

Rule of Life

Congregation
of the Blessed Sacrament

OFFICIAL ENGLISH
TRANSLATION



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CONTENTS

Preface	xi
Decree.....	xv
Abbreviations.....	xvii

RULE OF LIFE

I. CAPTIVATED BY THE LOVE OF GOD

1. The Name of the Congregation.....	5
2. The Founder	6
3. Our Mission	8
4. The Spirit of the Congregation.....	10
5. A Religious Community.....	11

II. THE CALL OF THE GOSPEL

6. A Path Traced Out for Our Communities.....	15
7. A Paschal Community.....	16
8. Unity and Diversity	17
9. Community and Conversion.....	18
10. Community and Mission	19
11. Community Meetings	20
12. Infirm or Elderly Religious	21
13. Death, a Paschal Event	22
14. With Mary	23

III. A RADICAL RESPONSE

15. Religious Profession.....	27
16. Chastity.....	28
17. Poverty.....	29
18. Disposal of Material Goods.....	30
19. Obedience.....	31
20. Search for the Will of God.....	32

IV. 'IN MEMORY OF ME'

21. The Celebration at the Centre.....	35
--	----

1. AROUND THE TABLE OF THE WORD AND THE BREAD

22. The Word of God.....	36
23. The Liturgy of the Hours.....	37
24. The Celebration and Salvation History..	38
25. The Work of Salvation.....	39
26. Eschatological Dimension.....	40
27. Celebration and Life.....	41

2. IN A PROFOUND ATMOSPHERE OF PRAYER

28. Celebration and Prayer.....	42
29. Response to the Presence.....	43
30. In the Dynamism of the Eucharist.....	44
31. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.....	45
32. Participation of the People.....	46

3. AS CHURCH AT THE SERVICE OF THE WORLD

33. Inspired by Our Holy Founder.....	47
34. The Eucharist, Source of Our Mission.....	48
35. In Union with the Church.....	49

36. Prophetic Mission.....	50
37. Mission of Social Involvement.....	51
38. Mission of Unity.....	52
39. At the Service of the Word.....	53
40. Liturgy.....	54
41. At the Service of Parishes and Communities.....	55
42. Centres of Prayer and Retreat.....	56
43. Sharing Our Ideal.....	57
44. At the Service of Priests.....	58
45. The Press and Other Means of Social Communication.....	59

V. A LIFELONG NEED: FORMATION

46. A Lifelong Need.....	63
47. Vocation Apostolate.....	64

1. INITIAL FORMATION

48. Stages.....	65
49. Admission.....	65
50. Directors of Formation.....	66
51. The Role of the Directors.....	67

The Pre-Novitiate

52. Nature.....	68
-----------------	----

The Novitiate

53. Nature and Content.....	69
54. Place and Duration.....	70
55. The Formation Program.....	70
56. Admission to Profession.....	71

Religious Profession

57. Duration and Competent Authority.....	72
---	----

The Scholasticate

58. Nature	73
59. The Formation Program.....	73
60. Admission to Perpetual Profession.....	74

2. LIFELONG FORMATION

61. Necessity and Means	75
-------------------------------	----

**VI. AT THE SERVICE OF
OUR BROTHERS**

1. PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT

62. Exercise of Authority	79
63. The Role of Authority	80
64. Decentralisation	80
65. Co-responsibility and Participation	81
66. Communication.....	82

2. THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT

67. Bond of Unity	83
-------------------------	----

The General Chapter

68. Nature and Purpose.....	83
69. Frequency and Convocation.....	84
70. Composition	84
71. Competence	85

The General Council

72. Composition and Role	88
73. The Superior General – Election.....	89
74. The Superior General – Competence.....	91
75. The General Consultors	92
76. The Vicar General	92
77. Other General Collaborators	93

The Amplified General Council

78. The Amplified General Council	95
---	----

3. THE PROVINCE

79. Nature	96
------------------	----

The Provincial Chapter

80. Convocation	97
81. Composition	98
82. Competence	99

The Provincial Council

83. Composition and Role	100
84. The Provincial Superior.....	100
85. The Provincial Consultors.....	101
86. The Provincial Vicar.....	102
87. The Provincial Treasurer	102

The Amplified Provincial Council

88. Nature and Composition.....	103
89. Provincial Commissions	104
90. Expansion of a Province	104

The Region

91. Nature	105
92. Powers	106

Inter-Provincial Conferences

93. Purpose and Nature.....	107
-----------------------------	-----

4. THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

94. Nature	108
95. The Local Superior.....	109
96. The Local Council.....	110
97. Community Meetings	111

5. THE ADMINISTRATION OF TEMPORAL GOODS	
98. Principles	112
99. Administration	113
6. SEPARATION FROM THE INSTITUTE	
100. Principles to be Observed	114
VII. THE VALUE TO BE ACCORDED TO THE RULE OF LIFE	
101. A Gift to be Accepted	117
FORMULA OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION	
102. Formula of Religious Profession	121

Preface

THE RULE OF LIFE AND VATICAN II

The Second Vatican Council promoted the renewal of religious life and asked the religious Institutes to revise their constitutions (cf. PC 2 & 3).

