

**THEOLOGICAL BASIS  
AND CANONICAL  
IMPLICATIONS  
OF  
INVOLVEMENT OF  
RELIGIOUS IN THE  
LOCAL CHURCH**

# THEOLOGICAL BASIS AND CANONICAL IMPLICATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT OF RELIGIOUS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



## 8. CANONICAL IMPLICATIONS

### 8.1 Dependency on the Supreme Authority

- ❖ All in the church depend on the Holy See, so too the religious
- ❖ Obedience is the first consequence of dependence on Him.
- ❖ Supreme authority in the church includes the Holy See and college of Bishops
- ❖ The Pope has ordinary, proper, immediate power
- ❖ The Pope has power over all the particular churches
- ❖ The Bishops in communion with the Pope are also to be obeyed



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## 8. CANONICAL IMPLICATIONS

### 8.2 Holy See and Religious Institutes

- ❖ The term Holy See includes the organisms of the Roman Curia
- ❖ For the erection, suppression, fusion, union, confederation, approval, recognition of patrimony, raising to Pontifical right, approval of supreme moderator.
- ❖ Interpretation of evangelical counsels, approval and subsequent changes in constitutions, growth and development, annual report, promote knowledge of documents, grant exemptions, owe obedience and reverence
- ❖ For approval of new forms of consecrated life
- ❖ For diocesan right institutes if the Holy See has intervened in changes to constitutions, the bishop cannot give approval till the changes are made.





# THEOLOGICAL BASIS AND CANONICAL IMPLICATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT OF RELIGIOUS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

### 9.1 Foundation of a Religious House

- ❖ Religious are to be invited to work in a diocese
- ❖ For canonical establishment they need the written consent of the diocesan bishop
- ❖ They need to have at least three members to establish a community
- ❖ They have a right to an oratory
- ❖ They live under the authority of a designated superior
- ❖ Changes in apostolic work need the approval of the diocesan bishop
- ❖ Clerical institutes need permission to build a church



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## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

### 9.2 Written Agreement

- ☐ There should be a written agreement drawn up between the Bishop and religious superior, especially for diocesan works entrusted to a religious institute.
- ☐ It should contain at least: the specific work of the religious, the number of qualified religious, financial matters, time frame, review and renewal, and an exit clause
- ☐ About personnel: qualification, number, financial arrangements, rights and duties, hours of service, holidays, vacations, retreat, etc and process for appointment and promotion and termination.
- ☐ Working in mission areas and running schools need agreements



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## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

### 9.3 Exercise of the Apostolate

- ☐ Each institute has its own gifts which it should keep at the disposal of the church
- ☐ The apostolate should be according to the charism of the institute. They cannot be forced to carry out works which are alien to their charism
- ☐ In exercising apostolate, it should be within the plan of the diocese
- ☐ To establish a house, to make changes in the original apostolate assigned, the religious need permission





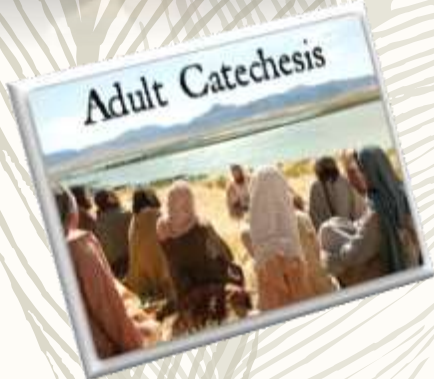
# THEOLOGICAL BASIS AND CANONICAL IMPLICATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT OF RELIGIOUS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

### 9.4 Preaching the Word of God

- ☐ While the Bishop is called to preach, the religious too share in this mission.
- ☐ They could also be restricted by the bishop in their preaching
- ☐ The bishop can issue norms for preaching.
- ☐ The Episcopal conference can permit laity to preach



