



聖母訪親堂區

VISITATION

PARISH

THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Adopted on 7 August 2022

PART I	GENERAL PRINCIPLES
Art. 1	<p>Name:</p> <p>The Parish Pastoral Council of the Visitation Parish (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”).</p> <p>The Visitation Parish includes the following Chapels:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Our Lady of Visitation Chapel at Tung Chung</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Trinity Chapel at Discovery Bay</p>
Art. 2	<p>Correspondence Address :</p> <p>13, Sheung Ling Pei, Tung Chung, Lantau Island, Hong Kong</p>
Art. 3	<p>Aims:</p> <p>A. The Council aims at building up, with co-responsible spirit with the pastor, the parish into a community of faith, hope and love;</p> <p>B. The Council is an assembly of the laity for getting parishioners together so as to hear their views and ideas and to promote lay apostolates and pastoral work;</p> <p>C. The Council assumes the consultative role for the pastor of the parish, offering advice on evangelization work, assisting in planning, unifying, coordinating and carrying out pastoral work in the parish, setting priorities for the work to be undertaken, and bringing forward a comprehensive proposal in these aspects;</p> <p>D. To promote the co-operation and sharing of experiences among all chapels within the parish.</p>
PART II	COUNCILLORS
Art. 4	<p>The total number of Councillors shall normally not exceed 24.</p> <p>A. Ex-officio Councillors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Parish Priest; 2. The Assistant Parish Priests / Members of the pastoral team; 3. Pastoral Deacons/Sisters; 4. The Parish staff appointed by the Diocesan. <p>Ex-officio Councillors may not exceed one-third of the Council membership.</p> <p>B. Organization Councillors:</p> <p>Representatives selected by the parish Lay Associations, communities and teams and approved by the Parish Priest.</p> <p>(Such Councillors shall represent all parishioners within the parish and not their</p>

	<p>own organizations.)</p> <p>C. Elected Councillors: Councillors elected by ballot voting of the whole parish or of the Central Committee (in accordance with Art.42).</p> <p>D. Appointed Councillors: 1. Persons directly appointed by the Parish Priest; 2. Outgoing Chairperson be an appointed Councillor automatically. Appointed Councillors may not exceed one-fifth of the Council membership.</p> <p>A list of the Councillors of the Council as ratified by the President shall be prepared and kept at Our Lady of Visitation Chapel.</p>
Art. 5	<p>Qualities of the Councillors</p> <p>A Councillor shall possess the following qualities:</p> <p>A. Deep commitment to Christ and to the Church’s mission;</p> <p>B. An active participative role or length and breadth of experience in the parish life or ministry, with a proper understanding of the parish as a local ecclesial community;</p> <p>C. A capacity to communicate and co-operate with others, and willingness to accept them as persons with their strengths and weaknesses;</p> <p>D. Far-sighted in vision, balanced and open-minded outlook, with adequate understanding of the function of the Council and communal procedures;</p> <p>E. Able to participate actively in Council meeting and related activities (e.g. joining Council Committees or sub-committees.), as well as to spiritual and formation programs organized for Councillors;</p> <p>F. The qualities for the Chairperson shall in principle include spirituality, rich knowledge of Christian faith, impartiality, ability to unify and leadership etc.</p>
Art. 6	<p>Rights of the Councillors:</p> <p>A. The right to be elected (except Ex-officio Councillors);</p> <p>B. The right to vote (except Ex-officio Councillors);</p> <p>C. The right to nominate ;</p> <p>D. The right to attend the Annual General Meetings and Council Meetings;</p> <p>E. The right to participate in the activities of the Council.</p>
Art. 7	<p>Duties of the Councillors:</p> <p>A. To attend the Annual General Meetings and Council Meetings;</p>

