

Statutes

The Companions of Christ
of the Archdiocese of Denver

The Companions of Christ

Statutes

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A. Preamble

The Companions of Christ is a community of priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese of Denver established as a private association on December 12, 2007 by the decree of the Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. The members of this association are clerics and seminarians, as well as candidates who are, at least, seminarians in different levels of formation and study. In their life and ministry as clerics and seminarians, the Companions of Christ have three emphases:

- Observance of the evangelical counsels within the context of ordained diocesan ministry;
- Commitment to a common life of prayer and fraternity in households;
- Dedication to the “new evangelization,” including catechesis, spiritual renewal, and the fostering of vocations in the local Church.

Common life and the evangelical counsels of obedience, chastity, and poverty are often identified with religious communities, in contrast to diocesan clergy. However, Vatican Council II encouraged efforts to promote a common life for the diocesan presbyterium¹ and exhorted all priests to voluntarily embrace the evangelical counsels.²

Pope John Paul II stated that the benefits of such associations are not merely economic or practical, but also “spiritual and— in harmony with the early institutions of the early Jerusalem community—they are obvious and urgent in the modern condition of many presbyters and prelates, who must be offered attention and care to alleviate their difficulties and labors.”³

Together with their fellow diocesan clergy, members of the Companions of Christ make a promise of obedience to the diocesan bishop and are assigned by him in the typical manner to serve in parishes or other diocesan institutions. The diocesan bishop in turn and as far as possible assigns members of the Companions of Christ to locations which permit them to live as fraternities of at least three members in rectories or other households.

In this new millennium the Companions of Christ join themselves to the mission of the local and universal Church. As Pope John Paul II said, “The new evangelization needs new evangelizers, and these are the priests who are serious about living their priesthood as a specific path toward holiness.”⁴

B. Nature and Purpose of the Association

1. Canonical Status

1. The Companions of Christ is a private association of diocesan clerics and seminarians whose members seek to live the evangelical counsels of obedience, chastity, and poverty in community as they reside and minister in their diocese.⁵

¹ Vatican II, Decree *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 8, December 7, 1965: *AAS* 58 (1966) 1004-1005.

² *PO* 15-17: *AAS* 58 (1966) 1014-1018.

³ John Paul II, General audience, September 1, 1993.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Apostolic exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, March 25, 1992: *AAS* 84 (1992) 800.

⁵ C. 278 §§1, 2.

2. The Companions of Christ has its seat at 1300 South Steele Street, Denver, Colorado, 80210, within the Archdiocese of Denver whose archbishop is the association's competent ecclesiastical authority.⁶

2. Purpose⁷

3. Motivated by the Holy Spirit, the Companions of Christ wish to offer their lives in thanksgiving to the Father who has consecrated them in love through his Son, Jesus Christ. A fuller articulation of the inspiration and vision of the association can be found in an ancillary document, the *Ideals* of the Companions of Christ.
4. Members seek to be companions with Christ in his ministry of reconciliation, which he proclaimed in the Gospel and accomplished by his sacrifice on the cross, and so wish to be ambassadors of Christ, proclaiming his word of reconciliation and making present his sacrifice through the Eucharist (2 Cor. 5:16-20).
5. In particular and in response to the call for the "new evangelization," members wish to make evangelization and catechesis a focus of their ministry wherever they are assigned.

C. Governance of the Association⁸

1. Households

6. As far as possible, with the approval of the diocesan bishop, the members of the association are assigned by the moderator, having heard the council, to live in households comprised of at least three residential members.⁹ If, for some reason, a member is unable to reside within a household, he will participate in the activities of one as he is able, according to the norms of these statutes.¹⁰
7. The members of the household are constituted by the determination of the moderator. Generally, this will follow deanery boundaries.
8. The moderator will appoint a leader for each household who will serve the members as they organize their life together.
9. As far as possible, each household will have an oratory for the daily recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours and the celebration of the Eucharist.¹¹
10. The moderator shall petition the local ordinary for permission to reserve the Blessed Sacrament within the oratory in a tabernacle suitable according to the norm of law.¹²

⁶ C. 312 §1 3°; C. 322.

⁷ C. 304 §1.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ C. 280.

¹⁰ See art. 74 below.

