

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL INTERNATIONAL SERVICE (CHARIS)

PREAMBLE

What we know today as Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) is part of an ecumenical current of grace. It was born by the sovereign will of God in the Catholic Church in 1967 and emerged as a fruit of the Second Vatican Council.

Today it is estimated that there are more than 120 million people worldwide who will testify to a life-changing experience of the Holy Spirit through their contact with CCR. However, this grace of the Holy Spirit with a worldwide character and many expressions is not a single unified movement like others. It does not have a founder or founding group but is a sovereign work of the Holy Spirit. It is a current of grace that allows individuals, groups, communities, activities and ministries to express themselves in different ways with different forms of organization.

One of the characteristics of CCR is the wide variety of expressions and ministries that form a unity in diversity. The various expressions and realities in CCR may be at different stages of development with differing emphases, nevertheless they share in the same fundamental experience of 'baptism in the Holy Spirit'; and espouse the same general goals. In some places CCR organizes itself like an ecclesial movement but the very nature of CCR means it is different from other ecclesial movements. Indeed, Cardinal Leon-Joseph Suenens, who was appointed by Saint Pope Paul VI in 1974 as Episcopal advisor to CCR, quickly recognized what was happening as a 'current of grace'; inspired by the Holy Spirit for the whole Church. He said: "the Renewal is not a 'movement' in the usual sociological sense: it has neither founder nor statutes; it is not homogeneous; it includes a wide range of manifestations. It is a flow of grace, a renewing breath of the Holy Spirit, intended for all the members of the Church — lay people, religious, priests and bishops. It is a challenge to us all"¹.

Generally, CCR focuses on relationships and networks rather than rigid structures. Therefore, patterns of informal relationships can be found at local, diocesan, national and international levels. These relationships are often characterized by free association, dialogue and cooperation. The nature of leadership in CCR is characterized by service rather than governance that demands obedience and conformity.

In 1972, the first international communications office (ICO) was established in Ann Arbor (USA) in order to facilitate communication between the various charismatic realities which were rapidly emerging in the Catholic Church worldwide. Then in 1976,

¹ L.-J. SUENENS, *The Hidden Hand of God*, Veritas, Dublin 1994, p. 253.



the ICO office was transferred from the USA to Malines-Brussels (Belgium), the diocese of Cardinal Suenens. He created a coordinating team for CCR, transforming the ICO office into ICCRO (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office) in 1978.

This office was moved to Rome in 1981. In 1984, Saint Pope John Paul II appointed Bishop Paul Josef Cordes as Episcopal advisor of ICCRO, in succession to Cardinal Suenens. Then, in 1985, at the invitation of the Holy Father, the ICCRO office was established in the Vatican.

In 1990, a network of CCR international covenant communities was recognized at Pontifical level as a private association of the faithful, under the name of Catholic Fraternity of Covenant Communities and Fellowships'. Its mission was to consolidate the bonds of these communities to the Catholic Church and to encourage evangelization.

In 1993 the Pontifical Council for the Laity granted pontifical recognition to ICCRO, approving its statute as an international organism of service. The name changed from ICCRO to ICCRS, thus emphasizing that it was a pastoral ministry service to CCR worldwide rather than merely an administrative office.

In April 2016, Pope Francis appointed Michelle Moran and Pino Scafuro to work on the new One Service and to carry things forward until its realization, with Julia Torres and Oreste Pesare as secretaries, and with the accompaniment of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

For many years ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity worked together presenting seminars on various topics specific to Charismatic Renewal. Together they organized the 50th anniversary of CCR in Rome at Pentecost 2017. It was at this time that the Constitutive Act of the One Service, leading to the establishment of CHARIS, was signed.

CHARIS was erected on December 8th 2018, by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, and its statutes came into effect on June 9th 2019, the Solemnity of Pentecost. As of this date, all national, regional and continental committees of Catholic Charismatic Renewal were required to restructure themselves as service bodies, including all local expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, in accordance with the new statutory composition of CHARIS.



I. ECCLESIAL AND CANONICAL NATURE

Art. 1. Name and Purpose

§ 1. *Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service*, also known as CHARIS, is the international service organism for all expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal (or CCR), a current of grace whose appearance in the Catholic Church in 1967 came as a fruit of the Second Vatican Council. Common to all expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal is the experience of the fruits of Pentecost through an outpouring of spiritual gifts called baptism in the Holy Spirit, involving a personal encounter with Jesus Christ as Saviour, an openness to the Word of God, to exercising the charisms and to evangelisation in faithful service of the Church. CHARIS promotes and strengthens communion among all Charismatic realities, fostering a sense of the worldwide family of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

§ 2. Recognizing Catholic Charismatic Renewal as part of an ecumenical current of grace, CHARIS is an instrument to promote and work for unity in the body of Christ, as expressed in the prayer of Jesus Christ (Jn:17).

