



Statutes
Of
Jesus Centre Association
(Association of Christ's Faithful)

Archdiocese of Goa and Daman
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Information about Jesus Centre Association

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PREAMBLE

In accordance with the Second Vatican Council's teaching and the code of Canon Law 1983, Christ's faithful as part of the People of God have the right to establish and direct associations for the purpose of promoting their spiritual growth, serve charitable or pious purposes, and foster the Christian vocation in the world. "Can. 215, 298 §.1 CIC'83"

Some are called to specific expressions of the Way, institutes of consecrated life, monastic life, married life, associations of the faithful, and so on. (Can. 298). Others, even where they may not have discerned a special calling, are free to seek to marry, to join an institute or society of apostolic life, and to associate with other Christians in their living in the Spirit Jesus has given to us. In varied ways we accept and carry out the great commission to go into the world proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. (Mt 28:19)

The call and initiation of Jesus Centre came on 11th March 2004.

(1) *"I have washed you, cleansed you of your past sins, as you have already turned away from them. I have already forgotten about them. I have thrown them into the sea and I will remember them no more. Do not feel guilty about the past anymore."*

"I have chosen you like my servant David, to be the shepherd of my people. I will make use of all your talents which I have given you, to proclaim the Good News to the people of God".

*"Like Prophet Jeremiah I have chosen you before I gave you life".
(Jer 1: 5)*

"I have selected you to be my mighty vessel to all the people. Don't be afraid of them, because I will be with you to protect you". (Jer 1: 8)

April, 2004

(2) *"You do not worry, go ahead with my work. Establish Counseling – cum – Media cum Prayer Centre at Alfran Plaza. Everything needed, will be provided by me for that Centre. I will guide you how to set it up."*

(3) *"I will give you all the monetary help that is required to set up the Centre. Besides the hall, it will consist of Counseling Centre which*

will be used for counseling, more particularly 'The Youth' and Media Centre, for the evangelization program of my kingdom. Don't worry; I will give you the required personnel to work there. This is my confirmation regarding the Centre at Alfran Plaza".

05th June, 2004

*"Do not worry about the Centre, My Centre. It will be established at Alfran Plaza, and name it as **"JESUS CENTRE"**.*

Thus Jesus Centre Association is founded by Adv. J. S. Rebello under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is a lay organisation working in collaboration and obedience to the church. The Lord Jesus Christ as a Corner Stone is dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world. In this mission, those who are so called, not by their merits, but by the grace of the Almighty, for His work on Earth, will endeavour to strive towards the vision that "the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached all over the world, for a witness unto all nations." (Mat 24:14)

Chapter 1 - Definitions

ARTICLE 1: The following are the definitions of the terms/expressions used in these statutes.

- 1) **JCA:** means Association of Christ's faithful "*Jesus Centre Association*".
- 2) **Statutes:** means regulations of JCA framed in the light of the Code of Canon Law and Post Vatican II spirit.
- 3) **Diocesan Bishop:** means the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman
- 4) **Diocesan Ordinary:** means apart from the Roman Pontiff, Diocesan Bishops, all who, even for a time only, are set over a particular church or a community equivalent to it, in accordance with Can. 368 and those who in these have general ordinary executive power, that is, Vicars General and Episcopal Vicars.
- 5) **G. C:** means Governing Council.
- 6) **Governing Council:** means the validly appointed Body of JCA according to these statutes to govern and administer the JCA.
- 7) **S. G:** means Servant General who presides over the Governing Council.
- 8) **Secretary:** means the Secretary of the Governing Council of JCA.
- 9) **Treasurer:** means Treasurer of Governing Council of JCA.
- 10) **Spiritual Committee:** means a Spiritual Committee who help provide wisdom, understanding, direction and discernment to the S. G. in spiritual matters of JCA.

Chapter 2 - Nature and Objectives

ARTICLE 2: Name, Address and Definition.

