

Statutes

Our Lady's Tridentine Mass Society

Article 1: Constitution

1. These statutes constitute and govern Our Lady's Tridentine Mass Society [hereafter the society] as a public association of the Christian faithful according to the norm of law.¹
2. By the decree of the Bishop of St. Petersburg that approves the statutes of the society and erects it as a public association, it is also erected as a private juridic person in the church, an aggregate of persons (*universitas personarum*) and things (*universitas rerum*) gathered and directed for the proper purposes of the society.
3. So that the society may rightly acquire and administer temporal goods for the society and its purposes, the society is to establish itself as a sponsored organization of St. Jude the Apostle Cathedral Parish according to the criteria for such organizations in the *Financial Guidelines of the Diocese of St. Petersburg* or of whichever parish in which the Mass is celebrated for the faithful in a stable manner.

Article 2: The Proper Purposes of the Society

1. The purposes proper to the society are:
 - a. Fostering the holiness of its members;
 - b. Promoting public worship according to the extraordinary form of the Roman Rite provided for by Pope Benedict XVI in the *Motu Proprio Summorum Pontificum* (July 7, 2007);²
 - c. And exercising other works of the apostolate such as initiatives of evangelization, works of piety or charity, and those which animate the temporal order with a Christian spirit.³

Article 3: Membership in the society

¹ In these statutes the norm of law refers to the Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church as governed in the CIC of 1983. See canon 301 on the requirement that associations of the faithful that promote public worship to be public associations erected by competent authority, in this case the diocesan bishop. See canon 312§1, 3.

² The spiritual patrimony of the society predates *Summorum Pontificum*; however the *motu proprio* is the point of reference in the Church as the public association is formed.

³ See canon 298§ 1.

1. **Membership in the society is open to lay Catholics who have attained the age of reason (7 years of age) and been admitted to First Holy Communion, unless they are prohibited by law from membership in associations of the faithful.⁴ Clergy may serve the society as its spiritual director or be associated in other ways with the purposes of the society described in the rules of order but are not to be enrolled as members of the society⁵.**
2. **Members enrolled in the society should be known to be of good character and reputation; faithfully attending Sunday Mass celebrated in the extraordinary form of the Roman Rite for a period of no less than three months; and otherwise suited to the proper purposes of the society. Other qualifications for membership can be added in the rules of order for the society provided that they are in accord with these statutes and that the poor are not excluded from membership.**
3. **Membership in the society will be granted to the charter members by the presentation of their names with these statutes to the diocesan bishop at the time he is asked to approve the statutes. Thereafter members are enrolled by the board of trustees which must vote to accept the member by a simple majority of the board. Once the new member is accepted by the board of trustees, the board should issue a certificate of membership.**
4. **Enrollment in the society does not affect the proper parish of the member nor confer registration in the parish of the church where the Mass is celebrated for the society. Membership is not to be limited in the rules of order because of the proper parish of the person.**
5. **Membership in the society will continue so long as the member has donated to the society during the prior year, has regularly attended Mass in the society's extraordinary form of Mass, and has not notified the board of trustees of his or her withdrawal from the society. Members can be dismissed by a vote of the board of trustees if proof of disqualification arises after enrollment or for any just cause.**
6. **Minors enrolled as members either individually or as a member of a family acquire full rights to active vote and passive vote only after they reach majority (18 years of age). Other restrictions in the exercise of membership by minors may be included in the rules of order.**
7. **In addition to special meetings which may take place pursuant to the provisions of these statutes and the rules of order, there shall be a meeting of the general membership of the society once a year, for the election of the board of trustees, and for such other matters as may be proposed by the members.**

⁴ Canon 316 prohibits membership in public associations to certain members of the faithful.

⁵ This provision is intended to maintain the society as a lay association and be thus governed.

