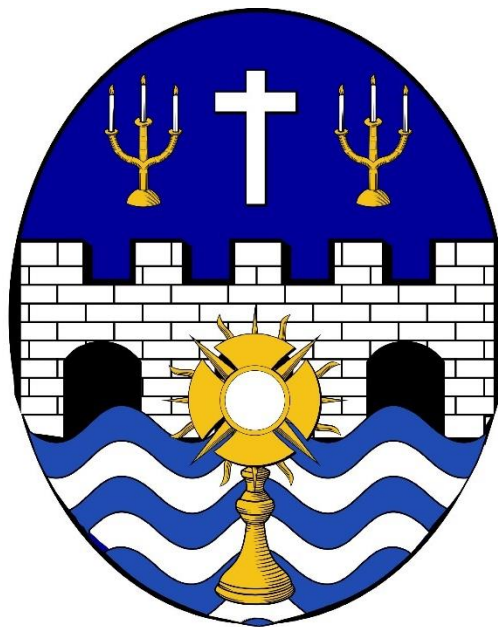


**The Guild of the Most Blessed Sacrament
A Public Association of the Christian Faithful**

Statutes



The Guild of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Statutes

Article I: Name

The public association of the Christian faithful described herein is known as the ***Guild of the Most Blessed Sacrament***.

Article II: Spiritual Mission

The Guild of the Most Blessed Sacrament exists to deepen the personal holiness of each member by fostering a Eucharistic spirituality. The Guild of the Most Blessed Sacrament has the following spiritual objectives:

- a. To deepen reverence for the Most Blessed Sacrament through prayer and adoration.
- b. To foster ongoing spiritual renewal and fraternal bonds among its members
- c. To deepen spiritual communion among priests, among deacons and their spouses, and among the lay faithful within the Diocese of Bridgeport.
- d. To solicit from its members works of charity and specific acts of reparation for the sins – past and present – committed against the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- e. To bring life, knowledge, love, and reverence of the Most Blessed Sacrament to the secular world, especially to those Catholics who struggle with belief in the Real Presence.

Article III: Membership

1. There will be four distinct sections of members within the Guild:
 - a. Priests
 - b. Deacons and their spouses (where applicable)
 - c. Religious Brothers and Sisters
 - d. The Laity
2. The spiritual requirements for each Guild member are:
 - a. To pray the Guild prayer each day.
 - b. To attend the annual Guild Mass/retreat during which the Guild members will have the opportunity to receive theological and pastoral formation and engage in

- mutual dialogue. Aspirants who choose to enter the Guild will be formally inducted, and those who wish to continue to be a member of the Guild will have the opportunity to renew their commitment for another year.
- c. To volunteer to cover open hours of adoration at local adoration chapels, monthly devotional days, and retreats with perpetual adoration seeking help with prayer and adoration coverage.
 - d. Attend periodic social gatherings for prayer and reflection.
3. The additional spiritual requirements for individual sections of the Guild:
 - a. Priests
 - i. One (1) Holy Hour each day, public or personal. The hour can be broken up into half or quarter hours if necessary, depending on the daily ministerial schedule.
 - b. Deacons & Spouses
 - i. One (1) Holy Hour each week. The Holy Hour can be broken up into half and quarter hours if necessary.
 - c. Religious Brothers & Sisters
 - i. One (1) Holy Hour each week. The Holy Hour can be broken up into half and quarter hours if necessary.
 - d. The Laity
 - i. One (1) Holy Hour each month.
 4. Membership in the Guild of the Most Blessed Sacrament is spiritual in nature and open to all faithful Catholics who desire to deepen their personal holiness and reverence for the Real Presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
 5. Membership is granted by applying to become a Guild member and being installed at the Annual Guild Mass after mutual discernment with the Guild Director or an instituted member of the Guild and going through initial formation.
 6. Membership is voluntary and members' names are kept on file at the Catholic Center.
 7. Membership in the Guild of the Most Blessed Sacrament is yearly in nature and must be renewed on an annual basis at the Annual Guild Mass.

