



MANUAL OF
I AM THE 73RD
COMMUNITIES

The Christian Community

The **I Am The 73rd** (73rd) communities are the end and goal of the previous levels: the Consecration to Jesus Christ (33 days) and the Disciple Servant (46 days, when we saw the seven pillars of the 73rd community). After these two moments, we arrive at this new experience of life which is permanent by nature. This is how we conceive it, since the communitarian living of faith is a fundamental part of the Christian lifestyle that we now highlight and propose to you in 73rd.

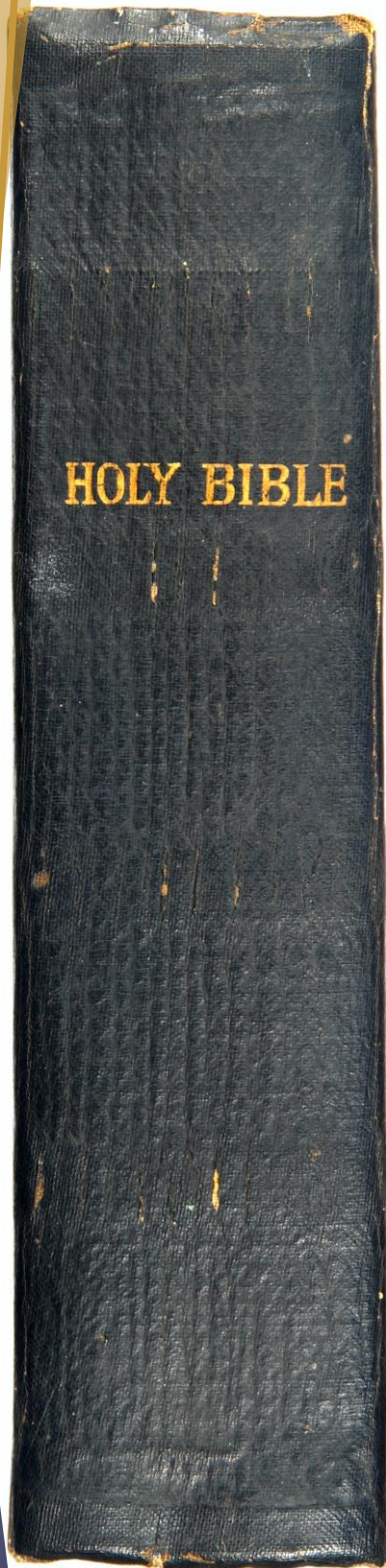
From this communal sense of faith arises that passion or inner fire that leads to seek the good of the brothers and sisters in community, similar to that of the four friends who brought the paralytic to Jesus. (Cf. Mk 2:1-12). Remember that we are the image and likeness of God - who is a Trinitarian community - in order to live also in a community of fraternal love. In this regard, Pope Benedict XVI points out the following: "the command of love of neighbour is inscribed by the Creator in man's very nature. It is also a result of the presence of

Christianity in the world, since Christianity constantly revives and acts out this imperative, so often profoundly obscured in the course of time." (*Deus caritas est*, n. 31).

73rd intends to 'return' to this essence and to express it, also naturally, in the communal living of faith in the parish, which is the basic cell of the Church. To this end, parishes must renew themselves - and we must cooperate in this - so that they may be truly parishes, as the Aparecida document teaches, they are "places of Christian initiation, of education in and celebration of the faith, open to the full range of charisms, services, and ministries, organized in a communal and responsible way, capable of utilizing existing movements of the apostolate, attentive to the cultural diversity of the people, open to pastoral projects which go beyond the individual parish, and alert to the world in which they live" (n. 170 / Cf. Saint John Paul II, *Ecclesia in America*, n. 41).



I Am The 73rd Communities



The word 'community' comes from the Latin *communitas* which means "quality of commonality". In our case, it refers to a group of people linked by a common objective: To live authentically the Christian life, actively cooperating in the sanctification that the Holy Spirit works, living in an ecclesial spirit at its most basic and fundamental level: the parish; and witnessing to it in the family and community in which one is inserted.

Today, only ten percent of the people who attend Sunday Mass are involved in parish ministry. **73rd** does not intend to search in the fishbowl of that ten percent, but in the ocean of the remaining ninety percent, calling them to integrate into parish life in the **73rd** community.

