

APPENDIX II

SELECTIONS FROM JURIDIC ELEMENTS

GUIDELINES FOR ABBATIAL ELECTIONS IN THE AMERICAN CASSINESE FEDERATION

1979

162 The 1980 Edition of the Federation's **Juridic Elements** contains a section entitled: **The Abbot**, and includes material extending from #30 to #47. All of that material is reprinted here for the convenience of the reader.

30. In the election of an abbot all finally professed members of the monastery have the right to vote.

31. To be eligible for the office of abbot, a monk must be:

- a) thirty years of age
- b) ten years professed from his first profession
- c) solemnly professed
- d) an ordained priest
- e) a member of our Federation

32. The tenure of the abbot is not limited to a particular number of years. However, at the completion of his sixty-fifth year of age, an abbot must submit his resignation to the president of the Federation. He may then be re-elected in the usual way for a term of five years; thereafter he would be ineligible but might be postulated for a final five-year term.

When an abbot is elected at the age of 62 or more years, he continues in office until the age of 70 years or until he has served five years, whichever occurs later, at which time he submits his resignation to the president of the Federation. He may then be postulated for a final five-year term.

33. Upon the death or resignation of an abbot, an election is to be held within three months. Meanwhile, ordinary jurisdiction passes to the prior (or, if he is impeded, to the subprior) until the new abbot enters upon his office. All of the electors are to be notified of the time of the election (set by the president in consultation with the prior) in good time and are to signify that they have been informed.

34. In the **Guidelines for Abbatial Elections in the American Cassinese Federation**, those elements which are determined by the **Code of Canon Law** or the **Juridic Elements** of the Federation are to be observed as matters of universal or particular law; all other directives are given to guide and help the monasteries of the Federation in achieving the purposes of the preparatory and electoral process. The **Guidelines** are