The first draft of the *Ratio Studiorum Particularis* of the Province of Our Lady of the Rosary was completed and sent by the Regent of Studies, Fr. Fausto Gómez Berlana, OP, to the Prior Provincial in November 2010 (cf. RSG 41, 1) and then to the members of the Commission for the Intellectual Life (cf. LCO 89, § II, 2) as well as to other brothers previously or currently connected with study in our Province. After incorporating changes recommended by them, on January 15, 2011 the new text was sent again by the Regent of Studies to the Prior Provincial and to the members of the Provincial Council for further consideration. The resulting draft was evaluated and voted by the Provincial Council held on 4th of April, 2011, which unanimously decided it to be sent to the Master of the Order for approval (cf. LCO 230, 4).

On July 1, 2011 the Master of the Order, fr. Bruno Cadoré, OP, approved it with some corrections which are hereby already incorporated into this final copy.

Fr. Javier González, OP
*Prior Provincial*

*Hong Kong, 5 July 2011*
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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

St. Dominic continues telling his brothers what he told them before the end of his life: that he wanted them “to study, preach and establish convents” (LCO, no. 76). The essential elements of the Dominican life, including study, are “inseparably interconnected, harmoniously balanced and mutually enriching” (LCO, Fundamental Constitution, IV). Study is indeed an essential part of our Dominican vocation (LCO 226).

Our Book of Constitutions and Ordinations (LCO) speaks powerfully of the importance of study in our Order (LCO 76-83); also the Ratio Studiorum Generalis (Rome, 1993), and the Acts of the General Chapters (e.g. ACG 2001 Providence, nos. 104-158; ACG 2004 Krakow, nos. 124-160; ACG 2007 Bogota, nos. 99-130; ACG 2010 Rome, nos. 83-104). Study equips the brothers “for the doctrinal service of the Church and of all people” and calls them to “stimulate people’s desire to know the truth” (LCO 77, II). It continues to be necessary in the Order: for teaching, for evangelization, for dialogue with the world and with cultures. It is part of Dominican contemplation and ordered to preaching, which is the end of study (ACG 2010 Rome 54).

Study in our Order of Preachers is a specific kind of study, which is systematic, solid, critical, and open (RSG 6). Dominican study is a contemplative (LCO 83), communitarian (LCO 84), ecclesial (LCO 80), interdisciplinary (LCO 81), and, above all, apostolic (LCO 77) study (cf. ACG 2010 Rome 54). Contemplative study aids our vocation, purifies our soul and helps us fight temptation (see Summa Theologiae, II-II, 166). Dominican study is necessarily linked to mission and preaching. It is “intellectual compassion”: Misericordia Veritatis (ACG 2001 Providence, nos. 104-108). Our Provincial Chapter (Hong Kong, 2009) says that from initial formation students must acquire “a permanent habit of contemplative study ordered to our mission” (ACP 2009 Hong Kong, 155). We continue, then, considering study as “a fundamental part of our journey into the contemplation of Him in whom we shall find full happiness” (Ib. Chap. IV, Intro). RSG tells us that the intellectual life is “a permanent option for renewal throughout our lives” (RSG 5).

As we give basic importance to study in our formation, we also give relevant importance to the circumstances surrounding study in our Province of Our Lady of the Rosary. Thus, our context – global and local – affects our institutional, and complementary studies, and the continuing formation programs of the Province. Following the guide and example of St. Thomas Aquinas (RSG, Preface, IV, and 16, III; see John Paul II, Fides et Ratio, 1998, nos. 43-44), our philosophical and theological studies contemplate the signs of the times, search for truth in different faiths and cultures, in science and technology, and walk with all the journey to the truth: “Every truth, regardless of who said it, comes from the Holy Spirit” (I-II, 109, 1 ad 1). Our study is centered on Christ, the Truth we have to know, live and preach today in the Church in different situations (see LCO, Fundamental Const., V). Called to walk with the Lord (ACG 2010 Rome, 59), our teaching, preaching and ministering must be “a clear, unequivocal and direct proclamation” of Jesus Christ as the center of our ministry (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 23).

Taking into account the missionary identity of the Province, knowledge and love of cultures constitute a significant element of study and formation, and a requirement for inter-religious dialogue and the evangelization of cultures (cf. ACG 2001 Providence, nos. 82-86).
PART ONE: THE DOCTRINAL FORMATION OF THE BROTHERS

INTRODUCTION: PROGRESSIVE STRUCTURE OF STUDIES

1. We follow the teachings on study of our Book of Constitutions and Ordinations, the Acts of the General Chapters of the Order and, more specifically, the Ratio Studiorum Generalis (RSG). This Ratio Studiorum Particularis (RSP) takes into account and complements the Ratio Formationis Particularis (RFP) of our Province and the Acts of the Provincial Chapters, above all, the latest one: ACP 2009 Hong Kong.

2. As the Ratio Studiorum Generalis says: “The intellectual formation of the brothers is permanent and integral, comprising different stages and disciplines. These stages and disciplines, having a common finality, are linked together not merely on a purely external or chronological way, but as integral parts of a single process of formation. They must therefore constitute an organic and structured whole” (RSG, Preface, V).