The very name of **73rd** anticipates this willingness to continue the evangelizing mission that Jesus entrusted to the Church with the sending of the 72 disciples "whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit." (Lk 10:1-2). The fact of being disciples of the same Master and of going "in pairs" already points to that quality of communal life that we emphasized in **73rd** as a fundamental characteristic of the charisma.

This disposition is made according to the particular vocation and formation of each member of **73rd**; Nevertheless, parish activity does not exhaust the apostolic zeal of a 73rd disciple. This zeal must be expressed in a boldness that leads disciple to evangelize in his family, parish, in the streets, in the public squares; Wherever the people are gathered, there the 73rd disciples must be, with their Bible in hand, with their testimony at the surface of skin, with their joy and firmness, and with their willingness to give their whole life for the love of God, seeking that no one be lost, that all may be saved. (Cf. 2 Pt 3:9).

Constitution of The I Am The 73rd Communities

In order for a **73rd** parish community to be formed, the first step is to present the **73rd** evangelization project to the parish priest. Once evaluated by the parish priest, the parish priest shall decide whether to approve it. The beginning of a new community implies the existence of at least twelve persons consecrated to Jesus Christ in **73rd**, who have lived the experience of the second level: Disciple Servant.

Applicants must complete the electronic form provided by the **73rd** Steering Committee (Annex 1) to register this new community in the official directory of **73rd** Communities.

If a 73rd disciple is unable to join a parish community due to the lack of any of these requirements, he/she may continue his/her community process virtually.

If a 73rd disciple is ultimately unable to participate in the face-to-face communities available in his or her area - whether due to limited mobility (health, disability or advanced age), deprivation of liberty, or some other justified reason – he/she may continue the process virtually.

The spirit of communion, as we have already seen, is one of the seven pillars of the **73rd** communities. This is expressed and realized in the parish, which is the living cell of the Diocese.



Unless there is just cause, for a 73rd disciple, to abstain from active participation in his parish is not acceptable. St. John Chrysostom points out the importance of the community by saying: "You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests" (quoted by the Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 2179).

For 73rd communities that are formed in religious or cleric communities, authorization must be given by the chaplain, superior, as the case may be.

The requirement of at least twelve consecrated to Jesus Christ 73rd exists in memory of the first twelve disciples of the Lord, including St. Matthias, who took the place left by Judas Iscariot. (Cf. Ac 1:15-26).

If this minimum number of participants is not reached, the interested party(ies) will have the opportunity to sponsor (invite) new consecrated persons, who, in the near future, could be members of their community.

73rd will be attentive to link all the disciples in the same area or city so that they can assess the possibility of starting a community or joining the existing ones.

The beginning of a 73rd community, as well as incorporation of new members into an existing community, will take place with the celebration of the Holy Mass of blessing of the new community(ies), as well as the apostolic sending forth of its members (Annex 2). This mass will take place at the end of the 46 days of the second level of 73rd Disciple Servants.



Ongoing Learning in I Am The 73rd Communities

In his first letter addressed to the Christians scattered throughout the world, the Apostle Peter exhorts them to “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope” (1 Pt 3:15). This is fundamental if we consider the pagan context of the first Christian communities. Proclaiming and witnessing to Christ was not only necessary, but also to give a reason for that faith.

73rd takes this Pauline mission and applies it in the following way:

The training sessions will be weekly, in a face-to-face manner, with the following moments:

- a) Greeting, welcome and opening prayer.
- b) Online training session with Noel Diaz or a guest (45-60 minutes). The training topics will help the members of the **73rd** communities to know their faith, increase their love for God and, consequently, give public testimony of it.

These sessions will be held through the **73rd** virtual conference platform. Participation in these sessions is exclusively for consecrated members who have completed the Disciple Servant level, with the pillars of the **73rd** community.

c) Biblical reflection. At times, this reflection will be in person, as organized by the leaders of the communities in communion with the parish priest. On other occasions it may be virtual, through the virtual conference platform of **73rd**.

d) Session for comments, testimonies, questions and answers.

e) Fraternal sharing.

f) Final prayer and farewell.

Sessions are suggested to be of two hours maximum.