2.1: This private association of Christ's faithful is in accordance with Can. 298, 299 CIC'83, is to be called as the "**Jesus Centre Association.**"

2.2: The Association's principal address is S-64, 2nd Floor, Alfran Plaza, M.G. Road, Panjim - Goa.

2.3: The Association reserves the right to change its principal address as may be required in the future.

ARTICLE 3: The Objectives of the Association.

3.1: Holiness

The prime and fundamental vocation of the lay faithful is the call to holiness. Life according to the Spirit, whose fruit is holiness, stirs up the very baptized person and requires each to follow and imitate Jesus Christ. Thus the sanctification of the lay faithful is the prime objective of J.C.A., to prepare them to respond to this vocation.

3.2: Evangelization of the unbelievers

JCA is committed to collaborate in every apostolic missionary undertaking of the church and more particularly evangelization of non-believers in conjunction with the church in full respect and conformity with Catholic identity of the Association. Jesus Centre Association has been assigned **three fold missions:-**

i. To bring the unbelieving brethren into His Light, Hope and Resurrection. Jesus Centre Association has been given the distinct mission of bringing unbelieving souls into His Kingdom.

ii. To save the youth from the deadly scourge and snares of the enemy and to set them free from drugs, sexual immorality, drinking, smoking, gambling, etc. and bring them back to God.

iii. To protect the institution of the family from breaking-up, and to save broken families in love of God and unite them together. The

Jesus Centre Association has been chosen to seek and collect the lost sheep and set them free in His name.

April 2005:

The main mission of JC will be “to bring the gentile brethren into my Light, Hope and Resurrection”.

“To bring back the youth who have strayed and gone far away from me.”

Jan 2007:

“My plan for you and my Centre, a plan for great renewal and rejoicing of the church.”

3.3: Communion.

The JCA will work to foster unity in the church by working together with other Associations of Christ’s faithful. The JCA will offer their support to the local parish and church, so as to bring communion with the church and the lay faithful.

3.4: Social Action.

The JCA will work towards the good of the human society and will be at the service of the society considering of the total dignity of the human person.

ARTICLE 4: The JCA will recourse to following means to achieve the objectives:

4.1: The members of the J.C.A. will be encouraged to be persons of prayer and to be faithful to liturgical and sacramental life of the church.

4.2: The members will strive to live the vocation that God has given to them and give witness to the charisms of the J.C.A.

4.3: The charism and activities of the JCA will be always at the service of the local and the universal church. The members of the J.C.A will strive to integrate themselves in the parish and the Diocesan pastoral plans, without suppressing its own charism.

4.4: The JCA will always remain committed to the Magisterium and universal teachings of the church.

4.5: The members of the JCA will strive towards the transformation of the society based on gospel values by involving themselves in the social, cultural, political, educational activities of the secular society.

4.6: The members will also undertake the works of mercy and for that purpose the J.C.A. may establish orphanages, old age homes, hospitals, educational institutions for the poorer section of the society.

4.7: The J.C.A shall collaborate with other catholic institutes and associations of Christ's Faithful in furthering the cause of the kingdom of God.

Chapter 3 - Membership

ARTICLE 5: To be validly admitted to be a member of JCA, one is required:

5.1: To be a Catholic lay person, be it male or female, married or single.

5.2: To be at least eighteen years of age.

5.3: Younger members who have completed sixteen years of age, with parental permission can also be validly received.

5.4: JCA membership is open to non-catholic's who can join as Associate members.

5.5: Associate member can participate fully in the non-sacramental life and mission of the JCA, provided the Associate member respects and defers to the principles and teachings of the Catholic Church on marriage, human sexuality and the family.

5.6: Associate members will have no right to vote in the meetings of the General Assembly or otherwise.

ARTICLE 6: Other forms of membership may be authorized by the Governing Council in the expediency of the case for auxiliaries and affiliates.

ARTICLE 7: A candidate for the membership will apply on prescribed form indicating name, address, age, profession, duly signed by her/him as a request for applying for the membership of JCA.