§ 3. As an organism of service, CHARIS exercises no jurisdiction over Catholic Charismatic Renewal, since all expressions of CCR are directly under the jurisdiction of the competent ecclesiastical authorities. CHARIS's role of service does not limit the freedom of individuals or groups within CCR in their contacts with ecclesiastical authorities.

Art. 2. Constitution and Canonical Erection

§ 1. CHARIS was created by a Constitutive Act, signed in Rome on May 29th 2017 by the persons nominated by the Holy Father Pope Francis on April 27th 2016 as responsible for the creation of a new single service for all the expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

§ 2. CHARIS has been erected by the Holy See, through the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, with public juridical personality according to canons 116-123 of the Code of Canon Law. It is governed by these statutes and, by analogy, by canons 298-320 of the Code of Canon Law, as well as by the other universal norms of Church law.

§ 3. The CHARIS logo may be used only for the activities that are carried out by the International Service of Communion, the Continental Services of Communion and the National Services of Communion.



II. OBJECTIVES

Art. 3. Objectives

§ 1. The main objectives of CHARIS are:

- a) To help deepen and promote the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit everywhere in the Church. CHARIS aims to *"share Baptism in the Holy Spirit with everyone in the Church"* (FRANCIS, Address to participants in the international conference of leaders of Catholic Charismatic Renewal (*Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service* - CHARIS), June 8th, 2019)
- b) To promote the ecumenical dimension of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and encourage commitment in serving the unity of all Christians. CHARIS aims *"to serve the unity of the body of Christ, the Church, the community of believers in Jesus Christ"* (FRANCIS, Address, June 8th, 2019)
- c) To promote service to the poor and social action through Catholic Charismatic Renewal. CHARIS aims *"to serve the poor and those in greatest need, physical and spiritual. [...] These three things - baptism in the Holy Spirit, unity in the body of Christ and service to the poor - are the forms of witness that, by virtue of baptism, all of us are called to give for the evangelisation of the world"* (FRANCIS, Address, June 8th 2019).

§ 2 The general objectives of CHARIS are:

- a) To promote the exercise of charisms not only in Catholic Charismatic Renewal but also in the whole Church;
- b) To encourage the spiritual deepening and holiness of people who live the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit;
- c) To encourage commitment to evangelisation, particularly through the new evangelisation and the evangelisation of culture, while respecting religious freedom;
- d) To encourage cooperation between communities born from Catholic Charismatic Renewal, with a view to making the experience of particular communities available for the good of all;
- e) To identify and promote specific topics that can help deepen the grace of Pentecost;



- f) To encourage networking and cooperation between realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the areas of formation, evangelisation etc.;
- g) To organize training and formation opportunities, according to the needs expressed by the General Assembly;
- h) To enable clerics and religious to deepen their experience of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and to participate more fully in it;
- i) To foster communion: among persons involved in various realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal; with ecclesial movements that do not refer to this current of grace; and with other Christian Churches and Communities, especially those living the experience of Pentecost;

To organize major events, colloquia, leader's gatherings, in order to share and exchange the various experiences flowing from the Holy Spirit.

III. SERVICES

Art. 4. Services Offered

§ 1. CHARIS is at the service of all realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal and is available to serve and assist bishops and priests who request its help.

§ 2 The permanent services of CHARIS are:

- a) Communion and Information: Ensuring communication with and between the national and continental services, and with and among all realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal (prayer groups, communities, networks, schools of evangelization, religious institutes, publishing houses and ministries);
- b) Formation and Training: Meeting the training and formation needs expressed by the General Assembly or by other realities, inspired by the living experience of people and groups within Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- c) Advice: Through a Doctrinal and Canonical Commission.

§ 3. Temporary bodies can be created to respond to particular needs.



IV. STRUCTURE

Art. 5. Services of Communion

§ 1. CHARIS is formed at worldwide level by the General Assembly and the International Service of Communion.

§ 2. Each continent has a Continental Service of Communion.

§ 3. Each Nation has a National Service of Communion.

§ 4. In each Service of Communion each reality may have only one representative with voting rights.

