null
faithful is recognized in the Church unless competent authority reviews its statutes. 

C. AN. 300 No association is to assume the name Catholic without the consent of competent ecclesiastical authority according to the norm of can. 312.

C. AN. 301 §1. It is for the competent ecclesiastical authority alone to erect associations of the Christian faithful which propose to hand on Christian doctrine in the name of the Church or to promote public worship, or which intend other purposes whose pursuit is of its nature reserved to the same ecclesiastical authority. 

§2. Competent ecclesiastical authority, if it has judged it expedient, can also erect associations of the Christian faithful to pursue directly or indirectly other spiritual purposes whose accomplishment has not been sufficiently provided for through the initiatives of private persons.

§3. Associations of the Christian faithful which are erected by competent ecclesiastical authority are called public associations.

C. AN. 302 Those associations of the Christian faithful are called clerical which are under the direction of clerics, assume the exercise of sacred orders, and are recognized as such by competent authority.

C. AN. 303 Associations whose members share in the spirit of some religious institute while in secular life, lead an apostolic life, and strive for Christian perfection under the higher direction of the same institute are called third orders or some other appropriate name.

C. AN. 304 §1. All public or private associations of the Christian faithful, by whatever title or name they are called, are to have their own statutes which define the purpose or social objective of the association, its seat, government, and conditions required for membership and which determine the manner of its acting, attentive, however, to the necessity or advantage of time and place.

§2. They are to choose a title or name for themselves adapted to the usage of time and place, selected above all with regard to their intended purpose.

C. AN. 305 §1. All associations of the Christian faithful are subject to the vigilance of competent ecclesiastical authority which is to take care that the integrity of faith and morals is preserved in them and to watch so that abuse does not creep into ecclesiastical discipline. This authority therefore has the duty and right to inspect them according to the norm of law and the statutes. These associations are also subject to the governance of this same authority according to the precepts of the canons which follow.

§2. Associations of any kind are subject to the vigilance of the Holy See; diocesan associations and other associations to the extent that they work in the diocese are subject to the vigilance of the local ordinary.

C. AN. 306 In order for a person to possess the rights and privileges of an association and the indulgences and other spiritual graces granted to the same association, it is necessary and sufficient that the person has been validly re-
received into it and has not been legitimately dis
missed from it according to the precepts of law
and the proper statutes of the association.

CAN. 307 §1. The reception of members is
to be done according to the norm of law and the
statutes of each association.

§2. The same person can be enrolled in sev-
everal associations.

§3. Members of religious institutes can join
associations according to the norm of their
proper law with the consent of their superiors.

CAN. 308 No one legitimately enrolled is
to be dismissed from an association except for
a just cause according to the norm of law and
the statutes.

CAN. 309 According to the norm of law
and the statutes, legitimately established asso-
ciations have the right to issue particular norms
respecting the association itself, to hold meet-
ings, and to designate moderators, officials, oth-
er officers, and administrators of goods.

CAN. 310 A private association which has
not been established as a juridical person cannot,
as such, be a subject of obligations and rights.
Nevertheless, the members of the Christian
faithful associated together in it can jointly con-
tract obligations and can acquire and possess
rights and goods as co-owners and co-posse-
sors; they are able to exercise these rights and
obligations through an agent or a proxy.

CAN. 311 Members of institutes of consec-
rated life who preside over or assist associ-
cations in some way united to their institute are
to take care that these associations give assis-
tance to the works of the apostolate which al-
ready exist in a diocese, especially cooperating,

under the direction of the local ordinary, with
associations which are ordered to the exercise
of the apostolate in the diocese.

CHAPTER II. Public Associations of the
Christian Faithful

CAN. 312 §1. The authority competent to
effect public associations is:

1° the Holy See for universal and interna-
tional associations;

2° the conference of bishops in its own terri-
tory for national associations, that is, those
which from their founding are directed toward
activity throughout the whole nation;

3° the diocesan bishop in his own territory,
but not a diocesan administrator, for diocesan
associations, except, however, for those associ-
ations whose right of erection has been reserved
to others by apostolic privilege.

§2. Written consent of the diocesan bishop is
required for the valid erection of an association
or section of an association in a diocese even if
it is done by virtue of apostolic privilege. Nev-
ertheless, the consent given by a diocesan bish-
op for the erection of a house of a religious in-
stitute is also valid for the erection in the same
house or church attached to it of an association
which is proper to that institute.