Article 4: Governance of the Society

External Agents of Limited Governance for the Society

- 1. Spiritual Director:** In matters that pertain to the spiritual good of the Catholic faithful, the pastoral care of persons and the public worship of the Church the spiritual director of the society has the authority of the moderator of the society in law. This authority does not extend to those internal matters that are proper to the society's purposes, matters which are entrusted in these statutes to others, or to the administration of the private juridic person.⁶
- 2. The spiritual director is to be a priest who enjoys the faculties of the Diocese of St. Petersburg and is appointed in a stable manner to a canonical assignment by the diocesan bishop. The spiritual director as a rule should be the priest who celebrates the Mass for the faithful in the extraordinary form of the Roman Rite. For a just cause the spiritual director can be another priest designated by the board of trustees with the approval of the diocesan bishop.**
- 3. The pastor of the sponsoring parish:** The rector of the Cathedral Church or the pastor of the parish where the society is sponsored enjoys the rights proper to his office in law with regard to the society's activities in the Church and in the parish. This includes the rights of the pastor of the parish with regard to the preparation, administration and recording of the sacraments celebrated. The same rector/pastor exercises that supervision of the temporal goods of the private juridic person in the manner described in the sponsorship agreement entered into by the society and the parish. Through the parish sponsorship agreement the society is to be subject to the provisions of the *Financial Guidelines of the Diocese of St. Petersburg* that pertain to sponsored organizations in parishes; nevertheless all goods acquired by the society and the rights that pertain to them are assumed to be acquired by the private juridic person unless they are received through the offerings of the faithful during the celebration of sacred worship or otherwise clearly intended by the donor for the purposes of the parish or another entity.⁷

Internal Governance of the Society:

1. Board of Trustees:

- a. The role that the law gives to the moderator of an association of the faithful and all governance of the society shall be vested in a board of trustees of the society acting collegially. The board of trustees**

⁶ See canon 317§3.

⁷ Ibid.

shall exercise all authority not reserved in the statutes to the full membership. The rules for the collegial operation of the board of trustees which are not determined in these statutes are to be determined in the rules of order and known to the members.

- b. In addition, the trustees shall serve the society by (1) educating members on the purposes of the society and fostering good order and common discipline through exhortation and example; (2) voluntarily assuming those positions of service that the society needs for its good order if they are not taken freely by others; (3) receiving letters of resignation from other members of the board of trustees, from officers, and from the general membership; (4) correcting erring officers and general members by means of exhortation and moral persuasion and determining by vote among themselves when officers or members of the board of trustees are to be presented for reprimand or removal; (5) assuming such other duties as shall be assigned in the rules of order or resolutions of the society.
- c. The board of trustees shall be elected from the membership and shall consist initially of three persons. Additional members may be added to the board when nominated by the existing trustees and confirmed by vote of the general membership. There shall never be less than three trustees.
- d. *Election:* The trustees shall be elected by a simple majority of the voting general members presently enrolled in the society in the manner determined in the rules of order for the society.
- e. *Terms of Trustees:* The trustees shall serve for a term of 3 calendar years. In the first election the trustees' terms shall be staggered in such a way that the term of each trustee ends in a different year, and thereafter at least one trustee will be elected in any subsequent year. There shall be no limit in the terms a trustee may serve, but the rules of order can determine the number of consecutive terms allowed before an interruption of service must be observed.
- f. *Removal:* For negligence or other just cause, trustees can be removed by means of a recall election if they are presented for recall by at least one other elected trustee and two general members who are eligible to stand for election to the board of trustees. Any trustee may resign at any time by giving a written notice to the remaining trustees. Whenever because of removal, resignation, or death a position of trustee shall become vacant, the remaining board of trustees by special meeting may fill such a trusteeship with another person for the unexpired portion of the term; or consideration of the

filling of such vacancy may be postponed until the next regular meeting of the entire membership of the society, if in the interim there remain at least three trustees.

- g. **Reprimand:** For just cause, a trustee may be reprimanded by the remaining trustees acting together, or by vote of the general membership if requested by at least one elected trustee and two other general members who are eligible to stand for election to the board of trustees.
 - h. **Qualifications:** The trustees of the society shall be either charter members or enrolled as a member for more than two years. They should be known to be persons of exemplary character and for the virtues of prudence and honesty.
2. **Officers:**
- a. The officers of the society shall be a president, one or more vice-presidents (the number thereof to be determined by the board of trustees), a secretary, and a treasurer. The officers will be appointed by the board of trustees. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person. A trustee may also serve as an officer.
 - b. **Election and term of office:** The officers of the society shall be elected annually by the board of trustees. There shall be no limit to the number of terms an officer may serve, but the rules of order may determine the number of consecutive terms allowed before an interruption of service must be observed.
 - c. **Removal:** Any officer elected or appointed by the board of trustees may be removed by the board of trustees for just cause, or whenever in its judgment the best interest of the society would be served thereby. Short of removal, an officer may also be reprimanded by the board of trustees for just cause.
 - d. **Vacancies:** A vacancy in any office, because of death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, may be filled by the board of trustees for the unexpired portion of the term.
 - e. **President:** The president must be a member of the board of trustees. The president shall serve the interests of the society as chief executive officer and represent the society and the board of trustees in all matters. The duties of the president are:
 - (1) To convoke and be the presiding officer at all meetings of the society and the board of trustees;
 - (2) To ensure that the society is acting in accord with its proper purposes;

