

Subj:	Consultation on Juridic Person
Date:	7/2/2001 4:20:02 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	Susanoeff
To:	PhyllisFED

Dear Phyllis,

Thank you for sending the materials regarding the Federation's request to become a juridic person. The truth is that when we read the information, we questioned whether the Federation ought to proceed with the application without further discussion by the Governing Board. Our concern is that we may end up being much more tied into Roman authority than any of us would wish to be.

We certainly agree with the changes that you are requesting that Rome make, particularly in regard to joining or leaving the Federation (Sections 3 and 4), but we wonder if CICL will modify that language since it was suggested by them. We would not want membership in or withdrawal from the Federation to be ultimately up to Rome.

We also wonder if there might not be other areas in which issues of authority and autonomy might be at stake. We recently read an article in which it was stated that in a federation which is a juridic person, "each institute or monastery retains its autonomy but each institute is subject to the superior of the federation in certain limited matters primarily affecting the federation." (Rosemary Smith, SC, in the Bulletin on Issues of Religious Law, Fall, 2000.) If that is the case, what might those matters be? How does this apply to us?

We realize that there is a certain urgency to all of this because of the novitiate program. We wonder, however, if there would not be another way to handle the novitiate question again this year – by seeking an indult or by the leaders of the congregations designating the federation novitiate as the novitiate for their congregations. This would give us adequate time for discussion among the members.

Now that we see some of the language, we are concerned that we not tie our congregations into a relationship with Rome that might prove to be more than we bargained for, especially at this time of "tightening screws" within the hierarchical structures.

We are sending our statistics to Barbara, but we hope that before anything moves forward we would, in light of the information we have now, be able to discuss the issue of the Federation becoming a juridic person thoroughly at the November Governing Board meeting.

Peace,

Susan Oeffling, Dolore Rochon, Chris Ludwig
Carondelet, St. Paul