

# Constitution

of the  
Historical and Canonical

OLD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Archbishop Primate's Office  
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ARTICLE I  
ESTABLISHMENT

This ecclesiastical Communion constitutes the historic, canonical and unbroken Apostolic Succession emanating from the ancient Archdiocesan See of Utrecht, translated to other parts of the world and is known by the historic name first used in Utrecht, Old Roman Catholic.

ARTICLE II  
BELIEF

This Old Roman Catholic Communion is one in matters of Faith and Morals, *de fide*, with the Church established by Jesus Christ. It embraces all such doctrine of the Apostolic See of Rome, and it condemns all heresies and other errors condemned by that same See. It accepts as Catholics those who share this doctrine and conduct their affairs accordingly.

ARTICLE III  
CANONICAL AUTHORITY

The laws governing this Communion are those prescribed by the *Codex Juris Canonici* (Code of Canon Law) promulgated under the Seal of Pope Benedict XV in his Apostolic Constitution *Providentissima Mater*, May 27, 1917, wherever such Code is not in conflict with this Constitution, and those supplemental laws as properly provided by this Constitution, and which are not in conflict with matters *de fide*.

ARTICLE IV  
MEMBERSHIP

Persons shall be eligible for membership in this Communion who are validly baptized, who are willing to publicly express the Profession of Faith as provided within the *Rituale Romanum*, and who faithfully abide by this Constitution and all other laws of the Church.

ARTICLE V  
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

SECTION 1. COMPOSITION. — The legislative authority of this Communion is vested in the Council, which Council shall exist at all times, either in convocation or by other suitable means of communication, and which is composed of the Archbishop/Primate, hereinafter generally designated the "Archbishop," all bishops, priests, clerics in major orders and solemnly professed religious, whose names appear on the official Clergy Roll. Each having but a single vote.

SECTION 1.A. CLERGY ROLL — The Clergy Roll indicates the list of membership for the General Council as December 2, 2020 updated as required by the Archbishop. Additions and deletions to the Clergy Roll shall only occur at the direction of the Archbishop as per canonical norms, not conflicting with this Constitution and shall be confirmed by two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Council at the opening of each convocation. In the event of the reception of clergy from an external jurisdiction, these clergy will serve this Communion for a period of three years in an observer status before obtaining voting rights.

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SECTION 2. CONVOCATION.— A Council Convocation may be called at any time, provided each member has been given thirty (30) days' notice, but not more than once in the same calendar year, nor less often than once in five (5) years, by the Archbishop at a time and location determined by him; by petition to the Archbishop by two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Council, outlining the purpose of the Convocation at a time and location stipulated within the same petition.

SECTION 3. CONDUCT OF A CONVOCATION.- Convocation of the Council shall be called and presided over by the Archbishop, or if the Primacy is vacant by the Primate Auxiliary/Assistant, following the customary offering of the Mass of the Holy Ghost, and all sessions of such Convocation shall begin with an invocation to the Holy Ghost. The Archbishop shall preside at all sessions of the Convocation, except when he wishes to present motions or to speak to a motion, in which case(s) the President *pro tem*, who shall be elected as the first order of business upon the convoking of the Council, shall preside.

SECTION 4. AGENDA.— The Archbishop shall set the Agenda of the Council, unless the Council has been called by petition, in which latter case the Archbishop may add to the Agenda any matters he deems appropriate, and provided further that each member shall receive a copy of the complete Agenda not less than two (2) weeks prior to the Convocation. The introduction of any business not included on the Agenda shall be considered only after passage of a motion to that effect by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting, a quorum being present.

SECTION 5. RULES OF ORDER.— Roberts' Rules of Order Revised shall be the rules of order for all such Convocations and all other bodies of deliberation within this Communion.

SECTION 6. QUORUM.— No fewer than fifty percent (50%) plus one of the eligible membership of the Council may conduct the affairs of such a Convocation.

SECTION 7. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS. — A simple majority of those present and voting shall constitute passage of any motion, except on matters of procedure when parliamentary law provides otherwise.