3. Study is an essential part in the different phases of formation: the pre-novitiate, novitiate, studentate, complementary studies and ongoing formation. Each phase contributes to the solid, profound and relevant doctrinal formation of the brothers.

4. The RSP considers directly institutional studies, in particular philosophical, theological and complementary studies, and continuing formation. Considering the academic dimension of studies in the pre-novitiate and novitiate, it enumerates the courses to be taken by the pre-novices and novices of the Province respectively.

SECTION ONE: PREPARATORIY STUDIES

CHAPTER I: STUDIES IN THE PRE-NOVITIATE

5. Before being accepted to the pre-novitiate, the candidate has to present, besides the documents required by LCO 170, a transcript of records of his studies (LCO 169, I) and evidence an initial preparation and interest in study.

6. The pre-novitiate is a time to discern the vocation, initiate community and Dominican life, and deepen the knowledge of Christian faith. Considering the reality of our missionary Province, the knowledge of English is a basic requirement for all (ACP 2009 Hong Kong, 131). They should acquire “a suitable knowledge of Latin” (LCO 169, II), and begin to acquire the habit of contemplative study (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 155).

7. The Director of the Pre-Novitiate is in charge of ensuring that the basic courses enumerated below are usually taken by the postulants (cf. RFP 28, 3). Respecting a diversified curricular offerings according to different places, the following basic courses – taught in an academic manner - ought to be taken, if not yet taken:
   • Intensive courses in the English language
   • A synthetic study of the Christian faith: The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC, 1997), and also Vatican II Documents.
   • Introduction to the Sacred Scriptures, philosophy and theology.
Introduction to consecrated life, including an adequate understanding of sexuality and marriage (cf/ RFP 28, 3).
Introduction to the history and mission of the Order and of Province of Our Lady of the Rosary.
Introduction to St. Dominic, St. Thomas Aquinas and other Dominican saints.
Introduction to Oriental Religions and cultures.
General history of the world and history of the places where the Province is established.
Basic Latin.
Technology and computer use.

8. The teachers of those courses are to evaluate the pre-novices and give the corresponding academic grades. Those candidates who substantially fail exams will not be immediately accepted to the Novitiate.

9. Those pre-novices who have taken some of the subjects offered or have even taken already some philosophy and theology studies may be given especially designed courses, or complementary academic tasks.

CHAPTER II: STUDIES IN THE NOVITIATE

10. There is “a Novitiate for the whole Province in Asia (cf ACP 2009 Hong Kong 132), now at St Albert the Great’s Priory, in Rosary Hill, Hong Kong.

11. In the Novitiate, the novices are formed as persons and as Christians living in community human and evangelical values (see RFP 22). They come to understand in a deeper way the Dominican vocation and Dominican way of life (LCO 177). They learn the meaning and requirements of the Christian, Dominican and missionary vocation (RFP 18). The Novitiate is also the time to discover the essential place of study in the Order and in our Province, and its central place in the life of every Dominican. It is also the time to deepen the knowledge of Christian faith, in particular regarding the history of salvation, the principles of Christian life and of the priesthood, and liturgy (LCO 187, I; CIC 652, 2). In our Province, the improvement in the English language ought to be intensely continued.

12. The Master of Novices is in charge of ensuring that, among others, the following courses are usually taken by the novices (cf. RFP 27):
   - Reading of the Sacred Scriptures (lectio divina), the Eucharist and of the Divine Office
   - Theology of Consecrated Life
   - Rule of St. Augustine and Constitutions of the Order
   - Fundamental Principles, Statues and Acts of the Province
   - Dominican spirituality
   - History of the Order and of the Province
   - Life of St. Dominic, St. Thomas Aquinas and other Dominican Saints and Theologians
   - Study and Preaching in the Order and the Province
   - Music and Chant
   - English language
SECTION TWO: INSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

CHAPTER I: IN GENERAL

13. The brothers directly connected with the life, study and formation of the student brothers must inspire and instill in them the Dominican passion for truth, and therefore for study as the never-ending journey in the search for truth (cf. ACG 2007 Bogotá, no. 195).

14. The Studentate is formed by the clerical brothers, who go through the institutional studies. The institutional studies comprise the philosophical, theological and pastoral formation (LCO, 241; RSG 7). Institutional formation must be carried in a systematic, scientific and critical way and with the appropriate methodology (LCO 228, I & II; RSG 6). In our missionary Province, its multicultural context and intercultural dialogue must permeate also the intellectual formation of its students (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 138, a).

15. The institutional studies usually take six years: 2 years of philosophical studies; and 4 years of theological studies and pastoral experience (see ACPH, 152). Philosophy and theology may be studied separately and also jointly. Philosophical and theological studies must always be “mutually coordinated and integrated while respecting the autonomy and particular method of each” (RSG 8, II).

16. When main courses are taken in a non-Dominican center of studies, the students have to be introduced in the Dominican tradition and, in particular, to the principles, methods and basic philosophical/theological content of St. Thomas Aquinas (RSG, Preface, IV). Dominican institutional studies end with the Bachelor’s degree in Theology.