ARTICLE 8:

- (i) Each and every candidate request must be granted by the Governing Council to be admitted as a member of the JCA.
- (ii) If the request is granted for an admission, the Governing Council shall collect fees as prescribed in the regulations and acknowledged by a receipt.
- (iii) Admission of the member is then registered in the General register of members maintained by the JCA.

ARTICLE 9: The following are the rights/duties of a member:

- i) To promote the spirituality of communion and to participate in the spiritual benefits of the JCA.
- ii) To participate in the seminars, retreats, talks and other spiritual programmes organised by JCA for ongoing formation of the members.
- iii) To attend without fail every General Assembly meeting
- iv) To hold the post as a member of the Governing Council to which she/he is appointed and to be in charge of all that is entrusted to him/her for the welfare of the JCA and its members unless the contrary is justified.
- v) To fulfill the obligation imposed by the statutes and the respective regulations, offer their voluntary work without seeking personal gain but working in the interest of all. (Phil 2:4, 1Cor 13:5)
- vi) To discuss and to intervene in the deliberations of the General Assembly.
- vii) To approve the income and expenditure statement at the annual General Assembly meeting.
- viii) To pay the annual membership fee.
- ix) Any other right/duty mentioned elsewhere in these statutes and in the regulations.

9.1: Any member can voluntarily on his own accord resign the membership of the JCA.

ARTICLE 10: Complaints and Irritants.

10.1: Any member of JCA aggrieved and have a grievance can address the same to S.G. with a copy to Spiritual Guide of J.C.A. If not satisfied with the redressal of the grievance the member can address the appeal to the Diocesan Ordinary.

Chapter 4 - Servant General and Governing Council

ARTICLE 11:

11.1: Leadership of the J.C.A. will be a servant leadership, following the example of Jesus.

11.2: Overall leadership and governance are exercised by the Servant General. The Servant General acts as a keeper of the charism and governs life and the mission of the J.C.A. He will preside over the Governing Council as an ex-officio chairman. He will exercise vote in case of a tie.

11.3: The founder of J.C.A. is the first Servant General.

11.4: To provide personal pastoral cover, the Servant General has a priest as Spiritual Guide of the J.C.A. In addition, other seniors provide fraternal correction as needed. In accordance with Can. 324, §.2, the J.C.A., through its Servant General is to select a Spiritual Guide, chosen from any of the priests who lawfully exercise a ministry within the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman. However, for this priest to assume this office, the confirmation of the Diocesan Bishop is required.

11.5: The founder Servant General serves until he dies or voluntarily steps down for reasons of health or incapacity or any other reason he deems fit.

11.6: When the founder dies or has voluntarily stepped down as a Servant General, a successor as Servant General will be elected by a minimum of seventy percent vote (70%) of all those physically present in the General Assembly. The eligible members of which are:-

- 1) All registered members of the JCA.
- 2) The members of the Governing Council.
- 3) The Spiritual Guide.

11.7:

- 1) When the founder dies or has voluntarily stepped down as a Servant General, the founder will have the option of appointing the Servant General to succeed him in which case there is no election.
- 2) If not, a successor to the Servant General will be chosen as per *Article 11.6*.

11.8: Subsequent Servant General will have no option to nominate or select the Servant General. The Servant General will be selected as per of *Article 11.6.*, so chosen will have a term of five years, subject to a second term of five years, if chosen again. He is ineligible for a third successive term. He may be chosen again in an eventuality wherein the chosen Servant General dies or opts to step down, after having been out of office for at least three years and thereafter two successive terms and hiatus of three years will apply.

11.9: The Servant General is a male member of J. C. A.

ARTICLE 12:

Governing Council is the governing body of the association. It is composed of not more than seven members, including the ex-officio chairman. The Servant General will be ex-officio chairman of the governing council. The members will hold a five year term.