SECTION 8. VETO POWER OF THE ARCHBISHOP.- The Archbishop shall have the power to veto any action of the Council when in his judgment such action would not be for the good of the whole of this Communion.

SECTION 9. VETO OVER-RIDE.— The Archbishop's veto shall be set aside upon passage of a pertinent motion by two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. However, should fifty percent (50%) of the bishops present, not including the Archbishop, vote with the Archbishop, the Archbishop's veto shall be sustained.

SECTION 10. CHIEF DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL.- The chief duties of the Council shall be to legislate for the good of the whole of this Communion, to elect the Archbishop/Primate; to elect bishops; to impose ecclesiastical sentences and censures; to confirm or lift ecclesiastical sentences and censure imposed by the Archbishop or one of the bishops; to confirm or lift suppressions of religious communities; to decide questions of appeal between ecclesiastical subordinates and superiors; and to consider amendments to this Constitution.

SECTION 11. ABSENTEE BALLOTS.— The Archbishop may for good reason permit the submission of absentee ballots for members who are unable to attend a Convocation, provided such manner of balloting shall be properly secured. The Archbishop shall provide for such balloting whenever one-third (1/3) of the members of the Council present petition the Archbishop for such balloting.

## ARTICLE VI

### THE OFFICE OF ARCHBISHOP/PRIMATE

SECTION 1. CHIEF DUTIES.— The Archbishop/Primate is the chief spokesman for this Communion. His duties are to preside at Councils; to negotiate, in the absence of a local ordinary, with local churches for the appointment of pastors and other members of the clergy; to consecrate to the episcopate those lawfully designated to that charge; to admonish and teach according to Catholic norms; to impose ecclesiastical sentences and censures for due cause; to act as liaison between this Communion and other church bodies, should such dialogue occur; to approve the establishment of religious communities; to create ecclesiastical territories, subject to confirmation by the Council; and to delegate by specific letter to the Primate Auxiliary/Assistant the carrying out of any of the aforementioned duties.

SECTION 2. ELIGIBILITY.— Any priest or bishop of this Communion who has attained to the age of thirty-three (33) years shall be eligible for the Primacy of this Communion.

SECTION 3. ELECTION. — Upon learning of the vacancy of the Primacy of this Communion, the Primate Auxiliary/Assistant shall provide for the election of a successor to the former Archbishop/Primate by one of two means: either he shall convoke a Council, as provided within this Constitution, at which he shall preside; or, if it is not feasible to convoke such a Council, the Primate Auxiliary/Assistant shall prepare a ballot, listing all such eligible priests and bishops, as provided in Section 2, alphabetically without regard to ecclesiastical rank. In either case, whether the election takes place at a Convocation or by the use of government mails, all voting shall be by ballot. Following each balloting, the Primate Auxiliary/Assistant shall be responsible for tabulating the ballots and informing the clergy of the

results. An Archbishop/Primate shall be elected when no fewer than two-thirds (2/3) of the ballots designate one individual.

SECTION 4. ASSUMING THE OFFICE.— Upon notification of his election, the Archbishop/Primate-Elect shall either accept or reject the office by notifying the Primate/Auxiliary/Assistant of his intent. If he rejects the Primacy, balloting shall be renewed, but his name shall be stricken from subsequent ballots. If he accepts the Primacy, his administration begins immediately with his acceptance. Should the person elected to the Primacy not be a bishop, the Primate/Auxiliary/Assistant shall without undue delay provide for the consecrators acceptable to the Archbishop/Primate-Elect.

