

BLD Linkage to the Roman Catholic Church

Objective

To guide BLD Members in properly recognizing our linkage to the Catholic Church through our membership in the duly recognized and authorized church organizations.

Hierarchy of the Catholic Church

The Hierarchy, as the supreme governing body of the Catholic Church, consists of the Roman Pontiff, the successor of Peter, and the Bishops joined together with him and never without him (canons 330, 331, 336) in one apostolic college to provide for the common good of the Church. The Roman Pontiff in the exercise of his office is assisted by the College of Cardinals, and further by the departments also called “dicasteries” of the Roman Curia. The Bishops, of whom some bear the titles of Patriarch and Archbishop, are united with the Roman Pontiff in the governance of the whole Catholic Church; the Bishops when assigned to particular Sees, are individually responsible for the teaching, sanctification and governance of their particular Church. Apostolic Vicars and Prefects together with certain Abbots and other prelates are also joined in this work.

His Holiness the Pope

Bishop of Rome and Vicar of Jesus Christ,
Successor of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles
Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church
Patriarch of the West, Primate of Italy
Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province
Sovereign of Vatican City

Benedict XVI

The Roman Curia

The Supreme Pontiff usually conduct business of the universal church by means of the Roman Curia, which fulfills its duty in his name and by his authority for the good and the service of the Churches; it consists of the Secretariat of State or the Papal Secretariat, congregations, tribunals and other institutions, whose structure and competency are defined in special law (can. 360). The Roman Curia is the complex of departments and institutes which assist the Roman Pontiff in the exercise of his supreme pastoral function for the good and service of the universal Church and of the particular churches, by which the unity of faith and communion of the people of God is strengthened and the mission is promoted which is proper to the Church in the world.

I. Secretary of State of His Holiness

ii. The Congregations

Included are the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith; Causes of Saints

III. Tribunals

Included are Apostolic Penitentiary – granting and use of indulgences; Roman Rota- safeguarding the rights of the Church

IV. Pontifical Councils

Included is the **Pontifical Council for the Laity**. The council is competent in those matters which pertain to the Apostolic See in promoting and coordinating the apostolate of the lay persons and generally, in those things which look to the Christian life of lay persons as such.

V. Offices

VI. Commissions and Committees

VII. Institutions Connected with the Holy See

BLD Linkage to the Roman Catholic Church – See ANNEX A

Brief Descriptions of Organizations

- 1. Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities** – duly recognized private association of the Christian faithful of pontifical right with members in Europe, North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, Asia. In the Philippines, BLD and God’s Little Children Community in Leyte are members.
- 2. National Service Committee of Catholic Charismatic Renewal** – has an office in Rome. They are present in the diocese. In the Philippines, they are organized according to regions.
- 3. Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines (MEFP)** – evolved from Marriage Encounter Weekends and they are still responsible for the conduct of Marriage Encounters.
- 4. Federation of Transparochial Charismatic Communities** – composed of more than 30 communities and domiciled in the Archdiocese of Manila.

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