17. St. Dominic’s Priory in Macau is the common Studentate for all the students of our Province in Asian countries. If deemed appropriate, our students in Spain and Venezuela may also be sent to this common studentate. Likewise, some students from Asia may be sent to other communities of the Order during their institutional studies (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 133).

CHAPTER II: PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES

18. The Regent and the Moderator of Studies shall supervise the philosophical studies, and accompany the Master of Students in the intellectual formation of the students.

19. The minimum requirements of philosophical formation ordinarily include the following subjects:

- Logic.
- Ontology.
- History of Philosophy.
- Philosophical Anthropology.
- Ethics.
- Epistemology.
- Hermeneutics.
- Philosophy of Religion.
- Oriental Philosophy.
- Philosophy of Nature and of Science.
- Philosophy of Language
- Psychology.
- Sociology.
- Seminars on Faith and Reason, Modern Philosophers, etc.
20. While institutional studies are basically philosophical, theological studies, and pastoral formation, students have to continue their formation in the humanities and the arts and sciences, in languages and in the Dominican intellectual and spiritual tradition. The following additional subjects may also be taken by our students as part of their institutional formation:

- Public Speaking and Preaching.
- History of the Order and the Province.
- Seminar on Aristotle.
- Seminar on St. Thomas Aquinas and His *Summa Theologiae*.
- Advanced English.
- Latin.
- Hebrew.
- Greek.

**CHAPTER III: THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

21. The Regent and the Moderator of Studies shall supervise the theological studies, which are studied in the Center for Institutional Studies. They shall accompany the Master of students in the intellectual formation of the students. Moreover, the theology students in particular shall have some exposure to pastoral ministry (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 147, c).

22. Before the end of the institutional studies, the students of theology with the help of the Regent and Moderator of Studies shall begin to prepare their personal project on future complementary studies according to the needs of the Province. The Regent and Moderator shall recommend to the Fr. Provincial the specialization to be pursued.

23. The theological studies must cover:

- Introduction to Sacred Scriptures and to Theology, Fundamental Theology.
- Sacred Scriptures: Exegesis of the Old and New Testaments.
- Dogmatic Theology: The Blessed Trinity, Creation, Theological Anthropology, Christology and Mariology, Pneumatology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, the Sacraments.
- Moral and Spiritual Theology: Fundamental Moral Theology; Grace and Sin; Theology of Virtues; Christian Social Thought and Social Doctrine of the Church; Human Dignity, Justice and Rights; Sexuality, Marriage and the Family, Penance and Reconciliation, Theology of Christian Life and Spirituality, Bioethics.
- Pastoral Theology: Missiology, Liturgy, Catechesis, Preaching, Mass Media of Communication, Canon Law, Interfaith Dialogue and Inculturation, Pastoral Practice.
- Oriental Religions and Christian Theology
- Research Techniques
- Languages: English, Latin, Biblical Hebrew and Greek of New testament, Spanish
- Seminars on Basic Financial Management: Accounting and Book-keeping, History of the Dominican Order, Mission and Missions of the Province, Dominican Spirituality, St. Thomas Aquinas, etc.
SECTION THREE: COMPLEMENTARY STUDIES AND CONTINUING FORMATION

CHAPTER I: COMPLEMENTARY STUDIES

24. After finishing the institutional studies, our students – usually the solemnly professed – may pursue complementary or specialized post-graduate studies. These studies must be ordinarily carried out after at least one year of pastoral work (RSG 26).

25. Complementary studies are ordered to help the brothers specialize, and to make them more competent in pastoral work, academic work, or whatever is entrusted to them (RSG, 23). These studies must be done in a contextual, dynamic and open perspective (RSG 24).

26. Complementary studies to be pursued by able and interested students must be relevant to the Church, the Order, and the Province. They are to be according to the abilities and interests of the students concerned and the plan of the Province (LCO 107 and 244, I).

27. The Regent of Studies (LCO 93, I) is in charge of the program of complementary studies of the Province. With the individual students concerned, he shall arrange a concrete program of specialized studies. He will also monitor and accompany the students in their pursuit of the corresponding degree, or diploma, or title (RSG 27).

CHAPTER II: CONTINUING FORMATION

29. As pilgrims, we always need to grow, to deepen our knowledge of faith and renew ourselves constantly (see RFG 7; RFP 1; ACG 2007 Bogota 220; ACP 2009 Hong Kong 166). Continuing formation, an integral formation, includes four dimensions, namely, the human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation (cf. John Paul II, Pastores Dabo Vobis, 1992). The reference point of these dimensions is a “distinctive Dominican preaching” whose goal is making of every Dominican a preacher (ACG 2010 Rome 185). The Ratio Studiorum Particularis is focused on intellectual formation (RSG 29).

30. The intellectual formation is the responsibility of, first, every individual brother, second of the local community, and, third, of the community of the Province (RSG 30).

31. The principal agent of a brother’s formation is himself (RFP 2). To him, in dialogue with the corresponding superior and community, belongs the primary responsibility. This responsibility entails that he cultivates permanently “genuine personal maturity, practice of prayer, fidelity to the vows, common life, continual study, and active solidarity with the poor” (ACG 2010 Rome 200; cf. also no. 54 and LCO, Fundamental Constitution IV). Like all our other activities, intellectual formation is directed to preaching and each brother is charged with the task of balancing in his life study and preaching (RSG, Preface, III). Our study to be truly relevant continually needs a faith experience, continuing conversion (RSG, Preface, II).

