

# Emmanuel Community

## *Ordo electionis 2023*

### Introduction

1. The present regulations, hereinafter referred to as *Ordo electionis*, are provided for in Article 47 of the Statutes of the Emmanuel Community, approved by the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, dated May 10<sup>th</sup> 2023.
2. The Statutes provide for an elective process in successive stages for the appointment of the members of the International Council of the Community. Among these stages is the election of the Consultative Committees (Area and International), knowing that the attributions of these Committees go far beyond their specific role in the electoral process (See. Statutes art. 46). Their permanent function is in fact to allow active participation, both local and international: *"The Committee members are thus invited to reflect with the International Council on questions concerning the life and future of the Community. To this end, they give and receive information, carry out the studies requested of them and give their opinion on the questions submitted to them. They have no deliberative power or authority"* (Statutes art. 46-3). This document is only concerned with the electoral process.
3. The essential issue at stake in the elections of the various Advisory Committees and the International Council is the service of the common good. The mode of election is a participatory process which aims at listening to the Holy Spirit in prayer, as the Statutes recall: *"The elections of the College and the Council shall be carried out in prayer to the Holy Spirit, free responsibility and the seeking of God's will"* (art. 47). It is in the light of these principles that the practical modalities of the elective process presented below should be understood.
4. With the aim of seeking God's will, the members of the College of Prayer and Election may turn to persons capable of enlightening their discernment. They can also discuss the major challenges facing the Community. Nevertheless, as required by Canon Law<sup>1</sup>, the members of this College undertake not to campaign for themselves or for or against others, either for the election of the members of the various committees, of the International Council or for the election of the Moderator General. Anyone who discovers that a person is campaigning for himself or herself or for another is required to inform the electoral president directly. If the President receives clear evidence that a person has violated the pledge not to campaign, he or she will be required to expel that person from the College of Prayer and Election<sup>2</sup>. In the same way, conforming to the regulation expressed in canon

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<sup>1</sup> With regard to voters: "they shall take care in elections not to directly or indirectly solicit votes for themselves or others" (ICC, art. 626). This canon is intended for religious institutes, but it expresses a principle which must be followed for elections in other communities.

<sup>2</sup> This paragraph is directly inspired by the Constitutions of St. Ignatius 695 and 696

172, we are reminded that the validity of votes is conditioned by the fact that the vote is a free one, secret, certain without condition and determined. This principle applies to all members of the various electoral bodies.

## **First stage of the electoral process:**

### **Adoption of the Ordo electionis**

5. On June 20<sup>th</sup> 2020, the general Moderator, the International Council and the Council of the Fraternity of Jesus adopted, in accordance with articles 46 and 47 of the statutes of the Emmanuel Community, the present internal regulations determining the modalities of the electoral process for the elections of the various Consultative Committees, the International Council of the Emmanuel Community and the Moderator General, to take place in 2023.

Following the modification of the statutes of the Emmanuel Community approved by the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023, ratified by the International Council and the Fraternity Council on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023, a final revision of the present ordo electionis was approved by both councils on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023, in order to bring it into conformity with the provisions of the statutes now in force.

## **Second stage of the electoral process :**

### **Number of Advisory Committee Members and List of Provinces**

6. The Statutes provide that the number of members of the International Advisory Committee shall be 100 (cf. Art. 46-2). Three quarters of the members, i.e. 75, will be elected by the Area Advisory Committees and one quarter appointed, i.e. 25 (Statutes art. 46-1).

The number of members of the International Advisory Committee to be elected by each Area Advisory Committee is determined in proportion to the number of committed members from each area (Statutes art. 46-2) in January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. The International Council has also decided that the number of members of each Area Advisory Committee shall be equal to three times the number of persons to be elected by the Area to the International Advisory Committee, with a minimum number of 12 members. This leads to the following situation for the Zone Advisory Committees:

	Number of members to be elected to the International Advisory Committee	Number of members of the Zone Advisory Committee	Number of members to be elected to the Zone Advisory Committee
France	37	111	83
Europe	14	42	31
Africa	16	48	36
Asia & Oceania	3	9	7
North America	2	6	5
South America	2	6	5
Total	75	225	169

From the number of members of each Zone Advisory Committee, the Council determines the number of persons to be elected by the committed brothers and sisters of each province in the zone, this time in proportion to the number of committed members in each of the provinces listed by the International Council as of **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020**. The committed members of the provinces and countries that do not have the necessary quota to elect at least one member of the Zone Advisory Committee, as well as the engaged members not attached to a province, are automatically attached to a province determined by the International Council.

