

The St Lazarus Guild for Cemeteries
A Public Association of the Christian Faithful
Statutes

September 15, 2026

The Lazarus Guild
Statutes

July 27, 2026

Article I: Name

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

Article II: Guild Home

The Lazarus Guild will reside at the chapter homes where they serve.

Article III: Spiritual Mission

The Lazarus Guild exists to:

1. Encourage faithful Catholics to pray for the souls of the deceased members of the Catholic faithful that reside within the confines of a particular Catholic cemetery of the Diocese of Bridgeport;
2. And for the ongoing spiritual and pastoral support of the family and friends of the said deceased members of the Catholic faithful residing in said particular Catholic cemeteries.

Article IV: Membership

1. The two spiritual requirements of each Guild member are:
 - a. To pray the Guild prayer each day for those deceased members of the Catholic faithful interred at their particular Catholic cemetery.
 - b. To attend the quarterly Mass for the deceased members of their particular cemetery
 - c. To attend the annual Guild Mass to be celebrated on July 29th – the Memorial of Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus.
2. Membership in the Lazarus Guild is spiritual in nature and open to all faithful Catholics who desire to pray for the repose of the soul of their loved ones as well as be a member of a community of accompaniment to help them in their loss.
3. Membership is granted by opting in to become a member of the Guild through an invitation from the parish responsible for their particular cemetery.
4. Member is voluntary and members' names are kept on file at the Catholic Center.

5. Membership in the Lazarus Guild is yearly in nature and must be renewed on an annual basis by replying to the annual request by the Office of the Guilds regarding your membership status.
6. There are two ways to withdraw from the Lazarus Guild:
 - a. Send a letter or email to the Director of Guilds declaring withdrawal from the Guild;
 - b. Choosing not to recommit to the Guild at the annual Guild Mass
7. The Bishop has the right to remove any persons from Guild membership with or without just cause.

Article V: Commitments

1. To achieve its spiritual mission, the Lazarus Guild encourages members to grow in personal, radical holiness through the following means:
 - b. Daily personal prayer, especially offering the Guild prayer each day (cf. Appendix A),
 - c. 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,
 - d. Frequently participate in the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, especially attendance at Sunday Mass,
 - e. 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,
 - f. To foster a personal love for and devotion to Mary as mother and model of all Christians,
 - g. Whenever possible, to attend periodic gatherings sponsored by the Guild, that will foster community among its members and provide opportunities for ongoing spiritual formation.

Article VI: Guild Chapters

1. Each Catholic cemetery in the Diocese of Bridgeport will have its own chapter with its own council of advisors.

Article VII – 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 Lazarus Guild is governed by the Director of Guilds and the Director of Cemeteries in collaboration with a Council of Advisors of each chapter, 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.

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. Helping to organize the quarterly Masses and the Annual Guild Mass which will take place on the Feast of Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus on July 29th,
- c. Collaborating with the bishop on the progress of the Guild,
- d. Meet on a quarterly basis to review the needs of its members 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 chapters.
- 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 Guild Mass and quarterly Masses,
 3. 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.

Appendix A

Lazarus Guild Prayer (Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great)

Eternal Father,
I offer You the most Precious Blood
of Thy Divine Son, Jesus,
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
said throughout the world today,
for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory,
for sinners everywhere,
for sinners in the universal Church,
those in my own home,
and those within my own family.
Amen.