Spiritual Life in I Am The 73rd Communities

The lifestyle of every 73rd disciple involves the following practices:

a) Daily:

- Prayerful reading of the Word of God, according to the liturgy of the day as indicated in the Catholic Liturgical Calendar.
- Daily prayer (ideally at the same time in order to promote building a habit).
- Prayer of the holy rosary.

b) Weekly:

- Fasting according to the dynamics established in **73rd**. It is suggested that it be on Wednesday, but it can be changed for another day.
- Participate in Sunday Mass. The ideal is daily Mass, but if this is not possible, it is suggested to add at least one additional day besides Sunday. Participation in the Holy Mass assumes a sacramental confession in case of mortal sin in order to be able to receive communion.

c) Monthly:

- Participate (in person or online) in the Evenings of Meeting, every first Friday of the month.
- Participate (in person or online) in the community Rosary, every first Saturday of the month.

It is important to clarify that these practices imply an exercise of the will; but this does not constitute the way to intimacy with God, but rather expresses it. The spiritual life is eminently a gift of God.

Pope Francis teaches us: "Only on the basis of God's gift, freely accepted and humbly received, can we cooperate by our own efforts in our progressive transformation. We must first belong to God, offering ourselves to him who was there first, and entrusting to him our abilities, our efforts, our struggle against evil and our creativity, so that his free gift may grow and develop within us: "I appeal to you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God" (*Rom* 12:1). For that matter, the Church has always taught that charity alone makes growth in the life of grace possible, for "if I do not have love, I am nothing" (*1 Cor* 13:2)" (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, n. 56).



Apostolic Service in I Am The 73rd Communities

As we have already seen, one of the characteristics of every 73rd disciple is the apostolic zeal to bring all people to encounter Jesus Christ so that no one will be lost, that all may be saved (Cf. 2 Pt 3:9). In the words of the Holy Father Francis, it is to be "Church that goes out". 73rd makes it tangible in the following actions:

→ Giving public testimony of being a disciple, first at home, with the family, and then in the community where one is inserted.

→ Be available on assigned days to be outside the parish, helping people interested in 73rd to register for the next consecration. Also on holidays or special days - such as Ash Wednesday - when many people come to the parish; that is where the 73rd army should be present, inviting them to be an active part of the community.

→ Be Eucharistic ministers to bring Communion to the sick and people with mobility difficulties.

→ Be a parish servant, available to assist in events where all parish groups are called upon by the parish council.

→ Sponsor (invite and accompany) new consecrated men and women. Goal: To help 72 others complete their consecration.

→ Promote ESNE's means of communication, as well as its retreats and massive events, in order to evangelize everyone, at all times and by all possible means.

→ Internally, in the activities of the 73rd community, as indicated by the corresponding Board of Directors.

→ According to each community's possibilities and in accordance with the expansion of 73rd, massive evangelization events will be carried out at local (parish or diocese), national and international levels. Members of the 73rd communities will be called upon to collaborate and/or assist them as part of their apostolate in the 73rd communities.

These activities will be carried out by the 73rd disciple applying generosity in its three dimensions (the 3 T's); that is to say: Time, Talent and Treasure. Being disciples of Jesus entails a call to go out of ourselves. However, this is not a burden to be imposed by force. In fact, being a Christian is not a burden; it is a gift, a blessing, a privilege!

Following Christ is a source of personal fulfillment and full joy. Therefore, giving our own gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure is a natural result of every 73rd disciple.

Gratitude in I Am The 73 Communities

As we have already seen, the call to every 73rd disciple includes generosity regarding the “Treasure.” The biblical image that inspires and encourages us is offered by St. John the Evangelist in the passage of the multiplication of the five loaves and two fishes (6:1-14).

St. Matthew specifies that Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children” (14:21). Despite such enormous multitude, the four evangelists mention that they had only five loaves and two fish. In the hands of their owner, these would have been enough for him and a few guests; but in the hands of Jesus they were enough to satisfy everyone and, in addition, to collect twelve baskets of leftover pieces. Who owned the food we do not know. From St. John we know that he was a boy (6:9). An anonymous for us, but for Jesus, that boy, like all of us, has a name and a story. Jesus, being all-powerful, wanted to need the generosity of that boy. It did not matter how many assets he had presented to him. The important thing was total detachment and absolute trust in Jesus.

