



LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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Communique

by the Legionaries of Christ

About the **Retirement and Medical Charitable Trust**

October 4, 2021

- The Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ administers its resources in compliance with all applicable laws, both civil and canonical, in every country where it is present.
- The Congregation established the Retirement and Medical Charitable Trust (RMCT) to receive donations for religious, charitable and educational purposes, especially the healthcare of Legionary priests and consecrated members.

- 1) The Congregation created the Retirement and Medical Charitable Trust (RMCT) in New Zealand in 2010 to receive and distribute donations to cover expenses that benefit elderly and infirm priests and consecrated members as well as other religious, charitable and educational aims.
- 2) This trust retains no assets beyond what is required to cover expenses related to its operation. All donations the trust received have already been allocated according to the established purposes. Ordinarily, this happens within days or weeks of receiving a contribution. The trust has never been used to invest the Congregation's funds.
- 3) In 2011, a Legionary priest and other members of his family established two irrevocable trusts in New Zealand with assets from his family estate, commending them to trustees and protectors who were to manage them according to the purposes for which they were

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created. **These two trusts are independent of our Congregation.** The Congregation has never controlled their funds, their terms, their operations, their investments, nor does it determine in any way the allocation of their funds. It is important, therefore, to distinguish between the Congregation's trust and these two trusts that were not created and are not controlled by the Congregation.

- 4) The function of the RMCT is to solicit and receive donations and to allocate them according to the stated purpose and intention of the donor, observing international accounting rules, auditing standards, donor transparency and applicable tax regulations. According to this function, over the last few years, the RMCT has requested donations from the two trusts created by this priest and his family, and the trusts have decided on their own whether or not to grant the requested support. The donations received have already been allocated according to the established purpose.
- 5) In some cases, institutions related to the Legionaries of Christ have requested loans from the two trusts created by this priest and his family to finance projects.
- 6) In addition, the aforementioned priest made loans to the Congregation some time before he and his family created the two trusts. The Congregation is now paying the loans back to the two trusts. This priest asked the Congregation to repay the loans this way.
- 7) After the Apostolic Visitation arranged by Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Velasio De Paolis was appointed pontifical delegate for the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ. During that period, from 2010 to 2014, the Congregation established a commission to review its economic situation.
- 8) The purpose of this Commission was to analyze how the Congregation's financial situation and how it manages its finances. The report was submitted to the General Chapter in 2014. The report stressed that no embezzlement of money or other irregularities were found in the fiscal years reviewed. The General Chapter, presided over by the pontifical

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delegate, as the supreme authority of the Congregation, had at its disposal the extensive and detailed documentation prepared by the general administrator and the internal and external audits of the worldwide financial operations of the Congregation (cf. Communiqué of the General Chapter 2014, n. 277, 2nd).

- 9) The Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ, as is usual in most religious congregations, does not control its members' goods, nor does it administer them, nor does it own them, unless the religious makes a donation of his goods. As the 2020 Constitutions of the Legionaries of Christ state (n. 26 §1), "Every professed member of the Congregation retains the ownership of his goods and the ability to acquire others, but he cannot administer them personally. Therefore, before first profession, he should cede the administration of his goods to whomever he prefers, freely making disposition for their use and revenue." The Congregation does not possess, nor does it interfere in any way in the ownership or administration of the goods belonging to the families of origin of the Legionaries.

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