## **Proxies**

**7.** In all of the electoral processes described below, an elector who is unable to fulfil his or her electoral duty may give a proxy to another person, provided that the latter is also entitled to vote at that elective level. A person may receive a maximum of two proxies for each electoral stage. The outgoing Moderator General, the members of the Community and Fraternity Councils and the members of the International Bureau may not receive any proxies.

## **Third stage of the electoral process: Advisory Committee Elections**

**8. Before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020:** the election of the elected members of each Area Advisory Committee shall take place.

The elections in each zone are organized by the Moderator's Delegate for the zone, assisted by its office. In order to promote mutual knowledge, the elections will be held at the most appropriate local level: province, sector, or a set of sectors. This organization will be validated by the International Council and the Council of the Fraternity.

The delegate of the Moderator will send to each Province or Sector leader the information necessary for the organization of the elections, that is:

- the number of persons to be elected to the Zone Consultative Committee;
- a presentation of the mission of the members of the Zone Consultative Committee and the availability requested;
- the names of the eligible persons (involved in the Community and at least in the stage of probation in the Fraternity of Jesus) indicating for each one their step in the Fraternity of Jesus;
- a reminder that the delegates of the Moderator and the members of the zone offices, as well as all persons who are members by right of the College of Prayer and Election are not eligible for election<sup>3</sup> to any zone consultative committee;
- an explanation of the rules and the purpose of the elections: the election of the members of the Zone Consultative Committees prepares the other levels of election (International Consultative Committee and International Council). From this first elective stage, it is useful to remember that only consecrated members in the Fraternity of Jesus can be elected to the International Council.
- A proxy where the person is unable to go to the place where the vote is to be taken.

The elections are carried out by secret ballot in the following manner:

- The first three rounds by absolute majority;
- The fourth round by simple majority.

In the case of equal placing there is a fifth round by simple majority.

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<sup>3</sup> List of ex-officio members: the General Moderator, the Head of Ordained Ministers, the elected and ex-officio members of the International Council of Community and the Council of the Fraternity of Jesus, the members of the International Bureau, the members of the Council of the Clerical Association

For these elections, the Moderator's delegate for the zone and the members of the zone's bureau vote in the zone to which they are attached, even if they do not reside in the zone.

At each stage of the vote, the electors are required to vote for the number of posts still awaiting election.

All provincial or sectoral employees are entitled to vote and receive the above documents with their notice of meeting. Each engaged member shall vote in his province of residence, including persons who are part of the office of an area in which they do not reside.

The elections of the Zone Advisory Committees shall be conducted by secret ballot as follows:

- o The first round is by absolute majority;
- o The second round shall be by simple majority.

In the event of a tie, a third round shall be conducted by simple majority.

In each ballot, voters shall be required to vote for the number of posts still to be elected.

Special case of provinces and countries that do not have the necessary quota to elect at least one member of the Zonal Advisory Committee:

- they are grouped as described in point 6 above;
- if local circumstances do not allow either the gathering of voters in one place or the holding of elections according to the process described above, the elections will be organized in a single round with a simple majority according to the modalities defined by the Moderator's delegate for the zone.

Once the elections have taken place in all the provinces of the zone, "the non-elected members of each Zone Consultative Committee shall be appointed by the Moderator's Delegate for the zone after advice from the zone office and agreement of the Moderator General" in a proportion of one quarter of the members of the Committee (Statutes art. 46).

The composition of the various Zone Advisory Committees is made public before January, 1st 2021.

9. Between January 1<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> 2021, the Area Advisory Committees are convened by the Moderator's delegates. During the meeting, the Moderator's delegate invites the Committee to reflect on the questions concerning the life and future of the Community which have been submitted by the Moderator General and the International Council.

He also organizes the election of the members of the International Advisory Committee from among its members. For this purpose, the members of the Area Consultative Committee have received the necessary information with the invitation to the meeting :

- the names of the voters, i.e. the members of the Zone Consultative Committee plus those of the Zone Office;
- the names of the eligible persons, that is, the members of the Zone Consultative Committee and of the zone office (Statutes art. 46-2) who are consecrated or in probationary stage in the Society of Jesus; the Moderator's delegate for the zone is not eligible because he is a member by right of the College of Prayer and Election ;
- the number of persons to be elected is determined by the International Council (no. 4);
- an explanation of the role of the International Advisory Committee and its relationship to the International Council elections;
- the rules of the elections;
- A proxy in case the person is unable to attend the voting location.

Elections are conducted by secret ballot in the following manner:

- o The first three rounds are by absolute majority;
- o The fourth round is by simple majority.