	<p>B. To promote the resolutions duly passed;</p> <p>C. To give support to the plans of action that have been resolved at the Council's Meetings;</p> <p>D. To receive Christian formation and leadership training to enhance one's own ability and willingness for service.</p>
PART III	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Art. 8	<p>The Parish Priest serves as the Council's President.</p> <p>The Officers of the Council shall consist of:</p> <p>A. One Chairperson;</p> <p>B. Two Vice Chairpersons (one Internal Affairs Vice Chairperson and one External Affairs Vice Chairperson) ;</p> <p>C. Two Secretaries (one Chinese Secretary and one English Secretary);</p> <p>D. One Treasurer.</p> <p>Election procedures refer to Part VI.</p> <p>The Executive Committee shall consist of :</p> <p>A. Ex-Officio Councillors;</p> <p>B. Council Officers;</p> <p>C. Appointed Councillors;</p> <p>D. Standing Committee Chairpersons;</p> <p>E. Community Leaders;</p> <p>F. Outgoing Chairperson.</p> <p>The Executive Committee is responsible for preparing the agenda of the Annual General Meeting.</p>
Art. 9	<p>Duties of the President:</p> <p>The President shall have the ultimate authority on matters concerning the parish pastoral work and his duties are as follows:</p> <p>A. To involve in the decision-making process of all matters of the Council;</p> <p>B. To monitor resolutions duly passed to ensure that they would not be contrary to the universal law of the Church, the diocesan rulings and civil law and that they would not jeopardize the common good of the parish;</p> <p>C. To chair meetings or appoint the Chairperson to chair meetings.</p>
Art. 10	<p>Duties of the Chairperson:</p> <p>A. To assist the President to chair meetings and to ensure that resolutions duly passed</p>

	<p>are effectively carried out;</p> <p>B. To present annual report to the Annual General Meeting;</p> <p>C. To represent the Council, or to appoint representatives to attend the Central Committee Meetings of the Hong Kong Central Catholic Laity and other meetings, and to report back to the Central Committee of the Council;</p> <p>D. After stepping down, to be appointed as Appointed Councillor for the coming term and attend Executive Committee Meetings.</p>
Art. 11	<p>Duties of the Internal Affairs Vice Chairperson:</p> <p>A. To assist the Chairperson in the execution of all internal affairs;</p> <p>B. To execute all matters of the Chairperson during his absence;</p> <p>C. Whenever the Chairperson shall be out of office, the Internal Affairs Vice Chairperson shall temporarily take over all matters related to the Chairperson's office until the new Chairperson shall have been duly elected and shall have assumed office; his original duties shall be handled by the External Affairs Vice Chairperson;</p> <p>D. Whenever the External Affairs Vice Chairperson shall be out of office, to also manage the duties of the External Affairs Vice Chairperson until the new External Affairs Vice Chairperson shall have been duly elected and shall have assumed office.</p>
Art. 12	<p>Duties of the External Affairs Vice Chairperson:</p> <p>A. To assist the Chairperson in the execution of all external affairs;</p> <p>B. To execute all matters of the Chairperson during the absence of the Chairman and the Internal Affairs Vice Chairperson ;</p> <p>C. Whenever the Chairperson and the Internal Affairs Vice Chairperson shall be out of office, the External Affairs Vice Chairperson shall temporarily take over all matters related to the Chairperson's office until the new Chairperson shall have been duly elected and shall have assumed office;</p> <p>D. Whenever the Internal Affairs Vice Chairperson shall be out of office, or in the circumstances of the Constitution Art.11(C), to also manage the duties of the Internal Affairs Vice Chairperson until the new Internal Affairs Vice Chairperson or the new Chairperson shall have been duly elected and shall have assumed office.</p>
Art. 13	<p>Duties of the Chinese Secretary:</p> <p>A. To handle and keep the documents, files and official chop of the Council; all of which are kept at Our Lady of Visitation Chapel;</p> <p>B. To attend Central Committee Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings;</p> <p>C. To send meeting's agenda to all concerned at least one week in advance;</p>

	<p>D. To record the minutes of the meetings and send copies to all concerned within two weeks of each meeting;</p> <p>E. To record the votes of each resolution;</p> <p>F. To handle correspondence of the Council;</p> <p>G. To execute all matters of the English Secretary during his absence;</p> <p>H. Whenever the English Secretary shall be out of office, to also manage the duties of the English Secretary until the new English Secretary shall have been duly elected and shall have assumed office.</p>
Art. 14	<p>Duties of the English Secretary:</p> <p>A. To attend Central Committee Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings;</p> <p>B. To translate Chinese Minutes to English Minutes and send copy of English Minutes to all concerned;</p> <p>C. To execute all matters of the Chinese Secretary during his absence;</p> <p>D. Whenever the Chinese Secretary shall be out of office, to also manage the duties of the Chinese Secretary until the Chinese Secretary shall have been duly elected and shall have assumed office;</p> <p>E. To represent the Council to attend the English Group meetings.</p>
Art. 15	<p>Duties of the Treasurer:</p> <p>The Treasurer is only responsible for the everyday expenses of the Council (refer to Art. 36 below) which include:</p> <p>A. To be in charge of the income and expense account of the Council;</p> <p>B. To keep the petty cash of the Council;</p> <p>C. To prepare the monthly financial statements of the Council and to submit them to the Executive Committee;</p> <p>D. To present the financial report of the Council to the Central Committee;</p> <p>E. To prepare the annual financial statements of Council which, having been properly audited, shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting;</p> <p>F. To prepare the annual budget of the Council;</p> <p>G. To represent the Council to attend the Parish Finance Committee meetings;</p> <p>H. To prepare budgets for events organized by the Council.</p>
Art. 16	<p>Duties of the Councillor:</p> <p>A. To help the President (the Parish Priest) to promote the work of the Council;</p> <p>B. To attend all meetings concerned of the Council.</p>
Part IV	MEETINGS
Art. 17	The efficacy of the Council depends on the operation and co-ordination of Annual

