

Year 2025

**Course: Recognising oneself**  
**The Statutes: a path and a mirror**

Saturday, February 08, 2025

Outline of the Lesson 2B

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**A life together expressed by Law**

- **What should our attitude be in approaching the Statutes?**
  - Desire, since this text is inspired by the Holy Spirit and it reminds us of those values we already have within us.
  - **Depth, because they are the fruit of centuries of experiences of hundreds and thousands of men and women, who have followed a call.**
  - Law is an instrument at the service of life and only a *contemplative soul* succeeds in understanding the message.
- **Why are Rules and Statutes written?**
  - The need felt by founders and foundresses to put into writing what the Holy Spirit was suggesting to them about the form of life he intended to bring about on earth.
  - They are the fruit of the life and the discernment of the Founders and Foundresses in dialogue with the Church, and they represent that magna charta of living together according to a form in which one recognises oneself, and to which one takes on a commitment.
  - They represent a link between past, present and future.
- **What are the fundamental values that can be recognized in the Statutes?**
  - At the basis is the idea of following Christ, giving special attention to a word of the Gospel that is asking to be incarnated, developed, made fruitful with new and abundant fruits.
  - Respect for the dignity of every member who chooses to belong to and is welcomed by that community. This means the safeguarding of one's personal integrity, one's autonomy of thought and of conscience, the personal responsibility to choose whether to stay or to leave.
  - Respect for the roles of leadership, where authority means serving the common good and membership. This entails not just the rights but also the duty of participation, co-responsibility, vigilance, transparency and the sharing of one's talents.
  - Interculturality, or we could say the ability to express and value different cultural sensitivities.

**What is the responsibility of the members of a Movement regarding the Statutes**

- To live the charism: law always follows life that is lived, in the same way the Statutes are born from living the Charism.
- Report any uneasiness due to the presence of obsolete elements: Anything that concerns everybody must be dealt with and approved by everybody.