

**CURIA GENERALIZIA DEI FRATI MINORI CAPPUCCINI**

**STATUTE FOR**

**INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY**

**Curia Generale dei Frati Minori Cappuccini  
March 1999**

## **PRESENTATION**

- 1.1 “Franciscan solidarity is a broad reality. It includes responsibility for every person and respect for the integrity of all creation.” (CPOVI, 28). The present document treats one aspect of solidarity, namely, the economic interdependence of the circumscriptions of our Order.
- 1.2 Economic solidarity between circumscriptions of our Order is not a new reality. For many years this solidarity was founded upon the fraternal and juridic relationship existing between the Provinces and their various missions. While these structures served the Order well in the past, they began to seriously falter after 1980 when large regions of the Order in Asia, Africa and Latin America became autonomous circumscriptions of the Order. Another recent challenge is posed by the needs of our fraternities in those countries which have emerged following the collapse of communism. There now exists a sizable part of the Order with considerably less ability to respond to the needs of the brothers and its ministries than in other parts of the Order. This calls for new structures to respond to new fraternal, juridic, and economic realities within the Order.

## **THE NATURE AND THE PRINCIPLES OF SOLIDARITY**

- 2.1 The structures of international economic solidarity within our Order create deeper awareness of our international brotherhood, stronger bonds of Capuchin fraternal unity throughout the world, and a model of just and equitable sharing within the Church and society:

“Solidarity is not primarily about giving things to others. It is mutual dependence and brotherhood. The culture of solidarity creates new ways of understanding and living relationships with others. By going among the lepers, Francis changed his way of relating to them. To be in solidarity means taking care of each brother and sister, especially of those who are excluded from sharing in the benefits of society. Listening to the cry of the poor, we must work to ensure that global solidarity becomes a new social order.” (CPOVI, Prop. 22)
- 2.2 We embrace international economic solidarity because it expresses the unity and fraternal interdependence of our Capuchin Franciscan brotherhood:

“The sharing of gifts among the various local churches is one of the essential dimensions of catholicity (LG13). For St. Francis the sharing of goods goes beyond legal obligation and enters the realm of mutual love: *‘If a mother nourishes and loves her natural son (cf. 1Thes. 2,7), how much more should one love and cherish his brother according to the spirit?’*. ... Fraternal communion and interdependence should inspire and determine our structures of solidarity within the local, provincial and international fraternities, as well as our interaction with the world, particularly the world of the poor.” (CPOVI, Prop. 21)

2.3 The following guidelines give concrete expression to our fraternal interdependence and to a just and equitable sharing of resources between circumscriptions:

- a) Since our Order is a brotherhood, solidarity flows from fraternity to fraternity, rather than from one individual to another. (CPOVI, 24 a )
- b) Since gospel poverty roots us in a particular culture and binds us to a given people, international solidarity should neither uproot nor compromise our cultural bonds. ( CPOVI, 24 b )
- c) As a fraternity rooted in many cultures, we seek equity rather than equality. Equity requires that each Province should have the capacity to respond to the needs of its brothers and ministries in ways that are tailor-made to its own culture and people. We do not seek to establish one Capuchin lifestyle throughout the world. At the same time, brothers in any part of the world must be freed from misery and enjoy acceptable living conditions. (CPOVI, 24 c )
- d) The principle of subsidiarity requires that no Province has the right to ask of another that which the labors of its own brothers and the alms of its own people can provide. (CPOVI, 24 d )
- e) Franciscan solidarity goes beyond law and justice. It flows from the generosity of fraternal love. (CPOVI, 24 e )
- f) Effective solidarity requires transparency, both on the part of the giver and the receiver. (CPOVI, 24 f )
- g) International solidarity should reflect the spirit of number 67(.4,6,7) of our *Constitutions*:
  - “Goods not needed by a fraternity should be handed over either to the Major Superior for the needs of the jurisdiction, or to the poor, or for the development of peoples.” (67.4) (Cfr. CPOVI, 24 g)
  - “The individual fraternities of the same area and even the provinces of the Order should be ready to share their goods or necessities among themselves and with others in case of necessity.” (67.6)
  - “It is the responsibility of the general minister with the consent of the definitory to dispose of the surplus goods of the provinces.” (67.7)
- h) The animation of solidarity between circumscriptions should continue to take account of historical fraternal relationships between circumscriptions. (CPOVI, 24 g )