- (3) To ensure that the society's statutes, resolutions and rules of order are implemented and observed in a peaceful way by the membership;
 - (4) To appoint those who will serve the society in different roles as are needed, if these roles are not assigned in these statutes or the rules of order;
 - (5) To serve as the representative of the society in all matters both internally and externally;
 - (6) To be first among those who exercise the role and fulfill the duties of signatory and official representative of the society as a private juridic person in the Church;
 - (7) To give an annual report of the society's activities to the members and send this report at least in summary form to the rector of the Cathedral church and the diocesan bishop;
 - (8) And to have other such duties as shall be designated in the rules of order or by the resolutions of the members and which are not assigned in these statutes to others.
- f. ***Vice-President:*** The vice-president shall serve the interests of the society by assisting the president and fulfilling the duties of the vice-president, namely:
- (1) To perform any and all duties of the president when the president is unable to do so or the president delegates the vice-president to do so for a reasonable cause;
 - (2) To direct all matters that pertain to the recruitment, presentation and enrollment of members and the maintenance of their active status;
 - (3) To pay special attention to those members who are in need or not able to be as active in the society, ensuring that their needs are known to the members and that they are remembered in the meetings and prayers of the society;
 - (4) And to have other such duties that are assigned by the president and board of trustees or in the rules of order.
- g. ***Secretary:*** The secretary shall serve the interests of the society by fulfilling the duties of the secretary, namely:
- (1) To act as notary for the society and all its meetings;
 - (2) To ensure that resolutions of the board of trustees and members are accurately recorded and published to the members;
 - (3) To ensure that all correspondence with the members and on behalf of the society is kept up to date and executed by generally accepted standards;
 - (4) To maintain an active and accurate list of members and perform

all activities that have to do with contacting members and convoking meetings.

- f. **Treasurer:** The treasurer serves the interests of the society by fulfilling the duties of the treasurer, namely:
- (1) To direct the acquisition, distribution and administration of goods for the society in accord with these statutes and the rules of order;
 - (2) To be among those who exercise the role and fulfill the duties of signatory and official representative of the society as a private juridic person in the Church;
 - (3) To ensure the observance of all applicable guidelines of the diocese and parish as are required by the parish sponsorship agreement;
 - (4) To maintain accurate financial records of the society in accord with generally accepted standards of financial management and report on these to the board of trustees and members as requested;
 - (5) And to have other such duties that are assigned to the treasurer by the board of trustees or by the rules of order.

Article 5: Rules of Order

1. The board of trustees will prepare the rules of order for the society. Copies thereof will be submitted to the general membership. These rules of order are to be published along side of and be in full accord with these statutes and include only those matters these statutes have assigned to the rules of order and other such necessary ordinances which are for the good operation of the society according to its purposes.
2. The rules of order are to be observed by the board of trustees, officers, and general membership. They can be altered by an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the board of trustees or by simple majority of the general voting membership of the society.
3. For a just cause the board of trustees may suspend the rules of order by unanimous consent in particular cases. To be valid a suspension of the rules of order cannot have the affect of dispensing from the provisions of the statutes of the society, nor can it alter the qualifications for office or the active or passive voting rights of any member.

Article 6: Alterations of the Statutes:

Once approved the statutes are to be amended only for the most serious of reasons and when the amendment of the rules of order will not suffice to resolve the issue. To be valid amendments to the statutes, the proposed amendment

must be presented to the full membership at no less than two meetings for reading and discussion before voting; receive the unanimous consent of the board of trustees and the affirmative votes of at least two thirds (2/3) of the general voting membership; and because the society's establishment as a private juridic person in the church depended on the approval of the statutes, the board of trustees is to submit proposed amendments to the statutes to the diocesan bishop and receive a *nihil obstat* before the proposed amendment is first presented to the members for reading and discussion.

Article 7: Enactment of the Statutes

These statutes go into effect on the first Sunday of the month immediately following their approval by the charter members of the society as properly listed below. The decree of the diocesan bishop approving the statutes and erecting the society as a public juridic person shall be published as the preface to these statutes and the rules of order in all subsequent editions of the statutes for the society. The statutes and the rules of order are the proper law for the society and they bind all the members, officers, and trustees.

Testimony of Approval of Statutes

These statutes were approved by the charter members on this the ____ day of the month of _____ in the year of Our Lord 2011.

Signatures of the Charter members:

Very Reverend Joseph L. Waters, VF
Ecclesiastical Notary