

# ***Work Regulations for the Catholic Patriotic Association***

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*Translated by Peter Barry, MM*

## **Chapter One: General Principles**

*Article 1:* Based on the “Constitution of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association,” these regulations have been drafted in order to completely bring into play the functions of the Patriotic Association on the national and local levels, and to promote the standardization and systematization of the Catholic Patriotic Association.

*Article 2:* The purpose of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association is: to support the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, to raise high the flag of love of country and love of the church, to unite all the clergy and Catholics to uphold the dignity of the law, to support the interests of the people, to support unity among all ethnic groups, to support the unification of the country, to unswervingly implement the principle of the independent administration of the church, to jointly manage church affairs in conjunction with church affairs organizations, to carry out a democratic running of the church, and to conscientiously promote the adaptation of the Catholic Church to socialist society.

*Article 3:* The Patriotic Association is a mass organization for loving the country and loving the church. The clergy and laity form it together. It should be formed with a broad representational base, and according to reasonable proportions.

## **Chapter Two: Organizational Functions**

*Article 4:* The committee members and the standing committee members of the Catholic Patriotic Association at both the national and local level obtain their positions through election by the equivalent level Catholic Representatives Assembly, and they are responsible to them.

*Article 5:* The main work responsibilities of Catholic Patriotic Association members are:

1. To implement the decisions of the representatives assembly.
2. To report to the representatives assembly on conditions of work and finances.

3. To discuss and pass concerned decisions.
4. To study and decide upon other important matters of concern.

*Article 6:* The most important work responsibilities of the standing committee of the Catholic Patriotic Association are:

1. To decide to hold, and to chair, a meeting of all the members, and to deliberate and to submit the meeting's documents to all the members.
2. To deliberate the work report of each work committee.
3. To deliberate and pass the concerned regulations and systems.
4. To deliberate and pass other important matters of concern.

*Article 7:* The meeting of the chairpersons of the Catholic Patriotic Association is made up of the chairperson, vice-chairpersons and the secretary-general. The chairperson is in charge of the work of the standing committee. The vice-chairpersons and the secretary-general assist the chairperson in his work. The meeting's important works and functions are:

1. When the meeting of the standing committee is not in session, to discuss and arrange the important duties and works of standing committee members.
2. To decide the date and the agenda of standing committee meetings, and to deliberate and submit the documents for the standing committee meetings.
3. To study and determine the annual plan for each work committee and each work organization.
4. In conjunction with the same level church affairs organization, to discuss and decide important Church matters.

*Article 8:* The chairperson, vice-chairpersons and the general-secretary of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association (CCPA) will with the chairman, vice-chairmen, standing committee members and secretary-general of the Bishops Conference of the Catholic Church in China (BCCCC) form the Joint Chairpersons Conference of the two organizations. They are to discuss and decide important matters concerning the Chinese Catholic Church.

Chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and secretaries-general of the Catholic Patriotic Associations at the level of the province, autonomous region, or municipality can, together with the chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and secretaries general of the church affairs committees in the same province, autonomous region, or municipality, form joint chairpersons meetings to discuss and decide important Catholic Church matters in their local areas.

The Joint Chairpersons Conference of the CCPA and the BCCCC determines the work and function of the local joint chairpersons meetings, as well as the agenda and method of meeting.

*Article 9:* The secretary-general of the Catholic Patriotic Association helps the chairperson and the vice-chairpersons to carry out the daily work of the patriotic association. His main duties are as follows:

1. To be responsible for the meetings of the members and of the standing committee members, for matters concerned with the preparatory work for chairpersons meetings, to propose dates and suggestions for the agenda of these meetings to the chairperson, and to be in charge of drafting documents for the meetings.
2. To organize and to implement the resolutions and decisions of the meetings of the members, of the standing committee members, or of the chairpersons.
3. To be responsible for organizing and carrying out the daily work responsibilities of the patriotic association.
4. To undertake any other tasks passed on by the chairperson or the vice-chairpersons.

### **Chapter Three: Work Responsibilities**

*Article 10:* The Catholic Patriotic Association at every level should raise high the flag of patriotism, unite the mass of clergy and Catholics to obey the national constitution, and all laws, regulations and policies, and to use all kinds of methods to strengthen propagation and education in patriotism, socialism, in the principle of administering the church independently and in knowledge of the religious policy and relevant laws and regulations.

*Article 11:* Make use of the printed word and publications of all kinds to strengthen guidance and propaganda in the principles of the independent and democratic administration of the church, and to maintain an accurate direction in the media.

*Article 12:* Encourage and guide the clergy and Catholics to love their work and to respect their profession. In each place they should work for the establishment of the two civilizations of socialism, and should earnestly strive to be light and salt, witnessing to the Lord.

*Article 13:* Mobilize the clergy and Catholics to lovingly offer themselves to undertake works of social welfare, to positively help the poor and handicapped, to take pity on widows and orphans, to relieve disasters, to sponsor education and other works of social service, in order to positively adapt themselves to socialist society.