32. The individual brother is to be encouraged and supported by the community to which he belongs. Superiors in particular are to promote “energetically” study and ensure that the brothers have “the means and the opportunities” for continuing study (LCO 87), including in particular the use of internet and computers (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 168; cf. ACG 2010 Rome 136-139). They are to be helped by conventual lectors (LCO 88 and 326-bis), and the conventual chapter (LCO 311; RSG 32, II).

33. The conventual lector is key to the continuing intellectual formation of the brothers in the respective community. Among his duties are: encouraging the brothers to attend and participate in meetings, lectures and courses related to formation; arrange appropriate
programs within the community and/or with neighboring communities; promote reflection and discussion of questions and problems connected with Dominican life; help make a priory a “center of reflection,” and prepare with the whole community a yearly program of formation that is carried out properly (see RSG 32, III; ACG 2007 Bogotá 62; ACP 2009 Hong Kong 157).

34. The Prior Provincial with the provincial council is ultimately responsible for the integral formation of the brothers, including study (LCO 89, I), and is assisted by the provincial promoter of continuing formation, and also, in the case of the intellectual dimension of formation by the Regent of Studies and the Commission for Intellectual Life. He is to motivate the vicariates and communities to be truly concerned with effective programs of continuing formation. Mutatis mutandis, the Provincial Vicars are also responsible for the formation, including study, of the members of the vicariate. They are helped similarly by a promoter of continuing formation and the corresponding council of the vicariate.

35. There ought to be special programs of continuing formation for the newly ordained priests (ACPH, 169), and from time to time, for members belonging respectively to the young, not so young and old members of the Province.

**PART TWO: ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES**

**CHAPTER I: LAWS GOVERNING STUDIES IN THE PROVINCE**

36. Studies in the Province of the Holy Rosary are governed by the following:

- Directives from the universal and local churches on intellectual and pastoral formation of the candidates for the priesthood and religious life;
- Norms from the Order of Preachers: from the LCO (no. 229), the Ratio Studiorum Generalis (nos. 36-37), and the Acts of the General Chapters (ACG 2010 Rome 83);
- Legislation from this Ratio Studiorum Particularis, from the Ratio Formationis Particularis, and from the Provincial Chapters.

37. The coordination and planning of the Province’s intellectual life should be based on the Province’s vision and its specific charism, “taking into account the gifts and needs of the friars and institutions engaged in intellectual apostolates and the urgent need for the renewal of the Order’s (and the Province’s) intellectual life” (ACG 2010 Rome, 86). In the Province, the coordination and planning of the intellectual life – a priority as in the Order - is done by the Prior Provincial, the Regent of Studies and the Commission for the Intellectual Life (cf. ib., 86).

38. The different centers of study in the Order include the following: the Center of Institutional Studies, the Center of Higher Studies, the Center of Continuing Formation, the Center of Special Studies, the Center for Continuing Formation, and the Center for Doctrinal Information and Research (LCO 92; RSG 44, 46, 52, 53).

39. As recommended by LCO, the Province shall have its own Center for Institutional Studies, which provides the entire curriculum required by RSG and offers “the best possible intellectual formation according to the tradition of the Order” (LCO 233, § 1-2).

40. Establishing a Center of Institutional Studies, however, requires an adequate number of students, a sufficient number of professors and appropriate facilities, particularly a good library (RSG 47 & 54).

41. Following the pertinent legislation of the Order, the Province may have a Center of Institutional Studies in collaboration with other formation centers of the Order (LCO 234). If appropriate, she
may also collaborate with other centers of philosophical and theological formation outside the Dominican tradition (LCO 233, III).

42. Our latest Provincial Chapter states that the Center of Institutional Studies be located in the Macau-Hong Kong region (cf. ACP 2009 Hong Kong, 160). Since 2007, it is placed in Macau, where our studentate is. However, those of our students who cannot stay in Macau shall, whenever possible, reside in one of our communities in Hong Kong and take their institutional studies there (cf. ib., 185), under the close supervision of the Regent of Studies (cf ib., 141).

43. The Center of Institutional Studies has its main see at St. Dominic’s Priory in Macau, where our students reside. Its institutional courses (philosophical and theological formation) are currently organized in coordination with the University of St Joseph, in Macau—which School of Christian Studies is an extension of the Faculty of Theology of the Catholic University of Lisbon—, and with the Holy Spirit Seminary, in Hong Kong, that is affiliated to the Urbaniana University in Rome. Both institutions are civilly recognized by their governments. (See Appendix I: Program of Studies of the School of Christian Studies, Faculty of Theology University of St Joseph, in Macau).

44. The Center of Institutional Studies offers – as required by the Order (LCO 233, III) – complementary courses on the doctrinal tradition of the Order, including studies in Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, Dominican Spirituality and the missionary nature of the Province. (See Appendix II: Complementary Courses offered by the Center).

