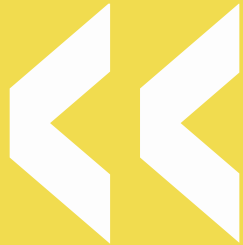




SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT  
DE PAUL INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCIL GENERAL

GLOBAL TRAINING  
**THE RULE**





We have come together moved by Christian piety. That is why we look only to the spirit of our religion, found in the example and words of Our Lord, in the teachings of the Church and the lives of the saints, to govern our conduct.

EMMANUEL BAILLY



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- 1 AS AN INTRODUCTION
- 2 WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT “THE RULE AND STATUTES”
- 3 INTERNATIONAL ORGANS OF GOVERNANCE (Part II)
- 4 THE INTERNAL STATUTES OF EACH COUNTRY (Part III)



## THE RULE IS...

A set of principles, regulations and recommendations, intended to help members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to live according to the spirit and traditions of the association

## THE VARIOUS VERSIONS OF THE RULE

The 1835 Rule: in effect for 140 years

To put in writing the practices and usages of the emerging Society

The 1973 Rule: In effect for 30 years

Purpose: To incorporate the contribution of Vatican II

The 2003 Rule: used today

Purpose: To incorporate the international nature of the Society



## WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT “THE RULE AND STATUTES”



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## “The Rule and Statutes”

is the expression used to describe the

Rule of 2003 as a whole, with its 3 parts





## THE PRESENT RULE HAS 3 PARTS

**I. “The Rule”**, which summarizes our spirituality

**II. “The statutes of the International Confederation”**

This covers the internal regulations of the international association

**III. “The conditions to be applied in writing internal statutes for superior, assimilated and associated councils”**

These are the provisions that have to be included in the various Rules for National/Superior Councils



## PART 1: “THE RULE”, A SUMMARY OF OUR SPIRITUALITY

This part concerns **all Vincentians**. It describes

### 1. **The 3 essential dimensions of the Society**

(chapters 1 to 3)

1. HORIZONTAL  
Towards the poor whom we serve
2. VERTICAL  
To God through Christ: holiness and virtues
3. COMMUNAL  
Friendship, mutual support, Servant Leaders, Councils and Youth  
(forms a circle around the cross formed by the other 2 dimensions)



## PART 1 (cont): “THE RULE”, A SUMMARY OF OUR SPIRITUALITY

It also describes

### **2. The relations of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul with the outside world (the network of Charity)**

(chapters 4 to 7) These relations are like 4 widening circles, from the nearest to the furthest.

Relations:

4. Between countries – Twinning and Vincentian Family
5. With the Hierarchy
6. With other Churches, Faiths and Agencies
7. With civil society – Social Justice



## PART 2: “THE STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION”

This part mainly concerns **international officers and membership**  
It describes the Society as

- An international association under French law, whose members are the Superior Councils of each country.

There are two conditions for legal membership of the International Confederation. Councils must:

- ✓ Be instituted
- ✓ Be recognised as a legal entity in their own country

## PART 2: “THE STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL (cont) CONFEDERATION”

The 2nd part of the Rule also describes

- the mission of the various governing bodies of the international association
- The procedures to follow for Aggregation of Conferences and Institution of Councils

These two terms signify full membership of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The Council General officially recognises that a Council or Conference is living according to the Rule of the Society

## PART 3: “BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR WRITING INTERNAL STATUTES”

This part concerns **all countries and therefore all Vincentians**

The rules of a Superior Council are called its “Internal Statutes”. They must include

- **A variable part,**  
with the laws, usages and traditions proper to each country
- **A fixed part common to all countries**  
The internal statutes are produced from the model statutes in Part III and called “Required Conditions”.





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## AN ASSEMBLY MAKES DECISIONS ON THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF THE SOCIETY

General Assembly  
of the International Council

### MEETS EVERY 6 YEARS

- Makes decisions on the strategic direction of the society
- Makes decisions on changes to the “Rule and Statutes”
- Elects the new International President
- Approves annual accounts
- Presents the budget

Restricted annual assembly  
called the “International Executive  
Committee” (IEC)

### MEETS EVERY YEAR

- Approves annual accounts
- Presents the budget for the coming year
- Follows implementation of decisions taken at the General Assembly
- Decides strategy for the next year

## MANAGEMENT OF CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Task given to a particular decision-making body called the “Permanent Section”**

- Acts as a Board of Administration in French Law
- Monitors the Society’s work around the world (including conflict resolution)
- Displays the work of the Commissions
- Deals with Aggregations and Institutions
- Deals with internal statutes
- Validates the decisions of the Development Commission  
(Sending funds to countries for emergency aid, projects)

## THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT AND HIS/HER COLLABORATORS

- The International President
  - ✓ Represents the Society
  - ✓ Supervises, develops and coordinates the work of the Society around the world
- He/she is advised by the BOARD, which is formed of the President's closest collaborators
- He/she is assisted by specialist COMMISSIONS
 

Twinnage	Training	Youth
Rule and Statutes	Finances	Development
Communications	Canonisation	United Nations

# THE INTERNAL STATUTES OF EACH COUNTRY



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The rules or articles of a Superior Council are called the “Internal Statutes”.

## PROVISIONS THAT HAVE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RULE OF EACH COUNTRY

Found in Part 3 of the Rule

### **3 types of provisions**

- Those from Tradition
- Those that will help to solve problems
- Those that establish transparency in the use and management of assets

## PROVISIONS FROM TRADITION

### **Concerning the life of the Conference**

- The frequency and agenda for meetings
- Visiting those in need
- Annual report
- Annual review
- Commissioning ceremony
- Celebration of events and Vincentian feasts

### **Also concerning officers and decision-making**

- Tasks of members of the Board
- Main principles: democracy, run by volunteer
- Role of Spiritual Adviser





## PROVISIONS THAT WILL HELP TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

- If members, conferences and councils are suspended
- A president's election can be declared null and void
- By creation of a reconciliation committee

## PROVISIONS THAT ESTABLISH TRANSPARENCY IN MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS

- Requirement for an annual report and financial accounts
- Option of holding audits
- Statutes about property
- Guidelines for Youth Committee
- Guidelines for Special Works

## QUESTIONS LEFT TO THE FREE CHOICE OF THE COUNTRIES

- Health and Safety
- Insurance
- Names of Councils
- Organisation of the association in each country
- Individual traditions
- Compliance with the legislation of each country

## TO ENSURE FUNDING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE OF THE SOCIETY

- By contributions from Superior Councils
- By the personal contribution of each member:  
(secret collections at meetings)
- By the financial commitment of the “Concordat”  
17 countries undertake to pay Council General a certain amount – the same for 3 years