

Frédéric's E-Gazette

Q&A 8-17-2017

Q: If a Catholic attends meetings but has no contact with the poor, are they full member or associate? A situation: a person attends meetings regularly, their company gives substantial money every year, but their job prevents them from participating in our work. It has been suggested to let them return calls from our answering machine so they are serving the poor. The majority of the Conference wants them classified as full members so as not to lose the donation from their company. Your thoughts?

A: To summarize, The Rule, Part III, Statute 3, an Active (Full) Member is Catholic, attends meetings on a regular basis and participates in the works of the Conference. It sounds to me like you need to make every effort to get this person involved in the works of the Conference in some way. Keep in mind that all Active Members are eligible to be officers. Do you want someone as an officer who has no experience with the works of the Conference? It is the Conference who decides who is an Active Member and who is an Associate. We ask that you be consistent with everyone and not be motivated only by money.

Q: Considering the Church's stance on gay marriages and the gay lifestyle, does the Society have a right to refuse service to a gay couple, specifically providing them with a double bed?

A: There are a lot of moral issues that present themselves to our members over time. The issue you present comes up on occasion - providing, room, rent, bed for a gay couple. How about the case of a couple (man and woman) who indicate they are not married? What about someone who is known to be a sex offender? The Rule of the Society, both in Part I (Article 1.4) and Part III (Statute 8), states that we are not allowed to discriminate. "The Society serves those in need regardless..." The teachings of the Church make it clear what is good and what is bad, what is right and what is wrong. Those values are used to determine our own actions. However, our faith also insists that we are not to judge - God is the sole judge. Whether we provide room, rent, or bed does not mean that sin will be committed. For example, consider the case of giving furniture to a family in need. The father takes the furniture (which now belongs to him), sells it, and then buys drugs or alcohol with it. Should we not have given the furniture to the family? Should we stop giving furniture to other families in the future? The bottom line is that we are not to discriminate.