¹¹ Cc. 1223-1225.

¹² Cc. 934 §1 2°, §2; 938-941.

2. Fraternal groups

11. The members of the association are also assigned by the moderator, having heard the council, to fraternal groups comprised of at least three members. Fraternal groups will meet monthly to discuss their life, ministry, and for prayer, and will serve to form newer members in the life of the community.
12. The moderator will annually appoint a leader for each fraternal group who will serve the members and report any concerns to the moderator.

3. Officers

13. The moderator of the association is elected from among those members who have been in definitive commitment to the association for at least three years, or since the founding of the association. He must not be impeded by law.¹³
14. The moderator is elected for a three-year renewable term according to the norms of these statutes.¹⁴ Election of the moderator will be conducted according to the norms indicated in Appendix A.
15. The moderator is responsible to:
 - a. set the agenda and to convene the annual meeting of the association and the monthly meetings of the council;
 - b. appoint household and fraternal group leaders and other officers;
 - c. receive new members;
 - d. assign candidates and members to households and fraternal groups;
 - e. see to it that the members are living according to the statutes and *Rule* of the association;
 - f. issue the decree of dismissal of candidates;
 - g. oversee the process of a member leaving the institute.
16. The moderator of the Companions of Christ represents the association in all juridic affairs according to the norm of law.¹⁵
17. For a grave cause, the moderator himself, or a majority of the council, may request the diocesan bishop to remove the moderator before the completion of his term. The bishop must consult the moderator and council before such a removal.¹⁶
18. The moderator appoints a member of the association as treasurer for the association who will assist the moderator in the care of the ecclesiastical goods of the association.¹⁷

¹³ Cc. 149 §1; 317 §§1, 4.

¹⁴ C. 164.

¹⁵ C. 118.

¹⁶ C. 318 §2.

¹⁷ C. 1279 §1.

19. The treasurer will be assisted by two counselors, either members or non-members of the association, who, with the treasurer form the association's finance council.¹⁸ The finance council shall be appointed by the moderator, in consultation with the council.
20. The treasurer and the finance council will perform their duties according to the norm of law and these statutes.¹⁹
21. The moderator, with the consent of the council, will appoint a member of the association who has made a definitive commitment as formation director. The formation director will train candidates in the spirituality, common life, and mission of the association.
22. The moderator will appoint a secretary from among the members of the council to record the decisions of the council, and to take care that acts of the association are gathered, arranged, safeguarded in the association's archive and transmitted to the local ordinary as needed or required by norm of law.²⁰
23. 1° Each household will elect one of its members to serve on the council of the association. The council gives advice and consent to the moderator and joins him in overseeing the life of the association. Council members' terms of office are coterminous with that of the moderator.
2° Ex officio members of the council include the moderator, formation director, and others as the moderator deems necessary.
24. The moderator must obtain the consent (simple majority)²¹ of the council to:
 - a. admit members into definitive commitment;
 - b. appoint a formation director for candidates;
 - c. extend the period of temporary commitment of a member;
 - d. enact new norms for the association;
 - e. refuse offerings given to the association;
 - f. place an act of extraordinary administration;
 - g. extend the period of temporary separation of a definitively committed member;
 - h. readmit a member who has departed the association;
 - i. dismiss a member from the association, having consulted the diocesan bishop;
 - j. dismiss a member in a serious situation when immediate dismissal is warranted.
25. The moderator must consult²² the council to:
 - a. admit candidates into the association, with the consent of the diocesan bishop or his delegate;
 - b. assign candidates and members to fraternities;
 - c. extend the period of candidacy;
 - d. admit members into temporary commitment;
 - e. convoke the entire association in a plenary session;
 - f. place significant acts of ordinary administration, having heard the finance council, in accordance with the norms and bylaws of the association;

¹⁸ C. 1280.

¹⁹ Cc. 1281-1298.

²⁰ C. 482 §1.

²¹ C. 127 §2 1°.

²² C. 127 §2 2°.

- g. allow the temporary separation of a definitively committed member;
- h. grant departure of a definitively committed member, having consulted the diocesan bishop;
- i. begin the process of dismissing a member.

