

Annual meeting with Moderators of Associations of the Faithful,
Ecclesial Movements and New Communities

"Working conditions in the Associations.

A service in Justice and Charity"

Hall of the Congregation of the General Curia of the Jesuits

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Abstract

The respect due to human and Christian dignity is the starting point for approaching the subject of working conditions in associations of the faithful, taking into account the ecclesial nature of these realities. The activities carried out in them qualify as "work for the Kingdom"; at the same time, they can also be considered as work according to state law, which requires compliance with provisions regarding insurance, pensions, and social contributions.

In evaluating a work service performed in associations of the faithful, one must consider the canonical status of the person performing it and the different paradigms adopted in the management of temporal goods. Canon law, in fact, has clearly indicated how to delineate the service to the Church of the laity, clerics and those who follow the consecrated life, indicating the criteria for their remuneration and sustenance. These aspects are relevant when qualifying the work and the different services performed by members of associations. Of fundamental importance, as a criterion for discernment, is the charism of each reality and its inclination toward secularity or consecrated life, with the adoption of corresponding paradigms.

Bearing in mind, therefore, the variety of charisms and persons, it is recommended that each association have norms or directors to regulate the working, social security and health care conditions and that all members be aware of them.