

DICASTERIUM

PRO LAICIS, FAMILIA ET VITA

To the Distinguished Prof. Davide PROSPERI
President
Fraternity of Communion and Liberation
Via Giuseppe De Notaris, 50
20128 MILANO

Vatican City, February 22, 2022

Prot. N. 17/2022/S61-A23/R

Dear Professor,

The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life received your letter dated January 24, in which, on behalf of the Central Diaconia of the Fraternity of CL, you raised questions regarding a number of leadership positions whose mandates have ended. Specifically, the Diaconia asks to be able to replace the 5 Regional Leaders whose terms have ended “as soon as the new electoral process is ready to operate,” at the conclusion of the process of revising the Statute, considering that “the newly elected Leaders who would begin in June of this year would only remain in office a limited amount of time, *because the acting Diaconia would forfeit its office at the latest, in September 2023.*” This would avoid “taking away precious energy and attention required from everyone in the process of revising” the Statute.

After having carefully read your letter, the Dicastery is eager to clarify the following. First of all, we must keep in mind that the Fraternity’s Central Diaconia is made up of members who were elected and co-opted at different times and whose terms, consequently, end at different times. Thus, at the end of the two years given by the general Decree, it will be necessary to replace only and exclusively those members of the Diaconia whose terms have gone longer than the maximum imposed by the same Decree. All those who have been elected or co-opted who have not reached the end of their terms or completed the maximum of 10 consecutive years by the end of the two years foreseen by the Decree, may legitimately remain in office until the end of their particular mandate. Furthermore, there is no norm in the general Decree that defines the end of the term for the entire Diaconia.

What is stated above also doubtlessly applies to the role of President—and therefore, to your current mandate—the total duration of which may not exceed 10 years. In any case, it will not be possible to proceed in holding new elections until the appropriately revised Statute is approved by the ecclesial authorities, as this will govern the enactment of electoral procedures which comply with the principle of representativeness indicated in the Decree (Art. 3). In this regard, I would like to reiterate that which I already expressed to your predecessor: “Elections in an Association of the Faithful, at any level, must be free and prepared in freedom, without any indications, suggestions or conditions of any kind. Any

indication of a person for whom to vote is, in fact, a sign of lack of faith in the members, and even more, is a sign of a lack of faith in the action of the Holy Spirit, who is ever awakening in the baptized the sense of faith and gifts needed for each act of discernment” (August 26, 2021 letter to Rev. J. Carrón, prot. N. 10/2021).

The new Statute and the renewed structure could bring about significant changes to the composition and to the length of the mandates for the central governing body, the Central Diaconia; however, it is now necessary to act in accordance with the provisions of the Statute in force, which contains the foundational norm for the Association and is, as such, binding, except in any particulars repealed by the general Decree.

Secondly, I feel compelled to say to you that the attention required on everyone’s part by the process of revising the Statute cannot be a pretext for a break in the ordinary management of the life of the Fraternity. The situation you are experiencing is in no way a parenthesis in the life of the association, nor a moment of transition or a pause, but is rather the natural continuation of the history of the Fraternity which, at this very juncture, is called to a renewed awareness of and fidelity to the charism passed on to you by Fr. Luigi Giussani. Your founder—as Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, Vicar for the Diocese of Rome, adequately brought to light on the occasion of the opening Mass for the centenary of the birth of the founder of CL—identifies the elements that guarantee your following of Christ: “the unity of believers, (...) manifestation of Christ’s action among people,” and the “free and unconditional obedience” to the authority of the Church, to her Pastors and to the Pope, in the awareness that “the relationship with Christ passes objectively through the relationship with those who have the task of guiding His Church” (Homily by Cardinal De Donatis, February 20, 2022, St. John Lateran Basilica).

I would also like to bring to the attention of all the members of the Diaconia that numerous international Associations of the Faithful have, following the promulgation of the general Decree, completed significant work revising their norms and structures, without that activity having required an interruption of their life and ordinary governing activity.

In this sense, the initiatives that you have carried forward thus far to reestablish the composition of the Central Diaconia and to ensure the ongoing governance are much appreciated. Following in this line, and according to the timeline given, the replacement of the Leaders whose mandates have ended must be provided for, in order to ensure the regular functioning of the governing structures of the Fraternity.

Remembering all of you in prayer, in a particular way today on the 17th anniversary of the death of Servant of God Fr. Luigi Giussani, and invoking the intercession of your founder that he may always sustain you in the effort to live the specific charism of CL in the circumstances of life, I am happy to take this opportunity to extend to you and to the members of the Central Diaconia my cordial greetings in Our Lord.

Kevin Card. Farrell

Prefect