12.1: The Governing Council shall be selected by the S.G. from among the eligible members on the proposal and advice of the General Assembly. The General Assembly will propose fifteen names to the S.G. From the list proposed by the General Assembly, the S.G. in consultation with the Spiritual Guide will select and appoint the Secretary, Treasurer and four other members. The Executive Committee consisting of the chairman, secretary and treasurer will meet quarterly.

12.2: At all the meetings of the Governing Council, every member present has one vote. Voting by proxy is not allowed. Decisions are ordinarily made by the governing Council by absolute majority of the members after considering the opinion of the Servant General. In case of tie the S. G. will have the casting vote. Governing Council will meet at least twice a year, with a gap not more than six months. It can meet more often if found necessary.

12.3: The following are eligible to be appointed as the members of the Governing Council:-

- 1) Those who are committed to the mission of J.C.A.
- 2) Those who habitually attend and are always available at J.C.A. for its programmes and work to carry out its mission.

- 3) Those who have spirit of service and dedication to the JCA and the Church.
- 4) Those who are spiritually grown and who live exemplary catholic life.

12.4: The following will not be eligible to be appointed as members of the Governing Council.

- 1) Two or more individuals, related to one another to the first and second degree of consanguinity or affinity, simultaneously as defined by the Canon Law.
- 2) Those who have already been Governing Council members during the last two consecutive terms.
- 3) Those who have failed to attend without proper justification four or more General Assembly meeting during the present or previous terms.
- 4) Those who have been suspended from membership of JCA.
- 5) Those who hold office of direction in political parties, since the JCA which is an association of Christ's faithful directly ordered to the exercise of apostolate (Can. 317 §.4 CIC'83).

ARTICLE 13: The functions of the Governing Council are as follows:-

- 1) Admit individual persons and groups as the member/members.
- 2) To maintain the register of the admitted persons.
- 3) Establish the forms of collaboration for others to participate in the Spirit Life and initiatives of JCA as collaborators.
- 4) Terminate the membership of individual persons or to revoke the decision to admit member groups as per the procedural norms laid down by the JCA.
- 5) To establish its regulations and criteria to administer the JCA property both moveable and immovable and monitor its administration.
- 6) Prescribe the norms and procedure for nominating members of the General Assembly.
- 7) To propose annual budget of the Association.
- 8) To create, establish, maintain and administer reserve and special funds of all kinds to promote the objects of the Association.

ARTICLE 14: Spiritual Committee

The S.G in consultation and agreement with G.C and the Spiritual Guide will appoint a spiritual committee consisting of three to five

members or more who provide wisdom, understanding, direction and discernment to JCA in spiritual matters only. The Spiritual Guide will be ex-officio member of the spiritual committee. The members to be selected for the spiritual committee shall be spiritually advanced in holiness and growth in spiritual matters. The spiritual committee will function only to assist the S.G. and discern the will of God in the spiritual matters of the JCA. The spiritual committee will have no other function over any administrative and other matters of the JCA. It will be purely a spiritual team.

14.1: The first Governing Council will be appointed by the founder Servant General in consultation with the senior members and in agreement with the Spiritual Guide of the JCA. Thereafter, the Governing Council will be elected as per the procedure laid down in *Article 11.6*.

ARTICLE 15:

15.1: Governing Council is to set up an appropriate date each year for the Annual General meeting (AGM) and is to inform all members of this date, giving them at least one month's notice.

15.2: At this meeting

- 1) The Secretary presents the annual report for approval
- 2) The treasurer presents the annual income, expenditure and balance sheet for approval.
- 3) The main activities to achieve the Association's purpose are decided upon.
- 4) Modifications to the statutes or any other official documents are voted on.

ARTICLE 16: THE SERVANT GENERAL

The Servant General is responsible for:-

- 1) Representing the JCA and being authorised spokesman.
- 2) Co-ordinating the work of the Governing Council and implementing the decisions of the General Assembly with the help and support of the Governing Council.
- 3) Chairing the meeting of the General Assembly and any other Governing Bodies of the Association of which he is a member.
- 4) Overall co-ordination, supervision of the JCA.
- 5) Being the guarantor of faithfulness to the nature, mission and spirituality of JCA.