IV. 1. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Art. 6 – Vision

The General Assembly reflects the reality of Catholic Charismatic Renewal across the whole world. It seeks to share and discern what the Spirit is saying worldwide. It provides an opportunity to foster relationships and build communion within the worldwide family of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, sharing experiences, concerns and testimony.

Art. 7 – Composition

§ 1. The General Assembly is composed of: the members of the International Service of Communion, one representative of each association of the faithful with its origins in Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and the members of the Continental Services of Communion. The International Service of Communion can designate other realities that participate in the National Service of Communion of their respective countries to take part in the General Assembly without voting rights.

§ 2. The General Assembly is chaired by the Moderator of the International Service of Communion.

§ 3. The Moderator, with the agreement of the International Service of Communion, may invite to the General Assembly as special invitees or observers people capable of contributing to the common good without voting rights.

§ 4. The General Assembly meets every four years.



§ 5. Participation in the General Assembly does not signify canonical recognition of any participating reality. Canonical recognition remains the responsibility of the competent ecclesiastical authorities.

IV.2. INTERNATIONAL SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Art. 8 – Functions

The International Service of Communion has the following functions:

- a) To uphold, expand and promote the objectives of CHARIS;
- b) To be in touch with and to study the situation of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in its many expressions at National, Regional and Continental levels;
- c) To ensure that the diversity of Catholic Charismatic Renewal is respected in the programmes, projects, relationships with other Churches and Christian communities, and activities of CHARIS;
- d) To discern and give attention to the needs of formation within Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- e) To approve the National Services of Communion on the recommendation of the Continental Services of Communion;
- f) To elect, following the procedure set out in art. 11§2, a temporary Moderator, who will serve until the next General Assembly, in the case of death, incapacity, serious illness or another just cause preventing the Moderator from carrying out his/her regular functions.

Art. 9 – Composition and meetings

§ 1. The International Service of Communion is composed of eighteen elected members, all Catholic.

§ 2. Twelve members are Continental representatives: two for North America and the Caribbean (one English or French speaking, and one Spanish speaking); one for Central America (Spanish speaking); one for South America (Spanish speaking); one for South America (Portuguese speaking); two for Asia; one for Africa (French speaking); one for Africa (English speaking); two for Europe and one for Oceania.



§ 3. Six members are elected as follows: one from the diverse CCR ministries; one charismatic priest or religious; two from communities; one from associations of the faithful with Holy See recognition; one young Catholic under 35 years of age.

§ 4. The International Service of Communion meets annually and is led by the Moderator.

Art. 10 – Election Procedure

§ 1. Members representing the Continents are elected by the Continental Services of Communion at least six months before the General Assembly.

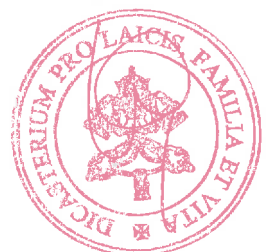
§ 2. Candidates from ministries, charismatic priests or religious, communities, associations of the faithful with Holy See recognition, and youth, are nominated by the Continental Services of Communion at least six months prior to the General Assembly and are elected by this Assembly by secret ballot, valid when at least fifty percent of those entitled to vote take part, with a two thirds majority being required to secure election.

§ 3. Members of the International Service of Communion serve a term of four years, renewable consecutively for one term only.

Art. 11. The Moderator

§ 1. The functions of the Moderator are:

- a) To promote and develop Catholic Charismatic Renewal as a current of grace in the Church and for the Church;
- b) To promote the work of unity in the Body of Christ;
- c) To ensure good communication between the ecclesiastical authorities and Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide, and in particular with the Holy See through the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life;
- d) To convoke, encourage and co-ordinate the work of the International Service of Communion;
- e) To convoke and lead the General Assembly;



f) To visit and serve international realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal as the need arises. With the agreement of the International Service of Communion, the Moderator can delegate some responsibilities;

g) To oversee the work of the International Office.

§ 2. The Moderator is elected by the General Assembly from a minimum of three nominations, received from the Continental Services of Communion or from the outgoing International Service of Communion, and approved by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life at least three months prior to the General Assembly. The election is held in a spirit of prayer and discernment. The election is by secret ballot, valid when at least fifty percent of those entitled to vote take part, with a two thirds majority being required to secure election. The term of office is four years, renewable once. A moderator who has completed two terms may reintegrate the International Service of Communion only after a two-term (eight-year) vacancy and is not eligible for re-election as moderator (General Decree, The International Associations of the Faithful, June 11th 2021, Article 2 §4).