4. Meetings of the Association²³

- 26. Aside from the monthly meeting of the council, the members with the candidates of the association will meet once a year to discuss significant issues concerning the association and any other matters that impact the association's life.
- 27. The members and candidates of the association will meet monthly, usually in conjunction with the council meeting, for prayer and fellowship.
- 28. The members (and candidates, when possible) as a community will make their annual canonical retreat together, attend regular seasonal retreats (such as during Advent and Lent), and meet together for an annual conference and/or other assemblies as agreed upon by the moderator and the council.
- 29. When the situation warrants, the moderator may convoke, according to the norms of these statutes and the association's bylaws, the entire association in a plenary session.

5. Hierarchical Accountability

- 30. The moderator will work in close collaboration with the diocesan bishop who, as proper pastor of the diocese, is responsible for ordering the association's apostolate according to its character and the common good.²⁴
- 31. The diocesan bishop may delegate a trustee to direct the association temporarily in special, grave circumstances.²⁵
- 32. As a private juridic person, the association is subject to ordinary episcopal visitation according to the norm of law.²⁶

6. Revision of the Statutes and Promulgation of Other Norms

- 33. All revisions of these statutes must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the members and are valid only with the approval of the diocesan bishop.²⁷
- 34. The moderator may issue other norms according to the needs of the association (known hereinafter as bylaws), with the consent of the council and in conformity with these statutes.²⁸

²³ C. 309.

²⁴ Cc. 315; 394 §1.

²⁵ C. 318 §1.

²⁶ C. 397 §1.

²⁷ Cc. 119 2º; 314.

²⁸ Cc. 95, 309.

7. The Temporal Goods of the Association

35. As a juridic person, the association is capable of acquiring, possessing, administering, and alienating temporal goods for the proper purposes of the association.
36. The administration of the temporal good of the association will conform to particular law, and the following norms. As a private association of the faithful, the association is not bound to the norms of *Book V* of the *Code of Canon Law* except as the statutes require.
37. The association is required to have a treasurer, distinct from the moderator, who is to manage the administration of goods under the direction of the moderator. As far as possible, each household should also have a treasurer distinct from the household leader.
38. The treasurer submits an annual budget to the moderator²⁹ as well as renders an account to the moderator of receipts and expenditures at the end of each year.³⁰ A copy of this account is forwarded by the moderator to the local ordinary.
39. The prescripts of canons 1283-1284 of the *Code of Canon Law* are to be observed by the moderator and the treasurer in the execution of their offices.
40. In order to refuse a substantial offering, the moderator or treasurer, must receive the consent of the council. In order to accept a conditioned offering, the same consent must be obtained.
41. The moderator or treasurer invalidly places acts which exceed the limits and manner of ordinary administration without the consent of the council and of the local ordinary when required by particular law or the association's bylaws.³¹
42. Extraordinary administration refers to the following acts:
 - ° the purchase of immovable property, the relocation of artistic or historical works, and acts involving civil litigation;
 - ° alienation of goods or funds whose value constitutes more than 5% of the association's annual income in the previous year, or \$25,000, whichever is higher.
- §2. All acts of extraordinary administration must receive the consent of the council and be confirmed by the diocesan bishop. In other matters of greater importance not listed in these norms, the association's council must be heard.
43. Additional norms regarding temporal goods are established by the Finance Council Appendix. Promulgation and modification of this Appendix requires the consent of the council.

D. Membership in the Association

1. Qualifications for Membership³²

²⁹ C. 1284 §3.

³⁰ C. 1284 §2 8°.

³¹ C. 1281 §1.

³² C. 304 §1.

44. Any major seminarian or validly incardinated presbyter of the Archdiocese of Denver may petition the moderator for admission to candidacy in the association.
45. The moderator, having heard the council and, with the consent of the diocesan bishop, may admit an applicant into formation as a candidate.
46. The moderator, with the consent of the council, may suspend admission of all candidates for a period not to exceed one year.
47. Aside from those requirements for admission to ordained ministry or seminary studies established by universal and particular law,³³ candidates for membership in the association must have the health, suitable character, and maturity to embrace the proper life of the association.
48. Fidelity to the institute consists not only in observance of the practical obligations, but also in striving by ongoing conversion for that perfection in charity to which Christ call us. A faithful member of the institute will be a man of prayer, nourished by meditation on the Scriptures and the celebration of the Eucharist.³⁴ His life will be marked by obedience, chastity and poverty according to the ideal of the institute, but not limited by the minimum requirements. He will exhibit Christ's heart for reconciliation in his ministry. He will actively support the fraternal life of the institute.

