

Alabaré Christian Community Rule

Brother/sister

You agreed to live by a common rule as a result of your commitment to Christ and the Gospel. This rule contains the minimum requirement for the community to grow in Christ and to devote itself to a common service to God. The rules and disciplines so contained herein are designed to ensure a deep and lasting freedom and are not introduced for the sake of themselves.

Daily prayer

Members must commit themselves to spend at least 30 minutes in prayer/reflection with the Lord, meeting together for this purpose whenever possible.

Direction

The Community will seek its direction from God by meeting and sharing on His word and being open to the prompting of His spirit.

Celebration

Members will gather to celebrate each year their call to community and the commitment freely made. In renewing their pledge they will re-affirm their loyalty to the Community and its leader.

Discipline

Will be upheld by each member accepting responsibility for the other and accepting the leader's word as binding.

Leadership

Without unity there is no hope for bold and total service of Jesus Christ. Individualism breaks up the Community and brings it to a halt. The leader inspires unity within the Community.

He/she points the way in matters of practical detail, but for any important questions he/she listens to the Community in council or the appointed council if necessary, before making a decision. The members should remain spontaneous with him/her but remembering that the Lord has entrusted him/her with a charge, they should be attentive to all that concerns his/her ministry.

By their attitude of trust the members renew the leader in the seriousness of his/her vocation for the joy of all but by their spirit of petty demands they paralyse his/her ministry.

When a member experiences difficulties or fears he/she should tell the leader in private. Dissent within the Community expressed openly only opens the way for the tempter to create dis-unity and so divide.

The Community will elect a leader who will be called to serve for a period of 3 years and after this time if no new leader emerges, then the leadership will be reviewed annually. The leader will appoint a deputy to step in should the need arise.

Making decisions is a formidable task for the leader. He/she should keep alert and pray so as to build up the whole body in Christ. He/she will look for the special gifts of each member so that the member can discern them for themselves. He/she should remember at all times that he/she is not leading from a role of superiority, but comes in service, carrying out what has been entrusted to him/her by Christ and to whom he/she will have to give account.

He/she should listen attentively to the council of members from whom guidance will be received and arm himself/herself with mercy and ask Christ to grant it as the grace most essential to him/her.

Community Gatherings

Should take place once a week if possible and this meeting should be a priority in the life of its members, no-one should miss such a meeting without prior notification to a member attending, with their reason.

Formation

Is essential for the growth of the individual. A programme will be established to ensure the development of the whole person, spiritual, mental and physical. Each member should appoint their own spiritual director or prayer partner if preferred; to assist them in their discernment of God's will in their lives.

Discipleship

As an ecumenical community we are on a pilgrimage, journeying to that unity which Christ willed for us. "Father that they may be one as you are one". Members must use the opportunities and talents they have to proclaim the Good News that Jesus is Lord. Each will be called to work for renewal within their own parish community and to support one another in this work. From time to time the Community will sponsor projects and these will be a sign of the way Christians can work together.

Attachments

Our attitude should be to have and not to hold. To thank God for his generosity and use wisely all our material possessions. Being ever aware of our Brothers and Sisters we should help whenever possible by sharing the goods we have. We must treat with respect all relationships we enter into.

Tithing

As a community bound by love we will share the first fruits of our labours. For those with an income this will amount to a minimum of 2%. Each member will be encouraged to tithe 10% of their income to the Lord's work with the first 2% coming to the Community. Those unable to secure an income will be the life blood of the Community's human resource and powerhouse of prayer.

Love One Another

To protect members from becoming over-burdened we will practice the virtue of Christian love, caring for, sharing with and bearing one another. Each member will have a partner in the Community for whom they are responsible and with whom they share their transgressions. They should practice the art of listening and make time for one another.

Members on Mission

Like disciples sent out two by two, members on mission are witnesses to Christ, called to be a sign of His presence among all and bearers of joy. Everywhere and at all times they represent the Community. The witness of the whole body depends on their attitude. They keep the Community regularly informed about their life commitments. They should not venture into any new projects without prior consultation for discernment of the body. If members on mission fail to keep this close contact, they very soon break the unity of the body.

New members

To prepare themselves to follow Christ, each new member requires time to mature. They should enter Community after a suitable period as an Associate of the Community during which time they will grow to understand the vocation in its utmost consequences.

Guests

In each quest it is Christ himself whom we have to receive, so let us learn to be welcoming and ready to offer our free time. Our hospitality should be generous and discerning.