

A Glossary of Terms for Use By Boards of Holy Cross Schools

Language of the Congregation of Holy Cross

Apostolate

Place of ministry; specific institution or work undertaken by the Congregation or one of its members to effect the mission.

Authority

“Authority is a ministry among us and to us and is vested in our superiors, who act in conformity with our constitutions and statutes. They elicit and open themselves to dialogue among the membership, preside over the reaching of consensus if possible, and then see that decisions are made. Whether he acts on his own judgment or after consultation or with required consent by others, a superior must frame his decision as ones that he can best sustain in conscience.”
(*Constitution 7:82*)

Chapter

Meeting of the members of the Congregation on the local, provincial or general levels.

Provincial Chapter

“The highest authority in a province is vested in the provincial chapter, which must discern and decide the largest issues of the common good ... The provincial chapter meets ordinarily every three years. It analyzes the state of the province’s common life and mission, determines major policies for the future, elects officers and delegates within its competence, and erects and oversees the development of districts. It requires the presence of two-thirds of the capitulants for valid acts.” (*Constitution 7:95 and 96*)

General Chapter

“The highest authority in the congregation is vested in the general chapter, which must discern and decide the largest issues of the common good and regulate relations between the societies and among the provinces ... Capitulants are elected from and by the societies according to parity such that the societies are represented by equal numbers of capitulants exclusive of the superior general.” (*Constitution 7:99*)

“The general chapter meets ordinarily every six years. It analyzes the state of our common life and mission, promotes and safeguards the heritage of the congregation, reviews and amends the statutes, issues, decrees, recommendations and declarations, elects the superior general and the general assistants, and erects, divides or suppresses provinces. It requires the presence of two-thirds of the capitulants for valid acts.” (*Constitution 7:100*)

Charism

A specific gift, a unique gift in and for the Church.

Congregation of Holy Cross

“This family is the Congregation of Holy Cross, founded by Basil Anthony Moreau. We are a community of pontifical right: men living and working under the approbation and authority of the successor of Peter. We are a religious congregation composed of two distinct societies of clerics and of laymen bound together in one indivisible brotherhood. Ours is a common founder, tradition, rule, government, way of life and mission.” (*Constitution 1:6*)

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross

The “rule” of the Congregation. Generally, the constitutions describe the life and mission of the members of the Congregation; the statutes provide for the more juridical aspects of the life and mission of the Congregation.

Council of the Congregation

“The council of the congregation is a consultative body whose members are the superior general who convenes its meetings and presides, the general assistants, the provincials, and, as provided in the statutes, the district superiors. Other persons may be invited to attend. The council concerns itself with the ongoing life and mission of the congregation. It also provides the superior general with wider consultation in his duty to unify congregational planning, especially for new international works and foundations.” (*Constitution 7:104*)

District

“A district is a sector of a province outside its geographical boundaries but under its jurisdiction. It is erected by the provincial chapter with the approval of the superior general. It has the autonomy necessary to develop its common life and ministries and is governed under norms set by the provincial chapter.” (*Constitution 7: 90*)

District Superior

“A district superior is elected or appointed according to the district norms to a term of three years renewable consecutively no more than twice ... He is assisted by a council of at least three members.” (*Constitution 7:91*)

Generalate

Residence and administrative offices of the Congregation. It is located in Rome, Italy.

General Council or General Assistants

Members of the Congregation who provide advice and assistance to the Superior General. Two members from each society make up the General Council.

Ministry

“Ministry is participation in the communication of God’s love for all people, a love fully revealed in Jesus Christ. Ministry is a response to mission, as mission is directed to the kingdom of God. The church exists to evangelize, proclaim, serve and celebrate the kingdom; thus the primary focus of ministry is the kingdom which the church serves.” (*A Primer on Educational Governance in the Catholic Church* by the CACE/NABE Governance Task Force, NCEA Publications)

Mission

“God so loved the world that he sent his only Son so that we might have life and have it abundantly. In the fullness of time the Lord Jesus came among us anointed by the Spirit to inaugurate a kingdom of justice, love and peace. His rule would be no mere earthly regime: it would initiate a new creation in every land. His power would be within and without, rescuing us from the injustice we suffer and also from the injustice we inflict.” (*Constitution 2:9*)

“The same Spirit moved Father Moreau to found the community of Holy Cross in which we have responded to the call to serve Christ. We live and work as priests and brothers together. Our mutual respect and shared undertaking should be a hopeful sign of the kingdom, and they are when others can behold how we love one another.” (*Constitution 2:11*)

Mission Effectiveness

“To explain and help to pass on the congregation’s heritage, philosophy and unique culture.” (Grant and Vandenberg)

Mission Priorities

Established by the General Chapter of 1980 and reaffirmed by the General Chapters of 1986, 1992 and 1998: “... [W]e call upon the members of the Congregation to effectively place at the heart of their mission and ministries these two interrelated priorities:

1. The prophetic option for the poor, expressing preference for and solidarity with the poor and oppressed.
2. The proclamation of the Good News and truth of the Gospel, primarily as “educators in the faith,” deepening appreciation for the meaning and value of human life.