2. Formation of Candidates and Members³⁵

49. The period of candidacy will last for at least three years, during which time the candidate will participate in the life of a household as a resident, for three consecutive or non-consecutive years.
50. Candidates will commit to candidacy in one year increments, which shall be renewed annually until candidacy is completed..
51. In addition to the association's program of formation, seminarian-candidates for membership in the association will follow the seminary's program of priestly formation.
52. Seminarian-candidates of the Companions fall under the authority of the rector of the seminary in those areas which pertain to academic, spiritual and pastoral formation prescribed for any candidate seeking incardination into the archdiocese.
53. Candidates are responsible for their own personal expenses, but contribute voluntarily to the association.
54. A candidate may freely leave the association at any time; moreover the moderator may dismiss a candidate at any time for a just cause, having heard the formation director.
55. Candidates completing three years of residency but not yet ready for temporary commitment are called provisional members; they may remain as provisional members until making temporary commitment, for a period not to exceed three years. Provisional members have a voice but no vote in the association's proceedings.
56. In order to make a temporary commitment, the candidate must be recommended by his fraternal group, household, and the association's formation director. The moderator, having

³³ C. 241 §1.

³⁴ Cf. *PO* 13b,c; *AAS* 58 (1966) 1012.

³⁵ C. 308.

heard the council, will admit the candidate into temporary commitment; otherwise the candidate is to depart.

57. Only a cleric may make a temporary commitment in the association; through temporary profession one is incorporated as a member into the association with the rights and duties defined by law.³⁶

58. One assumes temporary commitment by reciting the following consecration:

*God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
in response to your call,
I unite myself to the priesthood of Christ
as minister of his sacrifice.
As he did, I consecrate myself to you
for the salvation of the world,
in the service of diocesan life,
following Christ ever more closely
in filial obedience, priestly chastity, and evangelical poverty.
I promise to live these three counsels
for this next year
as provided for in the statutes of the association
“The Companions of Christ,”
for the service of the Archdiocese of Denver
in which I exercise my ministry,
in dependence upon my Archbishop,
united with all the Church and its head,
the Roman Pontiff, Servant of the Servants of God.
May the Spirit of Love preserve in me
the strength to live this offering
which I place under the protection of Mary,
Mother of God and our Mother.
This I ask through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever, Amen.*³⁷

59. A member remains in temporary commitment for three years, renewing the commitment annually. If it seems opportune, however, the moderator, with the consent of the council, can extend the period of temporary commitment for up to three additional years.

60. Members in temporary commitment are responsible for their own finances and to contribute to the expenses of their households and to the institute; they are voting members at the annual meeting and have active voice in the election of the moderator.

61. When the period for temporary commitment has elapsed, a member who freely petitions and is judged suitable by the moderator and the council is to be admitted to definitive commitment; otherwise the member is to depart.

62. In order to make a definitive commitment, the member must be recommended by his fraternal group and admitted by the moderator, with the consent of the council. Members in definitive commitment are responsible for their own finances and contribute to the expenses

³⁶ C. 306.

³⁷ C. 307 §1.

of their fraternities and to the institute; they are voting members at the annual meeting and have both active and passive voice in the election of the moderator.

63. A member assumes definitive commitment with the following form of consecration:

*God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
in response to your call,
I unite myself to the priesthood of Christ
as minister of his sacrifice.
As he did, I consecrate myself to you
for the salvation of the world,
in the service of diocesan life,
following Christ ever more closely
in filial obedience, priestly chastity, and evangelical poverty.
I promise to live these three counsels
until death
as provided for in the statutes of the association
“The Companions of Christ,”
for the service of the Archdiocese of Denver,
in which I exercise my ministry,
in dependence upon my Archbishop,
united with all the Church and its head,
the Roman Pontiff, Servant of the Servants of God.
May the Spirit of Love preserve in me
the strength to live this offering
which I place under the protection of Mary,
Mother of God and our Mother.
This I ask through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.*

