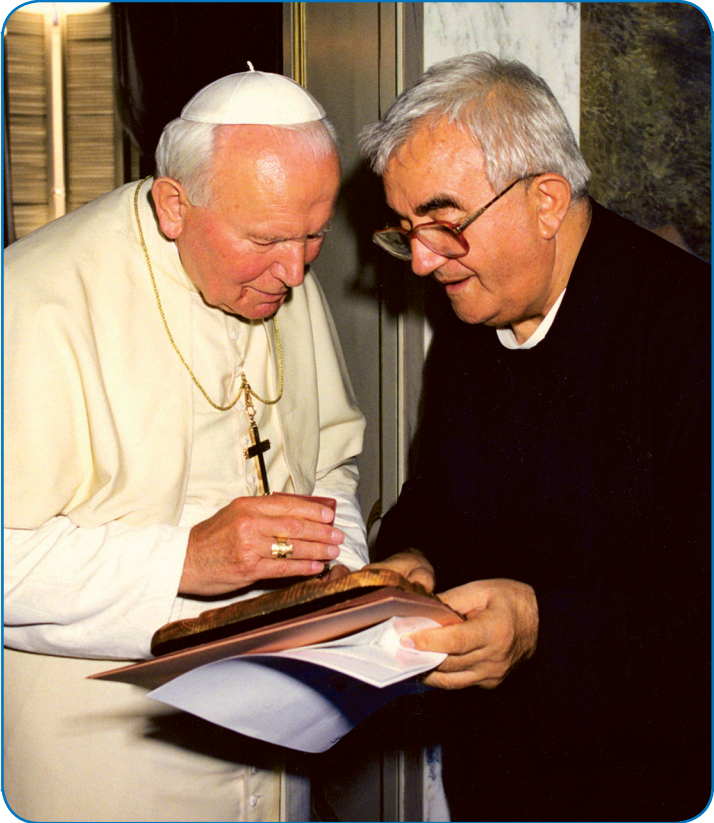




ASSOCIAZIONE **COMUNITÀ  
PAPA GIOVANNI XXIII**  
FOUNDED IN 1968 BY FATHER ORESTE BENZI



**Foundation Charter, Statutes and Directory**

Association  
“Community of Pope John XXIII”

**STATUTES**

*Text approved by the Pontifical Council for the Laity  
on 25 March 2004*

### **Art.1 - Nature, name and premises**

The Association, named 'Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII' [Community of Pope John XXIII], founded by Father Oreste Benzi and recognised by the Pontifical Council for the Laity, is constituted with its premises in Rimini.

The vocation of the Community consists in conforming one's life to that of Christ, who continuously fulfils the will of the Father, becoming poor and servant (inner aspect of the vocation), and, for Jesus, with Jesus and in Jesus, directly sharing the life of the least of those in society (visible aspect of the vocation).

### **Art. 2 - Spirituality**

The Association is a single spiritual family, whose members are of different ages and who live in different states of life. They choose to follow Christ, poor, servant and suffering, by committing themselves to answering the universal call to holiness, contributing to the realisation of the Kingdom of God

and participating in the mission of salvation of the Church. They do this in accordance with the guidelines of spiritual life contained in the Foundation Charter, which is an integral part of these Statutes.

### **Art. 3 - Aims**

The Association, in accordance with its charism, aims to:

a) help its Associates fulfil their Christian vocation and carry out the will of God throughout their lives;

b) live out and promote, among its Associates, the direct sharing of life with the least of those in society by establishing initiatives of both an individual and communal nature, confirmed by the President or the Community Area Leaders in communion with and in obedience to the President, and showing commitment to the work it promotes;

c) spare no effort to remove the causes of injustice and marginalisation, committing itself, in conformity with the Social Doctrine of the Church, to working in a non-violent way for the development of a fairer world and to being the voice of the voiceless.

**Art. 4 - Activity**

The Association promotes, realises and runs, in conformity with its charism, different types of activities. These include family homes and open families for the welcoming and sharing of life with people in difficulty; therapeutic communities for the social reinsertion of people with various kinds of addiction problems; emergency welcome centres for the meeting of urgent and immediate needs, amongst which are emergency shelters for people who have been induced into prostitution and want to leave the street; social cooperatives for educational activities and the integration of disadvantaged people; free health centres; prayer homes and fraternity homes. It is also present, in a non-violent way, in conflict areas, seeking out the poor and sharing life with them wherever they are. Furthermore, the Association can carry out, in any place, any activities considered necessary, useful or in any way relevant to the achievement of its aims, including those of an economic, financial, movable and immovable nature.