## ***FUNDS AND FUNDING OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY***

- 3.1 “Wherever the brothers may be and meet one another, let them show that they are members of the same family. Let each one confidently make known his need to the other, for if a mother loves and cares for her son according to the flesh (cf. 1Thes 2,7), how much more diligently must someone love and care for his brother according to the Spirit.” (RB VI, 7,8)

In order to respond to the spirit of our *Rule*, in keeping with the *Nature and Principles of Solidarity* outlined above, and in order to comply with the intention of our donors, ***Curia Generalizia dei Frati Minori Cappuccini*** has the following ***designated funds*** for international solidarity within the Order:

### **Boni Pastoris Mater Fund**

- 4.1 In keeping with the intention of the donors to the mission outreach of our Order, the monies within this designated fund may be used to respond to the following fraternal, apostolic and charitable purposes exclusively in Asia, Africa and Latin America:
- a) implantation of the Capuchin Franciscan charism;
  - b) assistance to the Capuchin Poor Clares;
  - c) Capuchin Franciscan apostolic and missionary works;
  - d) social projects in support of the poor;
  - e) assistance to the brothers and sisters of the Franciscan family and the spread of the Franciscan charism in the Church and in society.
- 4.2 The ***Boni Pastoris Mater Fund*** receives the following income:
- a) Annual mission contributions of the Provinces and Vice Provinces of the Order as determined by the General Definitory (cf. Prot. N. 00787/91).
  - b) Annual return of the charitable investment reserve entitled ***Capuchin Mission Reserve*** as determined by the Board of Directors of *Capuchin Friars International, Inc.* and the General Definitory.
  - c) Annual return of the charitable investment reserve entitled ***Stiftung zur Unterstützung ausl. Kapuzinermissionen*** as determined by the Board of Directors and the General Definitory.
  - d) Funding of charitable and ecclesiastical agencies.
  - e) Spontaneous offerings by the various Provinces and other circumscriptions of our Order.
  - f) Spontaneous offerings of the faithful.

### **St. Felix of Cantalice Fund**

- 5.1 The ***St. Felix of Cantalice Fund*** exists to meet the needs of fraternal solidarity within the entire Order. The monies within this designated fund may be used to respond to the following fraternal purposes:
- a) The needs of the fraternities and circumscriptions;
  - b) The care of our elderly brothers and sick brothers;
  - c) The initial and ongoing formation needs of the circumscriptions;
  - d) Assistance to the Capuchin Poor Clares;
  - e) Capuchin Franciscan apostolic works which local churches and local benefactors are clearly unable to sustain.
- 5.2 The ***St. Felix of Cantalice Fund*** receives the following income:
- a) Spontaneous offerings by the various Provinces and other circumscriptions of our Order.

- b) Spontaneous offerings from the faithful.
- c) Annual return from the charitable investment reserve entitled *Capuchin Formation Reserve* as determined by the Board of Directors of *Capuchin Friars International Inc.* and the General Definitory.
- d) Funding of charitable and ecclesiastical agencies:
- e) Monies from the general revenues of the Order as specified by the General Definitory.

### **St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fund**

- 6.1 The monies within this designated fund may be used to respond to the following needs of the International College of St. Lawrence of Brindisi (Rome, Italy):
- a) to provide scholarship burses in payment of the costs of room and board for Capuchin students when their own jurisdictions are unable to pay;
  - b) to provide scholarship burses for study at Roman Universities for Capuchin students from jurisdictions unable to cover these expenses.
- 6.2 The *St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fund* receives the following income:
- a) Study burses offered by the various Provinces and other circumscriptions of our Order;
  - b) Annual returns from the charitable investment reserve entitled *International College Reserve* as determined by the Board of Directors of *Capuchin Friars International Inc.* and the General Definitory.
  - c) Monies from the general revenues of the Order as specified by the General Definitory.
- 7.1 NB. Mass stipends are also an expression of solidarity. Mass stipends are distributed within the Order in keeping with the norms of the Church. A list of the stipends distributed by the General Curia is available to the *International Commission for Economic Solidarity*.

