

## Attachment A

### **Proposed Community Culture Statement (July 19, 2011)**

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- **We are Roman Catholic.** We are a covenant community in communion with the Roman Catholic Church. We fully embrace its teaching, observe its liturgy, and submit to its ecclesial authority. We obey God's commandments. We seek to deepen our knowledge and understanding of our faith, that we may be able to live it faithfully and share it to others. We are active parishioners where we live. We witness to our Catholic faith in all circumstances.
- **We are Christ-centered.** We profess that Jesus Christ is our communion with God. He is the foundation of our community (1 Cor 3:11), the Lord whom we worship and the Teacher whom we follow. He is our life, our peace and our joy. We proclaim His name, life, kingdom and mystery. We seek a full relationship with Jesus, who is the condition for our existence and growth. Our communal relationships are anchored on the love of Jesus. We share His ministry to bring salvation and life to all, for the glory of God the Father.
- **We are a Covenant Community.** We live our Baptismal Covenant in the concrete ways that we pledged to in our Community Covenant. The paradigm for our relationships is the friendship of Jesus Christ (Jn 15:13-15). We have different roles in community- some are in positions of authority over others. But no one is greater than others. Every member belongs and is vital. Every one is accorded with hospitality, respect and honor befitting God's children. We safeguard our communion by following Christ's example and teaching. And when in conflict, we practice His teaching on fraternal correction, forgiveness and reconciliation. Our words and actions are guided by the Gospel, hence the wellbeing of others.
- **We are witnesses of our transformation in Christ.** We have given up the world and its enticements, and we follow Jesus Christ and Him alone. We witness to the love and truth of Jesus in our lives. We seek continual formation and spiritual direction to equip us for the disciples' walk. As leaders and members, we are servants of His flock and stewards of His ministry. We practice transparency and empower one another. We give fully of ourselves and are accountable to the Lord. We pray for and serve one another. We live with humility, gentleness, patience, bearing one another through love. We preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace. (Eph 4:1-3)
- **We are evangelized and evangelizing Families.** We believe that Christian marriage and the Christian family build up the Church. As a communion of families, we are faithful to the Christian values on which marriage and family are founded. We bring Christ to other families and help provide formation to grow in their communion and faith. We welcome and minister to the needs of all family members: young and old, single and married, widowed or divorced, parents and children. We offer Catholic pathways to the young as they journey toward adulthood, marriage and family life, helping them to discover the beauty of the vocation to love and the service of life.
- **We are Global and Local.** We are a community of districts residing in different dioceses in various parts of the world, yet we are one. We have diverse backgrounds, circumstances and citizenship, yet we are one, We are structured globally and locally, yet we pray, worship, share the Word, discern, act and move as one community, in accord with our shared identity, vision, mission, covenant, statutes and policies. Locally, we respond to the challenges of our particular place, time and culture. Globally, we respond to the universal or particular challenges as directed by our leaders. We practice subsidiarity.

- **We move in the Spirit.** Our name reflects the inner disposition of our hearts- a welcoming place for the Holy Spirit. We are “sa Diyos”; we belong to Him as His sons and daughters. We are blessed with charismatic gifts. We unite our decisions and actions with our Father’s will, for example, in starting new communities, selecting new leaders, appointing members to ministry, crafting policy, and determining worship theme & directions. We consult and confirm our decisions with those who have authority over us and with those who will be affected. Our openness to God allows us to be open to one another. One with God and with each other, we move as one community in the Spirit.
- **We collaborate in Ministry.** We are parts of the one body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12), each one essential for the proper functioning of the whole. We are equipped with many gifts, which we release and unify to serve the Giver’s purpose. We are assigned to our ministries based on our gifts and fruitfulness. We consider a call to serve in ministry as a call that comes from the Lord. We work interdependently. We communicate, cooperate, collaborate and help one another in every possible way, so that the fruit of our labor may truly be a fragrant offering to the Lord and redound to the common good.
- **We embrace the Catholic Social Mission.** We reach out and build relationships of love and justice in the world by our commitment to the Church’s social mission. We believe that every human being is created in God’s image and redeemed by Christ. We advocate the gospel of life and human dignity. We work for poverty alleviation. We call on the government to live up to its duty to promote the common good, to protect the family and the institution of marriage. We care for God’s creation. Our commitment is rooted in and strengthened by our continuing transformation in Christ and our love for one another as God has loved us.
- **We serve the Church.** We are filled with the ardor of the Pentecost Spirit and the burning conviction of Paul who cried out, “Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:16). Our passion for Christ stirs up in us a sense of responsibility and commitment as God’s people to serve with great enthusiasm in the Church’s mission of evangelization. We honor our priests and obey our bishop. We fulfill our calling as lay Catholics to consecrate society to God. As ministers of the Gospel and recipients of the joy of Christ, we serve with our lives so that God’s Kingdom may be proclaimed and the Church established in the world.

