

**Notes on the Process of Affiliation** (based on conversation with our canon lawyer)

1. Affiliation is a particular form of support in favor of a community which has lost its autonomy according to *Cor orans 45*. Please also refer to *Cor orans 18* for its definition of real autonomy.
2. Affiliation is an obligation of a community once its number reaches 5 or less. It allows a community to be more secure in looking forward to their future because it allows a community which cannot elect leadership by virtue of its number to have leadership in the person of a major superior who is either the Association President or the Prioress of the Affiliating monastery (depending on whether the community affiliates with the Association or another monastery.)
3. For Affiliation it is necessary that all the sisters of a community vote for whom they wish to affiliate (Association or an individual monastery) and send a letter of request for Affiliation through the Association President.
4. When a request for Affiliation with the Association is submitted to the leadership team it depends on the leadership team to make a decision regarding accepting affiliation. There is no requirement to consult with member communities of the association. It pertains to a community requesting affiliation to inform member communities of the Association about its intent. (*Please see our canon lawyer's note below.*) This information is not initiated by the leadership team. Once a request for affiliation has been made, the Association President writes to Rome to submit the community's request for Affiliation.
5. An affiliated monastery continues to run its daily life as usual. It has a local superior appointed *ad nutum* by the major superior (*Cor orans 59*). The local superior is constituted legal representative of the community. The community continues to make decisions pertaining to the daily life of the monastery. The role of the major superior of an affiliated monastery is not meant to be an everyday job. However, she must be informed of major decisions. It pertains to her in consultation with the community to decide the frequency of visits.
6. Please refer to *Cor orans 54* to *64* for Statutes pertaining to Affiliation.

**Note from our canon lawyer:**

*"With regard to the paragraph #4 where you say 'it pertains to a community requesting affiliation to inform member communities of the association about its intent,' it might be more sensible to wait until Rome decides the issue before publication to other communities, but that is up to whatever practice you put in place. At an association meeting the status of the association and member communities would be made known in general."*