

## Statute on Affiliation

*revised text proposed by the Law Commission, Dec 2024*

1. Affiliation is a particular form of help that the General Chapter establishes in particular situations in favour of the community of a monastery *sui iuris* which has an asserted autonomy, but which autonomy is in reality very precarious or even non-existent.<sup>1</sup>
2. Through affiliation, the exercise of autonomy of the community is suspended, and it is rendered *donec aliter provideatur* a house dependent on another autonomous monastery of the Order, according to what is established in the present Statute and any other provisions on the matter given by the General Chapter.<sup>2</sup>
3. The request for affiliation may be made at the free initiative of the community experiencing increased fragility, or by the Father Immediate of that community, or it may arise from the study of the situation of the community in the General Chapter. Only the General Chapter is competent to establish it, after a deliberative vote in the affiliating community, a consultative vote in the fragile community, and consultation of the Fathers Immediate of both communities. Between General Chapters, when the case is urgent, the Abbot General and his Council may establish it after the same votes and consultations.
4. Affiliation is configured as a juridical support that must assess whether the inability to manage the life of the autonomous monastery in all its dimensions is only temporary or is irreversible, helping the affiliated community to overcome difficulties or to take the necessary steps towards suppression<sup>3</sup> (cf. Statute on Fragile Communities, pars. 17ff).
5. At the time of affiliation, it is up to the General Chapter to evaluate whether it is opportune to set up a Commission for the Future, composed of the superior of the affiliating monastery and at least two other persons designated by the General Chapter.<sup>4</sup>
6. The Major Superior of the autonomous affiliating monastery is constituted Major Superior of the affiliated monastery.<sup>5</sup>
7. The local Superior of the affiliated monastery is a nun / monk in solemn vows, appointed by the Major Superior of the affiliating monastery with the consent of his / her Council, having consulted the nuns / monks of the affiliated monastery. His / her function is limited to managing the ordinary daily life of the monastery according to the indications of the Major Superior.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Cor orans* 54

<sup>2</sup> Cf. CO 57

<sup>3</sup> CO 55

<sup>4</sup> Cf. CO 56

<sup>5</sup> CO 58

<sup>6</sup> CO 59

8. During the time of affiliation, the celebration of the conventual Chapter is suspended in the affiliated monastery, but the possibility of calling local Chapters remains unaffected.<sup>7</sup>
9. The affiliated monastery can accept candidates, but the novitiate and initial formation must be performed in the affiliating monastery, or in another monastery designated by the General Chapter.<sup>8</sup>
10. The candidates of the affiliated monastery are admitted to the novitiate, the novices to temporary profession, and the temporary professed to solemn profession by the Major Superior of the affiliating monastery, having consulted the community of the affiliated monastery and obtained the favourable vote of the conventual Chapter of the affiliating monastery.<sup>9</sup> The same applies if a member of the Order wishes to change stability to the affiliated monastery, the other norms of Cst. 60 being observed.
11. Profession will be made for the affiliated monastery.<sup>10</sup>
12. During the time of affiliation, the local Superior mentioned in par. 7 is constituted the legal representative of the affiliated monastery.<sup>11</sup> The finances of the affiliated monastery and of the affiliating monastery are administered separately.<sup>12</sup>
13. If the affiliated monastery has daughter houses, the Father Immediate, in consultation with the daughter houses, will decide how the exercise of paternity is to be carried out.
14. In the affiliated monastery, the regular Visitation is made by the same Visitor who makes the regular Visitation of the monastery to which it is affiliated. As long as this juridical form continues, the functions of Father Immediate of the affiliated house are assumed by the same person who is Father Immediate of the affiliating monastery.
15. Affiliation ends when, in the judgement of the General Chapter, the fragile community has sufficiently recovered its real autonomy of life, or when it is judged that the situation of fragility is irreversible and the monastery must be suppressed (cf. Statute on Fragile Communities, Part IV).



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<sup>7</sup> CO 64

<sup>8</sup> Cf. CO 60

<sup>9</sup> CO 61

<sup>10</sup> CO 62

<sup>11</sup> CO 59

<sup>12</sup> CO 63