SECTION 5. NATURE OF THE PRIMACY.— The election to the Primacy is a personal honor conveyed by one's fellow priests and bishops. The Primacy may be filled by the election of a priest or bishop of any locale. Upon election, the Archbishop/Primate succeeds to the See of Caer-Glow in historic and canonical continuity. He is the possessor of that See for the remainder of his life or until otherwise removed, as provided within this Constitution. If the Archbishop is impaired in the actual administration of that See, he may appoint a titular bishop or administrator for the See, and the Archbishop himself is free to retain his residence in whatever locale suits his convenience. In the event of the election of a bishop's subordinate to the dignity of the Primacy, the new Archbishop/Primate shall not usurp his former Ordinary's jurisdiction. Should need be, the new Archbishop/Primate may, with concurrence of the Council, create a local ordinary jurisdiction to accommodate his election.

SECTION 6. VACANCY. — The Primacy shall be vacated by death of the Archbishop/Primate, or by the Archbishop/Primate's tendering to the Council, through his Primate/Auxiliary/Assistant, a letter of resignation, or by deposition as provided in section 7.

SECTION 7. DEPOSITION.— The Archbishop may be deposed only for cause, such as serious breach of Canon Law, or for violation of this Constitution, and only by the Council, for which motion the Primate/Auxiliary/Assistant shall preside in Convocation, for which the Council members had received due notification on a previously released agenda, as provided elsewhere in this Constitution. The Archbishop shall be deposed following balloting on that question in which the results of such balloting indicate affirmation of two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting, a quorum being present, the Archbishop's veto notwithstanding.

#### ARTICLE VII PRIMATE/AUXILIARY/ASSISTANT

SECTION 1. SELECTION.— As soon as possible after assuming the Primacy, the Archbishop shall select a Primate/Auxiliary/Assistant, to

serve at the Archbishop's good pleasure, from among the priests and bishops of this Communion.

SECTION 2. DUTIES.- The Primate/Auxiliary/Assistant shall serve at all times at the pleasure of the Archbishop. He shall not carry out the duties of the Archbishop that are specifically identified in this Constitution, unless specifically deputized in Primate letters to do so. He shall serve as interim administrator when the Primacy is vacant.

SECTION 3. PRIMATE/AUXILIARY.— The Primate/Auxiliary shall be a bishop.

SECTION 4. PRIMATE ASSISTANT.— Should the Archbishop select a priest for this office, rather than a bishop, said priest shall serve in the capacity of Primate Assistant, with full right to carry out all duties which do not require the episcopal character, and which are delegated to him by the Primate.

SECTION 5. RESPONSIBILITY DURING PRIMATE VACANCY.- If the Primacy becomes vacant while there is a Primate Assistant, and not an Auxiliary, the Primate Assistant shall call upon one of the bishops of this Communion to provide any episcopal functions, including the consecration of an Archbishop/Primate-Elect.

SECTION 6. TENURE.— The Primate/Auxiliary/Assistant is to serve at the pleasure of the Archbishop. He may be removed at any time for any reason or for no reason by the Archbishop. Should the Primate/Auxiliary/Assistant survive the Archbishop or hold that post when the Archbishop either resigns or is deposed, the Primate/Auxiliary/Assistant shall administer the routine affairs of the Church until a successor to the previous Archbishop accepts the Primacy, at which time the position of Primate/Auxiliary/Assistant ceases to exist until the new Archbishop shall appoint someone to that post.

#### ARTICLE VIII THE CLERGY IN GENERAL

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE.— No member of the clergy possessing major orders shall be denied any ecclesiastical office to which he may be elected, provided such election conforms to this Constitution. No priest shall have the right to marry, but married men may be ordained and consecrated and hold any office for which duly qualified and duly elected.

SECTION 2. PRIVACY OF THE CLERGY.-- The Council may adopt guidelines for, but shall not legislate concerning, the private lives of the clergy, except in those instances in which potential scandal may arise.

SECTION 3. CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS. — Ecclesiastical superiors shall, in making clerical appointments, consider, in consultation with each cleric, the cleric's personal circumstances with regard to family

status, lay occupation, place of residence, and all other matters that affect such an appointment, the cleric having the right of appeal to the Synod and ultimately to the Council.

