

NORMS FOR ESTABLISHING THE ASSOCIATION

OF THE CHRISTIAN MOTHERS OF ST .MONICA.

- 1.- First: We need an advisor and spiritual assistant ,who knows the origin and spirituality of the Christian Mothers Association of St. Monica.
- 2.- Second: The advisor has to be person ally motivated to talk with conviction and with enthusiasm about their Patroness St. Monica through a serious reading of her life.
- 3.- Next,you start the Association .How? Select some women committed with their Faith and sensitive to the family apostolate. We might call these trustworthy women Promoters of the Association. They are leaders capable of evangelizing other mothers and organize them into prayer groups. A prayer group is made up of seven praying mothers.
- 4.- It is important to interview them either personally or in a group, to explain to them the meaning of their apostolate and encourage them to fulfill it. We might emphasize in this meeting the following points:
 - a) The goal of the Association is not to load the members with extra preoccupations, but to gently help them discovering their noble vocation. The Church needs them to save families and is committed to accompany them in their mission.
 - b) Members are free to join other mothers and to travel. They are requested though to recite daily or at least one day a week ,a written prayer for the Faith of their children, at a time and place of their convenience. Those interested in

joining the Association are expected to DESIRE a married life according to God. Therefore, single mothers ,civil mothers are welcome. The only requirement is to be a mother or even a Godmother with a minimum Desire to know God and fulfill their mission as wives and mothers in imitation of St. Monica.

- c) Their main commitment is to say daily or once a week, the prayer for the Faith of their children. They may ask for other graces but the main intention of the prayer is that their children and grandchildren keep the Catholic Faith received in their childhood.
- d) The members are asked to visit the Blessed Sacrament once a week, whenever possible, and say the prayer before Him or even after Mass in the event they went to Mass. It is very important to make the connection between the prayer and the Eucharistic presence of Jesus .
- e) This way the prayer of the mothers goes beyond their private ,personal interest and becomes a public ,continuous prayer ,more acceptable to God and more efficacious. Each one of them chooses a particular day of the week. And so, the prayer group is complete with seven praying mothers.
- f) Every day of the week, one single mother will pray before Jesus in the Eucharist on behalf of the rest of the praying group. Jesus remains with us in order to be visited and to look after our needs: "Come to ME"...
- g) The seven mothers form a group of mothers who pray for the same intention. We call them " Choir prayer". The members of the choir live a communion of Faith and interests. They become a praying community beyond their homes and private occupations.
- h) The one in charge of keeping the mothers united and faithful to the daily prayer is called Responsible of the choir. It is

convenient that she be in frequent contact with the members of the choir. It is important to select well the Responsibles and to motivate them to do this service of communication and encouragement among the mothers of the choir.

- i) Although there is no obligation, the members of the choir may be invited to the Mass in honor of St. Monica every 27th of the month to pray for the intentions and needs of the mother groups. The infinite merits of Christ are added to their prayer and so it takes on an ecclesiastical and liturgical dimension. The Church, in fact, values the vocation of mothers, accompanies them and proposes St. Monica as an example of life.
 - j) Once the meeting is finished, they receive the pamphlet with the historical background and spirituality of the Association. A quiet reading of the pamphlet will gradually clarify any doubts. They may be invited to raise any questions about the reading.
 - k) Finally, they are given the triptych with the mothers' prayer, they receive a brief explanation about its contents and they finish reciting the prayer plus the final blessing.
 - l) On leaving the meeting, provided they are ready to take on the new task, each one will receive seven triptychs with the prayer plus a questionnaire in the application form to gather personal data from the seven members of the first choir.
- 5.- Later on, they will have a chance to present their doubts, either privately or in a group. The personal attention to the choir promoters is fundamental.
- 6.- When the choir Responsibles complete the first application form, they will deliver it to the advisory to make a fair copy of it. A copy will be given back to the person member. The Responsible of the new choir might be the same person who

organized it ,or any other mother member of the choir possessing with the required conditions.

- 7.- In both cases ,there is nothing to stop the promoter forming more choirs ,provided that it is possible to form and she feels the call to do so. Such a promoter though, will be the Responsible for only one choir.
- 8.- Once the first choir is formed ,and having the application form in hand, the Responsible may elaborate a mini-application form to distributed among the members of the choir. This way, all mothers will have a list of all the members, their telephones and other convenient data.
- 9.- It is desirable that the members of a choir know each other, live close to each other, or be a relative to some of them ,even when they are far away. This way they will stay more united in prayer and persevere in their commitment.
- 10.- If a member leaves the choir, it will be substituted by another new member and the change will be notified to the rest.
- 11.- If a promoting mother of the Association succeeds in forming seven or more choirs, she could be appointed Coordinator of seven choirs ,which amounts to 49 women. This group will be called a Community of Christian Mothers. The coordinator who will be at the same time Responsible for one of the seven choirs, will become the animator of the other six responsables of choirs. It is convenient that the coordinator know the responsables of the choir and that the choirs live within the same area of the parish.
- 12.- The coordinators will frequently meet the religious advisor in private, depending on the circumstances . As a group ,the meeting is specially important to inform him about the Community ,to share experiences , to talk about the most important topics, to promote the growing of the Association, to agree with the publications of the materials and its

circulation, to share the information of the members, to evaluate the monthly masses and to organize other activities.

- 13.- Depending on the circumstances we can promote the blessing of pregnant mothers and the celebration of wedding anniversary within the monthly masses. Moreover, we can offer personal testimonies as witnesses of graces received through the intercession of St. Monica.
- 14.- The prayer of the Christian Mothers for the Faith of their children has a double version to be said either by a married couple or by a widow. Mothers may also ask for specific prayers according to their situation.
- 15.- Within the monthly masses, we can use the prayers of the triptych of the mothers as the normal Prayer of the Faithful.
- 16.- It is convenient to use the monthly mass as an occasion for a casual reunion where we can share information or experiences, take resolutions and program activities, or even to provide a talk about formation, according to the cases or places.
- 17.- Among our formation materials we can name the Novena and the Biography of St. Monica plus the Confessions of St. Augustine. It is also convenient to distribute materials about the Order and other publications that can educate the mothers in our spirituality. One way to educate in the Faith is to write some news or testimonies for the parish or provincial bulletins. Those who use the internet can be informed about us through our web-site.