

THE NICHOLSON ORDERS

FOUNDED BY ARCHBISHOP HAROLD PERCIVAL
NICHOLSON (MAR JOANNES I) OF THE ANCIENT
CATHOLIC CHURCH

RE-FOUNDED AND IN THE CARE OF ECCLESIA
APOSTOLICA DIVINORUM MYSTERIORUM



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THE NICHOLSON ORDERS

In our earlier work “Archbishop Harold Percival Nicholson: a celebration” (E.A.D.M. no. 50 of 2010) We described the foundation by Mar Joannes I of three Religious Orders in 1951 and 1952, further including photographs of the original Charters of those Orders which were formerly displayed at the Cathedral Church of the Good Shepherd, Clapton, London N16.

The Orders in question are The Valiant Order of St John the Baptist, The Order of Ave Maria and The Order of S. Teresa – The Little Flower.

In 2008, by which time all three Orders had long fallen into desuetude, and all known members of them had departed this life, it was the decision of those persons representing the spiritual legacy of Mar Joannes I that they should be revived. Accordingly, We granted them a Renewal Charter effectively re-founding them with the aim of perpetuating their original objectives. As of September 2010, We again became responsible for their oversight and care as a result of their transfer to Ecclesia Apostolica Divinorum Mysteriorum by the Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church, and consequently have undertaken a thorough revision of their Statutes, membership and operation in the context of the Ecclesia Apostolica Divinorum Mysteriorum.

This work contains transcriptions of the original Charters with notes, and then copies of their contemporary Statutes as those operate today.

++JOANNES
Presiding Bishop
Ecclesia Apostolica Divinorum Mysteriorum

TRANSCRIPTIONS OF THE ORIGINAL CHARTERS

1. THE VALIANT ORDER OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

THE VALIANT ORDER OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST FOUNDATION CHARTER

In the Sacred Name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Amen!

Joannes, by the Grace of God Titular Archbishop of Karim and Primate of the Ancient
Catholic Church Unto All and Singular to Whom These Presents Shall Come:

Be it Known by the Tenor of These Presents that WE by virtue of the powers inherent in Our
Office, having aforesaid Founded THE VALIANT ORDER OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
for the work of Preaching the Gospel, Healing the Sick and Comforting the Mourner, DO
HEREBY DECLARE the said Order to be duly Erected and Constituted for those objects: to
consist of such Fraters as We shall over time prescribe and to wear such Insignia as We shall
hereafter desire, and to be governed by a General Chapter presided over by Ourselves and Our
Successors, who shall have power to approval and honour all Members thereof, the first
Members of such General Chapter to be: The Rt. Rev. Peter, Titular Bishop of Naim, The
Titular Abbesses of Magdala and Nazareth, The Rev. Canon Roy Mowbray Douglas
(Registrar).

IN FAITH AND TESTIMONY whereof We have hereunto set Our SIGN MANUAL and
PRIMATIAL SEAL, and have caused the Seal of the pre-named Order to be hereunto affixed
this twenty-first day of June in the Year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and fifty-
two in the third year of Our Consecration.

+Joannes
Titular Archbishop of Karim
Primate
Archbishop-Abbot of the said Order

Signed, Sealed and Delivered by His Grace Mar Joannes, Titular Archbishop of
Karim in the presence of me,
John Newton
Notary Public, London
[Red Seal of John Newton affixed]

The Seal of the pre-named Order was hereunto affixed in the presence of us:

+Peter
Titular Bishop of Naim

+Mary
Titular Abbess of Magdala

+Truda
Titular Abbess of Nazareth

Roy Mowbray Douglas
Registrar

{Seals}

Ad Perpetuam Rei Memoriam

It is Hereby Certified under the Corporate Seal of The Catholicate of the West that the pre-named Order was and is duly Chartered under the powers vested in Us by Rule XIV(3) of the pre-named Catholicate as incorporated in India under Act XXI of 1860.

