

STATUTES OF THE VALIANT ORDER OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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NICHOLSON (MAR JOANNES I) OF THE ANCIENT
CATHOLIC CHURCH

RE-FOUNDED AND IN THE CARE OF ECCLESIA
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THE VALIANT ORDER OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

The present-day Valiant Order of St. John the Baptist traces its history to the foundation charter issued by Mar Joannes I, Archbishop of Karim in the Ancient Catholic Church (Dr. H.P. Nicholson) on 21 June 1952, this founding Charter also being registered in the archives of the Catholic Apostolic Church (Catholicate of the West) (no. 25/1952) of which the Ancient Catholic Church was at that time an autocephalous *tropus*. The Catholicate of the West was formally dissolved in 1953.

In 2008, by which time the Valiant Order of St. John the Baptist had long fallen into desuetude, and all known members had departed this life, it was the decision of those persons representing the spiritual legacy of Mar Joannes I that the Order should be revived. This was duly done by means of a Renewal Charter executed by the Archbishop of Great Britain of the Apostolic Episcopal Church, a body which was in formal union with the Catholicate of the West from its foundation in 1943 to its dissolution, and which is thus the surviving parent body of the Ancient Catholic Church. The Order was re-established as an Ecclesiastical Merit Order latterly within the Ecclesia Apostolica Divinorum Mysteriorum, which in turn had been founded by charter from the Apostolic Episcopal Church in Great Britain in 2010.

The modern Order continues its work as an Ecclesiastical Merit Order and secular organization of the faithful. Membership of the Order is international and is restricted to baptised Christians who profess the Catholic and Orthodox Faith as described in the Canon of St Vincent of Lérins.



STATUTES OF THE VALIANT ORDER OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Statutes of the Valiant Order of Saint John the Baptist

I. History and standing

1. The Order was chartered by Our Predecessor Mar Joannes I on 21 June 1952 and constituted as a lawful and canonical Religious Order.
2. A Renewal Charter of the Order was issued by Us as lawful Primatial Successor of Mar Joannes I on 26 March 2008 confirming the terms of the original Charter and establishing the Order as a dependent Religious Order of the Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church (which was then a constituent part of the Society for Humanistic Potential, Ltd., Dominica.)
3. This Charter was reissued following Our appointment as Archbishop of Great Britain in the Apostolic Episcopal Church in November 2008 at which time the succession to Us was confirmed by that church, acting as the surviving parent body of the Ancient Catholic Church.
4. On 17 May 2010 all ecclesiastical assets of the Society for Humanistic Potential, Ltd., Dominica, were transferred to the Ecclesia Apostolica Divinorum Mysteriorum.
5. On 17 September 2010, the Order was confirmed as a part of the Ecclesia Apostolica Divinorum Mysteriorum by written agreement with the head of the English corporation which was established on 13 April 2010 under the title Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church.
6. The Order has no historic or present connexion with any other Order bearing the name of Saint John, or of Saint John the Baptist.
7. The character of the Order is that of an Ecclesiastical Merit Order of the Ecclesia Apostolica Divinorum Mysteriorum which is specifically fraternal and Christian in nature.

II. Purposes

The Order fulfils the following purposes:

1. To honour the memory of St John the Baptist and the valiant qualities which he represented.
2. To encourage members to commit themselves further to service to Christ in a chivalric and fraternal spirit.
3. To recognise meritorious service among members of the Church.
4. To further ecumenical relations with other Churches and similar bodies.
5. To offer spiritual and ecumenical support for the work of the Ecclesia Apostolica Divinorum Mysteriorum and the cause of Catholic Esotericism generally.

III. Governance

1. The Archbishop-Abbot of the Order shall be the Metropolitan (Presiding Bishop) of E.A.D.M., in whom the governance of the Order is vested.
2. A Magistral Council from within the Order shall be appointed to act as a Council of Advice to the Archbishop-Abbot. All such appointments and any office that derives from them shall be in the gift of the Archbishop-Abbot.

3. The Archbishop-Abbot may delegate powers to any Officer of the Order either *ad hoc* or under formal terms of office.
4. A Grand Prior may be appointed for a country or group of countries.
5. A Commandery may be established where there are at least seven Members able to meet at least once each year.

IV. Membership

1. Men and women who are baptised Christians who profess the Catholic and Orthodox Faith as described in the Canon of St Vincent of Lérins may be admitted to the Order.
2. Such membership shall be on the basis of proven service to Christ's Church and to their fellow man, as judged by the Archbishop-Abbot, who shall usually seek advice from the Magistral Council of the Order.
3. Candidates for membership shall supply a Curriculum Vitae, a recent photograph, and references from two persons of standing (who need not be members of the Order). Copies of certificates of qualifications, diplomas of honours and certificate of baptism are required.
4. Candidates who are associated with any organisation prohibited by the Order or who have incurred canonical penalties are not normally eligible for membership.
5. A non-refundable application fee of \$50 is payable which includes processing of the application and mailing of the diploma (if application is accepted). The fee is payable to the Catholic Liberal Church, Inc., a 501c religious corporation in the State of California that is the corporation of E.A.D.M.'s Province of the United States. This fee is tax deductible for United States citizens.
6. There are no passage or membership fees.
7. Membership shall be for life unless resigned or terminated. A member may resign by letter to the Magistral Council at any time. Membership may be terminated for any action which, in the judgement of the Archbishop-Abbot on the advice of the Magistral Council, is injurious to the reputation of the Order or to E.A.D.M., or is such as to bring dishonour to the Order, or causes harm to any Confrere.