CHAPTER II: ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES IN THE PROVINCE

Introduction

45. The Master of the Order is responsible for the organization of studies in the whole Order. He is assisted by the Assistant for the Intellectual Life and the Commission for the Promotion of Studies in the Order (LCO 230; RSG 59-62; ACG 2010 Rome 96-100).

46. In the Province, the following officials and bodies are responsible for study: the Prior Provincial, the Commission for the Intellectual Life, the Regent of Studies, the Moderator of the Center of Institutional Studies, and the professors of the Center of Institutional Studies.

Article I: Prior Provincial

47. The Prior Provincial is the principal promoter of studies in the Province. His main duties are enumerated in LCO 87, 89, 90 and 231; RSG 63-65 (cf. ACG 2010 Rome 86-87). The Prior Provincial:

- Gives adequate attention to the needs of the intellectual life and the doctrinal apostolate of the brethren;
- Actively encourages study and ensure that all the brothers have the means and opportunity for study (LCO 87);
- Ensures during his canonical visitation that what is prescribed regarding study is properly observed;
- Promotes collaboration on the matter with other provinces, particularly the neighboring ones and explores the possibility of interprovincial centers of institutional studies (LCO, 234);
- Determines annually with his council the amount of the money needed for the promotion of studies;
- Prepares suitable professors for the intellectual formation of the brothers;
• Appoints brothers to teach in the Province’s center of studies according to the statutes of these centers;
• Submits the *Ratio Studiorum Particularis* to the Master of the Order for his approval.
• Collaborates with the Regent of Studies concerning study matters (ACG 2007 Bogotá, 128).

**Article II: Commission for the Intellectual Life**

48. Concerning studies, the Prior Provincial is assisted by the Commission for the Intellectual Life, whose members are: the Regent of Studies (its president), the promoter of continuing formation, the moderator of the Center of Institutional Studies, and four experts on religious, pastoral and educational matters. These four experts shall be appointed by the Prior Provincial in consultation with his council (LCO 89 § II; RSG 65; ACP 2009 Hong Kong 16-18). Similarly, and *servatis servandis*, the commission for the intellectual life of the Vicariates (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 19). The duties of this Commission are the following

- Advises the Prior Provincial on important matters related to studies;
- Proposes, applies and revises the *Ratio Studiorum Particularis* of the Province;
- Coordinates the activities of the Center of Institutional Studies of the Province and its relations with the School of Christian Studies in Macau, other centers of studies and of the corresponding commissions of the Vicariates of the Province;
- Promotes research and publications in the Province;
- Through its president, the Regent of Studies, reports to the Prior Provincial and his Council on the intellectual life of the Province and the work of the Commission;
- Gives its opinion on relevant questions regarding studies today (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 18);
- Presents to Provincial Chapter candidates for the conferment of the title Master in Sacred Theology (LCO 97, 3; ACP 2009 Hong Kong 15).

**Article III: Regent of Studies**

49. Under the authority of the Prior Provincial with whom he collaborates and communicates openly (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 173; ACG 2007 Bogotá 128) and with the advice of the commission for the intellectual life of the Province, the Regent of Studies (LCO 93 § I; RSG 67 § I; cf. ACG 2004 Krakow 144-160):

- Promotes and coordinates the entire intellectual life of the Province;
- Takes care especially of the Province’s Center of Institutional studies, and sees to it that the *Ratio Studiorum Particularis* and other pertinent legislation of the Order are properly observed;
- Collaborates in implementing the program for continuing formation drawn up by the Province’s Commission for the Intellectual Life (cf. RSG 33);
- Collaborates with the conventual lectors in the promotion of study in the convents and with the superiors in the houses of the Province;
- Fosters collaboration among the centers of studies of the Province with the Center of Institutional Studies;
- Promotes research and encourages the brothers to publish their works;
- Oversees the planning of the Province’s intellectual life and the preparation of specialists required by the Province and the Order’s centers of study (ACG 2010 Rome 159);
• Presents an annual report to the Master of the Order and the Assistant to the Master of the Order for the Intellectual Life, the Prior Provincial and the other members of the Commission for the Intellectual Life;
• Is represented in the Board of Regents and Moderators of the JIP (Junta Ibérica de Provinciales) by the moderator of the Province’s Center of studies at San Pedro Martir, Madrid (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 174);
• Directs the formation of student brothers enrolled at other centers of studies within and without the Order (LCO 233, V; RSG 77-78);
• Prepares a tentative budget and, once approved by the Council of the Province, manages the sum of money earmarked in the annual budget of the Province for the work of the Regent of Studies (RSG 67, III, 3);
• Collaborates with the other Regents of the Asia Pacific Region in developing strategies for interregional cooperation (ACG 2010 Rome 89-92, 141).
(Regarding the qualifications, appointment and identity of a Regent cf. LCO 93, § II and III; RSG 67, II and III).