3. Membership at erection

64. Those seminarians and clerics aspiring to membership at the time of the association’s erection are to be approved by the diocesan bishop, who is to appoint the initial moderator for the association.
65. Those members who commit themselves to the association at its erection are to make a commitment for a period of three years, consummate with the *ad experimentum* period of the association’s approval.
66. Though initial commitment will be only for the duration of the *ad experimentum* period, initial members are to be seen as definitively incorporated in the association for all purposes related to statutory regulation.
67. Members who commit themselves to the association at the time of incorporation do so with the following form of consecration:
- God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
in response to your call,
I ask to one day unite myself to the priesthood of Christ
as minister of his sacrifice.
As he did, I consecrate myself to you*

*for the salvation of the world,
in the service of diocesan life,
following Christ ever more closely
in filial obedience, priestly chastity, and evangelical poverty.
I promise to live these three counsels
as provided for in the statutes of the association
“The Companions of Christ,”
for the service of the Archdiocese of Denver,
in which I will exercise my ministry,
in dependence upon my Archbishop,
united with all the Church and its head,
the Roman Pontiff, Servant of the Servants of God.
May the Spirit of Love preserve in me
the strength to live this offering
which I place under the protection of Mary,
Mother of God and our Mother.
This I ask through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.*

68. All subsequent members who commit themselves to the association prior to permanent erection period are to commit themselves for the duration of the *ad experimentum* period.

E. Obligations and Rights of Members

69. Out of a desire for a more complete configuration to Christ and for greater freedom for pastoral charity, members make a total consecration of their lives to God by means of the evangelical counsels: obedience, chastity, and poverty.³⁸ They make these promises according to the consecration provided in articles 50 and 55 of these statutes in the presence of the moderator or his delegate.

1. Obedience

70. As a participation in the humility of Christ and as an extension of filial obedience to the diocesan bishop, members promise an obedience that is apostolic, communal, and pastoral.
71. Members recognize, love, and serve the Church in her hierarchical structure, and so reaffirm first and foremost their filial obedience to the supreme Roman Pontiff and to the diocesan bishop.³⁹
72. Obedience is also deeply a part of the unity of the presbyterium of the diocese, and so members promise to maintain solidarity with their brother presbyters.⁴⁰

³⁸ See *PO* 15-17: *AAS* 58 (1966) 1014-1018.

³⁹ C. 273.

⁴⁰ C. 275 §1.

73. In their life together members promise obedience to the moderator according to *Rule* and the statutes, and will respect the pattern of the association's common life. Furthermore, they will each take responsibility to contribute to the common good of the association and the welfare of their brothers.
74. As ministers of the Church, members promise a constant readiness to serve the needs of the Christian faithful. They are committed to serve the flock under their care and to deal constructively with any tension between their needs and responsibilities to the association.⁴¹

2. Chastity

75. In order to imitate Christ in his very condition of living, to love him with an undivided heart, to be more untrammelled in service of his kingdom, to be better fitted to accept fatherhood in Christ, and to anticipate the marriage feast of the Lamb, members embrace perfect and perpetual continence and celibate chastity as a gift from the Father that they return to him in Christ.⁴²
76. Members promise to take advantage of the opportunity celibate chastity provides for intimacy with Christ, for freedom for pastoral charity and for deep fraternity and friendship with their brothers and with the people of God.
77. Members will exercise prudence, following the rules of ascetical wisdom, in their relationships, approaches to the media, and conduct, so as best to preserve their fidelity and the integrity of this gift.⁴³

3. Poverty

78. Members embrace evangelical poverty: as a participation in the poverty of Christ, who offered himself totally from all eternity to the Father and who became poor for humanity's sake, though he was rich; in order to be free from anxiety over the goods of this world; and in order to be free for ministry. They subject all of their goods to the supreme good of God and his kingdom.
79. Members promise to keep for themselves only what is necessary for service and for the reasonable care of their persons. Each member will make decisions about what he owns in consultation with the brothers in his fraternal group and household.
80. Members pledge complete honesty in the administration of the temporal goods of the Church and the association.
81. Members will be generous with their resources. They will tithe five percent of their income to the parish or institution to which they are assigned and an additional five percent of their income to the association. They will also be generous in the giving of alms to those in need.⁴⁴ Insofar as possible, all stipends from sacramental ministry are to be given to the poor, as determined by the *bylaws*.