Every 73rd disciple is called to be that boy of the Gospel, remembering that no one is called to give more than he/she has and can, but also no one is called to give less. Divine Providence will manifest itself through the generosity of the 73rd disciples.

→ The first and most fundamental contribution is to the Parish. It should be kept in mind that the **73rd** communities are parish communities and, therefore, co-responsible not only for the pastoral work, but also for the material support of the parish.

→ The second contribution will be a Seed for the support and worldwide development of **73rd**. This Seed will be contributed, according to the possibility of each member, through the means that the Steering Committee informs, according to the country where the consecrated person is.



Leadership in I Am The 73rd Communities

a) Leadership election.

It is necessary that the members of the communities organize themselves to elect the brothers and sisters who will exercise the service of leadership in the communities. For this purpose, they shall elect, by voice vote, the candidates in accordance with the provisions of this section.

The first board of directors of a new community shall be approved by the Parish Priest. The founding members of the community shall propose the names of the candidates to exercise this leadership service. The service will be provided for a period of three years. At the end of the term, after the corresponding evaluations, continuing the service for another equal period may be accepted. Leaders may also be changed before the end of their term of service if there is a justified reason, a resignation or an agreement with the community. In any case, the Parish Priest must be informed before making the corresponding change.

Both for the proposal of the first board of directors, as well as for the selection of candidates for the second and subsequent boards of directors, community members should consider the nature and needs of the service, as well as the vocation and competencies of the candidates:

- Testimony of Christian life.
- Sacraments according to the state of life.
- Adequate speaking skills.
- Possibility of making trips/travel.
- Basic knowledge of technology: Phone and/or computer with Apps and messaging programs, video conferencing, Google suite, Office suite, etc.
- For the Third Server: Basic administrative and accounting knowledge and experience.
- Willingness to serve their brothers and sisters in the community.

It will be a requirement to present to the parish priest the proposal of the candidates with their information for the corresponding study and approval. To do so, the registration form must be filled out and the survey provided by the **73rd** Steering Committee must be completed (Annex 3).

If needed, persons exercising leadership service may be substituted. This will require the Parish Priest discernment.

b) Leadership services.

Leadership services will be carried out in a volunteer capacity (Annex 4), in the following areas:

→ First Server: **73rd** community Coordinator.

It is the person who calls, directs, represents and encourages the community, committing himself to give the first witness of faith and charity among his brothers.

→ Second Server: **73rd** community Sub-coordinator.

It is the person who assists the First Server, or replaces him/her, in case of absence of the First Server. Keeps in order the books, records, minutes and files of the members of his community. Performs secretarial functions.

→ Third server: **73rd** community Administrator.

It is the person who plans and administers the expenses; invests in the goods required by the local community; informs the local community and the parish priest of such transactions; collaborates with the parish priest or his delegate in the audit of donations; and watches over the good use and care of the material goods of the **73rd** community.

The material goods shall be the property of the Parish. If authorized by the Parish Priest, there may be a bank account in the name of the Parish. These funds will be used to cover the needs of the **73rd** community. The Administrator shall submit quarterly reports of activities and transactions, as well as a schedule for the following three months.

c) Meetings.

The **73rd** Steering Committee will maintain close contact with the leaders and members of the communities, as well as with their parish priests, in order to encourage them in the fulfillment of the mission, in fidelity to the **73rd** charism. With the help of the community leaders, an annual meeting will be held with the parish priest, as well as a quarterly meeting with the members of each community. The aim is to establish fraternal communication to evaluate, encourage, plan, inform and provide feedback on the life of the **73rd** communities. These meetings shall be face-to-face if circumstances permit; otherwise, they may be online. The Steering Committee of **73rd** will be attentive to these calls, commissioning the brothers and sisters who, on its behalf, will carry out these meetings.



ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

Information contained in the electronic form for the application for the incorporation of a **73rd** community.

a) Applicant information.

- Full name.
- Sex.
- Date of birth.
- Address (address number, street or avenue, city, state, zip code, country).
- Landline or cell phone.
- E-mail.
- Social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter - 'X', etc.)
- Marital status. If married, name of spouse and number of children.
- Occupation.

b) Information on the parish, cleric or religious house.