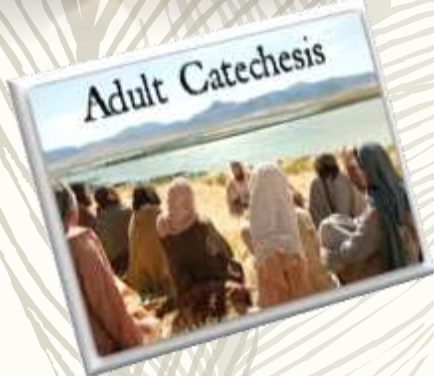
# THEOLOGICAL BASIS AND CANONICAL IMPLICATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT OF RELIGIOUS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

### 9.5 Catechetical-Liturgical formation

- ☐ The superiors have to see that there is proper catechesis taught in their schools, parishes and churches
- ☐ The diocesan bishop can give norms for teaching of catechism and can also recommend texts
- ☐ Proper liturgical instruction is also part of catechesis





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## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

### 9.6 Public Exercise of Divine Worship

- Religious are subject to the bishop's authority in exercising divine worship.
- Even for a private liturgical celebration, the religious should follow liturgical norms
- Divine worship and the sacraments are part of public exercise of divine worship



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## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

## 9.7 Parish Ministry

- Clerical religious priests could be entrusted with a parish or quasi parish
- The parish priest is appointed by the diocesan bishop on presentation by the religious superior
- The parish priest can be removed by either authority on notifying the other.
- The Parish priest is an ecclesiastical office and should have some stability
- He has to follow the norms of the diocese in exercising pastoral care of the people
- Chaplains are appointed by the local ordinary after hearing the community

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## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

### 9.8 Exercise of Missionary Activity

- Bishop is the coordinator and guide of all missionary work in the diocese
- Religious are asked to do missionary work in keeping with their charism
- Religious work under the directions of the bishop and follow his directives
- An agreement is called for with the religious doing missionary work. This is mainly for clarity regarding rights and obligations of the religious.





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## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

### 9.9 Catholic Schools, Religious-Moral Education

- To teach catechism and education in faith
- The bishop is to supervise and be vigilant about the teaching of faith and morals in schools.
- Bishop has a right of visitation on primary and elementary schools.
- The teachers of religion should be outstanding in their Christian lives. The bishop has a right to remove them if they are not up to the mark.



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## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

### 9.10 Media Apostolate

- Religious exercise apostolate through media and social communications
- The church uses media for evangelisation purposes
- Episcopal conference is to lay down norms for clerics/religious to take part in radio and television programs

Religious require permission from their superiors for written media. They also need the approval of the bishop before publishing in the area of faith and morals









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## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

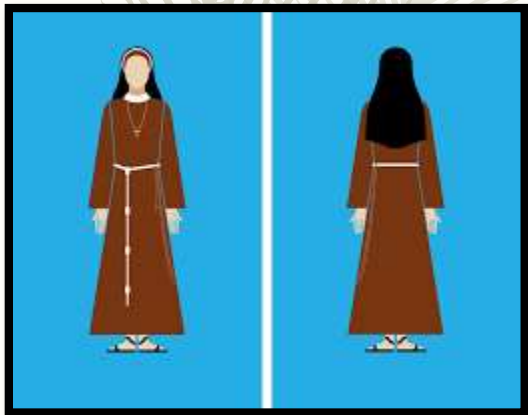


### 9.12 Exercise of other forms of Apostolate

- The spiritual and corporal works of mercy are under the supervision of the diocesan bishop. Religious doing these works have to abide by diocesan policies
- Regarding public offices, politics, business and trade, the religious are bound by canon law
- Religious are public ministers in the church and some of these works may not be becoming of a religious

### 9.13 Public comportment of the Religious

- Religious should wear the habit of the institute
- If there is no approved habit, then they have to abide by the diocesan policy of wearing the habit



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## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

### 9.14 Entrusted Works/Ecclesiastical Offices

- In some cases, religious may be better qualified to do some specific works in a diocese. If entrusted with these works, then a written agreement should be signed.  
The nature of the work, monetary arrangements, transportation, time for retreats and holidays, sabbatical, medical benefits, etc should be put down.
- For an entrusted work, the religious are under the guidance and authority of the diocesan bishop, while not being disobedient to their own superiors.
- Ecclesiastical offices can be conferred on a religious on the recommendation or approval of the religious superior. The person entrusted with the office, can also be removed by notifying the other.
- An office should have stability and so an agreement is necessary.