§ 3. The Moderator is in the service of all, and diligently avoids the promotion of any specific reality within Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

IV.3. CONTINENTAL SERVICES OF COMMUNION

Art. 12 – Functions

The functions of the Continental Services of Communion are:

- a) To build communion together through unity of hearts rather than rigid structures;
- b) To reach out, embracing all realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal and to live unity in diversity;
- c) To create space for listening, sharing and discernment;
- d) To facilitate training and formation;
- e) To help nations establishing a National Service of Communion where currently this does not exist.



f) To establish and to provide the International Service of Communion with the list of National Services for approval.

Art. 13 – Composition and meetings

§ 1. There are five Continental Services of Communion, as follows: Africa, America, Asia, Europa and Oceania.

§ 2. Each Continental Service of Communion is composed of the members of the International Service of Communion representing that continent, the Coordinator of each National Service of Communion or his/her delegate; three representatives of communities or networks of communities and two young people under the age of 35, all Catholic.

§ 3. Each Continental Service of Communion meets at least once a year.

§ 4 Each Continental Service of Communion may invite other realities to take part in meetings of the Continental Service of Communion, without voting rights.

Art. 14 – Elections

§ 1. Each Continental Service of Communion elects a Continental Co-ordinating Team composed of seven persons whose function is to facilitate the work of the Continental Service of Communion. The Continental Co-ordinating Team meets at least once a year. The continental representatives who are members of the International Service of Communion are ex-officio members of the Continental team.

§ 2. The election is held in a spirit of prayer and discernment. Each member of the Continental Service of Communion has the right to speak and vote in the election. The team is elected from among the members of the Continental Service of Communion.

§ 3. For the election of members of the Coordinating Team, voting is by secret ballot, valid when at least fifty percent of those entitled to vote take part, a two thirds majority being required to secure election. The Coordinating Team elects from among its members a Coordinator who is also the Coordinator of the Continental Service of Communion.

§ 4. When a member relinquishes a position on the Service of Communion, the replacement will be the first of the non-elected candidates from the previous election.



§ 5. Members of Continental Services of Communion serve a term of four years, renewable consecutively for one term only.

IV.4. NATIONAL SERVICES OF COMMUNION

Art. 15 – Functions

§ 1 The goal of National Services of Communion is to build and strengthen the wide and diverse family of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. They should therefore be as inclusive as possible and open to new and emerging realities. The model focuses on communion rather than government or structure.

§ 2. The National Service of Communion is an organization of service and not an organization of government. It has no pastoral duties. There is only one National Service of Communion per nation or per Bishops' Conference.

§ 3. The National Service of Communion represents the highest instance of communion of the current of grace of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in a country.

§ 4. The Continental representatives of the International Service of Communion accompany and assist the National Services of Communion.

Art. 16 – Composition

§ 1. National Services of Communion should consist of representatives from realities and expressions of the current of grace who identify themselves as part of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and who are seeking to build communion within the wide and diverse family of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. This may include prayer groups, communities, networks, schools of evangelization, religious institutes, publishing houses, particular ministries, ecumenical initiatives, youth etc.

§ 2. National Services of Communion are confirmed by the International Service of Communion after consultation with the respective Continental Service of Communion.

§ 3. The members of National Services of Communion must be expressions of known realities and in communion with the competent ecclesiastical authorities.

§ 4. Each National Service of Communion shall elect its coordinator.

§ 5. The term of office of the coordinator shall be four years, renewable consecutively for one term only.



V. THE ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT

Art. 17 – The Ecclesiastical Assistant

§ 1. The Ecclesiastical Assistant is the bishop or priest tasked with accompanying all the activities promoted by CHARIS from a doctrinal and spiritual point of view, and with guaranteeing the faithfulness of all actions undertaken by CHARIS to the magisterium of the Catholic Church.

§ 2. The Ecclesiastical Assistant takes part in the General Assembly and in the International Service of Communion meetings and in other activities where his presence is deemed helpful or necessary by the Moderator of the International Service of Communion. He participates without voting rights.

§ 3. The Ecclesiastical Assistant is appointed by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life from a list of three candidates presented by the International Service of Communion. For candidates who are priests, the prior consent of their Ordinary must be obtained.

§ 4. The Ecclesiastical Assistant's term of office is four years, renewable consecutively for one term only.

VI. THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Art. 18 – Functions

§ 1. In order to carry out its administrative functions, CHARIS has an International Office, situated in Rome in Palazzo San Calisto.