⁴¹ C. 275 §2.

⁴² C. 277 §1.

⁴³ C. 277 §2.

⁴⁴ C. 282 §2.

82. Members will contribute to the common needs of the association according to the decisions of the moderator and the council.
83. The residences, clothing, and personal property of members will be reasonable in style, durable for use, and simple in appearance. They wish to put aside appearance of vanity and to banish ostentation in their surrounding.⁴⁵

4. Apostolate

84. As supporters of the diocesan apostolate, members participate in collective actions that provide the opportunity to take on certain challenges that members might not be able to assume individually.⁴⁶ They bring a concern for evangelization and catechesis to every assignment they receive. Furthermore, the fraternal communion of the members of the association witnesses to the love and generosity of Christ.
85. Keeping in mind the association's communion of life and concern for evangelization and catechesis, members are eager to serve in a variety of ways: parish ministry together in one parish, or in parishes in geographical proximity to one another; in university or secondary campus ministry; teaching in Catholic schools, colleges, or seminaries; founding new parishes or working with existing parishes; or in other ways that the diocesan bishop deems suitable to nature, spirit, and apostolic focus of the association.
86. The association will endeavor to support the brotherhood of the archdiocesan presbyterate through active service and ministry in this regard.
87. The association is eager to promote and cooperate with those lay movements and communities engaged in evangelization.

5. Communal Life

88. In addition to the obligations of all clerics,⁴⁷ candidates and members take on the following:
- a. Daily holy hour with morning prayer by households;
 - b. Weekly celebration of Saturday evening prayer and meal by households;
 - c. Two additional meals each week by households;
 - d. One meeting per month as a fraternal group to review life;
 - e. Monthly gatherings of the association for prayer and fellowship;
 - f. Annual meetings, retreats, and other compulsory meetings of the association.
89. Members who, for whatever reason, are not able to reside with a household are exempt from article 85 a, c, and d.

6. Fraternal Correction

⁴⁵ C. 282 §1.

⁴⁶ Cc. 215, 278, 298.

⁴⁷ Cc. 273-289.

90. Those candidates and members who violate universal or particular law or the provisions of these statutes are to be admonished by the leader of the fraternal group. If the violation is more serious, the matter shall be referred to the moderator who will make the initial admonition.
91. If the initial admonition—whether of the fraternal group leader or of the moderator—fails, the matter is to be referred to the moderator who will make a second admonishment. If the second admonition is in vain, the moderator consults with the council to determine if dismissal is warranted.
92. The moderator, having heard the council, can initiate the process of dismissal according to the norm of law and these statutes.

F. Separation of Members from the Association

1. Withdrawal

93. A candidate may withdraw from the association at any time.
94. A member in temporary commitment, with the consent of the moderator and having consulted the diocesan bishop, may withdraw at the end of his annual commitment or earlier.
95. A member who has made a definitive commitment may request to withdraw from the association for personal reasons, including but not limited to being called to another vocation, having made an error of choice, or discerning the incapacity to live the ideal of the association. This request is subject to the approval of the moderator, having heard the council and consulted the diocesan bishop.
96. The moderator, with the consultation of the council, may allow a definitely-committed member to live temporarily outside of a fraternity, and to forego any or all of the obligations of the association, for a period not to exceed three years, without prejudice to the member's pastoral obligations and the wishes of the diocesan bishop. To extend this temporary separation requires the consent of the council.
97. A person who has withdrawn from the association may be readmitted by the moderator with the consent of the council, without the obligation of repeating the full period of candidacy. However, the moderator, with the council's consent may require a suitable period of formation not to exceed two years.

2. Dismissal⁴⁸

98. A member is held to be dismissed from the association *ipso facto* who:
 - ° has defected notoriously from the Catholic faith, defected from ecclesiastical communion, or been punished by imposed or declared excommunication;
 - ° has contracted marriage or attempted it, even if only civilly;
 - ° has lost the clerical state or been dismissed from priestly formation, even if this dismissal was voluntary;

⁴⁸ C. 308.

