

# **STATUTE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

## **NATURE, AIM, AND SPIRITUALITY**

1. The friends of the Missionaries of the Holy Family (AMSF) are a private association of faithful (cf. CIC 321-329), which was founded on 19 March 2012 belonging to the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF).
2. The association AMSF includes all initiatives of this kind, which are already being practised in various provinces of the MSF.
3. The association AMSF has the general aim, to promote faith, love, hope and the Christian apostolate in the world (cf. CIC 215; 299;) The special aims are:
  - a) To offer the possibility to its members (individuals or families) of participating actively in the charisma, in the spirituality and in the various apostolates of the MSF;
  - b) To support the mission and education of the MSF economically;
  - c) To foster a style of living in families in accordance with the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
  - d) To promote the veneration of the Holy Family of Nazareth;
  - e) To make many people know Fr. Berthier and the Congregation, which he founded.
4. The spirituality of the association AMSF has a dynamic centre in the mystery of God, who became man in the Holy Family of Nazareth. God lived in a human family and made it to a fervent cell of faith and confidence, of love and community, of service and mission.
5. The special liturgical feasts, in which this spirituality is celebrated, are: Christmas, the feast of the Holy Family, the feast of our Lady of la Salette (19 September), the feast of Saint Joseph (19 March), the feast of the foundation of the MSF (28 September) and the anniversary of the death of Fr. Berthier (16 October).

## **REASONS AND FOUNDATION**

6. The Holy Spirit guides and gives life to the Church through his gifts to all the faithful. Lay-people find charismatic strength in it, through which they perform important tasks. (cf. LG 12; AA 3).
7. The missionary commission, gift and responsibility of the whole Church, was especially entrusted to the missionary institutes. However, it is a charisma, to which also lay-people are rightly admitted and they also bear responsibility for it (cf. AG 36; 41).
8. The MSF continually make effort, to remind lay-people of their vocation in the Church and in the world. The MSF also give the possibility to lay-people of participating in their spirituality and charisma. For this purpose they organize encounters of lay-people on various all levels (cf. Konst. 52; 79).
9. The evangelisation is a task which is only achieved through the help of lay-people. (cf. GE 3).

## **PRIVILEGES**

10. To comprehend the fruits of the spirit lies beyond human comprehension. However, one can list some fruits, which members can enjoy:
  - a) Detection, deepening and realisation of one's own vocation in the Church and in the world;
  - b) Participation in the spiritual fruits that Jesus entrusted to the Church, especially to the missionary institutes;
  - c) Participation in the praxis and renewal of the spirituality, charisma and special apostolate of the MSF;

- d) The occasion to receive a special education in the field of the human, family, spiritual , ecclesiastical and apostolic dimensions;
- e) The renewal of the faith and living in families.

11. The AMSF can expect even more concrete privileges:

- a) A holy mass in their intentions every week;
- b) The members receive a picture and a medal of the Holy Family.

### **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

12. The AMSF take part in the mission of the MSF, especially through:

- a) Prayer (personal, in families, in communities) for the missions, vocations and families ;
- b) Participation in the general pastoral activities of the Church, especially in the pastoral of vocations, families and missions;
- c) The co-operation in activities or special apostolic projects of formation in the communities of the MSF provinces;
- d) A financial contribution for the realization of the apostolic activities of the MSF.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

13. In addition the AMSF are invited to:

- a) Consecration of the family to the Holy Family of Nazareth;
- b) Prayer, personal and in families;
- c) Participation in special events of the MSF (vows, ordinations, sending out of missionaries *ad gentes*, jubilees, etc.).

### **THE ORGANIZATION**

14. The members of the association AMSF can belong to two different categories:

- a) co-operators; b) consecrated members;

15. The AMSF belong to one province of the MSF:

- a) Every province stays in contact with their AMSF. It receives them, accompanies them, and offers on-going formation according to the respective situation;
- b) A province can initiate various small groups;

16. The co-ordination and animation of the AMSF are done as follows:

- a) Every group chooses a lay-person as animator, who is to be confirmed by the provincial superior;
- b) The provincial superior nominates a confrere, who is responsible in the province;
- c) The General Superior nominates somebody responsible on the level of the Congregation.

