**International Confederation of the**

**Apostolate of the Suffering (CVS)**

**International General Assembly**

**October 15-16, 2021**

**Memo: Decree Pontifical Council of the Lay, Family and Life**

*The Pontifical Council of the Lay, Family and Life informed the Apostolate on June 3, 2021, of the following:*

This is the Decree we received on Corpus Christi:

“’The Associations of the faithful’ that are international, whether private or public, under the jurisdiction of this Council, are regulated by the following, 11.06.2021:

This is a General Decree regarding the number of terms of office and the voting procedures for international organizations.

The International Confederation of the Apostolate of the Suffering (CVS) falls under the jurisdiction of this Council.

The law, approved by Pope Francis on June 11, 2021, will become effective in three months. It will be mandatory for all Associations of the faithful and other groups that have been recognized by this Council and are under our jurisdiction.

The Decree’s aim is to promote the turnover of the governing bodies’ members focusing on serving in communion for the general good and to avoid that leadership roles become too personalized.

The requirements of this Decree do not refer to the confederated diocesan associations approved by the local Bishops.

At any rate, it would be positive to study the possibility if it would be feasible to have terms of office of three years for the CVS in Italy.

Moreover, this Decree focuses on the length of the terms of office and the necessity of alternating the executive members, especially that of President.

The present International Confederation’s Board of Directors, elected in 2018, will finish its term in 2024. The next International Confederation’s Board of Directors will have a term of five years.

The President of the International Confederation is also the Head of the Apostolate for the International Association of the Silent Workers of the Cross. When the actual Head will leave their role with the Silent Workers of the Cross, because it will be their second term, the person will not be re-electable as President of the Confederation (They have been in office for eight years; and this Decree sets a maximum of ten years, so they could not receive another term of five years.)

When the present International Board of Directors finishes its term in 2024, the Constitution of the International Confederation should be changed to conform to this Decree of our Council.”