In the event of a tie, a fifth round shall be conducted by simple majority.

For these elections, the Moderator's delegate for the zone and the members of the zone office vote in the zone to which they are attached, even if they do not reside there.

In each round of voting, voters are required to vote for the number of positions still to be elected.

**10.** When all the Zone Advisory Committees have met and voted, the International Council shall aggregate all elected members into the body of elected members of the International Advisory Committee. It shall then add the quarter of appointed members provided for in the Statutes (cf. Art. 46-1).

The term of office of all members, elected and appointed, of the International Advisory Committee shall be five years (cf. art. 46-1).

## **11.Substitutes**

The members of the Councils of Community, Fraternity, the International Bureau or the Council of the Clerical Association cannot be members of a Advisory Committee.

Consequently, if a person who has been appointed to an Advisory Committee becomes a member of one of the above bodies, he will be replaced by a person appointed according to the procedure provided for in the Statutes.

If a person who is an elected member of a Zone Advisory Committee is elected to the Council of the Clerical Association, he or she shall be replaced by the person from his or her province (or sector) who received the most votes on the last ballot of the Zone Advisory Committee election.

If a person who is an elected member of the International Consultative Committee is elected to the International Council of the Community or becomes a member of the International Bureau of the Community or of the Council of Fraternity, the procedure is as follows:

- If he or she had been elected to the Zone Advisory Committee, he or she is replaced in that Committee by the person from his or her province (or sector) who received the most votes in the last ballot of the Zone Advisory Committee election;
- If he or she had been appointed to the Zone Advisory Committee, he or she shall be replaced by a person appointed in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Statutes;
- For the International Advisory Committee, he or she shall be replaced by the person from his or her zone who received the most votes in the last ballot of the International Advisory Committee election.

For this purpose, the results of all elections shall be retained.

No later than 3 months after the elections of the Council and the Moderator General, the lists of the members of the various Advisory Committees shall be updated and published.

**12.** The constitution of the International Consultative Committee completes the formation of the College of Prayer and Election, which is made up of the members of this Committee, to which are added the members "of the International Council of the Community, of the Council of the Fraternity of Jesus, of the International Bureau and of the Council of the Clerical Association of the Emmanuel Community" (Statutes, art. 47). All the members of the College, consecrated in the Fraternity of Jesus,

are potentially eligible for election to the International Council. From this moment on, they are asked to carry out the elections in prayer, and to discern in their soul and conscience, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, whether they are ready to accept to be elected to the International Council and/or elected Moderator General.

The Statutes of the Community currently in force for the election provide, however, that “Members of the Council of the Society of Jesus and of the Council of the Clerical Association are not eligible for election to the International Council” (Statutes, art. 47).

**13.** During the second half of the year 2021, the Moderator General convened the newly formed International Advisory Committee for several days of work. The purpose of this first meeting was to get acquainted with the situation of the Community, to carry out the consultations provided for in the Statutes (art. 46) and to allow the members to get to know each other.

#### **Fourth stage of the electoral process :**

##### **Preparation for the meeting of the College of Prayer and Election**

**14.** The College of Prayer and Election *"is formed by the members of the International Consultative Committee (cf. Statutes art. 46), the International Council of the Community, the Council of the Fraternity of Jesus, the International Bureau and the Council of the Clerical Association of the Emmanuel Community"* (Statutes art. 47). Its purpose is to proceed with the election of the International Council.

**15.** The electoral process and the validity of the elections of the International Council are supervised by the President of the elections and his two assessors.

**16.** After the elections of the International Advisory Committee, the Moderator General, with the agreement of the Community and Fraternity Councils, appoints the president of the elections and his two assessors. The President and the assessors cannot be members of the College of Prayer and Election.

The Moderator General informs the whole Community of the forthcoming elections and of the names of the President and the assessors. He specifies the place and the date, chosen by him following the advice of the International Council.

The College of Prayer and Election meets for 7 days.

**17.** The Statutes provide that only members of the College of Prayer and Election consecrated in the Fraternity of Jesus are eligible for election to the International Council. As soon as the College of Prayer and Election has been definitively constituted, the President of the Elections will contact all eligible persons to ascertain whether they agree to be proposed for election to the International Council. The body of persons who may be elected will therefore consist of all the members of the College of Prayer and Election consecrated in the Fraternity of Jesus who have explicitly accepted the possibility of being elected for this office. All these persons will send to the president of the elections, no later than 2 months before the date of the elections, a short biographical presentation which will serve to constitute a document with the names of all the persons who may be elected.

