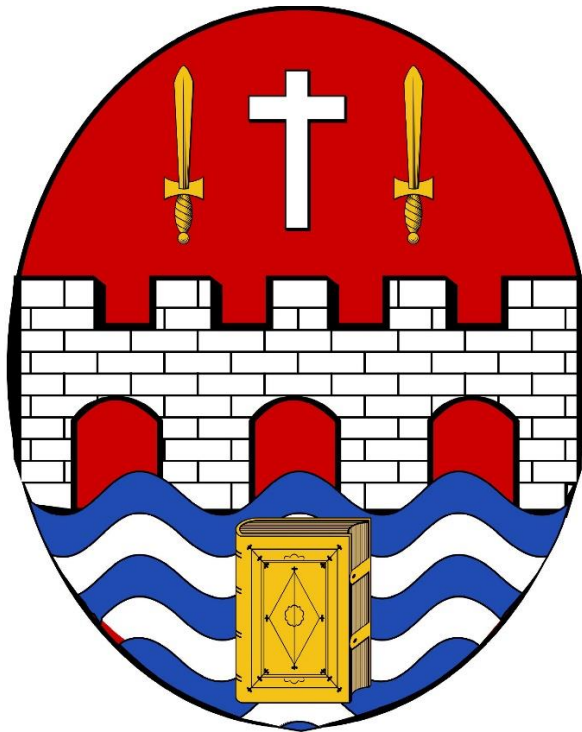


The Saint Paul Guild
A Public Association of the Christian Faithful

Statutes



The Saint Paul Guild
Statutes

Article I: Name

The public association of the Christian faithful described herein is known as **the *Saint Paul Guild***.

Article II: Spiritual Mission

1. The Saint Paul Guild has a twofold mission:
 - a. The Guild primarily exists to encourage, form and assist its initiated members, who have chosen to exercise the ministry of evangelical outreach on a diocesan-wide basis, to grow in Christian discipleship through an on-going process of encounter with our Lord, Jesus Christ, and mutual accompaniment. Members of the Guild must be open to serve as “diocesan ambassadors”, that is, be open to serve in various ministries throughout the Diocese, after dialogue with the Director of Guilds and/or the Bishop.
 - b. The Guild will also train its members to assist others who are engaged in evangelical outreach in their parishes and schools and are not initiated members of the Guild, to foster their ministry in support of the spiritual renewal of our Diocese.
2. More specifically, the Saint Paul Guild helps its members to grow in Christian discipleship by adhering to the Guild’s spiritual disciplines and inviting them to be accompanied in faith through periodic gatherings of its members for prayer and formation.

Article III: Membership

1. The four spiritual requirements of 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 attend two annual evening gatherings dedicated to prayer, theological formation and faith sharing. These events will feature a speaker for the lunch/dinner that will offer a spiritual or theological presentation regarding an aspect of evangelization understood within the context of the Catholic faith and in particular of “The One.”
 - d. To commit to serve all those involved in local efforts of evangelical outreach by organizing and attending periodic spiritual, theological and social experiences.
- 2. Initiated membership in the Saint Paul Guild is spiritual in nature and open to all faithful Catholics who have completed the basic formation available for all aspirants, properly discerned entrance into the Guild, have received the approval of their respective pastor, and desire to participate in evangelical outreach on a diocesan-wide manner.
- 3. Membership is granted by submitting an application to become a Guild member to the Diocesan Director of Guilds, completing the required discernment process, submitting their pastor’s approval in writing and being installed at the Annual Guild Mass after mutual discernment with the Guild Director or an initiated member of the Guild and going through initial formation.
- 4. Inducted members will be called “diocesan ambassadors.”
- 5. Those who aspire to enter the Guild will be invited to attend those events sponsored for the benefit of Guild members, for a period not to exceed one year.
- 6. Membership in the Saint Paul Guild is yearly in nature, voluntary and must be renewed on an annual basis at the annual Guild Mass. The names and contact information for initiated members and aspirants are kept on file in the Office of the Director of Guilds.
- 7. Membership can be withdrawn in any of the following ways:
 - a. Guild member can send a letter or email stating their intention of withdrawing their membership from the Guild.
 - b. Guild member can choose not to renew their Guild commitment at the Annual Guild Mass.
- 8. The Bishop has the right to remove any persons from Guild membership with or without just cause.

Article IV: Commitments

To achieve its spiritual mission, the Saint Paul Guild 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,
- 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,
- f. Offer witness to and reverence for those at all marks on the journey of faith so as to accompany them to the next level of faith on their journey.

Article V: Guild Chapters

1. When sufficient participation allows, local or regional Guild Chapters can be created by the Council of Advisors.
2. 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

1. Council of Advisors
 - a. The Saint Paul Guild is assisted by the Director of Diocesan Guilds and a Council of Advisors, composed of eight to fifteen members who are appointed by the diocesan bishop for a term of three years.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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) Helping to organize the Annual Mass and Retreat and recruiting a speaker,
- c) Helping to organize the Annual Formational Gatherings and recruiting a speaker,
- d) Hosting spiritual and pastoral events that are in service to those who work as ambassadors in their local parishes and schools,”
- e) Collaborating with the bishop on the progress of the Guild,
- f) 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.

3. Guild Chaplain

- a. The diocesan Bishop can serve as and/or will appoint a priest or deacon to serve as the chaplain of the Guild. His responsibilities include:
 - i. Work with the Diocesan Guild Director and the Council of Advisors to ensure the spiritual mission of the Guild is maintained,
 - ii. Attend the Annual Mass and Retreat Gathering
 - iii. Attend the one-day spiritual retreats,
 - iv. 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

Saint Paul Guild Prayer (Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus)

Lord Jesus,

To Your Most Sacred heart I consecrate my entire life, actions, trials, joys and sufferings, only so that I may love, honor and glorify You in all I do.

Help me, O Heart of Jesus, to desire to belong entirely to You and to renounce whatever displeases You; help me to remember that You are full of goodness and mercy toward the repentant sinner; and help me to make You the sole object of my love, the protection of my life, the pledge of my salvation, the remedy of my weakness and the secure refuge at the hour of my death.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, who formed Your Most Sacred Heart in Her womb and to whose Immaculate Heart I turn, offer You this act of consecration. May Your Hearts always look favorably upon the Bishop, the priests and deacons, consecrated men and women, lay faithful and all men and women of good will in the Diocese of Bridgeport so that we may become more and more like You.

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, most perfect image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, make our hearts like unto His Heart.

V. O Sacred Heart of Jesus, burning with love for me.

R. In flame my heart with love of You.

Amen.