In response, the Renewal Chapter of 1969/1971 drew up the *Rule of Life*. After being tested within the Institute, then revised, amended and unanimously accepted by the 1981 General Chapter, it was submitted to the Holy See for approbation.

After some required modifications, it was approved by the Holy See on 1 August 1984, the feast of Saint Peter Julian Eymard.¹

From that date the *Rule of Life* replaces the *Constitutions* of our Congregation, interpreting for our times the fundamental inspiration of Saint Peter Julian Eymard. The *General Statutes* which accompany it are drawn up and approved by General Chapters as the concrete application of the *Rule*.

1 Now celebrated on 2 August.

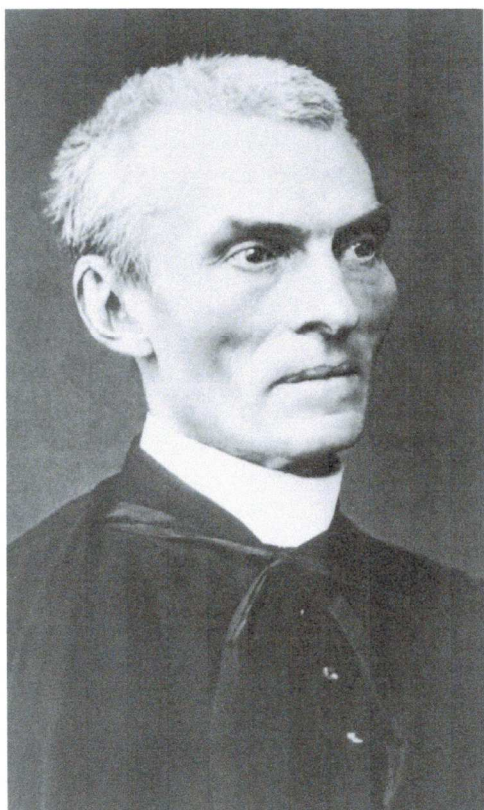
THE RULE OF LIFE AND THE CONSTITUTIONS

Our Founder left several drafts of the *Constitutions*, searching until his death for a better formulation of his charism. The 1864 edition of the *Constitutions* contains Father Eymard's attempt to codify the life of the Institute after the decree of approbation was given on 3 June 1863.

After his death in 1868, several changes were made to the *Constitutions* until they were definitively approved by the Holy See on 8 May 1895. Later on, further minor modifications were made at the request of the Church.

These texts, especially those composed by the Founder and approved by the Holy See, have a special place in the patrimony of the Congregation. Meditated and lived by generations of religious, they represent a spiritual tradition in the life of the Church. They therefore remain an important reference point for us and an abiding source of inspiration.

In accordance with the norms of Vatican II, the *Rule of Life* takes up this living tradition and reinterprets it in new texts. Rooted in the past, it is an authentic expression of our charism. It thus assures stability to our Institute, while remaining open to the future.



Saint Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868)

Decree

SACRA CONGREGATIO
PRO RELIGIOSIS
ET INSTITUTIS SAECULARIBUS

Prot. n. P.14 - 1/81

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, whose general house is in Rome, has inherited from its Founder, Saint Peter Julian Eymard, a new form of consecrated life within the Church. Its mission is to place at the centre of its life and the life of the faithful, the Eucharist celebrated in the truth and internalised in a prayer of adoration and contemplation.

In conformity with the decrees of Vatican Council II and other ecclesiastical documents, the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament drew up a new text of *Constitutions (Rule of Life)* which the Superior General, subsequent to the vote of the Chapter, presented to the Holy See for approbation.

The Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes, after having submitted the text to the study of the Consultors and taking into account the favourable vote of the Congress, approves and confirms the text, with the modifications requested by the same Congress, as contained in the French language copy kept in its archives, on condition that all the requirements of law be observed.

This Congregation expresses the wish that, drawing upon their rich spiritual heritage and faithful to this *Rule of Life*, the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament will be authentic witnesses to the renewing power of the Eucharist for Church and society.

Given at Rome, August 1, 1984, on the feast of Saint Peter Julian Eymard.

† V. FAGIOLO
Secr.

† Fr J. HAMER O.P.
Pro-Pref.

Abbreviations

Can.	<i>Codex Iuris Canonici</i> (1983)
Const.	<i>Constitutiones Congregationis Sanctissimi Sacramenti</i> (1962)
EM	Instruction: <i>Eucharisticum Mysterium</i> (25 May 1967)
ET	Apostolic Exhortation: <i>Evangelica Testificatio</i> (29 June 1971)
LG	Conciliar Constitution: <i>Lumen Gentium</i> (21 November 1964)
PC	Conciliar Decree: <i>Perfectae Caritatis</i> (28 October 1965)
RR	Roman Ritual: <i>De Sacra Communione et de Cultu Mysterii Eucharistici extra Missam</i> (21 June 1973)
SC	Conciliar Constitution: <i>Sacrosanctum Concilium</i> (4 December 1963)
S. 2	General Archives: Series S, vol. 2, p. 244.

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