



To: All Presidents of National/Superior and Assimilated Councils

Cc: Renato Lima de Oliveira, XVI President General-elect

Ref: D-20160727/64/MT/chp

27 July 2016

**Subject: New or Changed Statutes Approved at the General Assembly**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

This is to inform you that at the General Assembly of the Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul held on 7 June 2016 in Rome, the following New or Changed Statutes were approved:-

**A. International Statute 1.1.2: (New second paragraph)**

**The Society has the sole right to decide its work, its priorities and the way the work is undertaken, the management of its projects, Conferences and Councils, its choice of Officers, its organisational structures and the formation and training of its members and Officers. It has the sole right to manage and distribute its funds and assets.**

**B. International Statute 3.1: (New second paragraph)**

**The President General sends, on behalf of Council General International, an Annual Report to the Holy See, summarising the Society's key activities and financial report for the previous year. A sign of ecclesial communion, the report is for information.**

**C. International Statute 3.4: (Changed wording)**

**The term of office of the President General is limited to one term of six years only.**

**D. Basic Requirement - B.R. 3.1: (New second paragraph)**

**In the event of the dissolution of a Conference or Council, all debts and liabilities legally incurred by and on behalf of the Conference or Council shall be fully discharged by the next higher Council of the Society. Remaining money or property and all files and documents must be passed promptly to the next higher Council.**

**E. Basic Requirement – B.R. 11: (New fifth paragraph)**

**After nominations have been declared, canvassing on behalf of a candidate or against a candidate is forbidden.**

F. Basic Requirement – B.R. 13: (New third and fourth paragraphs)

**If a parish priest who has declined to be the usual Spiritual Advisor does occasionally attend a Conference meeting, he will always be invited by the President to contribute to the sharing during the Spiritual Reading or Reflection.**

**In a parish, the parish priest is usually asked to be the Spiritual Advisor and, if he declines, it would be prudent to consult him about who may undertake the role. At Council level, although chosen by the Council President, the Spiritual Advisor must obtain agreement from his or her ecclesiastical superior.**

G. Basic Requirement – B.R. 18: (Add new sentence to current fourth paragraph)

**An annual report by a National Council should also be sent to Council General.**

H. Basic Requirement – B.R. 19: (New fourth paragraph)

**Respecting the wishes of donors: “Offerings given by the faithful for a certain purpose can be applied only for that same purpose.” (IEN Art. 10.2). The Society will take all reasonable steps to respect the wishes of donors.**

The above amendments are to take effect from 7 June 2016 the date on which the General Assembly approved the amendments and please note these amendments and notify your members. Should you require further information or clarification please refer to Council General International.

We thank and praise God for guiding us through the amendment process which will augur well for the Society.

United in prayer and with God’s grace and blessing.



Julien Spiewak  
Secretary General



Dr. Michael Thio  
President General