- §2. In these cases, after proofs have been collected, the moderator with the council is to issue a declaration of fact to the diocesan bishop, who is to confirm the dismissal, so that the dismissal is established juridically.
99. A definitively-committed member must be dismissed who is found in violation of the delicts mentioned in canons 1395, 1397, and 1398, unless, in the case of the delicts mentioned in canon 1395 §2, the moderator decides, with the consent of the council and the local ordinary, that dismissal is not necessary and that correction of the member, restitution of justice, and reparation of the scandal can be resolved sufficiently in another way.
 100. A member can also be dismissed for other causes provided they are grave, external, imputable, and juridically proven, such as: habitual neglect of member obligations within the association; repeated violations of a member's promises; repeated disobedience to the legitimate prescripts of the moderator in a grave matter; grave scandal arising from the culpable behavior of the member; stubborn upholding or diffusion of doctrines condemned by the magisterium of the Church; public adherence to ideologies infected by materialism or atheism; and other causes of similar gravity which the association's bylaws may determine.
 101. Once the moderator, having heard the council, believes a definitively-committed member is in violation of article 97, he must proceed according to the norm of law and the following statutes.
 - 1° In the cases mentioned in article 96, if the moderator, having heard the council, decides that a process of dismissal must begin against a member, the moderator shall:
 - a. collect and/or complete the proofs; and
 - b. warn the member in writing or before two witnesses with an explicit threat of subsequent dismissal unless the member reforms, with the cause for dismissal clearly indicated and full opportunity for self-defense and recourse, and suitable time to respond and/or reform given to the member.
 - 2° Causes of similar nature but of even lesser gravity are sufficient to dismiss a member in temporary promises.
 103. If the warning fails to result in a satisfactory change, the moderator issues another warning after an intervening space of at least fifteen days.
 104. If the second warning also fails and the moderator with the consent of the council decides that the defenses of the member are insufficient, after fifteen days having elapsed from the second warning, the moderator and the council are to dismiss the member.
 105. The decree of dismissal is to be presented to the dismissed member and must indicate the right he has to make recourse within ten days from receiving notification of dismissal. The recourse has suspensive effect.
 106. The dismissal of a definitively-committed member of the association must be confirmed by the diocesan bishop, to whom the acts must be transmitted.
 107. In the case of grave external scandal or most grave imminent harm to the association, a member can be expelled immediately from a fraternity of the association by the moderator with the consent of the local ordinary, or, if there is grave danger in delay, by the moderator with the consent of the council.

G. Suppression/Extinction of the Association

108. A request for suppression of the association may be made to the diocesan bishop only with the approval of all members of the association. The diocesan bishop can suppress the association only for grave reasons, having heard the moderator and the council.⁴⁹
109. The association is extinguished if it ceases to act for a hundred years.⁵⁰
110. Should the association be suppressed or extinguished according to the norm of law, the acquired rights of the association and wishes of the donors being observed, the association's remaining temporal goods are to be assigned to St. John Vianney Theological Seminary of the Archdiocese of Denver for promoting the ministries of evangelization, priestly formation, and catechesis.⁵¹

⁴⁹ C. 320 §§2, 3.

⁵⁰ C. 120 §1.

⁵¹ C. 123.

Appendix A: Norms for the Election of the Moderator⁵²

- A1. Without prejudice to the situation of those incapable of voting,⁵³ all members of the association who are at least in temporary commitment have active voice (able to vote) in the election of the moderator. All members of the association who have made a definitive commitment have both active voice and passive voice (able to be elected) in the election of the moderator.
- A2. Legitimately absent members possessing active voice may vote by proxy, according to the norm of law. If they vote by proxy, they must notify the secretary of their choice of proxy.⁵⁴ If the legitimately absent members do not wish to vote, they must convey their intention to the secretary. If an elector is in the house where the election occurs but cannot be present at the election due to ill health, his written vote is to be sought by the tellers.⁵⁵
- A3. Within three months prior to the expiration of the moderator's term of office, or within three months of his resignation or removal from office, the moderator, or, in his absence, the member most senior by date of ordination, appoints a president and secretary to conduct the election for moderator.⁵⁶
- A4. Unless specific provision has been made otherwise, the president determines the date and time for the election of the moderator. The secretary will transmit this information promptly to all members possessing active voice. The secretary will also notify the diocesan bishop and invite him or his delegate to observe the election.⁵⁷
- A5. On the day of the election, with all the members of the association present, prior to the election a votive Mass of the Holy Spirit is celebrated as liturgical norms permit.
- A6. The election follows the Mass either immediately or after a recess established by the president. When the time for the election arrives, those members with active voice assemble in the location designated by the president. The secretary assures that there are sufficient ballots and pens for the members.
- A7. Once the members are assembled and without prejudice to the persons named in A2., all others withdraw, the secretary calls the roll, and he records the names of all those who are present. The secretary ensures that at least two-thirds of the eligible voting members are present (quorum). If the number of electors is insufficient, the president must declare the election null and determine another date and time for a new election.⁵⁸
- A8. With the roll call having concluded, the electors together take the prescribed oath:

