

COMMUNITY LIFE IN BROTHERHOOD ACCORDING TO THE CHURCH DOCUMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Some texts: *Novo Millennio ineunte* (2000)

BROTHERLY LIFE IN COMMUNITY (BLF)

(Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life 1994)

- The ultimate fundament of brotherly life in community is supernatural
- A principle: “*being a religious is fully realized through the community*” (BLF, 25).
- The coming of liberalism.

1. THE SOCIO-CULTURAL-ECCLESIAL PRESSURES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

- a) General pressures proceeding from the cultural milieu.
- b) The influence of theological and canonical development that has taken place inside the Church:
 - 1. *From the Church as organization to the Church as mystery.*
 - 2. *From the Church as hierarchy to the Church as communion.*
 - 3. *From the functional-Church to the charismatic-Church*
 - 4. *From the Church as administrator of the sacred to the Church as sacrament.*
- c) Changes that have taken place in consecrated life in regard to community life.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE DOCUMENT

3. CONTENTS IN REGARD TO BROTHERLY LIFE IN COMMUNITY

- The gift of communion and of community.
- The “mystical and theological” dimension of community.
- The hidden work of the Spirit.

4. COMMUNITY: A PLACE WHERE BROTHERHOOD REALLY HAPPENS

- a) First means: prayer in common.
- b) Second: personal liberation.
- c) Third: communication.
- d) Fourth: the growing in maturity of the person.
- e) Fifth: ongoing formation as a condition.
- f) Sixth: authority for serving the community
- g) Seventh: the role of the aged in community life.

CONCLUSION.

CONSECRATED LIFE AND THE TRINITARIAN MYSTERY

THE EFFUSION OF GOD'S LOVE OVER THE WORLD

(Vita Consecrata 1996)

1. THEOLOGICAL NATURE OF BROTHERLY LIFE.
2. THE HOLY TRINITY AS A“RULE” FOR BROTHERLY COMMUNION
3. THE RECONCILIATORY POWER OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER’S GRACE
IN THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS.
4. THE “PNEUMATIC” DIMENSION OF BROTHERLY LIFE IN LOVE.
5. IN THE IMAGE OF THE FIRST APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY.
6. COMMUNITY LIFE FOR THE MISSION.