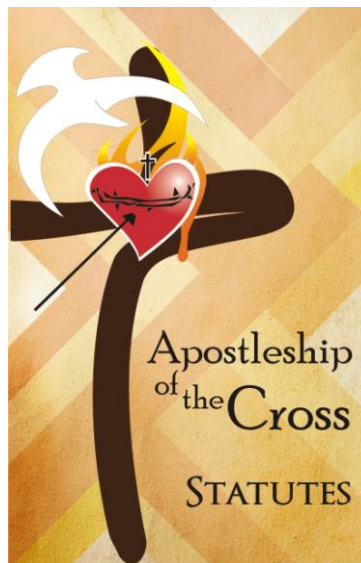


**TO READ THE STATUTES, STUDY THEM, MEDITATE ON THEM AND LIVE THEM
UNDER THE IMPULSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



INTRODUCTION

Dear Apostle of the Cross,

The Christ the Priest Regional Council decided to prepare this handout to assist you as you “read and study” the new Statutes, and to help you “meditate on them in prayer, and above all, live them,” following the invitation addressed to us by the Director General of the Apostleship in the Introduction to the Statutes (Read: No. 6, p. 5).

The key reason to approach the Statutes in this fashion is also found in the words of our Director General when he says: “The *Statutes* are a manifestation of the charism of the Apostleship of the Cross in the current circumstances of the Church and of the world. As an echo of the Gospels, the *Statutes* are the body and soul, the very life of the Apostleship of the Cross. They provide identity, unity, direction, and dynamism to the entire Apostleship, and to each Apostle of the Cross.” (Cf.: No. 4, p. 5).

Reading these pages, you will find some practical tools to help you go deeper as you read and study the Statutes. Each exercise typically consists of a short introduction, followed by an activity that you may complete individually or in small groups, depending on the decision of each group.

Many people collaborated on this bilingual edition of the Statutes; to them we owe a debt of profound gratitude. Let us pray for them, asking God to bless them abundantly!

We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in our study, whether it is done individually or in a group setting. May he help us to open our hearts to understand the Statutes and then live them in our daily life.

OBJECTIVE

«To attain a knowledge of the story, the structure, the fundamental contents and the newness of the Statutes of the Apostleship of the Cross in this new edition, and to look together for new ways to take them to our daily lives.»

a. The story of the new Statutes.

The Apostleship of the Cross was founded on May 3, 1895. Since then, it has had several versions of Statutes which have guided its journey. Once the statutes were approved by the proper authority, they became the norm to follow for its own good and growth.

Many years went by before the Second Vatican council took place in 1962-1965. The Council opened the doors for a renewal of the Church which also reached the Apostleship of the Cross. The first version of the new Statutes was approved in 1988, and ten years later, in February 1998, there was a revised edition of the Statutes, most probably the one you are familiar with.

❖ Individual and/or group activity.

If you have a copy of the 1988 and/or the 1998 Statutes, please read the introduction to learn about the steps that were taken to bring them into existence. Then, read numbers 1-2 from the Introduction of the 2014 Statutes written by Fr. Fernando Torre, current Director General of the Apostleship of the Cross (Cf.: pp. 3-4).

➤ What thoughts do you have as you contemplate this journey?

b. The structure of the new Statutes

In number 3 of the current Statutes, the Director General speaks of the objectives of those who worked to craft these Statutes. Read number 3 on p. 4, then go to page 7 and read the table of contents, where you will find the 8 chapters and endeavor to complete the first comprehension exercise on the content of our new Statutes.

❖ Individual and/or group activity.

Keeping in mind your your past knowledge and experience with the Apostleship of the Cross, and reading only the title of each chapter, write and then share what you imagine is the content of each of them.

Title	My guess about the content
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Nature, Origins and Symbol.	
Commitment and Membership	
Experience of God	
Community Life	
Ministry with Social and Ecclesial Impact	
Comprehensive Formation	
Organization and Leadership	
Growth and Expansion	

It might be useful to remember that the 1998 Statutes had 11 chapters and a total of 157 numerals. The Regulations of the Apostleship of the Cross were contained in the same booklet. The new edition does not contain such Regulations; they will be published later in a separate booklet. (Read the Introduction, number 5, p. 5).

c. Fundamental contents of the new Statutes.

- ❖ To properly understand the fundamental content of each chapter, you have to read them carefully. Let me suggest the following activity:

STEP ONE:

- Choose one chapter (or more, if time allows). Remembering what you just wrote in the first activity, read the chapter, contrasting what you originally thought the chapter would contain and what it actually says.

STEP TWO:

- After you read the chapters, in small groups of two or three people, SHARE THE WORDS OR THE CONCEPTS THAT YOU DEEM IMPORTANT OR MEANINGFUL.

d. Newness of the current Statutes.

The newness of the current Statutes appears more evident when you establish a comparison with the 1998 Statutes. By doing this exercise, you will be able to better appreciate the journey, the new concepts, and the steps the Apostleship has undertaken in recent times.

This is not something you have to do, if you keep in mind what the Director General says in number 1 of his introduction: “You have in your hands the newly revised edition of the *Statutes* of the Apostleship of the Cross (SAC). They were approved in the Central Council’s session on October 5, 2014. Since the *Statutes* “become effective immediately upon approval” (SAC 83), the earlier versions are no longer effective, as of October 5, 2014.” Nevertheless, I am sure that this activity will help you to appreciate the gift we have been given in the new Statutes, in which, as the Director General says, “the criteria for the formulation of the Statutes were the integrity, brevity, simplicity and accuracy” (Read the Introduction, number 3, p. 4).

- ❖ One way to discover the newness of the current Statutes is to read the titles of each chapter in order to discover the way the different contents have been organized. Your personal reading may also benefit from a group sharing session in which you can chat about the similarities and the differences you discover.

Current Statutes (October 2014)	1998 Statutes
1. Nature, Origins and Symbol.	1. Nature and Structure of the Apostleship of the Cross.
2. Commitment and Membership	2. Symbol of the Spirituality of the Cross
3. Experience of God	3. Fundamental Elements of the Spirituality of the Cross and attitudes needed to live it.
4. Communal Life	4. Means to live our Spirituality
5. Ministry with Social and Ecclesial Impact	5. Commitment and Membership
6. Comprehensive Formation	6. Ministry in the Apostleship of the Cross
7. Organization and Leadership	7. Formation in the Apostleship of the Cross: Stages, Means and Agents
8. Growth and Expansion	8. Organization
	9. Leadership
	10. Assemblies.
	11 Temporal Goods of the Apostleship.

- ❖ Another way to grasp the newness of the current Statutes is to read one chapter of the 1998 Statutes and then compare the content with that of the current Statutes.

For sure, after you have done your personal reading, the sharing in a small group will enrich your understanding, since each person focuses his/her attention on different elements. The commentaries may help you to see the similarities and the differences of content in each version of the Statutes.

At the same time, the personal reading and the group sharing will help you to understand what the Director General wrote in number 3 of his introduction: “The Central Council’s objective, regarding the *Statutes*, was to offer a text that would reflect the relationship between the Apostleship of the Cross and the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, as well as delineate the current organization of the Apostleship of the Cross by Regions.” (Read p. 4).

Dear sisters and brothers, it is my sincere hope that this handout has helped you to attain a knowledge of the story, the structure, the fundamental contents, and the newness of the Statutes of the Apostleship of the Cross in this new edition, and to look together for new ways to take them to our daily lives.

We entrust your work and its fruits to the Holy Spirit and to the Virgin Mary.

Fraternally yours,

Domenico Di Raimondo, MSp.S