⁵² Cc. 164; 309.

⁵³ C. 171.

⁵⁴ C. 167 §1.

⁵⁵ C. 167 §2.

⁵⁶ C. 165.

⁵⁷ C. 166 §1.

⁵⁸ Cc. 166 §3; 169.

*We, the elector members of the Companions of Christ
present in this election of our moderator,
promise, as individuals and as a group,
to observe faithfully the prescriptions for election
contained in our statutes.
We likewise promise
that whichever of us is elected moderator, upon accepting the office,
will commit himself faithfully to carrying out this office.
We also promise faithful obedience to the one we elect.
In a particular way,
we promise to observe secrecy
with all persons and with the greatest fidelity
regarding everything that in any way
relates to the election of the moderator
and regarding what occurs in the place of the election,
directly or indirectly related to the results of this voting.
May the Spirit of Love guide us in our deliberations
which we place under the protection of Mary,
Mother of God and our Mother,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

- A9. The president then selects two tellers from among the assembled members by lot.⁵⁹
- A10. The president, or one appointed by him, reads a suitable text from sacred scripture or from the *Rule* of the association.
- A11. Following the reading, the balloting is taken. If the number of ballots equals or is less than the number of electors, the president orders the tellers to open the ballots. If the ballots exceed the number of the electors, the ballots are set aside to be destroyed. Such an invalid balloting does not count in the number of ballotings permitted.⁶⁰
- A12. After each ballot has been opened, read aloud, and passed to the other teller for verification, it is passed to the president. If any question arises concerning the validity or the meaning of a ballot, the tellers ask the president for a decision.⁶¹
- A13. For the election of the moderator a two-thirds majority of votes is necessary. If on the first balloting no one receives a two-thirds majority, a second vote is initiated. If that fails, a third is initiated. If the third vote does not effect an election, a fourth vote is taken. However, in this fourth balloting only those two who have obtained the most votes on the third balloting are eligible. Moreover, they do not have active voice on this balloting.⁶²
- A14. When the ballots have been counted and the required majority has been reached, the secretary asks the president to declare an election. The president notifies the elected

⁵⁹ C. 173 §1.

⁶⁰ C. 173 §3.

⁶¹ C. 173 §2.

⁶² C. 176.

member. The president may call for a recess of up to an hour for the elected member to consider his decision.⁶³

- A15. If the elected member refuses the election, a new election must begin immediately, the norms prescribed in A11. being observed. The member who refuses election does not regain the right to the office if he subsequently accepts, but can be elected again.⁶⁴
- A16. 1° If the elected member accepts the office of moderator of the Companions of Christ, the president notifies the diocesan bishop, and the election must be confirmed by the diocesan bishop within eight useful days from the day of the acceptance of the election and according to the norm of law.⁶⁵ The newly-elected moderator assumes office immediately upon being confirmed by the diocesan bishop.
2° If the member elected is not present during the election, his acceptance is presumed. As soon as possible the president notifies the new-elected member who, upon notification, has up to an hour to consider his decision. If he refuses, the president determines a date for a new election and the process resumes as indicated in A11.
- A17. All the acts of the election are to be transcribed accurately by the secretary and are to be preserved carefully in the association's archives after they have been signed by the same secretary, the president, and the two tellers. The tellers are to destroy all the ballots used in the election.⁶⁶

⁶³ C. 177 §1.

⁶⁴ C. 177 §2.

⁶⁵ C. 179.

⁶⁶ C. 173 §4.