- Name of the parish, chapel or religious community.
- Address.
- Phone.
- Electronic page.
- Social network.
- Diocese or religious family to which it belongs.
- Name of parish priest, chaplain or superior.
- Parish priest, chaplain or superior's landline or cell phone number.
- Parish priest, chaplain or superior's e-mail.

c) Information on the proposed 73rd community.

- Number of consecrated persons willing to form the **73rd** community.
- Does the parish priest, chaplain or superior know **73rd**?
- Does he agree to the constitution of a **73rd** community in his parish?

ANNEX 2

RITUAL FOR THE BLESSING OF NEW 73RD COMMUNITIES AND APOSTOLIC SENDING FORTH OF THEIR MEMBERS

The members of a new 73rd community, or their representatives, in accordance with the instruction of the priest, may receive the blessing of their communities and the corresponding apostolic sending forth during or at the end of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The following rite is suggested.

1.- Initial invocation.

The celebrant says:

- In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All of them make the sign of the cross and respond:

- Amen.

2.- Greetings.

The celebrant says:

- The Lord, who appointed seventy-two disciples and send them “ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit.” (Lk 10:1-2), be with you.

The 73rd disciples respond:

- And with your spirit.

3.- Exhortation.

- Dear 73rd disciples: By participating today in this blessing a new 73rd community(ies), as well as the corresponding apostolic sending, you will renew, in a certain way, the way the early Church worked, when, full of joy, she sent some of her children to other places to evangelize; that is, to announce the Good News of salvation worked by Jesus Christ on our behalf. The fact that you recognize yourselves as disciples is a sign of your readiness to continue this mission. Consider that you are all disciples of the same Master who sends you out “in pairs” (Cf. Lk 10:1-2) as a sign of the community spirit that is proper to Christianity. Aware of this, and having accepted this assignment, we proceed to bless your 73rd community(ies) and we will carry out the corresponding apostolic sending forth.

4.- Prayer of blessing.

The celebrant, according to the circumstances, lays his hands jointly on all the 73rd disciples and adds:

- We bless and praise you, Oh God, because, according to the ineffable plan of your mercy, you sent your Son into the world, to free men, with the effusion of his Blood, from the captivity of sin, and to fill them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He, after having conquered death, before ascending to you, Father, sent the apostles as dispensers of his love and power, so that they might announce to the whole world the Gospel of life and purify the believers with the bath of saving baptism. We ask you now, Lord, to turn your kindly gaze upon this (these) new **73rd** community(ies) ✠ and on these servers of yours ✠ that, strengthened by the sign of the cross, they may go forth as messengers of salvation and peace. With the power of your arm, guide, Lord, their steps, strengthen them with the strength of your grace, so that weariness and discouragement may not overcome them. May his words be an echo of the words of Christ so that his listeners may give ear to the Gospel. Deign, Father, to infuse the Holy Spirit into their hearts so that, having become all things to all, they may draw many to you, who will praise you without ceasing in the holy Church. That no one be lost, that all may be saved (*cf.* 2 Peter 3:9) through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The 73rd disciples respond:

- Amen.

5.- Blessing crosses or medals:

The celebrant prays the following prayer (optional):

- Lord, Holy Father, who never ceases to call your children to the fullness of life in the practice of the virtues, deign to bless these (crosses / medals) ✠ and grant that those who wear them in the sight of all may strive to be transformed into the image of your Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

The 73rd disciples respond:

- Amen.

If the celebrant has holy water, he may sprinkle the newly blessed crosses and medals.

6.- Delivery of the crosses or medals:

The celebrant addresses the 73rd disciples:

- Receive this sign of Christ's love and proclaim, with your words and life testimony, that He is alive in you, and that it is worthwhile to give your life entirely to the mission entrusted to you.

The 73rd disciples respond:

- Amen.

The celebrant gives the crosses or medals. If circumstances warrant it, he may be assisted by some servers. The 73rd disciples receive them, kiss them and put them on.

If circumstances permit, and the celebrant authorizes it, a song of thanksgiving may be sung.