§ 2. The tasks of the International Office are:

- a) To facilitate collaboration and communion within Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- b) To deal with the day to day enquiries and requests made to Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- c) To maintain the flow of information with and between the many realities of Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- d) To facilitate the organization, facilities and resources required for training courses, programs, and events, as directed by the International Service of Communion;



- e) To coordinate the practical organization of International Service of Communion meetings and of the General Assembly;
- f) To serve as the secretariat for administrative contact with the Holy See, and particularly with the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life;
- g) To maintain a database of the realities forming part of Catholic Charismatic renewal worldwide;
- h) To assist with the publication, translation and distribution of specific resources relating to international Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- i) To maintain an updated website and an adequate presence on social media;

To provide an efficient and transparent accountancy service for CHARIS.

Art. 19 – The Secretary of the International Office

§ 1. The International Office is under the authority of the International Service of Communion. The Moderator of CHARIS is responsible for overseeing the International Office. In order to maintain the service, the International Office has a Secretary. The Secretary is tasked with the general coordination of the International Office and the operational services of CHARIS.

§ 2. The Secretary is appointed by the Moderator with the agreement of the majority of members of the International Service of Communion. The term of the Secretary of the International Office is of four years, renewable consecutively for one term only.

§ 3. It is the responsibility of the Moderator of CHARIS, in conformity with canons 231 and 281 of the Code of Canon Law, by way of contracts of employment, to guarantee for the persons serving in the International Office an adequate salary, health and pension cover, and other rights inherent to social security cover.

VII. ADMINISTRATION OF FINANCES

Art. 20 – Management and juridical nature of goods and property

§ 1. The property and goods of CHARIS, following canon 1257 § 1 of the Code of Canon Law, are ecclesiastical goods and are governed by canonical norms.



§ 2. It is the responsibility of the Moderator, with the agreement of the International Service of Communion, to request from the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life the permission required from ecclesiastical authority prior to making valid acts of extraordinary administration, that is to say acts that might involve a diminution in stable patrimony.

§ 3. Ordinary acts of administration can be undertaken not only by the Moderator but also by the Secretary of the International Office and by a delegate of the Moderator.

Art. 21. Origin of goods and property

§ 1. CHARIS is sustained by voluntary donations and financial contributions from the various realities and individuals involved in Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide. Other sources of funding are the possible revenues from events, congresses, training courses, books and multimedia material, etc.

§ 2. CHARIS respects the laws of the countries in which it carries out its work and activities. It is a service and is not responsible for legal or financial organization at national or continental level.

Art. 22. Annual budget and financial statement

The Secretary of the International Office has the task of preparing the annual budget and the annual financial statement, in order to insure the availability of sufficient resources for the ordinary management of CHARIS. The budget and financial statement must be approved by the International Service of Communion by a majority vote.

Art. 23. Annual account to the ecclesiastical authority

Before June 30th of every year, the Moderator of CHARIS will present to the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life an annual financial statement concerning the administration of goods and the use of gifts and offerings received, in accordance with canon 319 of the Code of Canon Law.

VIII. INTERPRETATION AND CHANGES TO STATUTES

Art. 24. Interpretation

§ 1. The International Service of Communion has the competence of interpretation of the Statutes, through a vote with a two thirds majority.



§ 2. When the majority in the International Service of Communion considers it appropriate, it can request clarification on a point of interpretation from the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, which will then proceed to give a binding interpretation.

Art. 25. Changes to the Statutes

Changes to the Statutes, proposed by the International Service of Communion, require the consent of the General Assembly, through a vote with a majority of two thirds, after prior approval for proposed amendments from the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

IX. SUPPRESSION AND DISSOLUTION

Art. 26. Suppression

In compliance with canon 320 of the Code of Canon Law, CHARIS can be suppressed only by the Holy See, through the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

Art. 27. Dissolution

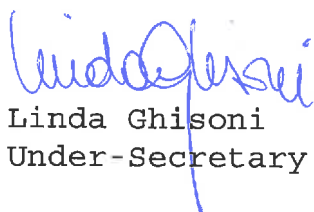
A motion to dissolve CHARIS on its own initiative requires consent of the General Assembly with a majority of two thirds of its members and, prior to this, the consent of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

Art. 28. Destination of goods and patrimony

In the case of suppression or dissolution, remaining goods and patrimony are to be destined by the International Service of Communion to entities with purposes identical or similar to those of CHARIS, with the prior consent of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

These Statutes, in their original form, have been deposited in the archives of the Dicastery.

From the Vatican, April 25th 2024


Linda Ghisoni
Under-Secretary