**18.** Once appointed, the President of Elections and his assessors will gather all the documents that will be sent to the members of the College of Prayer and Election, at least 3 weeks before the elections namely :

- the Ordo Electionis;
- the number of persons to be elected;

- the names of those eligible for election;
- the names of the current members of the International Council with mention of their possible re-election. It should be recalled that the terms of office are five years, renewable once;
- the names of the members of the outgoing International Bureau;
- proxies.

All these documents are approved by the Council of the Fraternity of Jesus before being sent.

**19.** Two months before the elections, the president of the elections sends the official convocation to all the members of the College of Prayer and Election. It signifies the place and duration of the elections. The above-mentioned documents will be sent later, and in any case no later than 3 weeks before the date of the elections.

The members of the College of Prayer and Election will consider it an absolute priority to participate personally in the meeting of this College. In case of impossibility, they may give a proxy to another member of the College (see art. 7).

### **Fifth stage of the electoral process : The meeting of the College of Prayer and Election**

**20.** The meeting of the College of Prayer and Election will be held from July 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It begins with 3 days of presentation of the situation of the Community by the Moderator General, his delegates and the outgoing International Council. This time will be used to encourage exchanges, to answer questions asked by the members of the College and to allow them to get to know each other better.

**21.** *"The elections of the Council are carried out in prayer to the Holy Spirit, in free responsibility and in seeking the will of God. Particular attention will be paid to the search for the common good, to the communion of states of life, to the deployment of the charism of the Community at the service of the Church and in profound union with her, to the missionary dynamic and to international representation."* (Statutes art. 47).

**22.** The delegates of the Moderator General are eligible as members of the International Council.

If they are elected to the International Council and are asked to continue as delegates for a zone, Article 45 of the Statutes shall be applied: "Delegates of the Moderator General may not hold office concurrently as members of the International Council. If a member of this Council accepts the office of Zone Delegate, he renounces the office of Councillor. He is then replaced on the Council by the first of the members elected as substitutes in the order of their ranking (cf. art. 38). »

**23.** From the fourth day, **July 27<sup>th</sup>**, the election of the members of the International Council shall be conducted under the direction of the President and his assessors.

Voting shall be conducted as follows:

- o The first three rounds are by absolute majority;
- o The next two rounds shall be by simple majority if more than one third of the votes cast;
- o If a sixth round is necessary, it shall be by simple majority.

In the event that several persons have the same number of votes for the last available seat, a seventh round shall be held by simple majority to decide between them.

In each round of voting, voters are required to vote for the number of seats still to be elected.

**24.** The five persons having obtained the most votes in the last ballot after the 15 persons elected as titular members shall be declared "members elected as substitutes" (cf. Statutes art. 38). In the event of early termination of the term of a titular member, he shall be replaced by the available substitute member having obtained the most votes in the last ballot.

If several persons have the same number of votes in the last ballot among the potential substitutes, the President of the elections shall draw lots in their presence in order to arrange them in an orderly manner.

**25.** The Community's ecclesiastical assistant or his representative is invited to attend the elections, which may, however, take place validly in his absence.

### **Sixth stage of the electoral process : The election of the Moderator General**

**26.** Following the election of the International Council on July 28<sup>th</sup>, the election of the Moderator General is held. The latter "is elected by the College of Prayer on July 28<sup>th</sup> and Election by a two-thirds majority for five years, from among the lay people who have made a process of consecration in the Fraternity of Jesus, who are members of one of the following bodies:

- The newly elected International Council and the outgoing International Council
- The outgoing International Bureau,
- The Council of the Fraternity of Jesus. "(Statutes art. 35)

It is recalled that the Statutes in force for the election stipulate that: "The outgoing Moderator General having served only one term may always be re-elected for a second term. No one may serve more than two terms as Moderator General, consecutive or not" (Statutes, art. 35)

**27.** After a time of adoration and discernment (see no. 12), those eligible as Moderator General may in good conscience withdraw from the list of those eligible. They should inform the President in writing.

**28.** Once the names of those eligible and available have been determined, the President presents them in alphabetical order to the College of Election and Prayer in order to proceed to the vote. As many ballots as necessary are taken until a Moderator General is elected with two-thirds of the votes cast. Between each round, anyone may in good conscience withdraw from the list of eligible candidates by notifying the President in writing.

**29.** As soon as the new Moderator General is declared elected, having accepted his office with the President, he/she shall immediately assume office. The outgoing Moderator General is no longer in office.

The President of Elections officially closes the electoral process. He informs the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and requests confirmation of the election of the Moderator General (art. 35 and CIC, canon 317).

**30.** Once elected, the Moderator General convenes the International Council for a first working session.