

STATUTES OF THE MARIST DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA

1. NAME .

The name of the District is the Marist District of West Africa

2. COMPOSITION

2.1 The District is composed of the Houses and the Brothers in the following African countries: Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Liberia.

2.2 Houses and Brothers in other countries of the region could be accepted to form part of the District after a written accord between the concerned superiors with the approval of the superior General.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 The Brothers who are citizens of the countries that form the District, who have not been transferred to another Administrative Unit

3.2 Brothers from other Provinces or Administrative Units who sign a permanent transfer to the Mediterranean Province for the sake of the District. This permanent transfer has to be approved by the superior General (St. 143.4)

3.3 Brothers from other Provinces or Administrative Units who have been transferred temporarily to the District. According to the statue 143.4 of the Institute, this temporary transfer is to be done by written agreement between the Provincial concerned and the District superior, and approved by Brother Provincial of the Mediterranean Province. These Brothers have active and passive voice regarding the consultation for the appointment of Brother Provincial in their own home Province and for the appointment of the District Superior in the District.

4. AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DIRECTION OF THE DISTRICT

4.1 The District depends on the Provincial Superior of the Mediterranean Province. His responsibilities and attributes, as well as those of his Council are expressed principally in articles 143 - 150 of the constitutions with their adjoining statutes.

4.2 There will be a District superior and Council to whom the Provincial and his Council delegate responsibilities and powers as outlined below.

5 THE DISTRICT SUPERIOR

5.1 The District superior fulfils a function similar to that of the Brother Provincial in a Province. He has a delegated authority according to the constitutions and statutes, (cf C. 143) and the Statutes of the District.

5.2 The Provincial of the Mediterranean Province delegates the following authorities and responsibilities to the District superior:

5.2.1 The spiritual and apostolic animation of the District as a whole and of each member.

5.2.2 The promotion of vocations; selection of aspirants.

5.2.3 The formation of Brothers of the District; organisation of studies.

5.2.4 The visitation of communities at least once a year

5.2.5 The preparation and accompaniment of local Superiors.

5.2.6 Giving each Brother of the District his mission. (C. 143.2)

5.2.7 The dispensation, of a Brother or a community from a disciplinary point of the Constitutions **for some time, about a particular point of disciplinary Character,...**

5.2.8 The admission to the Institute of a dying novice.

5.2.9 Exceptionally, and in cases of urgency, the authorisation of expenditure up to 10% of **300,000 USD** (st. 143.5).

5.2.10 The authorisation of the periods of apostolic experience determined by the

- Master of Novices.
- 5.2.11 The authorisation of first profession to be brought forward for very good reasons but not more than fifteen days.
- 5.2.12 The authorisation for a Brother of the District to change the administration, the usage, or the usufruct of his personal possessions.
- 5.2.13 The permission to the Brothers to publish anything dealing with religion or morals.
- 5.2.14 The authorisation of those who preach in the houses of the District.
- 5.2.15 The provision for the upkeep of the District Archives.
- 5.2.16 Beginning the process for authorising a Brother of the District to renounce his possessions.
- 5.2.17 To receive the vows of the Brothers of the District, on behalf of the Superior General.
- 5.3 The District superior is named by the Provincial of the Mediterranean Province acting collegially with his council, after consulting the Brothers of the District. For this consultation all the Brothers of the District are invited to propose to Brother Provincial three names in order of preference from those eligible for election as District superior.
- 5.4 All the Brothers of the District who have been finally professed for at least ten years are eligible for election as District Superior.
- 5.5 The District Superior is appointed for three years and may be appointed once consecutively. Exceptionally he can be appointed for a third term.
- 5.6 The Provincial with his Council accepts the resignation of the District Superior or decides on his deposition for grave reasons.
- 5.7 The District Superior is a member of the General conference.

6. THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 6.1 The District Superior is assisted by a Council and Bursar
- 6.2 The Council helps the District Superior in government, in the spiritual and apostolic animation of the Brothers and in the administration of the District resources.
- 6.3 The District council is made up of at least four Councillors. From them, the District superior chooses one who acts in his stead as the need arises.
- 6.4 The members of the Council are elected by the District Chapter. They must be perpetually professed. Their term of office ceases with that of the Superior whose Council they form.
- 6.5 The matters in which the District Superior must consult his Council, cannot act without the consent of his Council and acts collegially with his Council, are similar to those indicated for the Provincial and his council (C. 150 and St. 150.1, 150.2, 150.3)
- 6.6 The Provincial of the Mediterranean Province and his Council give the District Superior and Council the authority to decide on the following matters:
- 6.6.1 The appointment of Brothers as Superiors and local Bursars
- 6.6.2 The accepting of the resignation of the superiors and local Bursars
- 6.6.3 The deposition of a Superior for grave reasons.
- 6.6.4 The replacement of a District Councillor between Chapters.
- 6.6.5 The selection of Brothers for ongoing formation programmes.
- 6.6.6 **The admission to temporal and final profession (Cf C 150.2.1).**
- 6.6.7 **The admission to the Novitiate.**
- 6.6.8 **The appointment of the Master of Postulants.**
- 6.6.9 Travelling outside the District.

