

STATUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FAMILY OF JESUS AND MARY



Chapter I: Identity and Mission

- 1- The Association Family Jesus and Mary (AFJM) is an international lay non-profit Association that participates in the Charism of the Congregation of the Religious of Jesus and Mary.
- 2- The AFJM enables the members to live the Charism and the spirituality of Saint Claudine Thévenet, the goodness and the pardon, in this way, being witnesses to God's love in their daily life.
- 3- The aims of the AFJM are as follows:
 - a. To offer the members a way of life which will help them, like Claudine, to make known the goodness of God through the Gospel values.
 - b. To offer the members a space of prayer, fraternity, listening and service.
 - c. To provide opportunities to the members to experience the goodness of God, wherever they are - in the family, at work-, they are attentive to the needs and the suffering of the world, with particular attention to children and young people.
 - d. To participate in the life and mission of the Church, and especially in the life and mission of the Religious of Jesus and Mary.
- 4- The Congregation of the Religious of Jesus and Mary considers the members of the Association as being called to be part of the great family of Jesus and Mary. Article 12 of the Constitutions of the Congregation¹ expresses this communion. The Congregation assures the members prayer, friendship and spiritual support. It informs them about its apostolic expansion of its missionary projects; invites them to celebrate together the feasts of the Congregation, always when circumstances allow it.

The official Feast of the Association is celebrated on February 3. It can also be celebrated on October 6, the anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation.

¹ C 12: "The lay Association "Family of Jesus and Mary" which is closely linked to the Congregation and which governs itself by its own Statutes participates in a special way in the charismatic grace of Saint Claudine Thévenet".

- 5- The Association Family of Jesus and Mary is addressed to the laity who knowing the life of Claudine Thévenet, her Charism and her mission desire to live like her, contributing their values to society and to the Church.

The Diocesan priests and deacons can form part of it.

- 6- The members of the Association participate in the mission of the Congregation, with Claudine's preference for the poor and those who do not know the love of God, with her concern for the education of children and the young and her fidelity to the Church. They live the mission in their own environment, in the works of the Religious of Jesus and Mary or of Parish or Diocesan level.

The members of the AFJM can commit themselves in the apostolic activities of the Congregation to which the groups belong. They do it with a joyful spirit, in an attitude of thanksgiving and the service of others, taking care of the surroundings and living in harmony with nature.

Chapter II: Organization

- 7- The Superior General of the Congregation is the highest authority of the Association Family of Jesus and Mary. She gives her consent for the formation of the groups at provincial or regional level, and makes the recommendations that she judges useful or pertinent for the good functioning of the Association and, so that the spirit and the charism of JM is maintained. In each Province, the Provincial Superior exercises by delegation that authority and gives her consent for the formation of groups at local level.

- 8- The Superior General will name a layperson and a religious as responsible for the Association at General level.

The Provincial Superior will name a layperson and a religious as responsible of the Association at Provincial level, according to the criteria established for that Province.

- 9- The members of the Association constitute themselves into local groups.

- 10- Each group will have a person responsible or a lay coordinator, and always when it is possible, a religious, as well.

In those places where the religious are no longer there, the accompaniment of the groups will be assured and the adequate means will be looked for to be in contact.

- 11- The members of a group elect their own office bearers at local level.

- 12- Each Province will establish a structure of functioning allowing the members of the Association to take responsibilities and insuring the personal growth of each one. This structure has to be communicated and authorized by the Provincial Superior, and

should be sufficiently flexible to adapt itself to the way, circumstances and environment of the groups.

- 13- Each group plans its encounters and activities, with freedom and responsibility, and determines the financial contributions, if this is necessary, and the way of administering them. In case of asking for a contribution, this would always be voluntary, with the approbation of the group and communication of the coordinator to those responsible at provincial level.
- 14- The religious and the lay members of the Association, jointly, assure the spiritual animation of the groups
- 15- The Congregation encourages the creation of groups of laity who desire to live the Charism of Saint Claudine according to the needs and projects of the shared mission.
- 16- It corresponds to the one responsible for the group to admit members into the Association. Each Province will decide the way to admit the members.
The new members are given a badge, as a sign of acceptance.
- 17- The members can also make a more profound spiritual commitment if they desire it. Each Province will decide the way in which it will be done.
- 18- The relationship between the Congregation and the Association is based on communication, communion and mutual trust. The Congregation as promoter of the Association is responsible of supporting its development.
- 19- The Association Family of Jesus and Mary does not have patrimony of its own, it is a non-profit Association. The activities that it undertakes have to be in agreement with the spirit and the mission of the Congregation, as well as with the laws of each country.
- 20- The Association Family Jesus and Mary is governed by its Statutes: in order that these Statutes and any modifications are valid, they have to be approved by the General Assembly of the Association and ratified by the General Chapter of the Congregation.
- 21- The Association has a General Assembly once every six years before the General Chapter of the Congregation. The function of this Assembly will be to revise and adapt the Statutes, if circumstances require it, and to deal with matters of general interest concerning all the Association. Each Province will be able to send delegates.

Chapter III: Formation

- 22- The AFJM gives priority to the formation of the members in its three dimensions:
 - A spiritual formation in the Charism of Saint Claudine
 - Formation of the layperson in Christian leadership and of her mission in the world.
 - Personal and human formation

- 23- In order to strengthen unity and the spirit of the Association, those responsible at General level will give orientations to deepen in the Christian commitment, faith and life of prayer, as well as in the knowledge of the life, the spirituality and the apostolic mission of Saint Claudine Thévenet and of the Congregation.
- 24- Each one of the members of the Association is the first one responsible for her own formation.
Belonging to the Association contributes and helps its members through meetings, retreats, Spiritual Exercises, conferences, assemblies, readings and other means.
- 25- The Manual “Leaven, Salt and Light” is a complementary document to the Statutes. It explains in a more concrete manner, the way to live as a member of the Association Family of Jesus and Mary.

Chapter IV: Communication

- 26- Communication and the relationship among all the groups of the AFJM should be promoted as well as of these with the religious, as a means of mutual enrichment for shared mission.
- 27- There will be an international Bulletin of information and/or spirituality, which will serve as a link of union among the groups of the whole Congregation. This Bulletin will normally be published twice a year. Communication and the information from the general level and among the Provinces will be developed through other Bulletins, Web Page, networks of communication among the groups, etc.
- 28- All are encouraged to foster communication through social networks and by the reading of the Web Page and the Blog. One can take advantage of the new technology.

With modifications approved by the General Assembly of the Association, Lyon 2018, and ratified by the 37^o General Chapter of the Congregation, Rome 2019.