



LOCAL STATUTES

of the

SECULAR CARMELITE (Teresian) ORDER

in

ENGLAND and WALES



O.C.D. GENERAL DEFINITORY

in session number 197 on the 3rd day of April 2009

APPROVED

the Statutes of the Discalced Carmelite Secular Order

presented by the English Jurisdiction

of the Anglo-Irish Province

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PREFACE

The Constitutions of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites are the fundamental law for its members. (**Preface OCDS Constitutions**). However each Region has been asked to present a set of Local Statutes, based on the Constitutions which address the needs of the various cultural, social and ecclesial environments present in the world. (**Art 58 Constitutions**)

I. ORGANISATION OF THE SECULAR ORDER IN ENGLAND AND WALES (**Art 57 Constitutions**)

The National Council serves as an advisory body to the Secular Order assisting in formation and apostolate. Membership is composed of Regional Representatives, the National President and the Provincial Delegate to the Secular order. Elections for the National Council shall be held every three years and voting shall take place at the meeting of the Presidents.

II REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE ORDER

Practising members of the Catholic Church, layperson or cleric (not already under promises to another Religious Order) who have attained the age of 18 years may apply to be admitted. There is no upper age limit, however they should be in a sufficient state of health to enable full participation in Community life.

III FORMATION

There are three periods of Formation:

a) Introductory period of at least six months (**Art 36a Constitutions**) under the guidance of the Formation Director. At the end of this period they may be invited by the Community Council to be received into Formation.

b) Formation for First (Temporary) Promise which lasts for at least two years.

c) Formation for Definitive (Final) Promise, which lasts for at least three years (**Art. 36d Constitutions**).

IV COMMUNITY

Community life is central to the Carmelite charism. In order to foster a climate of human and Christian community (**Art 9d Constitutions**) the local community shall meet once a month. These meetings shall provide a programme of ongoing formation for all members, transact business and disseminate news of the Order, and pray together.

Attendance at meetings is expected and is so important that the Community Council may choose to make a policy regarding attendance. It is left to their discretion.

(a) Community Size

Communities are encouraged to limit their size in order to maintain a strong sense of intimacy within the community. Although it is left to the discretion of each community as to the maximum number of members it should have, experience would indicate that fifteen may be the optimum number.

(b) Community Finances

Each community is to be self-supporting. When communities come together, they must be aware that they should contribute to the upkeep and costs of the centre where these monthly or other meetings take place.

It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to take charge of the administration of the funds of the community; to determine the amount that is given to local needs and to ensure that an annual contribution is made to the Central Funds of the Secular Order.

(c) Transfer between Communities

Transfer of members between Communities may take place with the agreement of the Councils of both Communities.

(d) Annual Retreat

Each community is to encourage members to attend a Carmelite Secular Order retreat once a year. This is an opportunity to foster relations between communities and encourages mutual exchange of news. Where possible, communities are encouraged to share resources with other local communities, such as Regional Days of Recollection.

V. COMMUNITY ELECTIONS

A canonically erected Community shall elect their Council, comprising of a President and three Councillors.

Procedure:

(a) Elections must be held every three years and it is the duty of the President to inform all members of the date at least four weeks in advance. The Secretary should prepare sufficient ballot papers for use during the voting.

b) Reports: Before voting takes place, the outgoing Secretary and Treasurer will present their reports and make the relevant records available for inspection. These reports will consist of an account of the activities of the Community over the past three years, including numbers in the Community, deaths, transfers in and out, Reception into Formation and Promises made.

c) Voting eligibility: Only those present who have made at least their First Promise are eligible to vote (postal or proxy votes shall be invalid).

d) Ensuring accuracy of vote: The Provincial Delegate or his authorised deputy shall scrutinize each stage of the vote and count and verify the votes cast in the ballot papers. The Secretary records each stage of the voting and the final results.

e) President's term of office: In normal circumstances, the President may be elected for two consecutive terms. In exceptional circumstances, he/she may be elected for a third term, if they have obtained at least two-thirds of the votes and subject to approval by the Secular Order Provincial Delegate.

f) An overall majority is required for elections (i.e. more than 50% of all valid votes cast). If no one receives the required number in the first ballot, a second ballot is taken. If, after the second ballot, no one has the required number of votes, a third ballot is taken but for this ballot only the two with the highest number of votes in the second ballot are eligible for election.

g) The newly elected Council shall assume their duties at the end of the meeting in which they are elected and their first duty is to appoint a Formation Director, who may be one of their number but should be definitively professed. They shall also invite two members to assume the roles of Secretary and Treasurer.