- 6.7 The District council recommends to the Provincial Council of the Mediterranean Province on the following matters:
- 6.7.1. **The appointment of the Master of Novices.**
 - 6.7.2. The approval of the annual budgets and financial reports of the houses and the works.
 - 6.7.3. The approval of expenditure beyond the ceiling determined by the Provincial and his Council.
- 6.8 The decisions retained by the Brother Provincial and Council of the Mediterranean Province in accordance with the Constitutions are:
- 6.8.1 The matters listed on 6.7
 - 6.8.2 The founding and suppressing of schools and communities
 - 6.8.3 The approval of sale and purchase of real state
 - 6.8.4 The establishment of the expenditure ceiling for the District
 - 6.8.5 The overall policy in regard to the formation program
 - 6.8.6 The commitments entered into by the District with other Administrative Units of the Institute
- 6.9 The deliberations of the District Council are addressed to the Provincial Council. They will be redirected by the Provincial and Council to the Brother Superior General and Council in those cases prescribed in the Constitutions.

7. THE DISTRICT CHAPTER

- 7.1 The District Chapter corresponds to the Provincial Chapter. It is an assembly which represents the entire District and expresses the participation of all the Brothers in the government of the District. For the elections to the Chapter they have active and passive voice all the Brothers who belong to the District and those for whom it is foreseen in their contract of transfer..
- 7.2 The District Chapter meets at the time of the installation of the District Superior. It is convoked and presided over by the District Superior. If Brother Provincial is present at the District Chapter he may choose to preside over it.
- 7.3 The way of functioning of the District Chapter is similar to that of the Provincial Chapter (Const. 151.1 - 151.8)
- 7.4 The role of the District Chapter is consultative or deliberative, as determined by the statutes of the Institute
- 7.4.1 It has a *consultative* role when it examines the general matters concerning the District, taking into account the District situation, the calls of the local churches, the directives of the General Chapter and of the Provincial Council.
 - 7.4.2 It has a *deliberative* role when there is question of:
 - drawing up its own rules of procedure;
 - deciding the number of District Councillors, the manner of their election and electing them
 - drawing up the Norms of the District which must be approved by Brother Provincial with the consent of his Council
 - deciding how assistant superiors and local councillors are to be appointed
- 7.5 The reports of the District Chapter, including the Norms of the District, are sent to Brother Provincial and his Council for approval. Final approval of the Norms belongs to Bro. Superior general and his Council.

8. THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

The District Superior, after consultation with his Council, may call for a District Assembly of all the Brothers of the District in the same conditions as those established for a Provincial Assembly. (cf C. 151.8)

9. ADMINISTRATION OF TEMPORAL GOODS

- 9.1. The temporal goods of the District are administered in a similar way to those of a Province as defined in article 161 of the Marist Constitutions and Statutes.
- 9.2. The superior of the District and his Councillors are responsible for the ordinary expenditure following similar modalities as a Province in what concerns the budget, the financial report and the accounts to be kept. All these reports will be presented annually to the Provincial council for approval
- 9.3. The District Bursar administers the goods of the District under the authority of the District Superior and his Council. In general his duties correspond to those of a Provincial Bursar
- 9.4. The Provincial Council, after consultation with the District Council, prepares an Economic Plan of the District, in which there will be specified the contribution of the Province and other donors in order to balance the District budget
- 9.5. The District Council needs the approval of the Provincial Council before requesting funds from international organisations whenever the amount requested exceeds the ceiling approved by the Provincial Council. Furthermore individual Brothers and communities need the approval of the District Council before applying for this type of funds
- 9.6. The District Bursar is appointed by the Provincial Council after consultation with the District Council. He must be perpetually professed. He is appointed for three years. He may be appointed consecutively twice. The Provincial with his council accepts the resignation of the District Bursar or decides on his deposition for grave reasons

10 GENERAL CHAPTER

The representation of the District at the General Chapter is determined by art. 140.2 of our Constitutions and Statutes

11 APPROVAL AND MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES

- 11.1 The statutes of the District are prepared by the District Chapter and presented by the Provincial Council to Brother superior General for approval
- 11.2 Articles of these statutes may be modified by agreement between the District Council and the Provincial Council. Such modifications must be approved by Brother Superior General and his Council.

• **Proposals and approvals:**

Proposal of the District Council, 2 August, 2004
Proposal of the Provincial Council, 31 August, 2004
Approval by the General Council, 6 October 2004

(Approuvées par le 4ème Chapitre du District, Accra, Août 2009)

• **Proposals and approvals:**

Proposal of the District Council, 14 August, 2015
Proposal of the Provincial Council, October, 2015
Apporval by the General Council, 21, October 2015