Sonshine North Via de Cristo

Code of Ethics

January 2024

The following Code of Ethics is a guide and a standard for members of our Sonshine North Via de Cristo Community, especially when serving as team members. It outlines the personal and interpersonal qualities that characterize the quality of leadership that Sonshine North Via de Cristo deems effective for Christian ministry.

These ethical standards flow out of the two greatest commandments in Scripture: to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:26-40). They are an ***aid*** to make the commandment more concrete.

Christian leaders are to…

1. Attend first and foremost to your own relationship with God, through regular habits of prayer, Scripture reading or study, worship, and communal life in the Body of Christ.

2. Remember, you are a limited creature and not yourself God. You must be aware of and responsive to your own physical, relational, spiritual, and emotional needs. How you model self-care sets an example for others.

3. Seek to follow the Lord's leading for He is the Good Shepherd. When a need or question exceeds your capacity as a leader or team member, seek guidance from a spiritual director, team leadership, or secretariat member.

4. Respect the members of our community as made in God's image and treat each person with appropriate dignity and care. Pray for community members, your team, and pilgrims.

5. Honor the experience of your team by preparing mindfully, setting a loving atmosphere, promoting consideration, serving with care, and maintaining boundaries within your team roll.

6. Maintain an ethical code of conduct by not using alcohol, or at the very least, using it in sincere moderation, only after each day closes, never around pilgrims, and only in designated room spaces.

7. Maintain an ethical code of conduct by not using any illicit drugs at any SNVDC event. Smoking should be limited to areas and times designated for such.

8. Uphold confidentiality, being faithful to the trust your people have placed in you. Only share specifics about others for the purpose of consultation with spiritual directors. In the

case of harm to self or harm to others, including domestic or child abuse, immediately seek the guidance of a spiritual director regarding reporting requirements.

9. Keep appropriate physical boundaries with each person and do not engage in any sexualizing, abusive, manipulative, or coercive behavior, explicit or implied, in your language, jokes or actions. Refrain from using profane or explosive language.

10. Maintain charitable relationships with all people in your church and Via de Cristo community by refraining from disparaging other persons or congregations.

11. Dignify all persons in society regardless of age, race, ethnicity, color, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, marital status, political belief, or any personal characteristic, attribute, condition, or status.