## Attachment B

### EXCERPT FROM THE ORIGINAL BLD COVENANT OF COMMUNION (Nov 12, 2001)

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#### **6.0 COMMUNITY CULTURE**

The Community's decision in 1985 to adopt the way of life described in the Scripture-based manuscript "Patterns of Christian Community: A Statement of Community Order," inspired the formulation of a desired "Community Culture". Eleven (11) Culture Elements are described. After Community-wide consultation by the leaders of the Community in 1992, the Statements on Sound Community Culture were formed.

##### **6.1 FUNCTIONING AS A BODY**

Members are interdependent upon one another and diligently dedicate themselves to doing service. They work actively to build one another and the Community as a whole. Their most important service is to love one another. Every member exercises spiritual and moral authority and has a responsibility for the welfare and mission of the Community.

##### **6.2 PEACE IN THE BODY**

Peace comes from obedience to the commandments of God. When members see something wrong in their relationship with another, they resolve it through personal dialogue and seek mutual reconciliation. If they fail to come to terms, they seek a judgment from a member with governing authority over them. Conflicts are the responsibility of the whole body and are to be resolved in peace.

##### **6.3 SERIOUS WRONGDOING**

Serious wrongdoing becomes the responsibility of the governors. All serious matters brought to their attention are carefully examined and the member involved either cleared or disciplined by the appropriate governing body in a timely manner. It is not authentic love to leave a member in sin, to allow him/her to falsely believe in his/her innocence, or allow others to wrongly assume his/her guilt.

##### **6.4 SPEECH AND WRONGDOING**

Members speak well of their brothers and sisters in the Community. They do not speak ill of, or judge others at any time even if what they are saying is true. If a wrongdoing occurs, parties involved come to a one-on-one personal dialogue. Governors encourage members to personal dialogue. If members are unable to do so, the governors initiate the dialogue and if necessary discipline them. Members who know of a possible wrongdoing by another must speak only about it to a person responsible over the wrongdoer. Facts are clarified, issues are resolved and persons are reconciled with one another.

##### **6.5 SUBMISSION**

Directions are to be received willingly by each member in faithful humility, subordinating oneself but expressing one's views and reservations. Members take the initiative in advocating recommendations to the governing authority and in presenting their proposals on directions so that these are taken in a cooperative spirit and in a way that will strengthen the Community and make it grow.

##### **6.6 UNITY**

Unity is the oneness of mind and heart among members of the Community. Governors individually possess the character, charisms and competence to teach, direct, and lead the Community. Members respond to the guidance of the governors with humility of mind, willing to be taught, directed and corrected. Both the governors and the members

put lower values on developing individuality of approach or the more correct opinion, but stress mutual understanding and trust as the basis for agreement.

#### **6.7 WISDOM AND CHARACTER OF GOVERNORS**

Governors are mature and compassionate, and lead by example. They are firm in giving direction, yet are disposed to change their decision given a convincing reason. They are brotherly but not overly familiar, steadfast and ready to serve with dedication and zeal. They possess in their hearts the good of the Community and its individual members at all times.

#### **6.8 CONFLICT AND MEEKNESS**

Members enter discussions in good faith, trusting that other members will give them a good hearing and will want to know the truth and follow it. Members opt for directly and peacefully speaking the truth rather than using pressure or conflict to further their own views; they are willing to listen to and accept opinions different from their own. Those in authority are open to suggestions because wisdom can come from any member of the Community.

#### **6.9 RECEIVING NEW BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

Membership to the general Community is open to all who desire spiritual growth. New members pursue learning programs which actualize their spiritual aims. Community leaders take steps to encourage them and watchfully care for their needs. These needs are identified and studied, and the Community sees that pastoral support is given when they encounter problems. Those who demonstrate full commitment to a spiritual life, adhere to the Catholic faith and show genuine love of others are eventually accepted as members to discipleship.

#### **6.10 SERVANT LEADERS**

Servant Leaders ensure shared understanding with all concerned before final decisions are made. They exhaust all reasonable means to obtain facts and information on matters for decision or resolution. Efforts are exerted to arrive at the best possible decision that takes into account the welfare of members as well as the work of the Community. They explain the reasons behind major decisions. Servant Leaders set the example of constantly finding ways to improve individual and group contribution in the conduct of Community activities.

#### **6.11 INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION**

Community members perform their most important service within the context of their major commitments in life especially family and occupation. The extent to which members contribute of their time and material resources to the body in its life and mission together will vary from person to person, depending on their state of life.

Members care for others and contribute generously to the needs and work of the Community from their personal resources. They set aside the time to participate in Community activities and to give competent and caring service in their areas of ministry. Members make personal sacrifices, especially in fulfilling all the needs of the other members of the Community. They encourage, nurture and protect their fellow members' spiritual commitment in their lives even outside of the scope of Community activities and services.