*Article 14:* Amply bring into play the bridge and link functions of the Patriotic Association, to assist the government to implement the policy of religious freedom and to protect the legal rights of the church.

*Article 15:* Establish a system to deal with incoming letters and visits, and conscientiously analyze the problems raised. They should also make investigations at the grassroots level, and positively report, and put forward suggestions about social and church matters, to higher officials and to concerned departments.

*Article 16:* Positively develop social service initiatives beneficial to society, and assist the church to undertake works of self-support.

*Article 17:* Strengthen self-development, establish a completely standardized system, and positively promote the democratic running of the church.

*Article 18:* In accordance with the principle of democratically running the church, together with the church affairs committees, mutually consult, collectively lead and commonly decide important church matters. The most important matters are:

1. Together with the church affairs organizations, jointly carry out well the work of electing and ordaining bishops and adjusting dioceses.
2. Together with the church affairs organizations, jointly run well the seminaries and convents.
3. Assist the church affairs organizations to perform well the political and professional training of the clergy, as well as their spiritual formation. Also, be concerned about nourishing vocations.
4. Assist the church affairs organizations to carry out any other important matters.

#### **Chapter Four: Requirements of Patriotic Association Workers**

*Article 19:* Catholic Patriotic Association Workers must support the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, fervently love the socialist motherland, and conscientiously uphold the nation's sovereignty and the Chinese church's sovereignty. They must increase political study and conscientiously study every policy, law and regulation.

*Article 20:* Firmly uphold the policy of the independent administration of the church and the principle of self-election and self-consecration of bishops.

*Article 21:* Have a firm faith and a fervent love for the Lord, have a close relationship with the clergy and Catholics, conscientiously raise

their cultural standards and knowledge of theology, perform their Christian duties to the best of their ability, and give a good example of a person, who loves one's country and one's church.

*Article 22:* Be faithful to one's duties, honest and upright, incorruptible, impartially perform one's tasks, have strict requirements for oneself, firmly reject the use of power for one's own benefit, and conscientiously uphold the legal rights of the church.

*Article 23:* Be subject to criticism and self-criticism, humbly accept supervision, respect the clergy, strengthen the internal unity of the church, and earnestly bring into play all positive factors.

### **Chapter Five: Supervision of Finances**

*Article 24:* The Catholic Patriotic Association must operate in accordance with the principles of thriftiness and of keeping expenditures within the limits of one's income. Waste and extravagance are strictly forbidden.

*Article 25:* In accordance with the nation's laws and regulations regarding finances, patriotic associations must establish a system of strict supervision over finances. Ensure that accounting materials are legal, true, accurate and complete. Provide accounting personnel and a cashier with professional qualifications. But one person cannot fill both positions.

*Article 26:* Accept the professional responsible department's, or the Accounting Department's, inspection and audit, and accept supervision by the masses.

### **Chapter Six: Foreign Relations**

*Article 27:* Based on the principles of equality, friendship and mutual respect, the Catholic Patriotic Association at all levels should positively develop foreign relations. In accordance with the principles of "mutual non-subordination, mutual non-interference and mutual respect," patriotic associations should develop friendly relations with the Catholic churches of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

*Article 28:* In foreign relations they should strictly adhere to "The Regulations Concerning the Supervision of the Religious Activities of Foreigners within the Boundaries of the People's Republic of China" (State Council Decree No. 144), and the concerned rules and regulations implemented from it.

*Article 29:* While being involved in foreign relations, they must positively propagate our nation's reform and open door policy, as well

as our policy of religious freedom. They must explain our policies of the independent running of the church and the self-election and self-consecration of bishops, dissolve misunderstandings, expand our influence and widen our circle of friends.

*Article 30:* They must strictly observe foreign affairs discipline, and do nothing to harm the welfare of the nation or of the Chinese church. They must set up foreign affairs organizations and a system to receive foreigners, and strictly carry out activities in accordance with foreign reception plans.

*Article 31:* While being involved in foreign relations activities, they may receive friendly donations, to which no political conditions are attached, and which should be reported in accordance with regulations. But it is forbidden to use any kind of method, even in a disguised way, to seek financial help from foreign churches or individuals.

*Article 32:* While being involved in foreign relations, they must maintain the principle of running the church independently, and firmly resist the infiltration activities of foreign inimical forces.

### **Chapter Seven: Appendices**

*Article 33:* If in the province, autonomous region or municipality, there is only one diocese, then the provincial patriotic association, church affairs committee and diocese can form together a joint leaders meeting.

*Article 34:* Every province, autonomous region and municipality, or patriotic association below the provincial level, can, in accordance with these regulations, and in conjunction with the actual local situation, formulate a corresponding set of regulations.

*Article 35:* These regulations take effect after being deliberated and passed by the Joint Chairpersons Conference of the standing committee of the CCPA and of the BCCCC.