



CHARIS

Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service

“Today one thing ends and another begins. A new stage of this journey is beginning. A stage marked by communion between all the members of the charismatic family, in which the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit is manifested for the good of the entire Church. A presence that makes each one equal, since each has been born of the same Spirit: great and small, old and young, engaged on the worldwide or local levels, all form a whole that is always greater than the part.

(Pope Francis, June 8, 2019)

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As explicitly requested by Pope Francis, the Holy See, through the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, erected CHARIS, the new single international service for the whole Catholic Charismatic Renewal with public juridic personality (cf. Statutes art. 2,2).

Its objective is to serve and create communion between the different realities existing within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the world.

CHARIS received from the Holy Father three specific missions

- To share the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with all in the Church.
- To work for Christian unity.
- Uphold human promotion in serving those who are most in need.

GUIDELINES FOR THE CREATION OF A CHARIS NATIONAL SERVICE OF COMMUNION (CNSC)

Following the establishment of CHARIS, setting up CHARIS National Services of Communion (CNSC), as provided for in the Statutes, is a priority.

The CHARIS International Service of Communion (CISC) has prepared these guidelines to assist in the establishment of CNSCs in each country. This document provides general guidelines that can assist in the establishment and operation of these Services. These guidelines have the flexibility to be adapted to the situation in each country.



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The CHARIS Statutes set out the basic principles for the formation of CNSC in each country:

Art. 15 – Functions

The aim of the National Service of Communion is to build and strengthen the broad and diverse family of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Therefore, they should be as inclusive as possible and open to new and emerging realities. The model focuses on communion rather than governance or structure.

Art. 16 – Composition

National Service of Communion should be composed of representatives of realities and expressions of the stream of grace which identify themselves as part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and which seek to build communion within the vast and diverse family of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. These may be prayer groups, communities, networks, schools of evangelisation, religious institutes, publishing houses, particular ministries, ecumenical initiatives, youth, etc.

Thus, the CNSC is a service organisation and not a governing body and represent the highest instance of communion of the "current of grace" in a country.

There is only one CNSC per country or per Bishops' Conference in countries where different regions, languages and cultures coexist.

On this basis, it is useful to build a minimum structure necessary to be effective in communion and service to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE CNSC

Tasks of the CNSC:

- To be respectful of the pastoral needs of the different expressions, as well as of the new realities inspired by the Spirit, and to invite all of them to build communion.
- Identify the different expressions or realities of the current of grace present in the country to include them.



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- Organise national meetings of the leaders of all the charismatic realities.
- Maintain contact with the international institutions: CHARIS Continental Service of Communion, CHARIS International Service of Communion and CHARIS International Office.
- Identify needs and provide necessary information.
- Be the liaison between the country's current of grace and its Bishops Conference.
- Organise the election of the next CNSC.

Establishment of CNSC

1. All realities of the CCR should be represented in the CNSC. The CNSC should be as inclusive as possible of the realities present in the country, while ensuring operational efficiency. Therefore, it is not necessary that all realities participate directly, but that all realities feel represented through the election of delegates.

2. The Bishops' Conference may appoint a bishop or priest to accompany the current of grace; he may attend the meetings of the CNSC.

3. Communion between the different expressions of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is at the heart of the Statutes of CHARIS. This communion is a guarantee that each expression retains its own identity, independence and associative form

4. The continental representatives of the CISC (Statutes Art. 9) accompany and assist in the formation of the CNSC.

5. The CHARIS Statutes speak of the inclusion, as far as possible, of all realities or expressions of the current of grace present in each country. For the benefit of this inclusion, it is important that the constitution of the CNSC is carried out according to transparent criteria:

5.1 *"A family in which one member is not more important than another, neither by age, nor by intelligence, nor by ability, because all are beloved children of the same Father."* (Pope Francis, 8 June 2019).

5.2 The CNSC is made up of one or two representatives from each existing reality in the country. With a maximum of 15/20 representatives.

5.3 In countries where only prayer groups exist, the CNSC is made up of the representatives of the prayer groups. They should check the existence of other charismatic realities that could be included.



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5.4 The following elements should be taken into account:

- *Nihil obstat*, approval or recognition by the competent ecclesiastical authorities.
- Each reality is identified as part of the current of grace from the experience of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- These realities are in communion with the CNSC and the other charismatic realities.

5.5 A reality cannot be represented more than once. If a reality is part of a network, a movement or some form of association already represented in the CNSC, that reality cannot have another representative than the one designated by the reality itself.

5.6 Each CNSC elects a coordinator from among its members. The latter is not responsible for the current of grace in his own country. His task is to seek communion with all the realities of the current of grace.

5.7 The term of office of the coordinator of the CNSC is three years, renewable consecutively for one term. Whoever is elected coordinator may exercise this service regardless of the number of years he/she has been a member of the CNSC. A person who has served as coordinator for a maximum of two terms may re-join the CNSC after the vacancy of one term, while he/she may remain a member of the CNSC or hold other positions in CHARIS.

5.8 All CNSC members, including the coordinator, are volunteers.

6. If a CNSC receives a request for registration of its Statutes for civil or canonical recognition in the jurisdiction of its country, these Statutes will be monitored by the CISC to ensure consistency with the spirit of the CHARIS Statutes. The Statutes should be brief, precise, and harmonised with the CHARIS Statutes, which are their model.

TRANSITIONAL ARTICLE

If the formation of an CNSC requires a period of adaptation, it can begin by setting up a transitional CNSC. This transitional CNSC will be in charge of identifying all the charismatic expressions of the country and of organising national meetings of the leaders of the realities of the CCR of the country, with a view to the definitive constitution of a CNSC.

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