## ARTICLE IX CHURCH PROPERTY

SECTION 1. DEFINITION.— Church property is defined as that property which is acquired by the free will offerings of the laity, as distinct from that property acquired by an individual cleric through his personal means.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE.— Church property, wherever situated and of whatever kind, shall irrevocably be dedicated to religious, educational and charitable purposes.

SECTION 3. OWNERSHIP.— Church property shall remain the property of the religious entity — diocese or similar entity, parish, mission, religious house, or other church-related group — to which it belongs. No priest or cleric of any rank shall hold any church property in his own name; and all such entities as aforementioned shall be governed by a board of directors, either religious if a religious community, or lay if parochial, in all temporal matters, but no such board shall in any case impinge upon the spiritual jurisdiction of lawful ecclesiastical superiors.

SECTION 4. PRECEDENCE OF AUTHORITY.- In all matters of dispute, spiritual jurisdiction shall take precedence of authority over temporal jurisdiction.

SECTION 5. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.- Each ecclesiastical entity shall have a constitution, which shall not be in conflict with this Constitution, clearly delineating the areas of responsibility incumbent upon such corporate bodies. The Constitution of the Church of Our Lady of Good Hope, Pinellas Park, Florida, U.S.A., shall serve as a model for such constitutions, and all such constitutions shall be approved by the Archbishop before being promulgated.

## ARTICLE X AUTHORITY WITHIN THE CHURCH

SECTION 1. CONCLAVE.— The bishops are the chief teachers of this Communion. Together with the Archbishop, the bishops constitute an ecclesiastical Conclave. It is for the bishops alone to clarify matters of faith and morals, should questions arise. They may not deputize this responsibility to sage priests or learned theologians, though well might they call upon such persons for advice and counsel.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY.— In matters spiritual, faith and morals, the Con-clave is the regulating authority within this Communion. In matters legislative, and not de fide, the Council is the regulating authority within this Communion. In matters of personnel appeal and administration,

the Archbishop is the regulating authority within thin this Communion. In matters strictly temporal concerning the property of the laity, such laity shall be the regulating authority within this Communion.

SECTION 3. INDIVIDUAL ORDINARY. — Each Ordinary has his authority either by reason of the Holy Orders he possesses or as provided in the Code of Canon Law. Each Ordinary is the supreme pastor within his territorial jurisdiction in all matters not in conflict with this Constitution and/or the Code of Canon Law.

SECTION 4. RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS AND PASTORS.- Likewise, religious superiors and pastors of parishes are the regulating authorities of their jurisdictions. Ecclesiastical superiors visiting such religious houses and parishes are guests and do not become superiors pro tern during such visits. Such ecclesiastical superiors, however, shall in deference to their offices, be accorded every courtesy and dignity by reason of those offices. The ecclesiastical superior visits a religious house or parish for spiritual ministrations; such ecclesiastical superiors shall not intrude themselves in purely administrative matters of local concern, except as provided within this Constitution or by the Code of Canon Law.

SECTION 5. OTHER CLERGY AND CLERICS.- All other clergy and clerics serve at the discretion of their immediate ecclesiastical superiors, subject to Canon Law and any written local regulations. In matters both spiritual and temporal, insofar as these latter apply to one's duties, such clerics are subordinate to their immediate-superiors. Open conflict or subtle undermining of an immediate superior's authority shall be grounds for immediate removal from office, each subordinate having the right of due process and right of appeal to higher ecclesiastical superiors, and ultimately to the Council.

## ARTICLE XI ACCEPTANCE OF CLERICAL CANDIDATES

SECTION 1. RECEPTION.— No person shall be considered a candidate for orders leading to the sacred priesthood until such person shall have been in communion with this Church for not less than one year.

SECTION 2. SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS COMPATIBILITY.- No person who has a wife who is of a differing religious belief shall be considered as a candidate for the priesthood within this Communion; nor shall any person be considered for candidacy for the priesthood whose wife objects to his candidacy and subsequent ordination.

SECTION 3. SCRUTINY. — No person shall be accepted as a candidate for orders who has not been thoroughly scrutinized by proper investigation of his background by means of an application form prescribed by legislation of the Council or by his local Ordinary.

