



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF THE BEATITUDES  
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Press Release  
(5/25/2012)

Our Community was founded in 1973. First, under the authority of the Archbishop of Albi, France (now Toulouse), then recognized by the Holy See as an "Association of the Faithful," it is now becoming an "Ecclesial family of Consecrated life" under the authority of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (Rome, Vatican). It comprises 190 brothers (among whom 110 are priests), 310 consecrated sisters, and 350 Lay members, serving in 50 houses, in 30 countries, and on 6 continents, always at the request of the local bishops.

In 2008, one of our former French brothers confessed (in France) to the sexual abuse of many children of Lay members of our Community. These abuses took place in the 80's and the early 90's. This case was judged and sentenced according to French Civil law.

Our founder, deacon Gérard (*Ephraim*) Croissant, has committed (again, during the 80's and 90's) "crimes against the moral law of the church" and has acknowledged "serious failures" in sexual matters, particularly in regard to some sisters in the community. Even though "no charges have ever been pressed against him," Fr. Henry Donneaud (our Pontifical Commissary) adds in his 2011 Press Release that "the Community of the Beatitudes is deeply ashamed of the failures of Ephraim, and expresses compassion and sorrow to the victims of the abuses. The new information about the gravely culpable acts committed by several of its members, in particular its founder, has led the community to move further ahead in the process of repentance and purification of its memory."

Gerard Croissant has taken no part in the government or life of our Community since the year 2000.

These scandals are not the reason for the changes in our Statutes. These changes follow as a normal process of growth of our Community over the years and the need for Rome (more specifically the CICLSAL) to find a Canonical Form which fits the necessary autonomy in governing the three different branches (Brothers, Sisters, Lay Members) of our Ecclesial Family.

Father Nathanael Pujos +  
*Superior of the House of Denver.*  
*with the Nihil Obstat of Father Henry Donneaud, o.p.*  
Pontifical Commissary