CAN. 313 Through the same decree by
which the competent ecclesiastical authority ac-
cording to the norm of can. 312 erects it, a pub-
lic association and even a confederation of pub-
lc associations is constituted a juridic person
and, to the extent it is required, receives a mis-
dirctione Ordinarii licet, cum consociation-
ibus quae ad apostolatum in diocesis ex-
crementum ordinantur.

CAPIT II. De Christifidelium
Consociationibus Publicis

CAN. 312 §1. Ad regendas consocia-
tiones publicas auctoritas competente est:

1° pro consociationibus universalibus
atque internationalibus, Sancto Sede;

2° pro consociationibus nationibus,
quae scilicet ex ipsa erectione destinatar ad
actionem in tota natione existentem, Epis-
coporum conferenda in suo territorio;

3° pro consociationibus diocesanis,
Episcopis dioecesanis in suo caussa terri-
toria, non vero Administratore dioecesani,
saevis tamen consociationis exceptum quam
erigendam liceat ex apostolico privilegio aliis
reservatum est.

§2. Ad validam erectionem consociation-
is auctoritatem consociationis in diocese,
eterni ad et privilegii apostolici fiat, requiri-
tur consensum Episcopi dioecesanis scripto
data; consensum tamen ab Episcopo dioeces-
sano pro consociationes pro eorum domino
instituti religiosi vate etiam ad erigendum in
etiam domo vel ecclesia et adnexus consociationem
qui illius instituti sit prosint.

CAN. 313 Consociatione publica itemque
consociationum publicarum confederatio,
ipsa decreto quo ab auctoritate ecclesiastica
ad normam can. 312 competenter eligatur,
persona juridica constitutur et ministerio re-
cipiunt, quatuor requisitum, ad fines quos ipsa
§2. The norm stated in §1 is also valid for associations which members of religious institutes erect outside their own churches or houses in virtue of apostolic privilege. In associations which members of religious institutes erect in their own church or house, however, the nomination or confirmation of the moderator and chaplain pertains to the superior of the institute, according to the norm of the statutes.

§3. In associations which are not clerical, lay persons are able to exercise the function of moderator. A chaplain or ecclesiastical assistant is not to assume that function unless the statutes provide otherwise.

§4. Those who exercise leadership in political parties are not to be moderators in public associations of the Christian faithful which are ordered directly to the exercise of the apostolate.

C. 313 §1. In special circumstances and where grave reasons require it, the ecclesiastical authority mentioned in can. 312, §1 can designate a trustee who is to direct the association for a time in its name.

§2. The person who appointed or confirmed the moderator of a public association can remove the moderator for a just cause, after the person has heard, however, the moderator and the major officials of the association according to the norm of the statutes. The person who appointed a chaplain can remove him according to the norm of can. 192–195.

C. 319 §1. Unless other provision has been made, a legitimately erected public association administers the goods which it possesses according to the norm of the statutes under the higher direction of the ecclesiastical authority.

C. 316 §1. Those enrolled legitimately who fall into the situation mentioned in §1, after being warned, are to be dismissed from the association, with due regard for its statutes and without prejudice to the right of recourse to the ecclesiastical authority mentioned in can. 312, §1.

C. 317 §1. Unless the statutes provide otherwise, it is for the ecclesiastical authority mentioned in can. 312, §1 to confirm the moderator of a public association elected by the public association itself, install the one presented, or appoint the moderator in his own right. The same ecclesiastical authority also appoints the chaplain or ecclesiastical assistant, after having heard the major officials of the association, when it is expedient.
mentioned in can. 312, §1, to which it must ren-
der an account of administration each year.
§2. It must also render to the same authori-
ty a faithful account of the expenditure of the
offerings and alms which it has collected.
CANN. 320 §1. Only the Holy See can sup-
press associations it has erected.

§2. For grave causes, a conference of bishops
can suppress associations it has erected. A dioc-
esan bishop can suppress associations he has
erected and also associations which members of
religious institutes have erected through apop-
tolic indult with the consent of the dioce-
san bishop.
§3. The competent authority is not to sup-
press a public association unless the authority
has heard its moderator and other major offi-
cials.