+Georgius
PRINCE-CATHOLICOS

I. de Mardin, Secretarius Ad Hoc

Date: XXI Juni MCMLII

[Stamp of the Chancellery of the Catholicate of the West]
[Gold Seal]

[Stamp:] Enrolled in the Archives of the Ancient Catholic Church No. -- of 1952
[Signature of] E.M. Stubbington for Keeper of Archives

[Stamp:] Enrolled in the Archives of the Catholicate of the West No. 25 of 1952.
[Signature of] I. de Mardin for Keeper of Archives

¹ Otherwise Ina de Willmott Newman (née del Carpio Barnardo), wife of Mar Georgius. Mar Georgius held the title of Prince de Mardin.

² Margaret Stubbington, for many years Secretary of the Ancient Catholic Church.

2. THE ORDER OF AVE MARIA

THE ORDER OF AVE MARIA FOUNDATION CHARTER

In the Sacred Name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity. Amen.

Joannes, by the Grace of God Titular Archbishop of Karim and Primate of the Ancient Catholic Church Unto All and Singular to Whom These Presents Shall Come:

Greeting!

Be it Known by the Tenor of These Presents that WE in the due exercise of Our Office and pursuant to the powers vested in Me by the Constitutions and Canons of The Ancient Catholic Church, do hereby Found, Erect and Establish a Religious Order to be known and called THE ORDER OF AVE MARIA, the Constitution whereof is and shall be as follows:

1. The object of the Order is to promote love and devotion towards the Blessed Virgin Mary.
2. Membership of the Order shall be in two classes: (a) Senior Members, being persons over the age of 16 years, and (b) Junior Members, being children under that age.
3. The Badge of the Order shall be a shield containing the letters 'A.M.' as depicted upon the Seal of the Order hereunto affixed, and the Motto "Ave Maria", and shall be worn with Such Robes and Insignia as may be hereafter prescribed by the General Chapter of the Order.
4. The Order shall be governed by a General Chapter, appointed and removable by Ourselves, the first members thereof being: Ourselves (Grand President), The Titular Abbess of Magdala (Mother-Custodian), The Reverend Olive Patricia Knill-Samuel, and The Reverend Ernest Leslie Balfour (Registrar).
5. Local chapters of the Order may be erected by Sub-Charter under the Seal of the Order.
6. The work of the Order shall be carried out by means of special services, meetings and social activities, and such other means as shall be appointed by the General Chapter.

In Witness whereof We have hereunto affixed Our Sign Manual and Archiepiscopal Seal, this thirtieth day of August in the Year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and fifty-one, and in the Second year of Our Consecration, and have caused these presents to be sealed with the Seal of the pre-named Order.

+Joannes

Titular Archbishop of Karim
Primate

Signed, Sealed and Delivered by the pre-named Titular Archbishop of Karim in the presence of me

John Newton
Notary Public, London
[Red Seal of John Newton affixed]

The Seal of The Order of Ave Maria was hereunto affixed in the presence of us:

+Mary
Titular Abbess of Magdala

O.P. Knill-Samuel

{Seals}

Ad Perpetuam Rei Memoriam

It is Hereby Certified under the Corporate Seal of The Catholicate of the West that the pre-named Order of Ave Maria is duly chartered by Us pursuant to the powers vested in Us by the Rules of the said Catholicate as incorporated in India under Act XXI of 1860.

+Georgius

PRINCE-CATHOLICOS

Date: 4th Sept MCMLI

F.G. Sturt³, Secretarius Ad Hoc

[Stamp of the Chancellery of the Catholicate of the West]

[Gold Seal]

[Stamp:] Enrolled in the Archives of the Ancient Catholic Church No. ? of 1951⁴
[Signature of] E.H. Jackson⁵ for Keeper of Archives

[Stamp:] Enrolled in the Archives of the Catholicate of the West No. 42² of 1951.
[Signature of] E.M. Stubbington for Keeper of Archives

³ Mrs Florence Grace Sturt (see following Charter)

⁴ These stamps are obscured by water damage, which has caused the ink to run.

