

# **Frédéric's E-Gazette**

## **Q&A 1/22/2015**

**Q: I would like to know if your office or any other SVDP department has written procedures as to how SVDP Conferences should handle this problem of people who want to give SVDP a donation and specifically designate an individual to be paid directly or indirectly by those funds donated or gifted.**

**A:** This is not uncommon. The situation has come up many times. It is NOT proper for SVdP to be involved in this. This is effectively a gift from an individual to another person and should not go through SVdP. The only case when it would be permissible is if SVdP originally decided they wanted to help this individual or family and then sought financial support to do so. We do not have a formal written policy related to this.

**Q: Is it permissible for non-Catholic associate members to be members of our board of directors?**

**A:** From a general standpoint, non-Catholics may not be officers. That is confirmed in the Rule. It is not uncommon within the Society to have members of the community (non-Vincentians) as board members. Those members of the community may or may not be Catholic. Keep in mind that the majority of board members must be active members of the Society. This should be defined in your bylaws.

**Q: Someone asked me about the requirement that active members be practicing Catholics and what “practicing” Catholic would mean. Officers, of course, are one thing, but as I recall The Rule is not definitive about this. I recall, however, that when Bishop Conway was national episcopal advisor he was very firm that if we wanted the support of the bishops we needed to require active members to be practicing Catholic and in Communion with us. I am interest in your take on this.**

**A:** There is nothing in The Rule or bylaws that requires an active member to be a “practicing” Catholic. The interpretation of this is too subjective. I have not seen anything to show what that really means. We don’t take roll call or do sign in at Mass so we don’t know how often an individual attends Mass or goes to Communion or confession. For those registered in a parish, we have some sacramental information. We don’t go by “practicing” Catholic because it is too hard to determine or track.