

The following are the decisions made by the XXV General Chapter on formation. The decisions are introduced as:

IV.

FORMATION OF THE APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY,

"The Congregation is continually in process of formation and development"

(Cons. 82).

In a world that is evolving and changing dramatically, the General Chapter was well aware of the need to promote formation in the Redemptorist Charism that is serious, interdisciplinary and continuous. Each Redemptorist Missionary is called to give witness to his own vocation through a life-long process of being formator and being formed. (Cf. Cons. 77). An integral formation that synthesizes life and knowledge will better enable us to be more authentic in our mission in the world and in the Church.

DECISIONS 29 TO 37

29. Vocation Ministry as an authentic priority

Vocation Ministry must be a priority in the pastoral planning of all Units and local communities, ensuring that the necessary personnel and material resources are made available in order to realize the objectives of this ministry.

Every Unit, by itself or in collaboration with other Units, will appoint fulltime Vocation Promoters who will work together as a team to promote the Redemptorist missionary vocation.

In the promotion of the Redemptorist missionary vocation, special attention is to be given to the promotion of the vocation of the Redemptorist Brother.

30. An Evaluation of Every Formation Program in the Congregation

The General Government will task the Secretariat for Formation to work with the Executive Secretary for Formation and each Conference Coordinator to ensure that during this sexennium, every Unit and Conference will engage in a complete and detailed analysis of its initial formation program at all levels, ensuring coherence and compliance with the Ratio Formationis of the Congregation and to determine whether its current program is truly preparing future Redemptorists for the mission of the Congregation as embodied in the missionary priorities of the Conference.

31. Formation for Mission and Evangelization in a Secularized World

In order that future Redemptorist missionaries will be better equipped to evangelize in a secularized society, each Conference Secretariat of Formation will engage the assistance of qualified professionals and confreres whose study, research and expertise in this area can be put at the service of Redemptorist formation.

32. In solidarity with the poor

All Units will ensure that initial and ongoing formation programs include components of “formation by insertion” which allow for experiences of real closeness to the poor. They will develop programs that will make provision for a period of a more stable sharing in the life and lifestyle of the poor whom we serve.

33. Preserving the vitality of the Redemptorist tradition in Moral Theology

Since knowledge of Moral Theology is part of our tradition from the time of Alphonsus, the Congregation will pursue a variety of ways to preserve and develop the teaching of, and research in, this science. Familiarity with the science of Moral Theology is to be considered a requirement of the ordinary formation of every Redemptorist. As such, it is to be given priority in the initial and continuing formation of all confreres. Those confreres with a particular aptitude for study and research will be encouraged to pursue higher studies in this science to ensure the continuation of our tradition.

34. Continuing Formation

The General Government will expand the membership of the General Secretariat for Formation. This expansion will allow the Secretariat to take responsibility for both initial and continuing formation more effectively. The work of the Secretariat will endeavour to develop programs that aim at conversion of hearts, at more effective ways of achieving the vision we have in common, and at deepening our specific Redemptorist identity.

35. Regular Courses for Formators

The General Secretariat for Formation will continue to offer regular courses for the preparation and ongoing training of Directors of Formation, either in Rome, in the Conferences, or on-line. The same Secretariat shall continue to produce resources to aid Formation Directors in carrying out formation for Mission in the Congregation. Particular attention must be given to the “importance of missionary availability” as a determining factor in a vocation to Redemptorist life.

36. Training of Laity in Moral Theology

Each Conference will arrange for the regular formation of lay partners on the moral teaching of the Church, and investigate the possibility of sponsoring a capable Lay Partner in the pursuit of an advanced degree in the area of Moral Theology.

37. Communications and the New Media

Each of the five Conferences of the Congregation will appoint a confrere who will undergo study and training in the area of Communication. He will then assume responsibility for the Communication needs of the