16.1: THE SECRETARY

The Secretary is responsible for:-

- 1) Calling of the meetings and indicating the agenda in consultation and agreement with the S.G.
- 2) Sending the notifications and invitations to meetings.
- 3) Taking the minutes of the meetings and recording them.
- 4) Issuing and receiving all correspondence.
- 5) Keeping the register of admission and dismissal.
- 6) Taking care of archives.

16.2: THE TREASURER

16.3: The office of the treasurer is to be held by a member who possesses the necessary skills to fulfil the duties of this office.

16.4: The treasurer is responsible for:-

- 1) Administration of the assets of the Association.
- 2) Gathering of member's contribution.
- 3) Preparing the annual income expenditure balance sheet.
- 4) Keeping books of account.
- 5) To file income tax returns.

ARTICLE 17: Vigilance over integrity of faith and morals

The JCA is open to supervision by the competent ecclesiastical authority. The competent authority will have right to visit JCA in order to supervise its functioning and ensure the integrity of faith and morals are maintained by the JCA as per Can. 305 CIC'83.

Chapter 5 - General Assembly

ARTICLE 18: The General Assembly is the highest Governing body within the Association. Members only possess one vote when deciding on matters and are to abide by the statutes of the JCA when executing their duties.

ARTICLE 19: The General Assembly shall be presided over by the SG. The minutes shall be recorded by the Secretary who shall read them at the end of the meeting for approval.

19.1: In the absence of the SG a senior member selected by the General Assembly at the beginning of the meeting shall preside. In the absence of Secretary, the Treasurer will record the minutes.

ARTICLE 20: The General Assembly shall hold its ordinary and extraordinary meetings, when convened by the Secretary of the Governing Council, by duly displaying the notices of such meetings indicating the date, time, place and the agenda, on the notice board of JCA and also announce at the prayer meetings and retreats in Jesus Centre Hall, at least 14 days in advance.

20.1: An extraordinary meeting shall be held, whenever required to discuss the urgent matters concerning JCA or when at least 10 members make requisition in writing to the Secretary of the Governing Council.

20.2: The Secretary shall convene the meeting by fixing the date, time, place and indicating the agenda which was part of the said application for registration, within 15 days from the date of receipt of the request for requisitioning such a meeting.

20.3: The above mentioned meetings shall be held in the premises of JCA situated on 2nd floor of Alfran Plaza building, M. G. Road, Panaji - Goa.

ARTICLE 21: The following cannot take part in the deliberations of the General Assembly, nor can they vote:

- 1) Those excluded by the Canon Law as per Canon 316.
- 2) Those who are sentenced after being convicted in a Court of Law.

- 3) Those who, without justification, do not attend four or more consecutive General Assembly meetings during the current or previous term.
- 4) Those who have not paid the annual membership fees.

ARTICLE 22: It is the competence of the General Assembly to do the following acts:-

- 1) To read and approve the minutes of the last general body meeting.
- 2) To approve the yearly income-expenditure-balance sheet.
- 3) To receive the yearly report of the Secretary.
- 4) To choose and recommend the 15 names as per *Article 12.1*.
- 5) To approve any modifications to the Statutes.
- 6) All that is incumbent on them according to the provisions of the General Statutes and their own regulations.
- 7) General Assembly to recommend for approval of the Diocesan Ordinary for any modification to the regulations of JCA.

ARTICLE 23:

The quorum for the General Assembly shall consist of one third of all members.

ARTICLE 24:

If there is no quorum at the time appointed for holding the meeting, the General Assembly shall stand adjourned for thirty minutes, after which it shall be held on the same date, at the same place to transact the business with the same agenda.