⁵ Emily H. Jackson, who was to marry Mar Joannes I in 1954.

3. THE ORDER OF S. TERESA – THE LITTLE FLOWER

THE ORDER OF S. TERESA – THE LITTLE FLOWER

FOUNDATION CHARTER

In the Sacred Name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity. Amen.

Joannes, by the Grace of God Titular Archbishop of Karim and Primate of the Ancient Catholic Church Unto All and Singular to Whom These Presents Shall Come:

Greeting!

Be it Known by the Tenor of These Presents that WE in the due exercise of Our Office and of the powers thereunto appertaining, do Hereby Found, Erect and Establish a Religious Order of the Name, Title and Style of The Order of S. Teresa – The Little Flower – the Rule of Which shall be as follows:

RULE

1. The Object of the Order is to promote the Devotional Life according to the example of S. Teresa of Lisieux, and sustain the Priests of the Church by means of love and prayer.
2. There shall be these grades or status of Members: Postulants, Novices and Professed, and the qualifications and admittance thereto shall be determined from time to time by The General Chapter.
3. Professed Members shall upon profession take the three Final Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, which shall be interpreted freely and not be deemed to be literal: Poverty; the joyful free will surrender of earthly things, when necessary for spiritual progress, Chastity; purity of body, soul and spirit, Obedience; conformity to the precepts of the Order, and canonical obedience to the Superior of the Order and those placed in authority under him.
4. The Governing Body of the Order shall be called the General Chapter, and shall be affiliated and removable by Us at Our pleasure. The first Members of the General Chapter shall be: Ourselves (Prelate-Superior), The Titular Abbess of Magdala, The Reverend Mary-Louise Watts (Mother-Superior), The Reverend Ethel Marion Dyson (Registrar) and Deaconesses Gertrude Edith Enticknap, Olive Patricia Knill-Samuel, Maureen Pearse, The Reverend Vera Acton Burwell, Miss Margaret Stubbington and Mrs Florence Grace Sturt.
5. The Motto of the Order shall be “The Fragrance of Love”.
6. The robes and insignia of the Order shall be: Postulants; a medallion of S. Teresa worn suspended around the neck by a Violet cord, Novices, White Cloak with Violet Hood; Professed, White Habit Violet Cord Scapular, White Cloak with Violet Hood, with White Wimple and Black or Violet Veil in the case of women. Provided Always that

Dispensation may be granted in the case of Clergy and others to wear part only of the dress of the Order.

7. The Objects of the Order may be carried on by means of Religious Services, Address, Retreats, Study Circles, Meetings and Social functions.

8. The ceremonies of admission of Postulants and Novices and profession of Professed Brethren shall be such as shall from time to time be prescribed by the Prelate-Superior.

9. Sub-Charters may be granted for the establishment of Local Chapters of the Order under their own local Officers.

In Witness whereof We have hereunto affixed Our Sign Manual and Archiepiscopal Seal, and have caused these Presents to be sealed with the Seal of the pre-named Order, this thirtieth day of August in the Year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and fifty-one, and in the Second year of Our Consecration.

+Joannes

Titular Archbishop of Karim
Primate

Signed, Sealed and Delivered by the pre-named Titular Archbishop of Karim in the presence of me

John Newton
Notary Public, London
[Red Seal of John Newton affixed]

The Seal of The Order of S. Teresa – The Little Flower was hereunto affixed in the presence of

+Mary
Titular Abbess of Magdala

Mary Louise Teresa Watts
Mother-Superior

*O.P. Knill-Samuel

*E.M. Stubbington

*G.E. Enticknap

*Mrs Pearse⁶

*Florence G. Sturt

*Vera Acton Burwell

E. M. Dyson

⁶ Maureen Pearse, Marquise de Saulney, later to be consecrated Titular Abbess of Bethany.