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## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE



## 9.15 Pastoral Visitation

- The Bishop is obliged to visit his entire diocese personally or through a delegate, at least once in five years
- The Bishop can visit schools belonging to the diocese and has to be invited to visit schools and other works belonging to the religious.
- The purpose of the visitation is to evaluate, plan, encourage, support, discuss issues, check and rectify abuses, address grievances, etc
- If there are irregularities, the Bishop is to first notify the competent superior and if he/she does not take action, he can himself take necessary action.





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## 9. AREAS OF BISHOP-RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN A DIOCESE

### 9.16 Sanctions

- ☐ The bishop can forbid a religious to reside in his diocese. But there should be a grave reason and he should first notify the superior. If the superior did not take action, then he can forbid him residence after notifying the Holy See.
- ☐ These could be for violations of ecclesial or civil laws concerning grave scandal.

### 9.17 Taxation

- ☐ After consulting the finance committee and the council of priests the bishop can levy a tax on public juridic persons.
- ☐ The tax should be moderate
- ☐ It could be imposed on all for the support of the seminary
- ☐ Religious schools cannot be taxed.



# THEOLOGICAL BASIS AND CANONICAL IMPLICATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT OF RELIGIOUS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



## 10. PRINCIPLES FOR COLLABORATION

- ☐ Hierarchy is to be at the service of the People of God.
- ☐ Servant leadership is promulgated by Jesus, washing of the feet, JC “it should not be so among you”, a command
- ☐ Well ordered cooperation should be in place
- ☐ Mutual consultation, dialogue
- ☐ Fundamental principle in the church is charity. Juridical and legal avenues are to be used when all other means fail
- ☐ Complementary – recognising gifts of religious and need for them in the diocese





# THEOLOGICAL BASIS AND CANONICAL IMPLICATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT OF RELIGIOUS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



## 11. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BISHOP / DIOCESE AND RELIGIOUS

- ❖ Bishops to be defenders, promoters and guardians of consecrated life
- ❖ Bishops must promote the special charisms and missions of the consecrated
- ❖ Women religious to be given more prominence and should be on decision making bodies in the diocese. Make use of their feminine intuition.
- ❖ Qualify the women and give them freedom of expression, just remuneration
- ❖ Be open to vocation promotion by different religious in the diocese
- ❖ Build up a communion and unity of religious – CRI meetings
- ❖ While discerning the common good, do not impose ideas
- ❖ Make pastoral plans in the diocese, no duplication of works in a parish, proper remuneration for services rendered, apostolate should include non-Christians and couples of mixed and inter-faith marriage, etc