	<p>General Meeting, the Central Committee, the Executive Committee, Lay Associations and task force etc. at large and small group.</p> <p>Meetings of the Council includes:</p> <p>A. Annual General Meeting;</p> <p>B. Central Committee Meeting;</p> <p>C. Executive Committee Meeting.</p>
	A. Annual General Meeting
Art. 18	The Annual General Meeting shall be held once a year, usually held on 31 May each year, the Feast Day of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or within a few days before and after, convened by the President. The agenda of the Meeting is prepared by the Executive Committee. The date, time, venue and agenda of the Meeting shall be notified to all concerned at least two weeks in advance.
Art. 19	<p>The functions of the Annual General Meeting are as follows:</p> <p>A. To examine and adopt the annual report presented by the Council;</p> <p>B. To examine and adopt the annual financial statements of the Council;</p> <p>C. To study and pass the annual plan of the Council for the following year and its related budget submitted by the Parish Finance Committee;</p> <p>D. To discuss and adopt resolutions;</p> <p>E. To amend this Constitution.</p>
Art. 20	<p>The following shall attend the Annual General Meeting:</p> <p>A. Ex-Officio Councillors;</p> <p>B. Organization Councillors;</p> <p>C. Elected Councillors;</p> <p>D. Appointed Councillors;</p> <p>E. Executive Committee Councillors.</p>
Art. 21	<p>The following are entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting:</p> <p>A. All parishioners of the parish;</p> <p>B. Spiritual Directors/ Directresses of Lay Associations / communities/ teams of the parish who do not belong to the pastoral team;</p> <p>C. Guest invited by the Executive Committee.</p>
Art. 22	The quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall not be less than one half of the total number of Councillors. If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the Annual General Meeting, the President shall

	announce that the meeting be dissolved and adjourned to such date (no later than 14 days) , at such time and at such place. The necessary quorum for that meeting shall then be the number present at such meeting.
Art. 23	Except for amending the Constitution, any resolutions to be adopted by the Annual General Meeting shall require more than one half of the votes of Councillors (except Ex-officio Councillors) present at the meeting. In the case of a tie, a second ballot shall be held. If the tie remains unbroken even after the second scrutiny, the Chairperson of the Council or, in his absence, the acting Chairperson, shall have the casting vote.
Art. 24	In case of emergency, an Annual General Meeting may be convened by the President or two-thirds of the Councillors (except Ex-officio Councillors) may, by means of a jointly-signed letter, demand the President to convene an Extra-ordinary General Meeting, whose power shall be equal to that of an Annual General Meeting, but matters for discussion shall be limited to those listed in the agenda.
	B. The Central Committee
Art. 25	The Central Committee Meeting shall be held not less than every 3 months, convened by the President. The agenda of the Meeting is prepared by the Executive Committee. The agenda shall be sent to those concerned at least two weeks in advance and announced in the parish, as to welcome parishioners to attend.
Art. 26	The functions of the Central Committee are as follows: A. To work out the Council’s annual plan of action and the practical means for its execution, and to report to the Councillors on the progress of work; B. To report the progress of work in the Annual General Meeting; C. To set up ad-hoc committee whenever necessary for the carrying out of special project; D. To set up Election Committee to be responsible for the election matters; E. To invite Parish Finance Committee to make regular report; F. To assist in implementing resolutions passed by the Council.
Art. 27	The necessary quorum for the Central Committee Meeting shall not be less than one half of the total number of Councillors. If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the Central Committee Meeting, the President shall announce that meeting be dissolved and adjourned to such date (no sooner than 14 days later) , at such time and at such place. The necessary quorum for that meeting shall then be the number present at such meeting.

