

ECCLESIA APOSTOLICA DIVINORUM MYSTERIORUM
(THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF THE DIVINE MYSTERIES)

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE CLERGY

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the clergy of E.A.D.M. In the anticipation that you have already read, marked and inwardly digested the material on our website, this document explains in detail what is expected of you to complete the process leading to clergy membership of our denomination. Please do contact us if you have any questions or need further information.

E.A.D.M. is both Traditional Catholic/Orthodox (Pre-Nicene, following the Canon of St Vincent of Lérins) in its orientation and specifically esoteric in keeping with its mission as a manifestation of the inner church tradition. All members of clergy are expected to be active in either esoteric study or practice or both. There is no restriction on the tradition or nature of esoteric practice providing this is compatible with the Catholic faith of E.A.D.M.

This very specific mission means that E.A.D.M. is both a small and selective communion and happy to remain so. Relatively few people are suitable for the mission we exercise, and we have no interest in building up the clergy for the sake of mere numbers.

Newcomers to E.A.D.M. will find that, although we are jurisdictionally independent of the Roman Catholic Church, we have much more in common with the traditionalist aspects of that church than separates us. In particular, we are a Tridentine community in which the Liberal Catholic rite is the normative liturgy (usually in English, but also in Latin when appropriate).

For all that we have roots in the Liberal Catholic movement, the word “liberal” in that context refers to the relative freedom from dogmatic interpretation that applies within that movement, and not to the modernist usage of that word to describe postmodern or similar left-wing ideologies. There are many communions today that position themselves in that postmodern tradition; E.A.D.M. by contrast is a firmly traditionalist and generally conservative Catholic body that allows its clergy a generous measure of spiritual and intellectual freedom within a clearly-defined and rigorous canonical structure. If your sympathies are with modern language liturgies, Protestant or post-Vatican II theology and an informally-run church with few boundaries, or if you are a traditionalist with little interest in esotericism, you will be better suited to another communion!

CLERGY PREREQUISITES

All clergy who are to receive Holy Orders or to be incardinated into E.A.D.M. must have fulfilled the following prerequisites:

1. They must have supplied a current Criminal Records Bureau check/Police National Computer check (including List 99) (if in the UK) or a notarized affidavit certifying that they have no criminal convictions. (Note: E.A.D.M. will not accept as clergy persons who have been convicted of serious criminal offences. Minor criminal offences must be fully disclosed and discussed with the Council of Three before proceeding.)
2. They must have completed appropriate educational and liturgical training (including altar training). Training requirements will be established in each case based on a review of the applicant's educational and ecclesiastical background. E.A.D.M. defines an appropriate educational standard for the exercise of the priesthood as a standard of theological education that is the Bachelor of Divinity degree of a recognized seminary, or its equivalent. Candidates may meet these prerequisites by demonstrating prior theological studies at other legitimate institutions, or by demonstrating ministerial service that has clearly shown them to have an adequate educational background for the proper discharge of the duties of ministry.
3. Applicants must supply clear copies of all educational credentials obtained after leaving secondary (high) school. E.A.D.M. does not accept educational credentials from institutions that do not award educational credit in a responsible manner.
4. They must supply evidence that they have been baptised, confirmed and, for those who have received Holy Orders prior to their application, must produce copies of ordination certificates and, if required to do so, evidence that the ordaining bishop is or was in the Apostolic Succession. Where doubt exists as to this matter, the applicant will normally be required to submit to ordination *sub conditione*, and may need to travel to the normal location of a bishop for this purpose.
5. They must disclose whether they are currently receiving medication or other treatment for any mental illness or mental impairment, and whether they have received medication or other treatment for any such condition in the past. (Note: Such conditions are not a bar to acceptance, but must be fully declared and discussed with the Council of Three at the time of application, so that the Church can assess what support may be necessary and whether the resources of the Church allow this to be provided.)
6. They must attest that they are of good character and that they resolve to live in a manner that honours Christ through its example. Any past matters that may cause doubt as to this to arise from any source must be discussed with the Council of Three at the time of application.
7. They must be free of canonical and other obligations to other churches or communions, or be able to state that, if accepted to E.A.D.M., they will be able without difficulty to obtain Letters of Excardination from their Ordinary (if ordained).