7.- Conclusion:

The celebrant invites those present to bow to receive the blessing, and to respond "Amen" to each invocation. With outstretched hands, he prays:

- May God, who in Christ has manifested his truth and love, make you messengers of the Gospel and witnesses of his love in the world so that no soul may be lost and all may be saved (Cf. 2 Peter 3:9)

The 73rd disciples respond:

- Amen.

- May Jesus, the Lord, who promised his Church that he would be with her until the end of the world, direct your steps and confirm your words.

R. Amen.

- May the Spirit of the Lord be upon you, so that as you travel the roads of the world, you may proclaim the Gospel to the neediest and heal broken hearts.

R. Amen.

- And all of you here present, may Almighty God, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you.

R. Amen.

- You can go in peace and joy to fulfill your mission.

The 73rd disciples respond:

- Let us give thanks to God.

ANNEX 3

a) Information contained in the electronic format for the registration of candidacies to lead a community.

- Full name.
- Sex.
- Date of birth.
- Address (street or avenue, city, state, zip code, country).
- Landline or cell phone.
- E-mail.
- Social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter – 'X', etc.)
- Marital status. If married, name of spouse and number of children.
- Occupation.
- Do you have the sacraments appropriate to your state of life?

b) Assessment of knowledge of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

(separate document)

ANNEX 4

VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

Private voluntary collaboration agreement entered into by **I Am The 73rd** on the one hand and _____ on the other, of _____ nationality, born in _____ on _____, _____; residing in _____. And who are hereinafter referred to as "**I Am The 73rd**" and "the Volunteer", respectively.

STATEMENTS

About **I Am The 73rd**:

- 1.- That it is a Catholic apostolate aimed at helping people to have an encounter with Jesus Christ in his Word, prayer and the sacraments.
- 2.- That it is inspired by the biblical exhortation that no soul should be lost and all should be saved (Cf. 2 Peter 3:9).
- 3.- That it is domiciled at the central offices of El Sembrador Ministries: 20720 Marilla St. 91311 Chatsworth, Ca. USA.
- 4.- That it is in a position to accept the service offered by the volunteer since it is in support of the interested, consecrating and consecrated members of **I Am The 73rd (73rd)**.

About the Volunteer:

- 1.- That he/she is fully aware of the identity, mission, objectives and activities of **73rd** and that his/her Catholic faith, identity, vocation, mission and vision are compatible with **73rd**.
- 2.- That it is his/her apostolic desire, free of economic, professional or any other type of interest, to contribute to the **73rd** mission, through his/her participation in the activities that **73rd** carries out, without economic retribution or any labor relationship, since the only motive for his/her participation is the will to serve God in this apostolate.
- 3.- That the **73rd** staff has explained to him/her the commitment that this implies and that he/she assumes it in its entirety and agrees to the activities that both have determined for his/her collaboration.

4.- That the days and time granted for the performance of this volunteer service will be that which the volunteer has available, subject to prior agreement with **73rd**.

5.- That he/she promises to safeguard the confidential information entrusted to him/her, including the data of the records of consecrators, taking the necessary measures to avoid transmitting this information to third parties.

6.- That the Volunteer assumes full responsibility for his/her own integrity in the performance of his/her collaboration with **73rd**, exonerating **73rd** from any implication in case of illness or injury during the time of his/her voluntary service.

7.- If for any reason the Volunteer is unable to fulfill his/her obligations, he/she will inform **73rd** as soon as possible, as he/she is aware that the fact of being a volunteer implies behaving responsibly.

CLAUSES

1.- The parties hereto fully agree that this Agreement does not commit any of them to establish a payment or economic retribution; nor does it establish an employment contract, nor does it establish the existence of social benefits, nor does it generate present or future rights.

2.- This private agreement is only a formal instrument that reflects the social agreement made by both parties in their common apostolic interest to evangelize the people interested in **73rd**, its consecrating and consecrated people.

3.- The parties establish that this Agreement shall have a term of two calendar years, as of the date of execution. Once this term has elapsed, the parties agree to terminate it.

Having been read by the parties and having taken notice of its contents, they sign this Agreement in two counterparts and by mutual agreement, on

_____.

Name and signature by **I Am The 73rd**

Name and signature of volunteer

Witness: Name and signature of Parish Priest

I AM THE 73RD

Esríbenos un texto



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Yo soy el 73

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