Art. 28	Except for the case of election, any resolutions to be passed by the Central Committee Meeting shall require more than one half of the votes of the Councillors (except Ex-officio Councillors) present at the meeting. In the case of a tie, a second ballot shall be held. If the tie remains unbroken even after the second scrutiny, the Chairperson of the Council or, in his absence, the acting Chairperson, shall have the casting vote.
Art. 29	Under special conditions, one-third of the Councillors (except Ex-officio Councillors) may, by means of a jointly-signed letter, demand the President to convene an Extra-ordinary Central Committee Meeting whose power shall be equal to that of the Central Committee Meeting, but matters for discussion shall be limited to those listed in the agenda.
	C. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Art. 30	The Executive Committee Meeting shall be held not less than every 2 months. The agenda of the meeting is prepared by the President and the Chairperson and distributed to all Councillors at least one week in advance.
Art. 31	The functions of the Executive Committee: A. To prepare the agenda of the Central Committee Meetings and the Annual General Meeting; B. To promote all resolutions being passed in the Central Committee Meetings and of the Annual General Meeting; C. To discuss organization of events or special matters.
Art. 32	The necessary quorum for the Executive Committee Meeting shall be the president and not less than one half of the total number of Councillors.
PART V	COMMITTEES
Art. 33	Committees are to be set up by the Central Committee according to the needs of the Council: A. To collect research data for its deliberation and to assist in implementing its decisions or setting its direction; B. To formulate constitution according to the needs of the Council, which is to be confirmed by the President; C. Each Committee to elect its Chairperson, each community to elect its leader, and to be confirmed by the President, and serve as Ex-officio Executive Committee

	Councillor.
Art. 34	<p>Types of Committee:</p> <p>A. Standing Committee: according to needs to set up different standing committees responsible for regular matters;</p> <p>B. Special Task Group: set up by the Central Committee or the Executive Committee to execute special task of the Council.</p>
Art. 35	<p>Lay association</p> <p>A. Lay Association is a community of laity organized by the laity on its own, on basic condition that does not violate church principles and affect church reputation.;</p> <p>B. Such organization needs recognition of the pastoral team/ the Parish Priest to be established and responsible to the parish;</p> <p>C. According to its nature, each Lay Association makes constitution on its own and files it with the Council for records;</p> <p>D. Lay Association elects Chairperson on its own.</p>
Art. 36	<p>Relationship between the Council and the Parish Finance Committee</p> <p>According to the stipulation of new Cannon Law Articles 536 and 537, the Central Committee differs from the Parish Finance Committee, the two differ from the aspects of duties and members.</p> <p>(Note: in principle, the same person cannot be a member of these two organizations.)</p> <p>The Council is responsible for the pastoral life and ministry of the parish as well as for lay apostolates; the Parish Finance Committee, for finance of the parish.</p> <p>The members of the Central Committee come from all works of the whole parish, whereas the members of the Parish Finance Committee are limited to Christian laity expert in financial affairs and civil law (refer to Cannon Law Article 492 s1).</p> <p>Although the two organizations are different, they are closely related. The Central Committee relies on the Parish Finance Committee for grant support to realize its plans. Parish Finance Committee relies on the Central Committee to develop the pastoral mission of the parish. This interdependent relationship can be embodied in different forms, such as one representative of the Parish Finance Committee attend all meetings of the Central Committee to ensure that both parties are aware of each other's plan and principles.</p> <p>(Note: The Treasurer of the Central Committee is only responsible for the everyday expenses of the Council, for example document costs (refer to Art.15 above))</p>

PART VI	ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICE OF ELECTED COUNCILLORS
Art. 37	Election shall be held around August or September to coincide with the annual pastoral planning of the diocese to be undertaken in October each year, and to be able to supply up-dated membership information for the printing of the “Hong Kong Catholic Church Directory” of the coming year.
Art. 38	An Election Committee is to be set up by the Central Committee to be responsible for all election matters.
Art. 39	Qualification of a candidate: Any Catholic over 18 years old and registered in the parish, or who belongs to other parish but nevertheless has a close link with the parish, is qualified to be a candidate.
Art. 40	Qualities of a candidate Refer to Art. 5.
Art. 41	Mode of Nomination: A. Any qualified Catholic, upon the joint support in writing of two parishioners, can be nominated; B. Qualified Catholics can be nominated by the Parish clergy or sisters; C. Qualified Catholics can be nominated by the Councillors; D. Qualified Catholics can be nominated by Lay Associations/ communities/ teams; (Candidate nominated through this channel only represents himself/ herself and does not represent his/ her respective organization.) Prior consent of the candidates shall be obtained before nominations are submitted. The candidates being nominated must obtain the approval of the Parish Priest.
Art. 42	Mode of Election: The Election Committee appointed by the Central Committee sets up the mode or rules of election according to the parish actual situation. The Election Committee shall introduce the candidate’s resumes to the voters. There are three electoral modes for the parish to choose from to meet its needs: A. Election by the whole parish or B. Election by the Central Committee or C. Two parts electoral mode