(Congregation of Holy Cross, General Chapter, Rome, 1998: Proceedings)

Province

“A province is a sector of the congregation which has a high degree of autonomy. It is erected by the general chapter and is under a provincial superior. It comprises a number of local houses and members and sources of finance sufficient to support and develop its ministries, vocation promotion, formation and common life. In exercising autonomy over its own common life and its participation in the mission of the congregation, a province nevertheless acts in dependence upon the superior general and in collaboration with the other provinces.” (*Constitution 7:93*)

“Provinces are either homogeneous or mixed: that is, composed of members of one society, priests or brothers; or of both societies.” (*Constitution 7:94*)

Provincial Administration

Members of the province, including the provincial council, who assist in the management and workings of a province.

Provincial Council

Members of the province who provide advice and assistance to the Provincial. Their consent is required for some decision.

Provincial Superior

“The province is guided and governed by a provincial, who holds personal authority over all members and houses. He is elected by a two-thirds vote of the provincial chapter or elected by an alternate method as provided in the statutes; his election is confirmed in writing by the superior general. He may also be appointed to a term of six years as provided in the statutes, and may be elected or appointed to one consecutive term of three years.” (*Constitution 7:97*)

Sponsorship

“The canonical responsibility the religious congregation or diocese or another group has for the ministry which includes both the “ecclesiastical property,” that is, property or goods used for the ministry, and the faithful oversight and administration of the works.” (Grant and Vandenberg)

The Congregation of Holy Cross has established a Commission on Holy Cross Education, one of whose sub-committees will be exploring and defining this concept for the educational institutions of the Congregation.

Superior General

“The congregation is guided and governed by the superior general, who holds personal authority over all provinces, houses and members. He is elected by a two-thirds vote of the general chapter to a term of six years, or until the next ordinary general chapter, and may be elected to one other consecutive term. He must be a priest and have been in perpetual vows for at least ten years.” (*Constitution 7:101*)

Vicar

Assistant to the Provincial (Assistant Provincial) or to the Superior General (Vicar General)

Language of the Roman Catholic Church

Canon Law

Law proper to the Roman Catholic Church

Catechesis*

“An education in the faith of children, young people, and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

“There is a proper and serious duty, especially on the part of pastors of souls, to provide for the catechesis of the Christian people so that the faith of the faithful become living, explicit and productive through formation in doctrine and the experience of Christian living.” (*Canon 773*)

*Cited in *The Ministry of Board Service Part 2*, Network for Mercy Education

“Superiors of religious institutes and of societies of apostolic life are to see to it that catechetical formation is diligently imparted in their churches, schools and in other works entrusted to them in any manner.” (*Canon 778*)

“Catechesis is an essentially ecclesial act. The true subject of catechesis is the church which, continuing the mission of Jesus the Master and, therefore animated by the Holy Spirit, is sent to be the teacher of the faith. The church imitates the Mother of the Lord in treasuring the Gospel in her heart. She proclaims it, celebrates it, lives it, and she transmits it in catechesis to all those who have decided to follow Jesus Christ. This transmission of the Gospel is a living act of ecclesial tradition.” (*General Directory for Catechesis*)

“The fundamental tasks of catechesis are: promoting knowledge of the faith ...; liturgical education...; moral formation...; teaching to pray...” (*General Directory for Catechesis*)

Catholic School*

“That school is considered to be Catholic which ecclesiastical authority or a public ecclesiastical juridic person supervises or which ecclesiastical authority recognizes as such by means of a written document.” (*Canon 803.1*)

“Among educational means the Christian faithful should greatly value schools, which are of principal assistance to parents in fulfilling their educational task.” (*Canon 796.1*)

“Religious institutes whose proper mission is that of education, while faithfully retaining this mission of theirs, are also to devote themselves to Catholic education through their schools established with the consent of the diocesan bishop.” (*Canon 801*)

“The diocesan bishop has the right of vigilance over and visitation of the Catholic schools located in his territory, even those schools which have been established or are being directed by members of religious institutes; he is likewise competent to issue prescriptions dealing with the general regulation of Catholic schools; such prescriptions are also operative for those schools which are directed by religious, with due regard for their autonomy regarding the internal management of their schools.” (*Canon 806.1*)