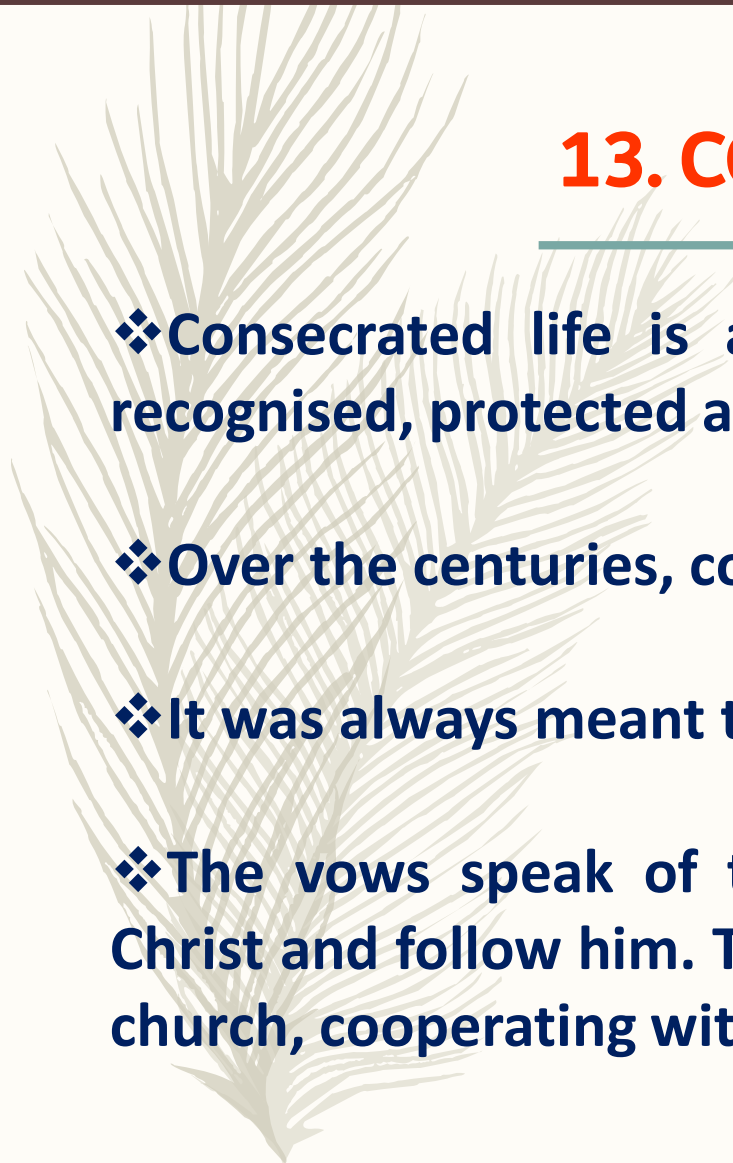
# THEOLOGICAL BASIS AND CANONICAL IMPLICATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT OF RELIGIOUS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



## 12. RELATION OF RELIGIOUS WITH BISHOP / DIOCESE



- Religious should be integrated in the works of the diocese
- Their ecclesial sense should be broadened
- Their role is one of collaboration, cooperation, supplement to the needs of the diocese.
- Religious superiors should ensure fidelity to their charism, and patrimony
- When there are different rites, be accommodating to them
- Comply with diocese when invited to take up assignments when better qualified
- If there is injustice, build forums to discuss and dialogue and do not become counter productive
- Cooperate with the diocese in their activities and ministries



## 13. CO

- ❖ Consecrated life is a  
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- ❖ Consecrated life is a gift given by the Spirit to the Church and is to be recognised, protected and promoted by the church authority.
- ❖ Over the centuries, consecrated life has taken on different forms.
- ❖ It was always meant to be prophetic and a radical following of Christ.
- ❖ The vows speak of their self-donation taken voluntarily, in order to imitate Christ and follow him. This frees them for the mission, working in and through the church, cooperating with pastors and other laity.

## 13. CO

- ❖ Their charism is exclusively, but a communion by being
- ❖ There should be Bishops and religious
- ❖ Both are invited to openness, greater generous giving in t

- ❖ Their charism is not a 'private' good to be cherished and cultivated exclusively, but a dynamic gift that ultimately strengthens the ecclesial communion by being at its service.
- ❖ There should be regular dialogue and mutual consultation between the Bishops and religious superiors in order to effectively promote the mission.
- ❖ Both are invited to be servant leaders, to imbibe a spirit of universal openness, greater cooperation and collaboration, active participation, generous giving in their ecclesial existence and mission.