**Art. 5 - Property**

The Association provides for the achievement of its aims through:

a) contributions from and the cooperation of its Associates;

- b) subsidies, offerings, bequests, donations and grants from public bodies and private individuals;
- c) the proceeds of the running of its own activities.

### **Art. 6 - Admission of Associates**

Those wishing to join the Association shall submit an explanatory application to the President, showing their clear intention to commit themselves to observing the Statutes and to being effectively involved in the ideals and activities of the Association itself. The President of the Association, after having evaluated the seriousness of these intentions, admits individual candidates, for a period of time, to participate in the life and activities of the Association in order to test that they are indeed called to follow the vocation of the Community. During this time, candidates are helped by the person responsible for vocational formation, who is appointed by the President, and are guided along their personal and Community path by the Community Area to which they are entrusted.

If, at the end of this trial period, which lasts in any case not less than one year, candidates persist in their initial intention and recognise the vocation within themselves, they are admitted as members of the Association by the President, after he/she has heard the opinion of the Leadership Council.

**Art. 7 - Rule of life of Associates**

Depending on their life situation and respecting the duties of their state of life, the Associates pursue conformity to the image of Christ, poor, servant and suffering, directly sharing the life of the least of their brothers and sisters by:

- a) living life as the poor, conscious of being administrators, not owners, of the goods of God;
- b) endeavouring to make union with God a dimension of life and creating space for prayer and contemplation;
- c) making use of the spiritual help of both an individual and communal nature offered by the Association, in particular the periodic spirituality and formation meetings and the service of confirmation and guidance exercised by the leaders of the Association in accordance with the Foundation Charter;
- d) living in the communion of fraternal life with the leaders and the other Associates.

**Art. 8 - Associates who are clerics, candidates for holy orders or lay people committed full time to the activities of the Association**

Associates who are clerics remain subject to the authority of their respective ordinary or superiors in conformity with the provisions of the universal

law of the Church. In the case of their being designated to exercise their ministry for the specific aims of the Association, their rights and duties shall be defined by an agreement to be made between the bishops or superiors involved and the Association itself.

The formation of Associates who aspire to Holy Orders shall be carried out in accordance with the canonical norms which regulate this matter and placed under the responsibility of the competent ecclesiastical authority.

The rights and duties of lay Associates dedicated full time to the activities of the Association shall be defined in specific agreements to be made with the individuals concerned.

### **Art. 9 - Loss of membership**

Associates lose their membership due to death, resignation, unjustified non-participation in the life of the Association for a three-year period and behaviour which is against the Statutes of the Association and is considered as such by the President and the Leadership Council. The President and the Leadership Council shall first notify the person concerned of this behaviour and give him/her the opportunity to offer reasons in his/her defence.



### **Art.10 - Assembly of the Association**

The Assembly of the Association is made up of:

- a) the members of the Leadership Council, as defined in Article 14 of the present Statutes;
- b) the Delegates elected in accordance with Article 18 of the present Statutes.

The Assembly meets at least once a year, within the month of May, in order to:

- a) approve the final balance sheet;
- b) examine the preliminary budget;
- c) take decisions on other matters within its competence and on the topics which the Leadership Council submits.

The Assembly will also be convened any time the Leadership Council deems it necessary or when requested by at least half the Associates. It is the responsibility of the President to convene the Assembly by publishing a special notice in the Association's bulletin at least thirty days before the date of the meeting or by sending a registered letter, telex or fax at least seven days before such date.

The Assembly is presided over by the President of the Association, who takes responsibility for the minutes with the help of a secretary appointed by him/her.

## **Art. 11 - Procedures of the Assembly**

The meetings of the Assembly are valid:  
in first call, if at least two-thirds of those entitled to attend are present;

in second call, to be carried out not earlier than twenty-four hours after the first, if the absolute majority of those entitled to attend are present.

Decisions are adopted, both in first or second call, upon the favourable vote of the absolute majority of people present.

## **Art. 12 - President**

The President is responsible for:

a) promoting and guaranteeing, through suitable means, the actualisation of the spirit of the Association as it is defined in the present Statutes and Foundation Charter;

b) ensuring the spiritual formation of Associates and those who aspire to become such in order to guarantee the actualisation of the statutory aims;

c) appointing those to be entrusted with the directive tasks of the various activities promoted by the Association, after having heard the opinion of the Leadership Council;

d) convening the Assembly and the Leadership Council and setting the agenda;

e) confirming decisions taken by the Assembly and the Leadership Council and taking care of their execution;

f) representing the Association in all ecclesiastical respects.

