

DICASTERIUM
PRO LAICIS, FAMILIA ET VITA

Prot. N. 02326/2025

DECREE

The Emmanuel Community is an international association of the faithful, recognized as such by decree of the former Pontifical Council for the Laity on 8 December 1992. By a new decree of 20 June 2009, the same Council erected the Community as a public association of the faithful.

The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, in the exercise of its competencies in accompanying and developing associations of the faithful (cf. art. 128, 1 and art. 134, *Praedicate Evangelium*), has recently received numerous reports from bishops as well as from members of the Emmanuel Community.

These persons shared with the Dicastery their perplexities and detailed concerns — which are confirmed by the Moderator's Report of October 3, 2024 — regarding the centralized organisation of the government, inadequacies in the integration of the association in the life of Local Churches (dioceses), especially with regard to the relationship between member priests and the bishops, critical points in the running of parishes entrusted to the Community, and insufficiencies in the treatment of cases of abuse which have occurred within the Community.

In view of the above, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life,

- Considering it appropriate to study these critical points in a broad sense, also with a view to increasing protection and finding remedies;
 - Considering it necessary to provide the Community with appropriate companionship in identifying the above-mentioned problems and their underlying causes;
- Considering the opinions given by the Community's Ecclesiastical Assistant and other bishops;
- Considering the acceptance of the legitimate resignation of the Community's Moderator General, presented on 12 July 2025;
- Considering the objective of preserving the participation of the Emmanuel Community in ecclesial communion and in the mission of the Church;
- Considering the importance and the pertinence of the Community, and of the community's founding charism, for the Universal Church;

In accordance with the provisions of can. 305, 1 of the Codex Iuris Canonici and by virtue of art. 134 of the Apostolic Constitution Praedicate Evangelium,

DECREES

1- the convocation of an Apostolic Visitation within the Emmanuel Community

2- The appointment of Most Reverend Archbishop ANTOINE HÉROUARD as Apostolic Visitor so that he may accompany the process of reorganization of the Community, with particular reference to:

- a) the functioning of the government, and the structure and configuration of the functions and, particularly, the powers of the Moderator;
- b) the mode of integration of the Community into the life of the dioceses;
- c) the revision of the procedures for dealing with cases of abuse within the Community;
- d) the consolidation of internal formation processes, especially with regard to the apostolate towards young people and the promotion of ecclesial communion;

3 - the granting to the Visitor of the faculty of having recourse to counsellors and of appointing, in agreement with the Dicastery, an appropriate number of assistants in order to assist him in the tasks set forth in no. 2 of this Decree.

4- the assumption by the Emmanuel Community of all the expenses necessary for the Apostolic Visitor, as well as for his collaborators, for the execution of the functions entrusted to him.

These measures are adopted, counting on the active cooperation of all the members of the Emmanuel Community, for the good of the entire association of the faithful, and of the Church.

Vatican, 24 October 2025

Gleison de Paula Souza
Secrétaire

Kevin Card. Farrell
Préfet