In the case of items 4 and 5, submitting application shall be taken as having the same force as a written attestation as to these matters.

A further criterion might be expressed as “stability of life”. This means that both in their personal and professional life, the applicant should have achieved a stable situation that is not characterized by constant flux or change. Naturally everyone experiences crisis or change at some point, often due to factors beyond the control of the individual, but this should be the exception rather than the norm.

In their personal lives, the clergy are expected to be either monogamous or celibate.

NOTE WELL:

Ordination in E.A.D.M. does not necessarily qualify the candidate to undertake an external ministry. An individual seeking to exercise public ministry in an E.A.D.M. chartered Mission Episcopate or Parish will only receive faculties to do if suitably qualified on a personal, theological and professional level - the suitability of such qualification being decided by the Council of Three and subject to possible further conditions.

GENERAL MATTERS

All clergy are required to comply with the following two conditions:

1. In the event that they are involved in, aware of, or subject to any matter, whether criminal or otherwise, that has any potentially negative consequence for E.A.D.M. they must seek as an urgent priority to make this known to their Ordinary on the understanding that the matter will then receive consideration by the Council of Three.
2. In the event that they are diagnosed with any mental illness or impairment they must notify their Ordinary on the understanding that the matter will then receive consideration by the Council of Three.

Clergy are not permitted to serve bivocationally in another communion except with the explicit permission of the Council of Three.

Clergy in the Major Orders are further required to execute an Oath of Canonical Obedience that includes a commitment to a minimum period of service within E.A.D.M. before a request for excardination to another communion can be entertained. This means that clergy who for some reason cease to be able or prepared to undertake Christian service in ordained ministry during this period (and who are otherwise in good standing) will be placed on the Inactive List of E.A.D.M. and will not be able to move to another communion until the minimum period within E.A.D.M. has expired. This Oath will be administered at the ceremony at which they are ordained to the first Major Order they receive in E.A.D.M.

Clergy of the rank of priest or below will be responsible to an Ordinary who shall be assigned by the Council of Three.

Clergy or ordinands who are in breach of any of the above requirements, or who have submitted any information in their application that is subsequently found to be false or misleading are liable to summary dismissal from E.A.D.M. or such other disciplinary measures as shall be decided by the Council of Three. A right of appeal to the Presiding Bishop against any decision of the Council of Three exists.

It is a condition of acceptance as a member of clergy or ordinand that the applicant accepts that the decision of the Presiding Bishop on all matters concerning the governance of the church is final and binding.

This informational document should be read together with the Canons of the Church of which you should have already received a copy.

INTERVIEWS

Candidates for the ordained ministry will normally be required to attend for an initial personal interview before they can be admitted to a period of observation preceding formal candidacy. Such attendance is at the candidate's expense. In the Province of the United Kingdom, interviews take place in central London. In the Province of the United States, most interviews take place in California, but other arrangements may be made in particular cases.

The interview may include some aptitude and profile testing, for which no preparation is required.

TIMESCALES

Preparation for Holy Orders is both a process in which the candidate becomes spiritually prepared and attuned to receive the Order in question and to exercise the consequent ministry of that Order within our communion. The latter aspect is particularly emphasized because we confer Holy Orders for our communion and its ministerial needs, not for the benefit of the individual concerned. It is therefore of the first importance that candidates are fully satisfied with their suitability and affinity with the charism of E.A.D.M., and that E.A.D.M. in return considers the candidate to be a satisfactory fit with our communion and its particular esoteric Catholic witness.

