

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE - REFLECTION



I ask for what I desire as we begin this topic



I pray that my entire being become open to God's grace



I imagine these texts being addressed to me, and note my response

Grace: That I find the right way of organising my institution to better serve others

The Spirit needs a good instrument to work with. If we do not make an effort to create it, our expectation of divine help is really an empty presumption. Of course, God can create out of stones new sons of Abraham; but this is not his ordinary way of doing it. Hence we should not get impatient with the institutional or the juridical aspects of our community. Granted, excessive legalism is the enemy of freedom of the spirit. But there is no freedom of the spirit, or even of the body, unless there is good order in the community, good order that liberates every member for achieving his own maximum capacity. To be the slave of structures and laws is bad; but to be the slave of chaos and anarchy is not better.

St. Ignatius states in the Preamble of the Constitutions that the birth of the Society and its continued existence are gifts of the supreme wisdom and goodness of God our Creator and Lord. Our response to His initiative ought to be inspired by the interior law of charity and love that the Holy Spirit writes and engraves upon our hearts. Nevertheless, St. Ignatius says, structures are necessary to assure human cooperation in a divine plan, and to help us all to proceed better in God's service.

Eventually the impact of the general congregation must reach the whole Society. Such an impact can be on the level of new insights that bring a new vision, or it can be on the level of decisions for action. At any rate, strength in the congregation will beget strength in the whole community. Weakness in the congregation will affect the whole social body to its last cell. The results of the next Congregation will reverberate throughout the Society. We may grow spiritually stronger or we may become weaker for it. In our present system of laws, a general congregation is a center to which forces of life converge, become united, recreated, and hopefully flow out into the whole body again.

[Some questions about the purpose and scope of the GC - Ladislav Örsy S.J.](#)

Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock.

[Tending the Flock of God- 1 Peter 5:1-3](#)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Structures are present not so much to bind the community as to free it and channel it for an intense cooperation with the Spirit. Do you think your institution's structures help to do that?