or whenever two members request a meeting. The master general may invite others to these meetings of his council as his advisors or as guests. An agenda is to be circulated by the master general before each meeting. It may be enlarged or changed by the

members during the meeting itself. Should one of the members request it, voting is to be in writing. A record should be made of the discussions and decisions, and filed in the archives of the Order. This account should also be published in the provinces insofar as it is suitable.

- GS 37.2 All members of the council of the master general should be present at its meetings. For serious reason, however, a prior provincial may send a member of his council as a proxy. A majority of members of the council must be present to act
- GS 37.3 In cases where consent of the members of the council of the master general are required, the members may give consent by video conferencing or by conference call. In cases where advice of the members of the council of the master general are required, the members may give advice by writing, by conference call, or by other electronic means.
- GS 37.4 The general councilors who are elected by the general chapter are normally elected at the same chapter at which the master general is elected and for the same term of office. They may be reelected for a second term.
- GS 37.5. The elected general councilors are to be chosen from among the confreres who have been solemnly professed for at least five years.
- GS 37.6. A former master general is not eligible for election as a councilor in the same general chapter in which he leaves office.
- GS 37.7 The master general may present a list of confreres to the general chapter for its consideration in electing general councilors. In preparing this list, it is advisable that a broad consultation of the Order takes place before the general chapter. Further election procedures may be approved by the general chapter at which these elections take place.
- GS 37.8 The removal of an elected general councilor is reserved to the master general with the consent of his council. Such action can be taken for the same reasons as the removal of the master general. If an elected general councilor wants to be relieved of his office, he is to submit a request to that end to the master general. The master general can accept the resignation or, after consultation with his council, refuse it.
- GS 37.9 The elected general councilors may exercise their passive vote, that is be elected for another office, only with the dispensation of the master general after consulting his council.
- GS 37.10 If the position of an elected councilor becomes vacant outside of the general chapter, a new councilor is to be appointed by the master general with the consent of his council. The appointee will stay in office until new general councilors are elected in the next general chapter.
- GS 37.11 The elected general councilors normally live in community with the master general and may be appointed to positions in the Order especially on the general staff.
- GS 41.0 Permanent Commissions**
- GS 41.1 Only the general chapter can establish a permanent commission. Members of a commission are appointed, in a timely fashion, by the master general after consultation with his council. Membership on a commission extends

through the next ordinary general chapter. The duties and responsibilities of a commission are defined by the master general after consulting with his council, respecting the resolution of the general chapter. Each commission reports to the master general and his council, and to the general chapter.

GS 41.2 There is a permanent commission on finance to assist the general economy according to the norms of law.

GS 41.3 There is a permanent commission on spirituality and liturgy.

GS 42.0 Finances

GS 42.1 The stable patrimony within the Order is limited to the real property of the house of a canonically established local community and real property contiguous to the house, and other real property so designated by General Statutes or provincial statutes.

GS 42.2 The master general with the consent of his council may assess taxes on the provinces.

GS 42.3 A provincial chapter may authorize the assessment of taxes on local communities within the province.

GS 42.4 Financial norms in regard to the generalate are:

GS 42.4.a An extraordinary expenditure is an expenditure that is not included in the annual budget. Such expenditure requires the approval of the master general if it exceeds an amount set by the master general with the consent of his council.

GS 42.4.b An ordinary expenditure is an amount in the annual budget that has been approved by the master general with the consent of his council. No further approval is necessary unless required by universal or proper law.

GS 42.5 Financial norms in regard to a province are:

GS 42.5.a Each province determines its specific financial norms.

GS 42.5.b The definitions of and procedures for extraordinary expenditures and ordinary expenditures shall be provided for in the provincial statutes.

GS 42.6 Each province will submit an annual financial report to the master general and his council.

GS 42.7 When the permission of the Holy See is required for a financial transaction, the permission of the master general is also required.