	<p>First part (election of Elected Councillors-Designate by the whole parish) Several Elected Councillors-Designate are elected in the election by the parish. (The exact number of Elected Councillors-Designate shall be determined by the Parish Priest that meets the needs of the Council.) In the election of Elected Councillors, Ex-officio Councillors have rights to nominate, but no rights to be elected and no rights to vote.</p> <p>Second part (election of Officers by the Central Committee) The Central Committee Councillors (except Ex-officio Councillors) and Elected Councillors-Designate elect the Officers.</p>
<p>Art. 43</p>	<p>Election by the whole parish</p> <p>A. Except for the President, the Chairperson, Internal Affairs Vice Chairperson, External Affairs Vice Chairperson, Chinese Secretary, English Secretary, Treasurer and other Elected Councillors (if any) shall be elected by ballot voting of the whole parish;</p> <p>B. The Election Committee shall submit a short curriculum-vitae of the candidates to the whole parish two weeks before the election;</p> <p>C. The Election Committee shall organize meeting to introduce the candidates;</p> <p>D. Any Catholic over 18 years old and registered in the parish, or below 18 years old, yet serving as officers in youth associations, have the right to vote;</p> <p>E. The election shall be carried out by ballot voting, one person one vote;</p> <p>F. The candidates who have received the highest number of votes shall be considered elected.</p>
<p>Art. 44</p>	<p>Election by the Central Committee</p> <p>A. Except for the President, the Chairperson, Internal Affairs Vice Chairperson, External Affairs Vice Chairperson, Chinese Secretary, English Secretary, Treasurer and other Elected Councillors (if any) shall be elected by ballot voting of the Central Committee;</p> <p>B. The Election Committee shall submit a short curriculum-vitae of the candidates to the Executive Committee two weeks before the election, then the Executive Committee shall send the curriculum-vitae of the candidates together with the agenda of the Central Committee Meeting to those concerned;</p> <p>C. Proper introduction of the candidates shall be made before the election;</p> <p>D. All Executive Committee members and Councillors (except Ex-officio Councillors) have the right to vote, one person one vote;</p> <p>E. Election shall be made by secret ballot;</p>

	<p>F. When a candidate has received two-third of the votes of the voters present, he/ she shall be considered elected.</p> <p>(If he/ she has not received the necessary number of votes at the first ballot, he/ she be considered elected if he/ she receives more than one half of the votes at the successive ballot. If a third ballot is required, the candidate who has received the highest number of votes shall be considered elected.)</p>
<p>Art. 45</p>	<p>Two parts electoral mode</p> <p>First part (election of Elected Councillors-Designate by the whole parish)</p> <p>A. All Elected Councillors shall be elected by ballot votes of the whole parish;</p> <p>B. The Election Committee shall submit a short curriculum-vitae of the candidates to the Executive Committee two weeks before the election day;</p> <p>C. The Election Committee shall organize meeting to introduce the candidates;</p> <p>D. Any Catholic over 18 years old and registered in the parish, or below 18 years old and serving as officer in youth associations, has the right to vote;</p> <p>E. The election shall be carried out by ballot voting, one person one vote;</p> <p>F. Several candidates who have received the highest number of votes shall be considered elected. (The exact number of Elected Councillors-Designate shall be determined by the Parish Priest that meets the needs of the Council.)</p> <p>Second part (election of Officers by the Central Committee)</p> <p>A. Except for the President, the Chairperson, the Internal Affairs Vice Chairperson, the External Affairs Vice Chairperson, the Chinese Secretary, the English Secretary, Treasurer and other Elected Councillors (if any) shall be elected from Central Committee Councillors (except Ex-officio Councillors) and Elected Councillors-Designate ;</p> <p>B. Before the election of Officers, the candidates shall openly introduce themselves;</p> <p>C. Elected Councillors are voted in the order of Chairperson, Internal Affairs Vice Chairperson, External Affairs Vice Chairperson, Chinese Secretary, English Secretary, Treasurer and other Elected Councillors (if any) ;</p> <p>D. Members of the Central Committee (except Ex-officio Councillors) and Elected Councillors-Designate have the rights to vote, one person one vote;</p> <p>E. Election shall be made by secret ballot;</p> <p>F. When a candidate has received two-third of the votes of the voters present, he/ she shall be considered elected.</p> <p>(If he/ she has not received the necessary number of votes at the first ballot, he/ she be considered elected if he/ she receives more than one half of the votes at the successive ballot. If a third ballot is required, the candidate who has received the highest number of votes shall be considered elected.);</p>

