

The Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo: A Brief Profile

Origin

The *Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo* have their origins in the desire expressed by several young women to share the ideals of the *Priestly Fraternity of the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo*, founded by Monsignor Massimo Camisasca.

We wish to live in communion with the Priestly Fraternity of St. Charles Borromeo, sharing their passion for Christ and for the world.

Charism

We wish to live the charism of Monsignor Luigi Giussani—the same charism which gave rise to the Priestly Fraternity of St. Charles Borromeo and through which we have discovered the beauty of Christianity. We desire to belong to the movement *Communion and Liberation* and serve its missionary work throughout the world, so that “people can encounter Christ in the manner and method by which He has moved us” (*Directory of the Fraternity of St. Charles Borromeo*).

We conceive of ourselves as forming a single missionary society together with the Priestly Fraternity of St. Charles Borromeo. In living our mission, we desire to express the communion and friendship that unite us, acting together with the Fraternity in a unity of spirit and intention. In the areas of the world where this is possible, we will collaborate with the missionaries of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Charles Borromeo.

Adoration and a Spirit of Gratuity

We wish to live our lives in adoration and a spirit of gratuity.

Adoration means being with Christ, acquiring a deeper knowledge of Him, and loving Him. It means living in His presence in silence, in prayer, by participating in the sacraments, and in love for our sisters.

The gratuitous gift of ourselves to God and to the people we encounter has its source in this intimacy with Christ, whom we wish to serve in the places, situations and needs that He will make known to us through His Church.

Obedience

We wish to find our complete support in the rock that is Christ, certain of the good plans He has for us.

We entrust ourselves with transparency and creativity to our superiors. By living out this obedience, we wish to safeguard the love we have for our sisters.

Virginity

Because we have begun to experience virginity as the full realization of ourselves, we wish to live it in all of its profundity and beauty.

We look to Mary, to her experience, to the gift of herself to the Mystery and to her Son. It is from her—from her life as a daughter, handmaid and mother—that we desire to learn, discovering how she lived, what she said and did, always seeking to be close to her.

Poverty

In order to be truly free and to possess the one thing necessary, we desire to live poverty.

For us, poverty means offering all that we are and using everything we have so that Jesus Christ might be known. This availability is also expressed in the common ownership of our goods.

Vows

In order to give our lives to Christ, we will profess vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.

Common Life

We desire to live and to work together.

In our houses, we will live in friendship and charity, in obedience to our superiors, and share a love for the Lord and for the people whom we encounter.

In the sisters with whom we are called to live, we recognize the privileged place Christ has chosen to remain near to us. It is in this friendship that we wish to receive all those who pass through our houses and whom we encounter in leaving our houses.

Mission and Work

For us, mission means bearing witness to the beauty, truth and freedom we experience in encountering Christ and remaining with Him.

We wish to wear a habit that reminds ourselves and others to Whom we belong.

We desire to work in the world, dedicating ourselves to evangelization, that is, to the proclamation of the presence of Christ and to education in the Catholic faith.

We are open to all positions and professions that might serve this end, but most especially to the following: teaching in schools and universities; educating children and young people, also through parochial catechesis; serving the needy through works of charity; providing assistance to families and the elderly; caring for the sick in hospitals; and supporting the works of the movement Communion and Liberation and/ or the Priestly Fraternity of St. Charles Borromeo.

We are available to go anywhere in the world that the Church and the movement Communion and Liberation requests our presence.

Formation

Before being sent forth on mission, we wish to have the necessary time for preparation, under the guidance of our superiors. During the years of formation, we will begin to live together that which we shall be called to live in each of our houses.

We see study as a privileged way to deepen our knowledge of Christ, His life and His words. We wish to have a knowledge of Sacred Scripture, Church history, the mysteries of the Faith, and the teachings of Monsignor Luigi Giussani. We also wish to learn from all that we have inherited from history, in the lives and thought of the great figures who preceded us, in literature, art and music. We would like to deepen our knowledge of the world in which we live, so as to live the present time thoughtfully and intentionally.

The period of formation will include a probationary period (lasting a minimum of two [2], but not to exceed four [4] years); and the period of temporary incorporation into the Institute (lasting a minimum of three [3], but not to exceed five [5] years). This is followed by definitive incorporation (by way of permanent vows) into the community.

Government

We respectfully request the Church to recognize us as a Society of Apostolic Life.

The Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo will be led by superiors and governing structures distinct from those of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Charles Borromeo. The relationship of communion and friendship between the two societies will be regulated in their respective statutes.

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The Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo were recognized as an Association of the Faithful by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Gino Reali, Bishop of the Diocese of Porto-Santa Rufina (Rome) on the 25th of March 2007.