Candidates for ordination or incardination must therefore satisfy their Ordinary that they will be able to exercise a productive, purposeful and loyal ministry within the boundaries of E.A.D.M. They will usually be able to demonstrate these qualities by means of a period of attachment to a parish or the fulfilment of other ministerial requisites or activity within the esoteric sphere for initial observation and during their candidacy.

Incardinating candidates

A person incardinating to E.A.D.M. will normally be granted temporary faculties of one year in duration, which will be subject to review and extension at the end of this period.

A decision on incardination will often be subject to a preliminary period of observation under temporary episcopal oversight or other considerations.

Candidates for Holy Orders *ab initio*

A candidate for Holy Orders who has not previously been ordained will be subject to the following normative timescales:

1. The period between acceptance for ordination and the reception of the Diaconate shall be of at least eighteen months. The intention is that the Minor Orders up to the Subdiaconate shall be conferred during the first year of candidacy, and the candidate will then spend a further six months in the Subdiaconate. These minima may be extended beyond eighteen months if educational or spiritual factors merit such an extension, or suspended if it is determined during candidature that the candidate's vocation is to the minor orders solely.
2. The period spent in the Diaconate for candidates who have been approved to go forward to the Priesthood shall be a normative minimum of one year.

PROBLEMS DURING CANDIDACY

Doubts about your vocation are normal and should be discussed with your Ordinary. Most such issues will resolve themselves with assistance. However, if you have doubts, you must take the responsibility of raising them and not keep them to yourself or assume that your Ordinary will guess how you are feeling.

Do not allow yourself to go forward to any minor or major Order for which you do not feel yourself fully spiritually and vocationally prepared. You will be making solemn and binding promises, and in the case of the Major Orders, those promises will have permanent consequences for your soul, as well as binding you to a minimum of five years of service in E.A.D.M. It is never a problem to ask for more time, more information or simply an opportunity to reflect on matters for a period. By doing so, you will avoid costly mistakes and disruption to your parish and your Ordinary.

Note that this communion expects that all difficulties or disputes will be resolved by means of open discussion and a mediation process between those concerned, focussing on the issues concerned with an emphasis on resolution and assisting those concerned to move forward. Clergy who are not prepared to engage fully with this process will be subject to disciplinary measures.

Candidates should be aware that clergy in E.A.D.M. follow a wide range of esoteric paths and belong to a number of different orders and traditions independently of their work in the church. Candidates are expected to exercise tolerance in these matters with a view to the practice of their fellows, and interpersonal disputes or derogatory comments concerning esoteric matters will not be tolerated. Candidates are welcome to indicate their interest in a particular esoteric path to their Ordinary but may not demand admission to a particular order.

EXCARDINATION AND RELATED MATTERS

At times, a candidate will come to the conclusion during the course of candidacy that the spiritual path offered by E.A.D.M. is not the right one for him or her and will seek to leave in order either to exercise ministry in a communion that is better suited to his or her aspirations, or to revert to the lay state.

E.A.D.M. is a canonical jurisdiction and can only act in accordance with its Canon Law and understanding of ecclesial governance as a properly constituted communion of the One, Holy, Apostolic and Catholic Church. Although those who are still in the lay state can be discharged from candidacy without canonical consequences (provided they are in good standing), it is not possible for those who have received any of the minor orders to simply “resign” from E.A.D.M., nor to abandon the communion without canonical resolution of their status.

For a candidate who has received the minor orders and wishes to leave in order to exercise ministry in another communion, Letters of Excardination will normally be issued providing the candidate is in good standing and is intending to minister in another properly constituted communion. Candidates in the major orders cannot submit requests for excardination until five years have passed from the date of their reception of the first Major Order. They may not undergo any form of reordination in another communion to an Order which they have already received except specifically *sub conditione* for ecumenical purposes, without incurring the penalties consequent upon blasphemy.

A candidate who is not in good standing, who refuses attempts at mediation to resolve the issues concerned, or who abandons their ministry and is indifferent to attempts to contact them, will generally be administratively laicized after a disciplinary hearing by the Council of Three. This step, which is not reversible, voids the orders that have been bestowed and returns the candidate to the lay state. It is usual that such actions are made public by this communion in order to warn others who may be approached by the person concerned.