**Article IV: Moderator of Institutional Studies**

50. The Moderator of each center of studies is in charge of the respective center (LCO 92-bis). The office of the Moderator of the Center of Institutional Studies should be, if possible, distinct from the office of the Regent of Studies (RSG 69). He is assisted in his task by the Secretary of the Center who is directly responsible for the administration of the Center. The Moderator is appointed by the Prior Provincial in consultation with his Provincial Council and the Regent of Studies. The duties of the Moderator of the Center of Institutional Studies are:

• Convokes and presides the Council of Professors of the Center (cf. RSG 70, § I);
• Applies the approved curriculum of studies;
• Monitors and evaluates the academic progress of students;
• Prepares with the Council of Professors the academic program to be followed every semester or school year;
• Acts as liaison between the Center of Institutional Studies and the School of Christian Studies of the University of Saint Joseph, Macau;
• Arranges with the Regent of Studies supplementary and summer courses for the students, in particular on the history and spirituality of the Order and the Province, theology of preaching, readings on St. Thomas Aquinas (RSG 16, III), modern means of communication, basic finances and budget making, etc.
• Prepares academic report of student candidates for solemn profession and sends it to Prior Provincial (LCO 209);
• Prepares annual report of the Center and sends to Prior Provincial and Regent of Studies;
• Works in close collaboration with the Regent of Studies.

**Article V: Council of Professors**

51. The Center of institutional Studies is a community of professors and students. Under the authority of the Moderator, professors and students collaborate willingly in the promotion of study (LCO 237; RSG 70. § III). The Council of Professors (presided by the Moderator of Studies) is the collegial body of the Center. It takes care of the teaching, research and disciplinary regime of the Center of institutional Studies. Professors of the Center may be ordinary or full-time
professors, and visiting or part-time professors. When the professors are numerous, the members of the Council of Professors are the Regent of Studies, the Moderator of Studies, the Secretary of the Center, the librarian, the Master of Students, a professor appointed by the Prior Provincial, two professors elected by all professors of the Center, and a student representative. The Council of Professors is subject to the Prior Provincial in relation to its responsibilities regarding study in the Center, and to the Prior of the corresponding convent regarding the religious life and governance of the community (RSG 70. § II). Among the duties of this Council are the following (RSG 71 and 72):

- Examines and votes the proposed RSP of the Province as prepared by the Commission for the Intellectual Life of the Province, and votes on it before it is sent by Prior Provincial to the Master of the Order for approval;
- Promotes study in the Center as essential part of integral formation of the brothers;
- Organizes the cycle of institutional studies and approves the program for each year and the timetable for classes and exams;
- Decides with Conventual Prior and Council of the Convent, and with Master of Students on the students’ admission to examinations;
- While respecting the authority of the Regent of Studies, the Council recommends to the Prior Provincial possible specialization and future ministry of students.
- Suggests to proper authorities the student representative in the Council of Professors.

**Article VI: Professors**

52. To be appointed as professors of the Center of Institutional Studies, the normative of the Order (LCO 238; RSG 70-75, 79-86) states:

- Teachers of philosophical and theological subjects have completed their own complementary studies and hold a licentiate degree on these subjects, or an equivalent degree in special disciplines, such as psychology, sociology, liturgy, ecumenism, etc.;
- A recognized knowledge of the subject is required for teaching auxiliary disciplines, such as biblical and other languages, methodology, etc.,
- A licentiate in Sacred Scriptures is required for teaching Sacred Scriptures;
- As much as possible, the majority of teachers at the Center of Institutional Studies shall hold a doctorate degree (RSG 80);
- Ordinary professors are appointed by Prior Provincial (LCO 231,4), and given the mandate to teach (CIC can 812)
- As they start teaching, professors are reminded that to teach orally and by the written word sacred theology and other disciplines which serve to understand and spread the faith is an essential part of the Dominican vocation (LCO 102);
- Professors prepare and continually revise the content of their respective discipline;
- Professors are given the opportunity to take part in congresses, seminars outside the center, and, when feasible, appropriate sabbatical leaves (RSG 84, 86);
- Professors are encouraged and helping by authorities to engage in specialized research and publish their textbooks, articles and books on the matter of their specialization;
- Although professors are mainly concerned with the intellectual formation of the brothers, they are also responsible, as true educators, for their integral formation (RSG 83);
- Professors collaborate in the presentation and execution of the summer courses of the Center.
Article VII: Students

53. Students are constitutive subjects of the Center of Institutional Studies. With the professors, they form a true community of study, where teaching and learning are correlative (LCO 240, I; RSG 11, I). Students must be aware of the essential importance of study in Dominican life and apostolate. The directives of the Order underline the following (RSG 87-92):

- Only those brothers capable of pursuing our institutional studies are to be admitted to them (LCO 226-227);
- Realizing the essential importance of study in the Order, Students are primarily responsible for their own formation (LCO 76-83 and 156; RFG 71);
- Students are bound to attend courses, carry out the pertinent tasks required by professors, participate actively in classrooms and conferences, and be subject to supervision and tutoring (cf. RSG 66);
- Students shall collaborate effectively and assume their responsibility on the life of the Center (LCO 237, III; RSG 72, 89);
- Students express respectfully and responsibly their opinions and suggestions regarding teaching, facilities and programs of the Center;
- When accused, students have the right to be heard and explain their side;
- When convenient, the students are represented by the Student Council, which is composed by the dean of students, the student chief librarian, the student director of pastoral program, the student director of the website, the student liturgist, and one student elected by all students;
- Students recommend to Moderator of Studies their representative to the Council of Professors;
- Students are consulted by Prior Provincial on the appointment of a Moderator of Studies;
- Students are to be consulted concerning their future complementary studies and ministry.

