



An International  
Catholic Organization  
Serving In Collaboration  
With The Pontifical Council  
*Cor Unum*

## Cross Catholic Outreach Receives Pontifical Approval

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On September 18, 2015 in a ceremony at the Vatican, Pontifical canonical status was conferred on Cross Catholic Outreach by Pontifical Council *Cor Unum*. This means that CCO has received Pontifical approval from *Cor Unum* acting on behalf of the Holy Father, Pope Francis. In other words, the Holy Father, through *Cor Unum*, has granted CCO approval as an official Catholic charity.

In November 2012 Pope Benedict issued an amendment to Canon Law that required Catholic charities to meet certain requirements and to be officially approved by the appropriate Church authority such as the local bishop. *Cor Unum* was given authority to give official approval to international charities meeting the standards for an authentic Catholic charity. Cross Catholic Outreach was the first international charity granted this formal approval and recognition by *Cor Unum*.

### Motu Proprio

The amendment to Canon Law issued by Pope Benedict was the *Motu Proprio Intima Ecclesiae Natura*. It sets out certain requirements for charities that wish to be considered Catholic. Among these are requirements that they hire staff who truly support Catholic teaching and who “give an example of Christian life, and witness to a formation of heart which testifies to a faith working through charity.” They should carry out their charitable work in a way that is consistent with Church teaching. They should also inform the bishops of Dioceses where they operate and coordinate with *Cor Unum*.

Cross Catholic Outreach has had a close collaboration with *Cor Unum* since 2003 and has always put a strong emphasis on carrying out the Church’s vision of integral development addressing the spiritual needs of the poor along with their material needs. From its beginning in 2001 it has provided an hour each day for staff prayer and spiritual formation.

### Canonical Status

In more technical terms the action of *Cor Unum* was to officially approve the Ecclesiastical Statutes of CCO and to issue a decree conferring “private canonical juridical personality” on CCO as an international Catholic charitable organization.