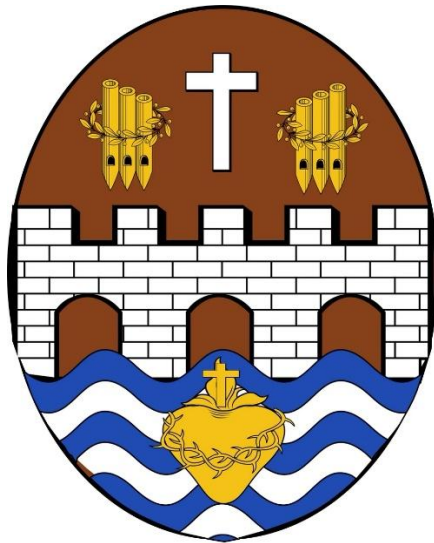


**GUILD  
OF THE  
MOST SACRED HEART  
OF  
JESUS**



**STATUTES**

## **Article I: Name**

The public association of the Christian faithful described herein is known as the Guild of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

## **Article II: Spiritual Mission**

1. The Guild of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus exists to promote and foster the expression of Beauty in public worship<sup>1</sup> and contemporary culture, enabling an encounter with the glory of the Lord Jesus<sup>2</sup>. Beauty facilitates an appreciation of the Divine Life and arouses the intuition of Faith on the part of the beholder. Therefore, its service is indispensable in the Church, which is the Body of Christ, making visible the invisible God<sup>3</sup>.
  
2. The Guild seeks to achieve this mission through the facilitation of programs centered around seven pillars, namely:
  - a. Sacred Music
  - b. Sacred Art
  - c. Sacred Architecture
  - d. Literature
  - e. Pilgrimage
  - f. Eucharistic Adoration
  - g. Retreats
  
3. The Sacred Liturgy holds a special place in the life of the Guild. Celebrations of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours are central to its charism, in addition to Eucharistic adoration, processions and other acts of piety.

## **Article III – Membership**

1. The spiritual requirements for each Guild member are:
  - a. To pray the Guild prayer every 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.

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<sup>1</sup> CIC c. 301 § 1

<sup>2</sup> Jn 1:14, 39

<sup>3</sup> Col. 1:15, Lumen gentium 7

- c. To attend two annual evenings of formation, dinner and fellowship.
  - d. To attend periodic social and formation gatherings of prayer and reflection that are open to public attendance as their schedule permits.
2. Membership in the Guild of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is spiritual in nature and open to all faithful Catholics who desire to encounter and foster encounters of the Divine through Beauty
3. Membership is granted by applying to become a Guild member and being inducted at the Annual Guild Mass after mutual discernment with the Guild Director or an instituted member of the Guild and going through initial formation known as “aspirancy.”
4. Membership is voluntary and members’ names are kept on file at the Catholic Center.
5. Membership in the Guild of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is yearly in nature and must be renewed on an annual basis at the Annual Guild Mass.
6. 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
7. 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 Guild of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus encourages its 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. Frequent participation 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, the pinnacle of beauty in God's creation, and the Ark of Beauty Himself,
  - f. Whenever possible, to attend period social gatherings sponsored by the Guild, that will foster community among its members and provide opportunities for ongoing spiritual formation.

#### **Article V: Guild Chapters**

1. When sufficient participation allows, local or regional Guild chapters can be created by the Council of Advisors. The Council may also create chapters based on specific talents or expertise in the world of sacred music, arts and literature.
2. Guild Chapter Structure:
  - a. Each chapter will have a coordinator to plan and administer periodic meetings as needed for spiritual accompaniment, prayer and fellowship.

#### **Article VI: Governance**

1. Moderator
  - a. The Guild will have a Moderator who will help oversee the direction and governance of the Guild.
  - b. The Moderator will be appointed by the diocesan Bishop. The Moderator can also be the diocesan Bishop or the Director of Guilds.
  - c. The Moderator can be a cleric or a lay person.
  - d. If a cleric, the Moderator cannot serve as both Moderator and Chaplain.
  - e. Patrimony and management of Guild funds will be the responsibility of the Moderator in collaboration with the Director of Guilds, if Moderator is not the Director of Guilds.
2. Council of Advisors
  - a. The Guild of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is governed by a Council of Advisors, composed of eight to fifteen members who are appointed, in consultation with the Director of Diocesan Guilds, 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.
3. 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 social and formative events,
  - c. Helping to organize the Annual Mass and Retreat and recruiting a speaker,
  - d. Helping to organize the Annual Formational Gatherings and recruiting a speaker,
  - 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.
4. Guild Chaplain
- a. The diocesan Bishop can serve as and/or appoint a priest to serve as the chaplain of the Guild.
  - b. His responsibilities include:
    - 1. Work with the Diocesan Director and the Council of Advisors to ensure the spiritual mission of the Guild is maintained,
    - 2. Attend the Annual Mass and Retreat Gathering
    - 3. Attend the annual formation gatherings
    - 4. Be available to spiritually assist individual Guild members, and Guild prayer/reflection events whenever possible.

#### **Article VIII: Promulgation of Statutes**

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