SECTION 4. QUALIFICATIONS.— All interdicts and age limitations shall be as provided in *Canon Law*. Dispensations from such provisions shall be granted only rarely and only out of grave necessity and with the approval of the Archbishop.

SECTION 5. ORDINATION PREPARATION.- No candidate may be ordained to minor or major orders without passing rigid examinations in the various academic areas as shall be provided by legislation of the Council, except by dispensation of the Archbishop.

## ARTICLE XII RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

SECTION 1. CREATION.— The Archbishop alone has the power to sanction the establishment of religious communities of men and religious communities of women, and he shall not approve such establishment without receiving the written constitution of such a community, and approving the same; but no such community shall be established within a jurisdiction without the Ordinary's invitation or consent.

SECTION 2. CONFORMATION TO CANON LAW.- In all respects, religious communities of men and religious communities of women shall conform to the provisions of Canon Law. The waiver of a provision, or the dispensation from a provision, of the Code is reserved to the Archbishop and not to the religious superiors of such religious communities.

SECTION 3. RELATIONS WITH THE ORDINARY.- The provisions of Canon Law provide for the jurisdictional affairs concerning religious communities and local ordinaries. Faithful adherence to the Code in all respects shall reduce potential conflicts between the religious community and the local ordinary. Conflicts which may arise shall be resolved by the Archbishop or his delegate, with the right of appeal to the Council.

SECTION 4. SUPPRESSION.— No local Ordinary or other local ecclesiastical superior has the power to suppress any religious community. Such power is reserved to the Archbishop for good and sufficient cause, and is subject to appeal to the Council.

SECTION 5. ADDITIONAL HOUSES; SAME JURISDICTION.- Religious communities wishing to establish another house in the same jurisdiction shall receive, and not presume, the written permission of the Ordinary.

SECTION 6. ADDITIONAL HOUSES; OTHER JURISDICTIONS.— Religious communities wishing to establish another house in another jurisdiction of this Communion shall be allowed to establish such an institution only through invitation or consent of the Ordinary in whose jurisdiction such a house is to be established.

## ARTICLE XIII AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

SECTION 1. PROPOSALS.— Any member of the Council may prepare a proposal to amend this Constitution. Such member shall submit his proposal to the Archbishop, who shall offer advice either to proceed, alter, or not to further consider such proposal. Should the Archbishop recommend no further consideration of the proposal, and should the member persist in his adherence to the proposal, the member is free to submit his proposal in writing to all other members of the Council, while at the same time advising each that the Archbishop has recommended no further consideration. The said proposal shall be considered by the Council if one-third (1/3) of the Council indicates to the Archbishop and the member concerned the desire to consider said proposal.

SECTION 2. MANNER OF VOTING.— Should the Archbishop consider the proposal appropriate for consideration, or should one-third (1/3) of the members of the Council request its consideration, the Archbishop shall order the preparation of ballots for its consideration either by the Council in Convocation or by mail, as provided elsewhere in this Constitution.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.— This Constitution shall be amended upon acceptance of the proposal, either by the Council in session or by mail, of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Council membership.

## ARTICLE XIV OBLIGATIONS TO THE CHURCH

SECTION 1. SUPPORT OF PRIMATE OFFICE. — Every ecclesiastical entity, religious and secular, has the obligation to contribute to the financial necessities of the Primate office, as shall be determined by legislation of the Council.

SECTION 2. SUPPORT OF LOCAL JURISDICTIONS. - Every ecclesiastical entity, both religious and secular, within a diocese or similar ecclesiastical jurisdiction has the obligation to contribute to the support of such jurisdictional necessities, as shall be determined by legislation of the Synod of that jurisdiction.

## ARTICLE XV SYNODS

SECTION 1. NATURE.— The Synod is to the diocese or other ecclesiastical entity what the Council is to this communion. It is the supreme legislative power of such a jurisdiction, provided that legislation for its jurisdiction be not in conflict with the Constitution and other laws of this Communion.