ARTICLE 25: The deliberation of the General Assembly shall be taken by a majority of votes

25.1: S. G. will be elected as per the requirement *Article 11.6*.

Chapter 6 - Spiritual Guide

ARTICLE 26:

26.1: A priest appointed under *Article 11.4* will be the Spiritual Guide of the JCA.

26.2: The duties and functions of the spiritual guide are as follows:

- 1) To assist the S. G. and the Governing Council in the spiritual formation of the JCA members.
- 2) To assist the Governing Council in the on-going spiritual formation of the members of the JCA.
- 3) To conduct and give advice to frame the spiritual programs for retreats, prayer meetings, outreach programs.
- 4) To attend whenever possible the meetings of the Governing Council as well as the General Assembly. He shall be heard at his request in these meetings but will have no vote to the deliberations.
- 5) To see that the placement of altars, statues, lamps, confessionals and above all other things that concern the exercise of the religious cult is according to the liturgical and other norms in force at JCA.
- 6) To provide comments on the annual accounts of the JCA provided to him.
- 7) To fulfill all other duties imposed on him by these statutes or by the Diocesan Ordinary.

Chapter 7 - The Temporal Goods

ARTICLE 27: Assets and its administration

As a private association of Christ's faithful, the Association has a right to acquire and administer its own temporal goods in accordance to Can. 310 CIC'83.

ARTICLE 28: Under the name and title '**Jesus Centre Goa**' a society (NGO) was established and registered on 21st day of February 2005 under No. 14/GOA/2005 as a religious and charitable Organization under the Society Registration Act 1860. Thus presently the JC is registered as a Society according to the civil law. Jesus Centre Goa was blessed and inaugurated on 16th April, 2006 as a civil society.

28.1: Presently the right of ownership over temporal goods of the JCA is under the said Society. The same is required under the civil law in order to safeguard the temporal goods of the JCA until the JCA is legally approved under the Canon law by the Diocesan Bishop.

ARTICLE 29: On receiving the approval of the Diocesan Bishop and through a decree, the JCA is erected as Association of Christ's faithful, under the Canon Law and receives juridical personality in the Catholic Church, the ownership of the temporal goods presently owned by the Society can be transferred to the JCA if found necessary and the said Society could be dissolved.

29.1: The qualified and active members of the Jesus Centre Society will be allotted membership of newly formed J.C.A.

29.2: The Managing Committee of the J.C.A. (G.C.) and the Managing Committee of Jesus Centre Society will be one and the same, since the objectives of J.C.A. and the Society are common.

ARTICLE 30: According to the means foreseen by law, the material goods and property of Jesus Centre Goa consists mainly in:

- 1) Donations.
- 2) Tithes / Offerings
- 3) Contribution from members.
- 4) Immovable property viz. premises of Jesus Centre Goa.

- 5) Movable property viz. furniture, chairs, sound and musical equipment, books, electronic equipments, vehicles etc.

ARTICLE 31: For the sake of transparency, accountability and in the spirit of co-operation, the association will undertake a yearly audited financial statement which is passed by the members of the General Assembly to be sent to the Financial Administrator of Archdiocese of Goa and Daman.

ARTICLE 32: Dissolution

32.1: In case of dissolution, the relevant provisions of the Societies Registration Act 1860 (India) shall be followed as regards to the temporal goods and after meeting all the debts, the material goods and property, moveable and immoveable, and all assets remaining as on the date of dissolution shall under no circumstances be distributed among the members of the Association, but the same shall be transferred to another association, society or charitable institution under the Catholic Church, whose objects are similar to those of this Association.

Chapter 8 - Modification of the Statutes

ARTICLE 33: Modifications to these statutes can be made by the General Assembly requiring two-third majority of those present, after having considered the opinion of the Governing Council and S.G. on the proposed changes and the same is to be sent to the Diocesan Ordinary for its consent.

ARTICLE 34: The proposed modifications are to be attached to the agenda of the meeting and are to be received at least one week before of the meeting by all the members.