“The educational mission of the Church is an integrated ministry embracing three interlocking dimension: the message revealed by God (didache) which the Church proclaims; fellowship in the life of the Holy Spirit (koinonia); service to the Christian community and the entire human community (diakonia) ... Each educational program or institution under Church sponsorship is obliged to contribute in its own way to the realization of the threefold purpose within the total educational ministry.” (*To Teach As Jesus Did: A Pastoral message on Catholic Education, National Conference of Catholic Bishops*)

*Cited in *The Ministry of Board Service Part 2*, Network for Mercy Education

Diocesan School

A school “operated and financed in some manner by a diocese” or archdiocese and is therefore under the jurisdiction of the local bishop. (*A Primer on Educational Governance in the Catholic Church*, CACE/NABE Governance Task Force)

Juridic Persons

Juridic persons are constituted either by prescription of law or by special concession of the competent authority given through a decree; they are aggregates of persons or of things ordered towards a purpose congruent with the mission of the Church and which transcends the purpose of the individuals that make them up.” (Canon 114.1, cited in *A Primer on Educational Governance in the Catholic Church*, CACE/NABE Governance Task Force)

Members

Canon law requires that all public juridic persons have administrators who are responsible for the material welfare of their institutions, i.e. a canonical administrator.” (*The Ministry of Board Service Part 2*, Network for Mercy Education)

Private School

Usually, a school owned, operated and financed by a religious congregation or a board of trustees. It is also called an independent school because it is not under the jurisdiction of a local authority other than its Board. (*A Primer on Educational Governance in the Catholic Church*, CACE/NABE Governance Task Force)

Subsidiarity

“A principle of Church governance by which decisions are to be made at the appropriate level.” (*The Ministry of Board Service Part 2*, Network for Mercy Education)

Governance

Board

“A board (committee/council/commission) is a body whose members are selected or elected to participate in decision-making in education at the diocesan, regional, inter-parish, parish or local level.”

Jurisdictional

A jurisdictional or autonomous board is one which not only legislates but controls. It has final authority and total jurisdiction, including all areas of educational policy and administration as well as the legislative power to enact policy. There are no jurisdictional education boards in the Catholic Church.

Board with Limited Jurisdiction

A board with limited jurisdiction has power limited to certain areas of educational concern. It has final but not total jurisdiction. For example, since the diocesan bishop has jurisdiction over the religious education and Catholicity of all schools including private schools, the board of trustees of a private school is a board with limited jurisdiction rather than total jurisdiction.

Consultative

A consultative board is one which cooperates in the policy-making process by formulating and adapting but never enacting policy. This type of board is more in keeping with shared decision-making in the Catholic Church because of the consultative status of the diocesan presbyteral council and the diocesan finance council. The constituting authority states those areas where the board is to be consulted. Such action is usually made effective by the board's constitution.

Regulatory

A regulatory board is one which enacts or uses existing rules and regulations to govern the operation of its institution. This type of board is considered administrative rather than policy-making or consultative." (*A Primer on Educational Governance in the Catholic Church*, CACE/NABE Governance Task Force)

Board of Members

The religious congregation in a two-tiered model of governance.

"The members of the corporation are responsible for seeing that the schools are Catholic schools and that the property is maintained for the Church. The members are also responsible for seeing that the rights of the congregation of Holy Cross in regard to schools are upheld." (*Vision and Governance, A Handbook for Holy Cross School Boards*)

Board of Trustees, Board of Directors and Board of Advisors

Names normally used for the local board in Holy Cross schools.

"The boards of directors are responsible for seeing that the mission statement and policies of the schools follow the Holy Cross tradition and also serve the needs of the local Church. The boards also see that the schools operate efficiently. Finally, the boards see that the schools conform to relevant state and local laws and organizations." (*Vision and Governance, A Handbook for Holy Cross School Boards*)

Policy

A guide for discretionary action. (*A Primer on Educational Governance in the Catholic Church*, CACE/NABE Governance Task Force)

Reserved Powers

"Powers which are retained by the Member Corporation in a two-tiered corporation model. (*The Ministry of Board Service Part 2*, Network for Mercy Education)

Two-tiered Model of Governance

The religious congregation (Member Corporation) as the public juridic person and the school separately incorporated in civil law and an activity of the public juridic person." (*The Ministry of Board Service Part 2*, Network for Mercy Education)

Resources Used

Congregation of Holy Cross, General Chapter, Rome, 1998: Proceedings

Constitutions and Statutes, Congregation of Holy Cross

A Primer on Educational Governance in the Catholic Church by The CACE/NABE Governance Task Force

After We're Gone: Creating Sustainable Sponsorship, Mary Katherine Grant, Ph.D. and Patricia Vandenberg, C.S.C., MHA

The Ministry of Board Service Part 2, Network for Mercy Education, Secondary Schools Sponsorship Services

To Teach As Jesus Did, A Pastoral Message on Catholic Education, National Conference of Catholic Bishops

Vision and Governance, A Handbook for Holy Cross School Boards