SECTION 2. COMPOSITION.— The Ordinary, all priests, solemnly professed religious and clerics in major orders of each jurisdiction compose the Synod of that jurisdiction, each having but a single vote.

SECTION 3. DUTIES.— The Synod shall have the power of legislating those matters not specifically provided for either by this Constitution, by the Council, or by the Code of Canon Law.

SECTION 4. VETO OF THE ORDINARY.- The Ordinary of the diocese or similar ecclesiastical entity shall have the same veto power in a Synod as is provided for the Archbishop in Council; and, if necessary, fifty percent (50%) of the membership of his Curia shall sustain such veto.

#### ARTICLE XVI THE CURIA

SECTION 1. NATURE.— Each Ordinary of a diocese or similar ecclesiastical entity shall have a board of consultors known as the Curia. Each member shall serve at the good pleasure of the Ordinary, and the Curia shall, for civil purposes, comprise the corporate structure of each diocese or similar entity. Such officers shall be advisers to the Ordinary, and the Ordinary shall in no way be obliged to act on the advice of the Curia.

SECTION 2. COMPOSITION.— Insofar as possible, all members of the Curia shall be priests or at least clerics in major orders. These clerical offices may not be held by women. The following offices, together with such other offices as may be deemed necessary by the Ordinary, shall comprise the Curia: Vicar General, or Pro-Prefect for entities similar to a diocese; Chancellor; Bursar; Notary; and the Officials, who shall be the chief of the court of first instance. These offices may be combined in any way deemed appropriate by the Ordinary, but in no case shall such Curia be comprised of fewer than three persons, including the Ordinary.

#### ARTICLE XVII RITES AND CEREMONIES

SECTION 1. TEXTS; COLLECTIONS; EXTRACTS.- The texts used in the Mass, Liturgy and administration of the Sacraments (*Missale Romanum, Pontificate, Rituale, Breviarium*) shall conform to the Typical Editions issued by the Holy See prior to 1964. Ritual collections and extracts may be used only insofar as these agree with the appropriate typical edition.

SECTION 2. LANGUAGE.— The Mass, Sacraments, Office and other ceremonies may be conducted either in the Latin language or in the vernacular, as pastoral requirements dictate and according to local custom, but in all cases such linguistic renderings shall be uttered with precision. The use of the Latin Canon in Masses offered in the vernacular, as well as the use of Latin for the essential form of the administration of the Sacraments, may be determined as appropriate by local authority.

#### ARTICLE XVIII CHURCH CALENDAR

The Archbishop shall designate one ecclesiastic who shall have the duty of formulating the Church Calendar each year. Said Calendar shall conform to the essentials of the Calendar extant prior to Vatican Council II, with the provision that saints canonized since that time shall be included; and it shall bear the imprimatur of the Archbishop and the nihil obstat of the ecclesiastic's Ordinary.

#### ARTICLE XIX THE LAITY

SECTION 1. TEMPORAL AUTHORITY. The laity shall share in the temporal governance of each secular church, parish or mission and whenever feasible in each religious community, by means of the establishment of boards of directors, as provided elsewhere in this Constitution.

SECTION 2. LIMITATIONS.— No lay person shall serve in the capacity of president, chairman or any such chief responsibility on such boards, but a layman may serve as vice-president, vice-chairman or similar designation; and such person may preside in the absence of the ecclesiastical superior.

SECTION 3. SPIRITUAL AFFAIRS.— The laity shall not impinge upon the spiritual governance of ecclesiastical superiors. Temporal matters shall always be subordinate to spiritual matters. The ecclesiastical superior is solely responsible for liturgical matters, including, but not limited to, the church sanctuaries, sacristies, church music, spiritual societies, church adornment. However, pastors of souls shall not exclude the laity from offering suggestions in matters that directly affect lay participation.

SECTION 4. SERVICE AT THE ALTAR.— No layman shall function in any capacity within this Communion except as a simple Mass and other liturgical services server, without the written consent of the local Ordinary, and then only for grave reason.

