

CONSTITUTIONS of the APOSTLES of JESUS CHRIST, PRIEST & VICTIM

FUNDAMENTAL CHARISM: To seek to sanctify ourselves as diocesan priests by conforming ourselves to Jesus Christ, High Priest and Victim, in a mission of shared charity according to the norms of our Constitutions and the specific means of our apostolate, thereby fulfilling the intention of Christ to save the greatest number of souls.

Jesus drew near and spoke to them saying: “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world” (Mt. 28:16-20). Our mission then is to fulfill this original intention of Jesus, and to do everything possible for the salvation of the greatest number of souls.

An Apostle is one who is sent by Jesus the Lord as He Himself was sent by the Eternal Father through the Incarnation in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Jesus sent His Apostles to teach and baptize in His Name so as to bring souls to the glory of Eternal Life, which consists primarily in the vision of the Most Holy Trinity. We, as diocesan priests, are sent by our Bishops in communion with the Bishop of Rome, the Successor to Peter and the Vicar of Christ on earth. Hence as Apostles of Christ, Priest and Victim, we always are called in light of the ultimate authority of the Bishop as the Successor to the Apostles. We must always understand ourselves as servants and sons of our Bishop, our spiritual father, acting under his direction and according to his discernment of where our charism can serve most effectively. This is always the intention of our apostolic endeavors: to do nothing without the approval of our Bishop. We pray daily for him, striving to remain always in union with him.

We also recognize that a true Apostle of Jesus Christ is one who is formed by Mary, just the first Apostles were formed by her. Our Catholic Tradition recognizes that the Blessed Virgin, who “kept all these things, pondering them in her heart” (Lk. 2:19), communicated to the Apostles the secrets which she held within her Heart and bosom; i.e., all the intimate facts she knew about her Son, and all that the Holy Spirit had revealed to her in the Scriptures and otherwise. She rightly deserves to be called “the Evangelist of the Evangelists”[1] and the “teacher of the teachers.”[2] We therefore realize that while we are Apostles of Jesus Christ, High Priest and Victim, we are also Apostles of Mary,[3] who with and through the Holy Spirit forms Christ in us[4] in the school of her Heart.[5]

I. Spiritual Mission in Shared Charity

We are here to fulfill a mission which requires ongoing formation, intense prayer, penance, study, and obedience to the Bishops under whom we serve. It is our belief that this ongoing study and formation can be best accomplished in an apostolic society where we encourage each other and hold each other accountable for fulfilling our basic mission according to the intentions of Christ and His Church: to go out two by two and re-evangelize North America.