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CODE OF CANON LAW

PART III

INSTITUTES OF CONSECRATED LIFE AND SOCIETIES OF APOSTOLIC LIFE

Title III

Secular Institutes



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Secular Institutes

Can. 710 - A secular institute is an Institute of consecrated life in which the Christian faithful living in the world strive for the perfection of charity and work for the sanctification of the world especially from within.

Can. 711 - The consecration of a member of a secular institute does not alter the member's proper canonical condition among the people of God, whether lay or clerical, with due regard for the prescriptions of law affecting Institutes of consecrated life.

Can. 712 - With due regard for the prescriptions of canons 598-601, the constitutions are to determine the sacred bonds by which the evangelical counsels are taken in the Institute and are to define the obligations flowing from these same bonds, while always preserving, however, in its way of life the distinctive secularity of the Institute.

Can. 713 - 1. The members of these Institutes express and exercise their own consecration in their apostolic activity and like a leaven they strive to imbue all things with the spirit of the Gospel for the strengthening and growth of the Body of Christ.

2. Lay members share in the Church's evangelizing task in the world and of the world through their witness of a Christian life and fidelity toward their consecration, and through their efforts to order temporal things according to God and inform the world by the

power of the Gospel. Also, they cooperate in serving the ecclesial community, according to their particular secular way of life.

3. Clerical members through the witness of their consecrated life, especially in the presbyterate, help their brothers by their special apostolic charity and in their sacred ministry among the people of God they bring about the sanctification of the world.

Can. 714 - Members are to lead their life according to the norm of the constitutions, in the ordinary conditions of the world, either alone or each in their respective families, or in a group of brothers or sisters.

Can. 715 - 1. Clerical members incardinated in a diocese depend on the diocesan bishop, with due regard for those things which pertain to consecrated life in their particular Institute.

2. If those who are incardinated in an Institute according to the norm of can. 266, 3, are appointed to particular works of the Institute or to the governance of the Institute, they depend on the bishop in a way comparable to religious.

Can. 716 - 1. All members are to share actively in the life of the Institute according to proper law.

2. Members of the same Institute are to maintain communion among themselves, carefully fostering unity of spirit and genuine relationship as brothers or sisters.

Can. 717 - 1. The constitutions are to prescribe a particular manner of governance and define the time which moderators hold their office and the way in which they are chosen.

2. No one is to be chosen supreme moderator who is not definitively incorporated.

3. Those who are put in charge of the governance of the Institute are to take care that the unity of its spirit is kept and that active participation of the members is encouraged.

Can. 718 - The administration of the goods of the Institute, which should express and foster evangelical poverty, is ruled by the norms of Book V, The Temporal Goods of the Church, and by the proper law of the Institute. Likewise the proper law is to define especially the financial obligations of the Institute toward members who carry on work for it.

Can. 719 - 1. In order that members may respond faithfully to their vocation and that their apostolic action may proceed from their union with Christ they are to be diligent in prayer, concentrate in a fitting manner on the reading of Sacred Scripture, make an annual retreat and carry out other spiritual exercises according to proper law.

2. The celebration of the Eucharist, daily if possible, is to be the source and strength of the whole of their consecrated life.

3. They are freely to approach the sacrament of penance, which they should receive frequently.

4. They are freely to obtain necessary guidance of conscience and should seek counsel of this kind even from their moderators, if they wish.

Can. 720 - The right of admission into the Institute, whether for probation or for the assumption of sacred bonds, whether temporary or perpetual or definitive, pertains to the major moderators with their council according to the norm of the constitutions.

Can. 721 - 1. One is invalidly admitted to the initial probation:

1° who has not yet reached the age of majority;

2° who is still bound by a sacred bond in some Institute of consecrated life or who is incorporated in a society of apostolic life;

3° who is married while the marriage lasts.

2. The constitutions can establish other impediments, even for the validity of admission, or place certain conditions.

3. Moreover, for one to be received it is necessary to have the maturity to lead the life proper to the Institute.

Can. 722 - I. The initial probation is to be so arranged that the candidates may understand more fittingly their divine vocation and indeed the vocation proper to the institute and may be trained in the spirit and way of life of the Institute.

2. The candidates are to be properly formed in living according to the evangelical counsels and taught to translate this life completely into the apostolate, using those forms of spreading the Gospel which better respond to the purpose, spirit and character of the Institute.

3. The manner and time of this probation before first undertaking sacred bonds in the Institute are to be defined in the constitutions; yet it is to be no less than two years.

Can. 723 - I. After the time of the initial probation has passed, the candidate who is judged worthy is either to take on the three evangelical counsels strengthened by a sacred bond or to depart from the Institute.

2. This first incorporation, no shorter than five years, is to be temporary according to the norm of the constitutions.

3. When the time of this incorporation has passed, the member who is judged worthy is to be admitted to perpetual or definitive incorporation, that is, with temporary bonds always to be renewed.

4. Definitive incorporation is equivalent to perpetual incorporation as far as certain juridic effects are concerned, to be determined in the constitutions.

Can. 724 - 1. After the sacred bonds are first taken formation is to be continued according to the constitutions.

2. Members are to be formed in divine and human matters equally; the moderators of the Institute are to take seriously the continuing spiritual formation of members.

Can. 725 - The Institute can associate to itself, by some bond determined in the constitutions, other members of the Christian faithful who strive toward evangelical perfection according to the spirit of the Institute and share its mission.

Can. 726 - 1. When the time of temporary incorporation has elapsed, the member can leave the Institute freely or be excluded from renewal of the sacred bonds for a just cause by the major moderator after hearing the council.

2. For a serious reason the temporarily incorporated member can freely petition and obtain from the supreme moderator with the consent of the council an indult to leave.

Can. 727 - 1. The perpetually incorporated member who wishes to leave the Institute, having thought seriously about this before God, may seek an indult to leave from the Apostolic See through the supreme moderator if it is an Institute of pontifical right; otherwise from the diocesan bishop as it is defined in the constitutions.

2. If it is a question of a cleric incardinated in the Institute, the prescription of can. 693 is to be observed.

Can. 728 - When the indult to leave has been legitimately granted, all bonds, rights and obligations emanating from incorporation cease.

Can. 729 - A member is dismissed from the Institute according to the norm established in canons 694 and 695; furthermore, the constitutions may determine other causes of dismissal, provided they are proportionately serious, external, imputable, and juridically proven and the procedure determined in canons 697-700 shall be observed. The prescription of can. 701 applies to the dismissed member.

Can. 730 - In order that a member of a secular institute may transfer to another secular institute, the prescriptions of canons 684, 1, 2, and 4 and 685 are to be observed. In order that a transfer be made to a religious institute or to a society of apostolic life or from these to a secular institute, the permission of the Apostolic See is required and its mandates are to be obeyed.