### **ADMISSION AND FORMATION OF THE MEMBERS**

17. A person, who is interested, communicates (personally or in the name of the family) his intention and motivation to the respective provincial superior (official form);

18. After consultations with the member responsible in the province for the AMSF, the provincial superior can give admission to the new member to the category of co-operators;

19. The new member takes part in the activities of formation, which are offered and also participates in the regional groups, where they exist;

20. After three years the new member can ask the provincial superior for admission to become a consecrated member;

21. When a member is admitted, he consecrates himself (individually or as a family) to the Holy family of Nazareth. Afterwards he will be given a picture and the official medal of the AMSF;

22. The consecration is performed within a celebration of the holy Eucharist after the homily on one of the feast days mentioned in number 5 of this statute;

23. The consecration can be expressed like this:

*„God, heavenly Father, I thank you because you have made me a member of your people through baptism and because you call me to deepen my Christian vocation as a friend of the Missionaries of the Holy Family.*

*In the presence of the brothers and sisters of my community, which has been lead through the Holy Spirit under the charisma of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, I promise to take part in the communities and in the mission according to the statute.*

*I commit myself to live according to the spirit of the Holy Family: community of love, forgiving and growing in the family, in the communities and in the ecclesiastical service.*

*I commit myself to work in the mission tirelessly to lead people into the one family of the heavenly Father.*

*Therefore I consecrate myself (my wife and children) to the Holy Family of Nazareth. I will look for inspiration in them, guidance and strength, to live the Gospel in the domestic church and to let it become a part of the world. Amen!*

24. All members will be written into a special register in the respective province and also in the generalate of the MSF;

25. The provinces plan forms of on-going education for the AMSF with the following emphasis:

- a) Days of information for aspirants;
- b) Days of introduction for new members;
- c) Annual days of on-going education in groups and parishes;
- d) Days and vacations for living in community;
- e) Half yearly letters for communication and formation;
- f) Retread in parishes and in houses for reflection;
- g) Courses and possible encounters on the level of the province.

#### **THOSE RESPONSIBLE IN THE PROVINCES**

26. Every year those responsible in the provinces for the AMSF send a report to the generalate about the activities and about the situation of the association in their surroundings, together with the forms of the new members;

27. Every year the province offers a programme for information and encounters for the AMSF in their province, and also some help for prayer and formation;

28. The person responsible in the province every week celebrates a holy mass in the intentions of the AMSF;

29. The provinces define and structure the concrete ways of participation of the AMSF in the activities and special projects of the MSF.

#### **PROPERTY AND ADMINISTRATION**

30. *The association* AMSF is not proprietor of the economical goods, as all goods are given for the service, and also the donations to the members belong to the Congregation of the MSF. This has to provide the expenses for the service through the provinces;

31. The concrete form for the financial contribution for the mission and education of the MSF is fixed by the province;

32. Every year the AMSF will be informed in the respective province about the amount of the financial help and which projects were supported with the money.

## **RESIGNATION FROM THE ASSOCIATION**

33. A member of the association AMSF, whether only co-operator or a consecrated member can leave the association at any time by communicating his decision to the person responsible of the MSF;
34. A member can be dismissed from the association AMSF through the responsible person of the MSF for the following reasons:
  - a) Public break with the catholic faith;
  - b) Publishing works that are contrary to the catholic teaching;
  - c) A style of life that is incompatible with Christian moral;
  - d) Failure to materialize one of the aims mentioned in n° 3 or one of the activities which are written in n° 12 und 13.

## **TEMPORARY REGULATIONS**

35. Members that are registered in the association, automatically become co-operators of the AMSF.
36. These members and also their relatives (parents, brothers, sisters) of the MSF can be admitted to become consecrated members, if they apply for it;
37. The associations that already exist in the provinces can keep their names. However, they must add the expression AMSF to their respective names.
38. The statutes of the associations, which already exist, must be replaced by the actual statute or must be adapted and have to be confirmed by the General Government.

## **The consecration to the Holy Family of Nazareth**

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*I commit myself to live according to the spirit of the Holy Family: community of love, forgiving and growing in the family, in the communities and in the ecclesiastical service.*

*I commit myself to work in the mission tirelessly to lead people into the one family of the heavenly Father.*

*Therefore I consecrate myself (my wife and children) to the Holy Family of Nazareth. I will look for inspiration in them, guidance and strength, to live the Gospel in the domestic church and to let it become a part of the world. Amen!*

<b>SECOND NAME</b>		<b>N° (PROVINCE)</b>
<b>FIRST NAME</b>		<b>N° (GENERALE)</b>
<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>		<b>DATE OF MARRIAGE</b>
<b>SECOND NAME AND FIRST NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE</b>		<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>
<b>NAMES OF CHILDREN</b>		
<b>PARISH:</b>	<b>DIOCESE:</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>		
<b>WHICH ARE THE MOTIVATIONS TO BECOME A FRIEND OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY?</b>		
<b>HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE? (MULTIPLE CHOICE POSSIBLE)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> as co-operator <input type="checkbox"/> as consecrated member <input type="checkbox"/> in the apostolate <input type="checkbox"/> financial support	
<p>-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Place and date</p> <p>-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">signature</p>		
<b>TO BE SENT TO:</b>		

<b>TESTIMONY BY THE PARISH PRIEST:</b>
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