ARTICLE IV: COMMITMENTS

To achieve its spiritual mission, the Guild of the Most Blessed Sacrament encourages members to grow in personal, radical holiness through the following means:

- a. Daily personal prayer, especially offering the Guild prayer each day (cf. Appendix A),
- b. Fostering a personal love for God the Father, for Jesus Christ and commitment to Him as Lord, and a personal openness to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and openness to all His gifts,
- c. Frequently participate in the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, especially attendance at Sunday Mass, and Eucharistic adoration,
- d. To live a deep love for and loyalty to the Catholic Church and her teachings, as expressed through the Church's Magisterium authority, which includes the Pope and the bishops in communion with him, and serve as guides in matters of faith and morals,
- e. To foster a personal love for and devotion to Mary as mother and model of all Christians, and the new Ark of the Covenant,
- f. Whenever possible, to volunteer to cover open hours of adoration at local adoration chapels, monthly devotional days, and retreats with perpetual adoration seek help with adoration coverage,
- g. And whenever possible, to attend periodic social gatherings sponsored by the Guild, that will foster community among its members and provide opportunities for ongoing spiritual formation.

Article V: Guild Chapters

When sufficient participation allows, local or regional Guild Chapters can be created by the Council of Advisors.

Guild Chapter Structure: each Chapter will have a coordinator to plan and administer periodic meetings as needed for spiritual accompaniment, prayer, and fellowship.

Article VI – Governance

A. Moderator

- 1.) The Guild will have a Moderator who will help oversee the direction and governance of the Guild.
- 2.) The Moderator will be appointed by the diocesan Bishop. The Moderator can also be the diocesan Bishop.
- 3.) The Moderator cannot serve as both Moderator and Chaplain.

4.) The Moderator must be a cleric.

B. Council of Advisors

1. The Guild of the Most Blessed Sacrament is governed by the Director of Diocesan Guilds and the Council of Advisors, composed of twelve members who are appointed by the diocesan Bishop for a term of three years. The twelve members will be composed of three (3) priests, four (4) deacons or religious, and five (5) members of the laity.
 - a. There are no consecutive term limits for the members who serve on the Council. The diocesan bishop will decide who will be reappointed when a term ends.
 - b. The bishop reserves the right to remove members from the Council without cause.
2. The Council of Advisors is responsible for
 - a. Overseeing the spiritual mission and life of the Guild and providing an annual report to the bishop,
 - b. Recruiting new members and hosting periodic events for the larger community,
 - c. Helping to organize the Annual Mass and Retreat and recruiting a speaker,
 - d. Collaborating with the bishop on the progress of the Guild,
 - e. Meet on a quarterly basis to review the needs of its members, plan events and discuss ideas to grow the objectives and benefits of the Guild.

C. Guild Chaplains

- 1.) The diocesan Bishop can serve as and/or will appoint the chaplain for the Guild.
- 2.) The chaplain responsibilities include:
 - a. Work with the Diocesan Guild Director and the Council of Advisors to ensure the spiritual mission of the Guild is maintained,
 - b. Attend the Annual Guild Mass and Retreat Gathering
 - c. Be available to spiritually assist individual Guild members, and Guild prayer/reflection events whenever possible.

Article VII: Promulgation of Statutes

These Statutes will be promulgated by a canonical decree to be signed by the Bishop (cf. Appendix B). They remain in effect, once promulgated, unless revoked or amended by the Bishop.

Appendix A

Guild of the Most Blessed Sacrament Prayer

Lord Jesus, Bread of Life,
present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar,
we offer our deepest gratitude for this gift of the Eucharist.
With our whole heart, we dedicate ourselves to
living a life centered on the Eucharist.
Help us to be in communion with you always
and see your presence in this Sacrament of love
as well as in our brothers and sisters we encounter in the world.
Through our prayer and works of charity
may this holy mystery, which we celebrate and contemplate,
transform us into faithful disciples.
We ask this in your holy name.
Amen.