

Report of the Law Commission Meeting

December 10-12, 2024 (Rome)

The Law Commission met in Rome at the Generalate, 10-12 December 2024. All members were present: Dom Armand, Scourmont (President); M. Kathy, Redwoods; Dom Juan José, San Isidro; Dom Isidoro, Huerta; Sr Eleanor, Generalate (Secretary). Fr Raphaël Garcia Pelayo, secretary of the Abbot General, acted as interpreter.

Agenda

The Central Commission of June 2024 (San Francisco de Mostazal, Chile) confided several topics to the Law Commission, and these formed the agenda of the meeting.

1. Update of the Working paper on Mothers Immediate
2. Revision of the document on Affiliation
3. Changes in our legislation because of the possibility of non-cleric superiors (monks)
4. Update the *Statute on the Accompaniment of Fragile Communities and the Suppression of a Monastery*
5. A working paper on the minimum number of solemnly professed required to form a conventual chapter
6. A study of the points that can be harmonized between the Constitutions of the monks and of the nuns

1. Update of the Working paper on Mothers Immediate

The Central Commission asked the Law Commission “to update, if necessary, its working paper on Mothers Immediate, taking into account the work in the Regions” (vote 46).

The revised Working Paper on Mothers Immediate is enclosed with this report. The main changes are

- (i) Points in Section 3.1 concerning the harmonisation of certain points in the Constitutions of the monks and the nuns have been removed from this Working Paper as they are now on the agenda of the General Chapter separately. See point 6 below.
- (ii) Two votes have been introduced in section 5.3.

2. Revision of the document on Affiliation

The Central Commission asked the Law Commission “to revise the document on affiliation, taking into account the votes of the Regions, and to include it as information in the General Booklet of the Chapter of 2025” (vote 52).

The revised document, now called a Statute on Affiliation, is enclosed with this report.

3. Changes in our legislation because of the possibility of non-cleric superiors in monasteries of monks

The Central Commission asked the Law Commission “to study possible changes to our legislation in the light of the Papal Rescript of May 18, 2022, on the possibility of a non-cleric being a major superior of a clerical institute of pontifical right” (vote 66).

The result of the study and some proposed changes in our Constitutions are enclosed with this report.

NB: The Law Commission recommends that the Liturgy Commission of the Order study the Rite of Abbatial Blessing and make any necessary revisions for the case of a non-cleric abbot.

4. Update of the Statute on the Accompaniment of Fragile Communities and on the Suppression of a Monastery

The Central Commission asked the Law Commission “to update the Statute on the Accompaniment of Fragile Communities and the Suppression of monasteries in the light of the work of the Regions.” (vote 68).

The revised text is enclosed with this report.

5. A working paper on the minimum number of solemnly professed required to form a conventual chapter

The Central Commission asked the Law Commission to draw up a working paper on the topic of the minimum number of solemn professed required to constitute a conventual chapter (votes 70 and 71).

The working paper, including some proposed votes, is enclosed with this report.

6. A study of the points that can be harmonized between the Constitutions of the monks and of the nuns

The Central Commission asked the Law Commission “to begin a study of the points that can be harmonized between the Constitutions of the monks and nuns” (vote 77). This is in addition to the harmonization of C. 39.1, ST 39.1.A, ST 39.2, and ST 39.3.b, originally in the Working Paper on Mothers Immediate, but now treated separately (vote 75 of the Central Commission).

Enclosed with this report are

- (i) A paper on the four points for harmonization removed from the Working Paper on Mothers Immediate, and
- (ii) A paper on other points which could be harmonized.

The Statute on the Regular Visitation

The Central Commission also asked the Law Commission “to propose to the General Chapter of 2025 a revised version of the Statute on Regular Visitations, taking into account the work of the Regions and of the Central Commission” (vote 64).

Section III.11.4 of the Central Commission report deal with this topic, and mentions three points.

- (a) The report says “A question that arose under No 8 of the Statute on Regular Visitation concerned the way difficult situations are to be brought to the attention of the General Chapter.” This reference should be to the Statute on Fragile Communities.
The way in which these situations can be brought to the attention of the General Chapter will be clarified at the beginning of the General Chapter of 2025; if necessary, an adjustment can be made to the *Procedures* of the General Chapter.
- (b) The second point concerns economic visitations, which are not part of the Regular Visitation and do not affect the Statute on the Regular Visitation.
- (c) The change to the Statute on the Regular Visitation concerning delegated visitors can happen only after the General Chapter has ratified St 75.2.A (monks).



Documents sent in conjunction with this report:

1. Revised Working Paper on Mothers Immediate
2. Revised document on Affiliation (“Statute on Affiliation”)
3. Study of changes in legislation as a consequence of non-cleric superiors in monasteries of monks
4. Updated *Statute on Fragile Communities and on the Suppression of a Monastery*
5. Working paper on the minimum number of solemnly professed required to form a conventual chapter
6. (a) Four points for harmonization between the Constitutions of the monks and the nuns
(b) Study of other points that can be harmonized between the Constitutions of the monks and of the nuns