## **STRUCTURES OF SOLIDARITY**

- 8.1 In order to ensure that the needs of the various circumscriptions will be treated fraternally and equitably, the General Definitory has established an *Office of Economic Solidarity* and an *International Commission for Economic Solidarity*.

### **Office of Economic Solidarity**

- 9.1 The *Office of Economic Solidarity* shall consist of the Project Manager(s), the

Promoter of Solidarity, and a Secretary. A General Definitor shall serve as President of the Office.

### **Project Manager(s)**

- 9.2 It is the role of the Project Manager(s) to study requests for assistance arriving to the *Boni Pastoris Mater Fund* or to the *St. Felix of Cantalice Fund*.
- a) The Project Manager(s) shall judge whether each assistance request complies with the *Nature and Principles of Solidarity* and with any other criteria which may from time to time be established by the General Definitory.
  - b) The Project Manager(s) may consult the Promoter of Solidarity and the General Definitors of the respective regions regarding the various projects. For larger or more complicated requests, the Project Manager(s) may personally or through another delegated for the purpose, make visits to clarify and define the need. Such visits shall be made after consultation with the General Definitor of the region and with the permission of the General Minister.
  - c) The Project Manager(s) shall maintain contact with other International Funding Agencies in order to:
    - Remain informed as to the criteria for each agency;
    - Discuss and negotiate agency funding for Capuchin needs;
    - Negotiate joint funding proposals with these agencies.
  - d) When appropriate, the Project Manager(s) shall receive and study reports on projects completed with assistance of either the *Boni Pastoris Mater Fund* or of the *St. Felix of Cantalice Fund*.
  - e) The Project Manager(s) shall meet frequently (several times each year) and shall present the various projects together with their recommendations to the *International Commission for Economic Solidarity*.
  - f) In cases of urgency, the Project Manager(s) may present projects directly to the *Office of Economic Solidarity*. In such cases, the *Office of Economic Solidarity* may by-pass the *International Commission for Economic Solidarity* and present requests directly to the General Definitory.

### **Promoter of Solidarity**

- 9.3 It is the role of the *Promoter of Solidarity* to promote the values, principles and practice of solidarity within the Order.
- a) The Promoter of Solidarity shall remain informed as to the needs of the circumscriptions of the Order, and especially those circumscriptions with ongoing need for international assistance. For this reason, he shall make periodic visits to these regions. Such visits shall be made after consultation with the General Definitor of the region and with the permission of the General Minister.
  - b) The Promoter of Solidarity shall be kept informed of the projects and requests for assistance as well as the ongoing work of the Project Manager(s). He may, when consulted or when he deems it appropriate, offer his observations to the Project Manager(s) regarding individual projects or requests for assistance.

He shall attend meetings of the *International Commission for Economic Solidarity* as well as the General Definitory Meetings at which assistance requests are treated.

- c) The Promoter of Solidarity shall maintain contact with the Provinces and circumscriptions of the Order to inform them of the needs of other regions of the Order. When requested, he shall periodically attend meetings of the Conferences of the Order and Mission Secretaries in such a manner that he may explain the solidarity needs and respond to eventual questions and perplexities. Such visits shall be made after consultation with the General Definitory of the region and with the permission of the General Minister.
- d) The Promoter of Solidarity shall animate solidarity within the Order:
  - S By means of visits and letters he shall make known the needs of the various circumscriptions;
  - S Through the Communications Office of the Order (especially BICI and Homepage), he shall keep the Order informed as to the realization of the various projects;
  - S When invited by the various circumscriptions he can animate solidarity within programs of ongoing formation.