**All bracketed "Members of the General Chapter"*

{Seals}

Ad Perpetuam Rei Memoriam

It is Hereby Certified under the Corporate Seal of The Catholicate of the West that the pre-named Order of S. Teresa – The Little Flower is hereby Chartered under the powers vested in Us by Rule XIV(3) of the pre-named Catholicate as incorporated in India under Act XXI of 1860.

+Georgius

PRINCE-CATHOLICOS

Date: 4th Sept MCMLI

I. de Mardin, Secretarius Ad Hoc

[Stamp of the Chancellery of the Catholicate of the West]

[Gold Seal]

[Stamp:] Enrolled in the Archives of the Ancient Catholic Church No. 49 of 1951

[Signature of] E.H. Jackson for Keeper of Archives

[Stamp:] Enrolled in the Archives of the Catholicate of the West No. 41 of 1951.

[Signature of] E.M. Stubbington for Keeper of Archives

Seal of the Order of S. Teresa – The Little Flower



Seal of the Order of Ave Maria



The seal as used today in the revised Order



Seal of the Valiant Order of St John the Baptist



COPY OF THE RENEWAL CHARTER

This Renewal Charter was issued by the Most Revd. John Kersey in his former office as Metropolitan of the Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church

COPY OF RENEWAL CHARTER TO THE VALIANT ORDER OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST AND THE ORDERS OF AVE MARIA AND S. THERESE - THE LITTLE FLOWER

Original Charter dated 26 March 2008

Revision of 18 December 2008

Dearly beloved in the Lord, We, the Most Reverend Mar Joannes III, O.C.R., D.D., by the grace of God Metropolitan Primate of the Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church, having regard to the fact that Our worthy and well-beloved Predecessor Mar Joannes I founded and chartered the Valiant Order of St John the Baptist and the Orders of Ave Maria and S. Therese - The Little Flower;

And that the said Orders were enrolled in the archives of the Ancient Catholic Church and the Catholicate of the West as then constituted, and were thus under the protection of, but independent from, the said Churches;

And that the said Catholicate of the West was formally dissolved in the year 1953 anno domini and ceased to have legal existence after this point;

And that as of the commencement of the year 2008 anno domini there was no person known to be living who was a member of any of the said Orders, and that it was therefore concluded that they had been abandoned and were dormant until such time as the Episcopal successor to their Founder could be established;

And that by special commission of Mr Richard Hadingham, who is the senior lay member of the Ancient Catholic Church, the Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church, being a church holding the direct Apostolic Succession from Mar Joannes I and in keeping with his beliefs and aims. was charged with the continuation and revival of the mission of Mar Joannes I and with the perpetuation of the spiritual legacy of the Ancient Catholic Church as that body was constituted under his guidance;

And that the said Orders are an important contribution towards the furtherance of brotherly and sisterly love within the Church, and that their principles and practices may be of assistance to its members as an outward sign of spiritual grace, and that their aims are worthy of perpetuation;

Now therefore do We grant a new CHARTER to the said Orders within the Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church, and thus providing that these Orders will be under Our

protection and that of Our Church and Our successors as Metropolitan Primate in perpetuity;

And such that the principles and practices of the said Orders as established in their existing Charters shall be maintained, excepting that such changes as shall from time to time be deemed necessary may be made by permission of Us or Our Successors in the office of Metropolitan Primate; And therefore we decree that the said Orders shall from henceforth lawfully fulfil the obligations of embodying the high ideals of morality, uprightness, liberty and such other qualities as are required of their members.

IMPRIMATUR:

[L+S]

++Dr. John Kersey, O.C.R., D.D.

JK/08/LCAC/Orders revised charter 18-12

PHOTOGRAPHS



Reception ceremony into the Order of Ave Maria



The Mantle of the Valiant Order of St John the Baptist



The Habit of the Order of S. Teresa – The Little Flower