Candidates who leave this communion are reminded that they must not at any point represent themselves as being associated with us or being authorized to act on our behalf. Any case of such misrepresentation will be reported to the police.

OATH OF CANONICAL OBEDIENCE

Preamble:

In keeping with the teaching and tradition of the Church from its earliest times, the Ecclesia Apostolica Divinorum Mysteriorum requires of its clergy that they execute a formal Oath of Canonical Obedience upon being raised to or incardinated in any of the Major Orders, which in E.A.D.M. are the orders of Deacon, Priest and Bishop. This Oath shall normally be executed during the ceremony at which the candidate is ordained to the first Major Order they receive in E.A.D.M., or, for incardinating candidates, will become effective from the date of incardination. Even in the event that a member of clergy does not execute this Oath in writing, he or she will still be deemed to be bound by its general provisions for as long as he or she serves as a member of clergy under the authority of E.A.D.M.

Oath for Deacons and Priests:

Before Almighty God and in the presence of a witness (preferably a bishop) I (print name) _____ a deacon/priest (delete as applicable) make the following commitments, having the intention that they shall be binding upon me and in the understanding that a breach of any commitment shall incur canonical sanctions.

1. I promise to serve in my vocation to the greater glory of Almighty God and to the fullness of my ability, acknowledging and nurturing the Holy Spirit at work within me and ready to offer the best of myself to others.
2. I promise to the bishop who shall be my Ordinary and to his or her successors due reverence and obedience in matters canonical.
3. I promise that I will serve faithfully in E.A.D.M. for a minimum term of five years before any request for excardination to another communion is submitted.
4. I promise that any intention on my part to apply to another communion to serve bivocationally in addition to my service in E.A.D.M. will be submitted to E.A.D.M. in advance and will be subject to receiving the formal approval of E.A.D.M.
5. I promise that in the event that I am involved in, aware of, or subject to any matter, whether criminal or otherwise, that has any potentially negative consequence for E.A.D.M. I will seek as an urgent priority to make this known to my Ordinary on the understanding that the matter will then receive consideration by the Presiding Bishop.
6. I promise that in the event that I am diagnosed with any mental illness or impairment that I will notify my Ordinary on the understanding that the matter will then receive consideration by the Council of Three.

This I undertake of my own free will and in the love of Christ.

(Signature of Deacon or Priest)

(Signature of Bishop/Witness)

Date: (day/month/year)

+

Oath for Bishops:

Before Almighty God and in the presence of two witnesses (preferably bishops) I (print name) _____ a bishop make the following commitments, having the intention that they shall be binding upon me and in the understanding that a breach of any commitment shall incur canonical sanctions.

1. I promise to serve in my vocation to the greater glory of Almighty God and to the fullness of my ability, acknowledging and nurturing the Holy Spirit at work within me and ready to offer the best of myself to others.
2. I promise to the Presiding Bishop and to his or her successors due reverence and obedience in matters canonical.
3. I promise that I will serve faithfully in E.A.D.M. for a minimum term of ten years before any request for excardination to another communion is submitted.
4. I promise that any intention on my part to apply to another communion to serve bivocationally in addition to my service in E.A.D.M. will be submitted to E.A.D.M. in advance and will be subject to receiving the formal approval of E.A.D.M.
5. I promise that in the event that I am involved in, aware of, or subject to any matter, whether criminal or otherwise, that has any potentially negative consequence for E.A.D.M. I will seek as an urgent priority to make this known to the Council of Three.

6. I promise that in the event that I am diagnosed with any mental illness or impairment that I will notify the Council of Three.

This I undertake of my own free will and in the love of Christ.

(Signature of Bishop making the Oath)

(Signature of First Bishop/Witness)

(Signature of Second Bishop/Witness)

Date: (day/month/year)