### **Secretary of the Office of Economic Solidarity**

- 9.4 The *Secretary of the Office of Economic Solidarity* shall be an Assistant General Treasurer. For all that pertains to financial administration, the Office of International Economic Solidarity shall function as a part of the Office of the General Treasurer.
- a) He shall receive all requests for assistance addressed to the *Boni Pastoris Mater Fund* or to the *St. Felix of Cantalice Fund*.
  - b) The Secretary shall ensure that the assistance request includes all of the information required in order that the Project Manager(s) can properly study the request.
  - c) He shall present the requests to the Project Manager(s) in an orderly fashion and, when appropriate, attend their meetings.
  - d) He shall conserve, coordinate and order all the documentation pertaining to the assistance requests.
  - e) He shall serve as Secretary to the *International Commission for Economic Solidarity*.
  - f) As directed by the President of the *International Commission for Economic Solidarity*, he shall present all requests for assistance, studied by the Project Manager(s), and recommended by the Commission to the General Definitory.
  - g) In consultation with the General Treasurer and under the direction of the General Treasurer, he shall transmit all payments and subsidies approved by the General Definitory.
  - h) He shall regularly inform the Secretary General of the Order regarding the payment of subsidies approved by the General Definitory.

- i) When instructed by the Project Manager(s) or the Promoter of Solidarity , he shall request reports on completed projects.

### **International Commission for Economic Solidarity**

- 10.1 The *International Commission for Economic Solidarity* shall represent all regions of the Order. (Cfr. CPOVI, 24 h ). It shall be composed of between ten and twelve members. Members of the *Office of Economic Solidarity*, except the President, may not function as members of the *International Commission*.
  - a) The members shall be appointed by the General Definitory after consultation with the Presidents of the respective Conferences of the Order.
  - b) The President and Vice President of the Commission shall be appointed by the General Minister with the consent of his Definitory. In the event that one or both are General Definitors of the Order, their membership shall not decrease the number of members appointed from the Conferences.
  - c) The commission shall meet once each year in the month of September.
  - d) The commission shall study and review all assistance requests presented to it by the *Office of Economic Solidarity* and make recommendations to the General Definitory.
  - e) The members shall promote and help animate a deeper appreciation and awareness of the *Nature and Principles of Solidarity* within their various Conferences.

### **Study Burse Commission for the International College of St. Lawrence of Brindisi**

- 11.1 The *Study Burse Commission* shall be composed of the following members: The Rector, Vice Rector and Treasurer of the International College, the Promoter of Solidarity and one General Definitor. The General Definitor shall function as President of the Commission.
  - a) The Commission shall receive and study all requests addressed to the *St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fund*. The commission shall make recommendations directly to the General Definitory.
  - b) The Promoter of Solidarity shall make known the needs of the *St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fund* to the circumscriptions of the Order. He shall also send regular reports on the activities of the Fund to the circumscriptions of the Order.

## **PROCEDURES**

- 12.1 The scope and purpose of each of the accounts shall be scrupulously observed: *Boni Pastoris Mater Fund*, *St. Felix of Cantalice Fund*, and *St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fund*.

- 12.2 Requests for assistance from the *Boni Pastoris Mater Fund* or the *St. Felix of Cantalice Fund* should be sent to the General Curia. The request may be directed either to the General Minister or to the *Office of Economic Solidarity*.
- 12.3 Generally speaking, assistance requests for the *Boni Pastoris Mater Fund* or the *St. Felix of Cantalice Fund* shall be received in the first six months of each calendar year. They shall be studied by the *Office of Economic Solidarity* and presented to the *International Commission for Economic Solidarity* in September, and to the General Definitory in October of each year. Monies shall be dispensed beginning in January of the subsequent year.
- 12.4 In cases of urgency, the *Office of Economic Solidarity* may by-pass the *International Commission for Economic Solidarity* and present requests directly to the General Definitory. The list of requests approved in such fashion shall be presented to the annual meeting of the *International Commission for Economic Solidarity*.
- 12.5 Requests for assistance from the *St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fund* may be made directly to the Rector of the International College or to the Minister General. Circumscriptions are asked to follow procedures indicated by the Study Burse Commission itself.

These statutes have been approved by the Minister General and his definitory on March 23, 1999