



CONGREGATION
FOR THE INSTITUTES OF CONSECRATED LIFE
AND SOCIETIES OF APOSTOLIC LIFE

PRESS RELEASE

BURSAR'S MEETING: PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE FUTURE

Vatican City, November 28, 2016

The Second International Symposium regarding financial matters, which was organized by the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life at the Auditorium of the Pontifical University *Antonianum* came to an end. The morning session began with Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the CICLSAL, addressed those present and presented new pathways of hope which have been opened to consecrated men and women as the fruit of the Year of Consecrated Life. He said: «The hope we speak about is not based on numbers or works, but on the One in whom we put our trust and for whom nothing is impossible». He also made a strong appeal to journey together listening to God and in working together with a synod attitude.

Sr Nicla Spezzati, ASC, Under-Secretary of the Congregation, explained that, in their journey, "consecrated persons feel called to put the 'being' before the 'having', being in God's presence rather than doing something for him. The vows makes it possible to assume the Christ's way of being, in which this 'being' becomes a gift in itself, fruitful in the reciprocity of the disciples». She continued: «Rethinking the economy means being part of the humanization process, which makes us, as say in Latin *humanissimi*, that is, persons in the full meaning of the word, aware of themselves and of their proper relation-mission in the world: "I am a mission on earth and that is why I, in this world" (EG 273)». And: «Administering our human condition wisely, in obedience to the intrinsic laws and the given vocation is the first fundamental economy of Consecrated Life» she said, underlining that the attention and closeness to the poor and the struggle for justice must be a constant. «Religious cannot be committed to works of social justice and to help the poor without leading a life of effective poverty; similarly,

we cannot cultivate individual and communitarian poverty if this is not expressed with a closeness to the needy».

In the afternoon, Mgr José Rodríguez Carballo. OFM, Archbishop Secretary of CICLSAL, indicated the criteria which must be the basis of future practical choices:

1. **Fidelity to the charism:** the use of the works and resources of the Institute at the service of the charism.
2. **Safeguarding the ecclesial goods:** safeguarding the stable patrimony (and therefore, all the goods needed to guarantee the economic self-sufficiency of the Institute as well as assure the continuation of its aims).
3. **Sostenibilità delle opere:** intesa come necessità di esame preventivo e verifica in merito alla capacità delle opere di mantenere, nel contempo, fedeltà al carisma ed equilibrio economico.
4. **Capacity of accountability:** indicate the objectives and specify the practical ways to achieve them; respect for canon and civil laws; an attitude to give an account of the results of the management.
5. **Povertà:** the use of the goods according to the objective they are meant to; detachment from the concept of possession of goods.

He concluded: «these criteria provide some practical guideline, to be adopted according to the specific characteristics of the Institutes, with special reference to the nature and the activities done, their dimension and organization, the territorial context, the legislations and the organizational choices adopted»

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