CHAPTER III. Private Associations of the
Christian Faithful
CANN. 321 The Christian faithful guide and
direct private associations according to the pre-
scripts of the statutes.
CANN. 322 §1. A private association of the
Christian faithful can acquire juridic personal-
ity through a formal decree of the competent
ecclesiastical authority mentioned in can. 312.

§2. No private association of the Christian
faithful can acquire juridic personality unless
the ecclesiastical authority mentioned in
can. 312, §1 has approved its statutes. Approval of
the statutes, however, does not change the private
nature of the association.

CANN. 323 §1. Although private associations
of the Christian faithful possess autonomy ac-
cording to the norm of can. 321, they are subject
to the vigilance of ecclesiastical authority ac-
cording to the norm of can. 305 and even to the
governance of the same authority.

§2. It also pertains to ecclesiastical authority,
while respecting the autonomy proper to priv-
ate associations, to be watchful and careful that
dissipation of their energies is avoided and that
their exercise of the apostolate is ordered to the
common good.
CANN. 324 §1. A private association of the
Christian faithful freely designates its modera-
tor and officials according to the norm of the
statutes.

§2. A private association of the Christian
faithful can freely choose a spiritual advisor, if
it desires one, from among the priests exercis-
ing ministry legitimately in the diocese; never-
theless, he needs the confirmation of the local
ordinary.
CANN. 325 §1. A private association of the
Christian faithful freely administers those goods
it possesses according to the prescriptions of the
statutes, without prejudice to the right of com-
petent ecclesiastical authority to exercise vigi-
lance so that the goods are used for the purpos-
es of the association.

§2. A private association is subject to the au-
thority of the local ordinary according to the
norm of can. 1301 in what pertains to the ad-
ministration and distribution of goods which
have been donated or left to it for pious causes.
CANN. 326 §1. A private association of the
Christian faithful ceases to exist according to
the norm of its statutes. The competent au-

CAPIT. III. De Christifidelium
Constitutionibus Privatis
CANN. 321 Constitutiones privatas
christifidelium secundum statutum pra-
scripta dirigunt et moderant.
CANN. 322 §1. Constitutiones, quae
christifidelium privatas personalitatem
juridicam acquirere potest per decreta
formatae auctoritates ecclesiasticae
competens, de qua in can. 312.
CANN. 323 §1. Nulla christifidelium
constitutio private personalitatem
juridicam acquirere potest, nisi eli
statuta ad auctoritate ecclesi-
asticae, de quia in can. 312, §1, sint
probata statutorum vero probatio constitutionis
naturali privatum non immetat.
thority can also suppress it if its activity causes grave harm to ecclesiastical doctrine or discipline or is a scandal to the faithful.

§ 2. The allocation of the goods of an association which has ceased to exist must be determined according to the norm of its statutes, without prejudice to acquired rights and the intention of the donors.

CHAPTER IV. Special Norms for Associations of the Laity

CAN. 337 Lay members of the Christian faithful are to hold in esteem associations established for the spiritual purposes mentioned in can. 298, especially those which propose to animate the temporal order with the Christian spirit and in this way greatly foster an intimate union between faith and life.

CAN. 328 Those who preside over associations of the laity, even those which have been erected by virtue of apostolic privilege, are to take care that their associations cooperate with other associations of the Christian faithful where it is expedient and willingly assist various Christian works, especially those in the same territory.

CAN. 329 Moderators of associations of the laity are to take care that the members of the association are duly formed to exercise the apostolate proper to the laity.

PART II. THE HIERARCHICAL CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH

SECTION I. The Supreme Authority of the Church

CHAPTER I. The Roman Pontiff and the College of Bishops

CAN. 330 Just as by the Lord’s decision Saint Peter and the other Apostles constitute one college, so in a like manner the Roman Pontiff, the successor of Peter, and the bishops, the successors of the Apostles, are united among themselves.

ART. 1. The Roman Pontiff

CAN. 331 The bishop of the Roman Church, in whom continues the office given by the Lord uniquely to Peter, the first of the Apostles, and to be transmitted to his successors, is the head of the college of bishops, the Vicar of Christ, and the pastor of the universal Church on earth. By virtue of his office he possesses supreme, full, immediate, and universal ordinary power in the Church, which he is always able to exercise freely.

CAN. 332 § 1. The Roman Pontiff obtains full and supreme power in the Church by his acceptance of legitimate election together with episcopal consecration. Therefore, a person