Article VIII: Study of Cooperator-Brothers

54. The Regent of Studies or another suitable brother appointed by the Prior Provincial with his council shall be responsible for the intellectual and professional formation of the cooperator-brothers. This intellectual and professional formation (LCO 217-220; ACG 2004 Krakow 248-254; ACG 2010 Rome 198, 218; RFG 86-98; RFP 47-56) includes the following:

- A solid knowledge of Christian faith, especially as enriched by Sacred Scriptures and the liturgy, which are helpful instruments to shape and fulfill their lives;
- Practical and technical training suited to the needs of the life and ministry of the Province, and, if possible, professionally accredited with a diploma or certificate.

Article IX: The Promoter of Continuing Formation

55. Taking into consideration the multicultural reality of our Province, the Promoter for Continuing Formation, under the authority of the Prior Provincial directs this formation (LCO 89, III and 251-ter; RSG 33; ACP 2009 Hong Kong 170). He shall be a member of the Commission of Intellectual Life of the Province. The RSG affirms that the RSP shall establish the general framework of continuing formation in the Province (RSG 34-35; cf. LCO 251-bis and 251-ter; ACG 2010 Rome 199-200). The Promoter:

- Plans and animates ongoing formation programs;
• Coordinates formation programs in the Province with the Promoters of the Vicariates, Priors and Superiors and urges them to always place formation in the agenda of annual assemblies;

• Encourages all the brothers to become the principal promoters of their continuing formation by attending seminars and conferences, by participating in renewal courses, and taking well-planned sabbatical leaves after a number of years of work and service (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 167; ACP 2005 Avila 190);

• Collaborates with Regent of Studies, conventual lector and house superiors;

• Prepares and sends annually a report of his work to respective authorities, to Prior Provincial and Regional Superior respectively, and to the Regent of Studies;

• Plans with respective authorities a pertinent pastoral program of continuing formation for newly ordained priest (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 169; cf. ACG 2010 Rome 68), and other age groups;

• Informs on concrete courses offered in a given region on intercultural community life, interreligious dialogue, aging, and other relevant topics (ACP 2009 Hong Kong 170-171);

• An adequate sum of money shall be earmarked in the annual budget of the Province for the work of the Promoter for Continuing Formation (LCO 251-ter, § II, 3).

Article X: Conventual Lector

56. In convents there must be a conventual lector (in the houses the superior himself takes this job) to assist the prior in fostering the intellectual life of the community (LCO, 88, § II0. The conventual lector (LCO 326-bis, § II; RSG 32, III):

• Encourages the study of questions connected with the program of academic and apostolic work of the convent (cf. LCO 307);

• Ensures that in his convent the decisions made by the Commission for the Intellectual Life of the Province and confirmed by the Prior Provincial are properly carried out;

• Draws up with the community a program for the continuing formation of the brothers;

• Convokes a meeting from time to time to present and discuss a topic relevant to the mission and work of the community;

• Encourages the brothers to attend and participate in seminars, conferences for theological and pastoral updating;

• Sends an annual report of his work to the Regent of Studies.

CHAPTER III: LIBRARY, EXAMINATIONS

Article I: Library

57. The library is an absolute necessity for students’ progress and theological research. Besides the library of our Studentate in Macau, our students may also use the library of the Catholic University of Saint Joseph. Regarding the library, the following norms (RSG 54-58) are to be implemented:

• The library is to be located in an appropriate room large enough to allow for its continual enrichment with new books, particularly basic books on Sacred Scriptures, philosophy, theology and Dominican life and history; it should also be equipped with other modern educational tools, such as computers, duplicating equipment, and a reading room (RSG 13);

• The library shall be headed by a librarian able to classify the books according to professional standards;
• The librarian of the Institutional Center of Studies shall be appointed by the Prior Provincial after consultation with the Council of Professors;
• The Librarian is to be assisted by a committee of brothers that includes the following: three professors of the Studentate and the assistant student librarian. As head of the committee, the Librarian shall recommend to the Moderator the members of this committee that the Moderator will present to the Council of Professors for its approval. (RSG 56, II);
• The Prior Provincial with his council determines annually the amount of money needed to ensure the continuing improvement of the library of the Center (LCO 89, 6; cf. 88, 2).