The President can also take extraordinary measures in matters which fall within the competence of the Leadership Council whenever these are urgent or necessary to guarantee the functioning of the Association. He/she informs the Leadership Council of these in the first subsequent meeting.

The President is elected by the Assembly of the Association to serve for six years and can be re-elected. For his/her election to be valid, the presence, in person or by written indication, of the majority of those convened is necessary.

The Founder of the Association, Father Oreste Benzi, is lifelong President.

### **Art. 13 - Vice President**

The Vice President assumes all functions of the President in case of his/her absence or impediment. If the President cannot continue in his/her role for any reason, the Vice President convenes the Assembly within three months for the election of a successor. The Vice President is elected by and from

among the members of the Leadership Council.

He/she remains in office for three years and can be re-elected.

### **Art. 14 - Leadership Council**

The Leadership Council, made up of the President and the Community Area Leaders, has all necessary powers for the ordinary and extraordinary management of the Association and can take any necessary, useful or appropriate measures for the accomplishment of the Association's statutory aims.

The Leadership Council can delegate tasks concerning the management of the Association to one or more of its own members. It can also appoint special procurators ad negotia and can choose these from among people not directly connected with the Association itself.

### **Art. 15 - Meetings of the Leadership Council**

The Leadership Council meets at least twice a year and at any other time the President deems it necessary, or when requested by the majority of its members. It is the responsibility of the President to convene the Leadership Council and set the agenda. Every member of the Community can suggest topics to be discussed.

Meetings of the Leadership Council are convened by registered letter to be sent at least seven days before the date of the meeting or, in case of urgency and/or need, by telegram, telex or fax to be sent at least forty-eight hours before such date. Meetings are only valid if the majority of the members of the Leadership Council are present. Decisions are adopted by the majority vote of those present. In the case of a tie, the vote of the President prevails.

The President, assisted by a secretary appointed by him/her from among the members of the Leadership Council, takes responsibility for the drawing up of the minutes of the meetings, which are then transcribed into the relevant book.

### **Art. 16 - Legal Representative**

The Legal Representative represents the Association in all civil effects and acts in accordance with the decisions of the Leadership Council.

The Legal Representative is elected by the Leadership Council, remains in office for three years and can be re-elected.

### **Art. 17 - Auditors**

The running of the Association is monitored by three Auditors, who are appointed by the Assembly of the Association and can be chosen from among people not directly connected with it, preferably from among clearly honest and competent professionals. Auditors stay in office for three years and can be re-elected.

### **Art. 18 - Community Areas**

The Association is organised into territorial districts called Community Areas.

These are established by the Leadership Council, which also has full power to change or abolish them in order to achieve a more satisfactory pursuit of the statutory aims.

Every three years, and in accordance with the procedures provided by Canon 119 of the Code of Canon Law, the Assembly of Associates resident in each Community Area elects:

a) the Community Area Leader, whose appointment must be confirmed by the Leadership Council, of which he/she will become a member by right;

b) the Community Area Delegates, who participate in the Assembly of the Association, in the proportion of one Delegate every ten or fraction of ten resident members;

c) one Vice Delegate for each Delegate, who has the task of substituting the Delegate in case he/she is not able to participate in the Assembly of the Association.

### **Art. 19 - Amendments to the Statutes**

Possible amendments to the Statutes shall be decided upon by the Assembly of the Association with the approval of two-thirds of those members who vote, who, in turn, must constitute more than half of those members entitled to vote.

Amendments to the Statutes decided upon in this way must be approved by the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

### **Art. 20 - Termination of the Association**

In the case of termination of the Association, the liquidation of which shall be decided upon in accordance with Article 19, regarding amendments to the Statutes, the devolution of the remaining estate shall be managed by the Leadership Council, paying at-

tention to the needs of the time, excluding all profit-making aims and favouring bodies with ideals identical or very similar to those of the Association itself.

If the Leadership Council does not wish to or cannot take the relevant resolutions, every decision as to this matter shall be up to the Holy See.

**Art. 21 - Directory**

The Leadership Council shall take responsibility for the preparation and approval of a Directory for the implementation of the present Statutes.

**Art. 22 - Final norm**

For all matters not expressly provided for in the present Statutes, the provisions of the universal law of the Church are in force.