V. Categories and Privileges of Members

1. Membership shall be in the following two categories:
 - a. Frater/Soror Knight/Dame (K.St.J.B./D.St.J.B.)
 - b. Frater/Soror Knight Coadjutor/Dame Coadjutor (K.C.St.J.B./D.C.St.J.B.)
 The Order has further provision to confer other titles on a special basis.
2. Members may be promoted from one rank to another in recognition of meritorious service.
3. The postnominal letters and designations of the Order may be used by Members in the same manner as those of other ecclesiastical and non-State Orders, subject to any legal restrictions within their country of residence. The Order does not authorise the use of the prenominal title Sir. The designations Chevalier (Knight) and Dame are used within the Order. Spouses of members may not use courtesy titles deriving from their relationship to a member.
4. The Order signifies Membership by the issuance of a Membership Diploma under seal and inclusion upon the Roll of Members. The Diploma should be returned in the event of resignation or termination from membership.
5. The Order does not use or prescribe the wearing of mantles or insignia for Members at the present time. However, all members may wear a Relic Medal of St John the Baptist that has been touched to a relic of the saint. The medal may be suspended from the neck by a red cord or ribbon.

6. Since E.A.D.M. does not have a lay membership separate from the Catholic Church as a whole, laity who are Members of the Order are not as a result members of E.A.D.M.
7. Clergy who are Members of the Order but who are not either clergy of E.A.D.M. or of a church or body in communion with it, are not by virtue of their membership of the Order subject to the canons of E.A.D.M. or entitled to represent themselves as being in communion with it. Any such misrepresentation may be subject to sanctions. Ordained members of the Order do not use prenominal titles deriving from their membership.
8. Members of the Valiant Order of St. John the Baptist who were admitted before 1 October 2011 may continue to use the designation and postnominals particular to their admission in preference to the current styles of the Order if they so wish.

VI. Meetings

1. Meetings of the Order shall take place in a church, chapel, or another building that has been consecrated temporarily and that has been provided with an altar and facilities for worship.
2. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be celebrated at every such meeting. Where this is not possible the Agape or Lord's Supper (at which a layperson may preside) shall be celebrated according to the approved liturgical form within E.A.D.M.
3. The reception of new Members shall normally follow the Mass, but should precede the Agape. The Archbishop-Abbot shall admit members or delegate authority to do so to a member of the Magistral Council or a Grand Prior.
4. Members may also be admitted *in absentia* where there is good cause for this.

VII. Oath of Allegiance

1. Incoming members shall commit themselves to the Order via the following Oath of Allegiance:

I, [name], a poor sinner, acknowledge that the sacrifice of Our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross has redeemed mankind and secured the salvation of the world. Now before God and my brethren I take to myself the commitments of a member of the Valiant Order of Saint John the Baptist in the rank of [rank]. In so doing, I do solemnly swear allegiance to Jesus Christ my Saviour and to His One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I recognise the mission of the glorious Saint John the Baptist and pray that I may follow worthily his example in the way of Truth, Courage and Valour. To this end, I pray that God will give me strength and faith according to His will. Amen.

VIII. Religious Commitments of Members

1. Members shall pray the Litany of St John the Baptist, as follows:

*Lord, have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.
 Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
 God the Father of Heaven, Have mercy on us.
 God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.
 God, the Holy Ghost, Have mercy on us.
 Holy Trinity, One God, Have mercy on us.*

*Holy Mary, Pray for us.
 Queen of Prophets, Pray for us.
 Queen of Martyrs, Pray for us.
 St. John the Baptist, Pray for us.*

St. John the Baptist, precursor of Christ, Pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, glorious forerunner of the Sun of Justice, Pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, minister of Baptism to Jesus, Pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, burning and shining lamp of the world, Pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, angel of purity before thy birth, Pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, special friend and favorite of Christ, Pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, heavenly contemplative, whose element was prayer, Pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, intrepid preacher of truth, Pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, voice crying in the wilderness, Pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, miracle of mortification and penance, Pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, example of profound humility, Pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, glorious martyr of zeal for God's holy law, Pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, gloriously fulfilling thy mission, Pray for us.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.

Pray for us, O glorious St. John the Baptist,
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray: O God, Who hast honored this world by the birth of Saint John the Baptist, grant that Thy faithful people may rejoice in the way of eternal salvation, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

2. Members shall also pray the following prayer:

Almighty God, by whose providence thy servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of thy Son our Saviour by preaching repentance: Make us so to follow his doctrine and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching; and after his example constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

3. Members shall keep the Feast Day of the Order on June 24.

✠JOANNES
Archbishop-Abbot
FOR THE COUNCIL OF THREE
1 October 2011 a.d.