

**The Guardian Angels Guild for Law Enforcement, First
Responders & Military**

A Public Association of the Christian Faithful

Statutes

The Guardian Angels Guild

Statutes

Article I: Name

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

Article II: Spiritual Mission

The Guardian Angels Guild exists to encourage those Catholic faithful whose participate in the civic functioning of law enforcement, as first responders or in the military within the Diocese of Bridgeport to grow in Christian discipleship through a process of encounter with our Lord, Jesus Christ, and mutual accompaniment.

More specifically, the Guardian Angels Guild has the following three spiritual objectives:

1. The Guild's primary mission is to support the ongoing spiritual, pastoral, and theological formation of its initiated members who serve in law enforcement, as first responders, or in the military;
2. To foster ongoing spiritual renewal and fraternal bonds among its members;
3. The members of the Guild will be formed, trained, and supported to assist others who participate in the civic functioning of law enforcement, as first responders or in the military and are not members of the guild primarily through the offering of spiritual and formation experiences open to all.

Article III: Membership

1. There will be three distinct sections of members within the Guild:
 - a. The St. Michael the Archangel Section for Law Enforcement;
 - b. The St. Florian Section for First Responders which covers both firefighters and EMS workers;
 - c. The St. George Section for Military
2. The four spiritual requirements of each Guild member are:
 - a. To pray the Guild prayer each day.
 - b. To attend the annual Retreat/Guild Mass, wherein aspirants will be inducted into the Guild and current members of the Guild will renew their commitment to the Guild's mission.
 - c. Attend two annual evenings/mornings of fellowship and formation.
 - d. To commit to serving all those in law enforcement, the military or as first responders by assisting in organizing and attending periodic spiritual and

social experiences.

3. Membership to the Guardian Angels Guild is spiritual in nature and open to all those who work in the legal profession. It is for the term of one year and must be renewed at the following year's Guild Mass to remain a member in good standing.
4. Membership is voluntary and member's names are kept on file at the Catholic Center.
5. Membership is granted by applying to become a Guild member, completing the required discernment process, and being installed at the Annual Guild Mass after mutual discernment with the Guild Director and going through initial formation.
6. 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.
7. There are two ways to withdraw from the Guardian Angels 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
8. 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 Guardian Angels 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 as well as our “advocate,”
- f. Offer witness to and reverence for the sanctity of life, in all its stages, from natural conception to natural death, to its fulfillment in God, most especially those in whom you represent within your sphere of legal work.
- g. Offer personal acts of spiritual and corporal works of mercy,
- h. Whenever possible, to attend periodic gatherings sponsored by the Guild, that will foster community among its members and provide opportunities for ongoing spiritual and professional formation.

Article IV: Guild Chapters

When sufficient participation allows, local, regional or section-based 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 V – 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. Patrimony and management of Guild funds will be the responsibility of the Moderator in collaboration with the Director of Guilds.

2.) Council of Advisors

- a. The Guardian Angels Guild is governed by a Council of Advisors overseen by the Moderator and Diocesan Director of Guilds, composed of eight to fifteen members who are nominated by the Diocesan Director of Guilds and appointed by the diocesan bishop for a term of three years.
- b. Council members must be initiated members of the Guild
- c. 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.
- d. The bishop reserves the right to remove members from the Council without cause.

3.) The Council of Advisors is responsible for

- a. Representing the Guild and the Diocese of Bridgeport as witnesses to the secular law enforcement, first responder and military community through radical faith and holiness.
- b. Overseeing the spiritual mission and life of the Guild and providing an annual report to the bishop,
- c. Recruiting new members and hosting periodic social and formative events,
- d. Helping to organize the Annual Retreat & Mass and recruiting a speaker,
- e. Helping to organize the Semi-Annual Formational Gatherings and recruiting a speaker,
- f. Collaborating with the bishop on the progress of the Guild,
- g. 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 will appoint a cleric to serve as the chaplain of the Guild. His responsibilities include:
 - 1. Work with the Council of Advisors & Diocesan Guild Director and Moderator to ensure the spiritual mission of the Guild is maintained,
 - 2. Attend the Annual Retreat & Guild Mass
 - 3. Attend the Annual formation gathering,
 - 4. Be available to spiritually assist individual Guild members, and Guild prayer/reflection events whenever possible.

Article VI: 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

Guardian Angels Guild Prayer

Amen