	<p>G. If Elected Councillor-Designate is unable to attend, he shall first contact the President to obtain his consent and that he is willing to accept the election result;</p> <p>H. If the number of candidates is less than the number of Elected Councillors-Designate determined by the Parish Priest that meets the needs of the Council, the remaining positions will be vacant and the Council shall conduct by-election in accordance with Art. 48 of the Constitution.</p>
Art. 46	<p>Tenure of Office</p> <p>A. Except for the Ex-officio Councillors, Councillors shall remain in office for three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one extra term of three years. The same position can only be re-elected once;</p> <p>B. In order to maintain stability and efficiency, it is best that not more than one-half of the members be replaced at each election.</p>
Art. 47	<p>Ceassation of Office</p> <p>Councillor shall be deemed to have ceased from office under the following conditions:</p> <p>A. Whenever their resignations in writing are accepted by the Central Committee in meeting;</p> <p>B. Whenever the President, having received from at least one-fourth of the Councillors a written request for such a resignation (except Ex-officio Councillors), and having discussed a motion to that effect, shall have, by a majority of three-fourth of the votes of the Councillors (except Ex-officio Councillors) present at Central Committee Meeting, required such a resignation;</p> <p>C. Continuous absence from the Central Committee Meeting for three times without any reason acceptable by the President or the Chairperson.</p>
Art. 48	<p>By-election</p> <p>Whenever any office of the Executive Committee becomes vacant, the Central Committee determines whether an election shall be carried out according to the Constitution as soon as possible or the President shall directly appoint his successor. The person who fills the vacancy shall serve the unexpired term and be re-elected once, independently of how long the previous member had already served the Executive Committee.</p>
Art. 49	<p>Amendments of the Constitution</p> <p>A. All amendments shall be made only at the Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>B. All proposed amendments shall be presented to the President in writing two months in advance of the Annual General Meeting. The President shall notify in writing to the Councillors of the proposed amendments within 14 days of receipt.</p>

	The amendments shall come into effect after obtaining two-third majority vote of Councillors (except the Ex-officio Councillors) present at the Annual General Meeting and the ratification of the President.
Art. 50	The Constitution of the Council shall be effective after same being adopted by the Annual General Meeting and ratified by the Parish Priest. A copy of the ratified constitution shall be sent to the Chancery Office and the Hong Kong Central Council of Catholic Laity respectively for records.
PART VII	INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
Art. 51	Should any doubt arise about the interpretation of any part of this constitution, an interpretation shall be given by the President in conjunction with Executive Committee. An appeal thereafter shall be made through the Vicar General for parish affairs to the diocesan Bishop, whose decision shall be final.
PART VIII	CONCILIATION
Art. 52	In cases involving unresolved disputes and major grievances, the same shall be referred for the purpose of conciliation to the Vicar General in charge of parish affairs. An appeal thereafter shall be made to the diocesan Bishop, whose decision shall be final.
PART IX	DISSOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL
Art. 53	The Council may only be dissolved for very grave reasons and only with the prior approval of the Bishop.
Art. 54	If upon the dissolution of the Council, any property whatsoever remains, the same shall be at the disposal of the Parish Priest.
PART IX	BY-LAWS
Art. 55	The President or the Chairperson shall chair the Annual General Meeting, and of meetings of the Central Committee and the Executive Committee. In case the Chairperson is absent with cause, the Inner Affairs Vice Chairperson shall chair the Meeting. If the Inner Affairs Vice Chairperson is also absent with cause, the External Affairs Vice Chairperson shall chair the Meeting. If all three are absent, the President shall assign one of the members of the Executive Committee to chair the meeting.

Art. 56	The Council shall respect the full autonomy of each Lay Association/community /team of the parish. Such organization shall have its own constitution made according to its nature and shall submit one copy of its constitution to the Council for records.
Art. 57	The Council shall not raise any loan, unless authorized by resolution passed by the Central Committee and approval has been obtained from the President.

(The Chinese text is the authentic text of the Constitution.)

~End~