Article II: Examinations

A. Examinations Through Institutional Studies

58. The Center of Institutional Studies collaborates with the School of Christian Studies in pursuing the philosophical-theological formation of our students that ends with a bachelor’s degree in theology (in Portuguese terms, a licentiate). The program is comprehensive and includes Biblical Languages, Philosophy, Biblical Studies, Theology and Church History, and is supported by regular English language laboratories in small-group settings. The usual method of teaching is modular and thus affords the possibility of inviting expert professors in the different subjects from here and abroad. The forms of exams are diverse: oral and written; frequent quizzes and recitations; summaries and reports; pertinent book reviews by students; individual and group reporting; initial, mediate and final and supplementary exams, etc. The teachers are free to choose the means of evaluation they see more fit to their particular course. Likewise, the method of teaching. The Center takes into account the pertinent directives of the Order on examinations, including the following (RSG 93; cf. 9):
• The importance of frequent checks by means of oral and written examinations, interviews, the reading of books and critical evaluation;
• The need for the students to have a view of the subject as a coherent whole, an understanding of principles and a critical knowledge of the sources;
• The appropriate method of each discipline (cf. RSG, 11-12);
• The customs of the universities in Asia;
• The directives of the local Churches, particularly of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences (FABC).

B. Examination for the Lectorate

59. In accordance with LCO 94 and RSG 95-96, brothers to be admitted to the Lectorate are required,
• The completion of the entire cycle of institutional formation;
• The authorization of the Provincial, who will grant it only after consulting the Council of Professors;
• The presentation of a written work done according to a scientific method.

As far as the examination itself is concerned, it is required that:
• It takes place in the presence of at least three professors of the Center for Institutional Formation, under
• The presidency of the Moderator of the Center or of an official designated by him.
• The subject matter of the examination be a set of chosen themes in philosophy or theology on which the candidate will be examined for at least two hour.
C. Examination for Holy Orders

60. Brothers to be promoted to holy orders (cf. LCO 247-251):

- Must have the required qualities; are presented by their own major superior; are approved by the conventual council responsible for them; have made the solemn profession (LCO 246), and were previously approved de moribus (LCO 251, § III):
- The solemnly professed brothers must take and pass an examination on the order they are going to receive in the presence of the panel of examiners named by the provincial chapter (LCO 248, § II);
- The Regent of Studies shall organize the content of the subjects and topics required for the proper preparation of the corresponding examination.
- In case the presence of an examiner or of examiners is not possible, the Prior Provincial or respective major superior will name those brothers that will form the panel of examiners.
- Right after the examination, the members of the panel shall deliberate and vote in secret, and sign the document with the results of the respective examination to be sent to the Prior Provincial.

D. Examination for Hearing Confessions

61. According to LCO 251, § II, brothers must take this examination within six months of completing their basic theological studies, or within six months of ordination to the priesthood if this is postponed for any reason. Moreover, before this examination, a vote shall be taken on the moral behavior of the candidate as mentioned in LCO 318, 4; this condition is required for validity (LCO 251, § III). Basic points on this examination (RSG 97-99):

- It shall take place in the presence of three examiners and on the fundamental themes of moral and pastoral theology, including the following: Christ’s teachings on the matter, principles of moral theology and their application to concrete cases in confession, the corresponding documents of Vatican II, the Church’s Magisterium on the Sacrament of Penance as found particularly in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the pertinent provisions of Canon Law;
- As a general rule, the examination will last for one and a half hour per candidate;
- In the Center of Institutional Studies, the examiners shall be the Regent (or the Moderator of Studies. or a representative) – presiding - and two other professors designated by Regent;
- In places of the Province that are distant from the Center of Institutional Studies, the panel of examiners shall be appointed by the Prior Provincial;
- Approval for exam shall be given by secret ballot with an absolute majority; but if votes are equal in number then the President’s vote decides;
- Successful candidates will receive the Letter of Approval signed by all the examiners and sent to Prior Provincial. Thereafter, they enjoy the faculties accorded in LCO 138.

CHAPTER IV: REVISION OF THE RATIO STUDIOURUM PARTICULARIS

62. Regarding the revision of the RSP, the following are to be taken into consideration (cf. RSG, Appendices, I):

- The Commission for the Intellectual Life of the Province shall periodically review, revise and recommend timely revisions;
• The Council of Professors of the Center for Institutional Studies will go over the revisions suggested by the Commission for the Intellectual Life;
• The Prior Provincial with his Council shall endorse the revisions and submit them for approval to the Master of the Order;
• Upon approval, the Commission for the Intellectual Life through its President shall disseminate the revised edition of the RSP to the brothers, in particular to those involved with the intellectual formation of the brothers – administrators, professors and students.
APPENDICES

APPENDIX I:
CURRICULUM, SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES (FACULTY OF
THEOLOGY, LISBON), CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH, MACAU

(Curriculum *First Cycle* leading to Bachelor’s Degree in Sacred Theology - In Portuguese Nomenclature, Licentiate. Number in center of the page refers to the number of *units* or *credits*)

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APPENDIX II:
COMPLEMENTARY COURSES OFFERD BY THE CENTER

(Additional Courses – supplementary studies - are offered to our student theologians by the Center at St. Dominic’s Priory in Macau. These courses include the following (cf. ACG 2010 Rome, nos. 129, 157-162):

- Readings from Aristotle
- Logic
- Psychology
- St. Thomas and his *Summa Theologiae*
- Theology of Communication
- Theology of Virtues
- Bioethics
- Stewardship of Creation
- Dominican Preaching
- Province of Our Lady of the Rosary: Its Mission and Missions
- Business Administration
- Basic Financial Concepts and Management
- Advanced English
- Basic Spanish
- Etc.