SECTION 5. WOMEN IN SANCTUARIES.- Women are permitted in the sanctuaries of this Communion for the following reasons only: to pronounce marriage vows or to be an official witness to such vows; to pronounce vows of religious profession; and for the care and maintenance of the sacred place outside of liturgical services. A woman may ring the bell during Mass when no server is present in the sanctuary, provided she remains outside the sanctuary rail.

SECTION 6. USE OF PARISH FACILITIES.- The laity shall have free access to their temporal facilities, provided due consideration be given to the responsibility of the ecclesiastical superior.

ARTICLE XX  
ECCLESIASTICAL HONORS

SECTION 1. RELIGIOUS.— Bishops have the right to designate canons for their own jurisdictions. The Archbishop has the right to designate canons universally. The following insignia only shall apply for such honors: black cassock, red/purple trim; black zucchetto; black biretta/purple pom; a purple ferraiolo may be worn for non-ecclesiastical functions. Should such a canon serve in the capacity of a vicar general, he may wear a simple pectoral cross (no more than one gem), but only when the cassock is worn; such prelates may not use a pectoral cross in civilian attire. A prelate's ring shall not be worn by anyone not having the episcopal character. A wedding ring may be worn according to custom. Religious communities adopting the use of a ring as part of the religious habit shall have the approval of the Archbishop for such adoption.

SECTION 2. PURPLE CHOIR ROBES.— The use of purple choir robes shall be restricted to the dignity of the episcopate.

SECTION 3. LIMITATION.— No other ecclesiastical title shall be granted within this Communion.

SECTION 4. TRAIN BEARERS.— The train bearers of bishops shall be entitled to the purple livery only during occasions when the bishop is vested in the cappa magna.

ARTICLE XXI  
ECCLESIASTICAL PRECEDENCE

The ecclesiastical precedence within this communion shall be as provided by Canon Law, The Archbishop taking precedence over all ecclesiastics.

ARTICLE XXII  
ELECTION OF BISHOPS

SECTION 1. NOMINATION.— All members of the episcopate have the right to nominate priests to the episcopate, and every priest has the right to suggest the name of any other priest, but not himself, for such a dignity to his own Ordinary, who may in turn make such a nomination. The bishop making such a nomination shall, by letter, advise each bishop of this Communion of such nomination. Each bishop shall then advise the nominating bishop of his yea or nay reaction. Said priest shall be nominated only when two-thirds (2/3) of the bishops have assented to such nomination.

SECTION 2. VETO. — The Archbishop may veto such nomination, as provided elsewhere in this Constitution, and that veto shall, if necessary, be sustained by fifty percent (50%) of the bishops' support of the Archbishop's veto.

SECTION 3. BALLOTING.— If the Archbishop approves the nomination of the priest for the office of bishop, or if the Archbishop's veto was not sustained, the Archbishop shall have a ballot prepared for the election of said nominee without undue delay; and such balloting shall proceed forthwith.

SECTION 4. ELECTION; ABSENTEE BALLOTS.- No priest shall be elected to the episcopate without the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Council voting. Should such an election take place during a Convocation, absentee ballots shall be provided for members of the Council who are not in attendance.

SECTION 5. MANDATE.— Following an affirmative vote in behalf of the nominee, the Archbishop shall prepare the Mandate, to be countersigned by not less than fifty percent (50%) of the bishops of this Communion. The original Mandate shall be forwarded to the Bishop-Elect and other copies shall be dispensed as provided in Canon Law.

SECTION 6. CONSECRATION. — The Archbishop preferably, or a bishop duly designated by him, shall proceed to the consecration of the Bishop-Elect without undue delay. At least one, preferably two, co-consecrators should participate in the consecration, such co-consecrator(s) being designated by the Archbishop in consultation with the Bishop-Elect.

SECTION 7. JURISDICTION; APPEAL - The Archbishop shall designate the jurisdiction of each new bishop, but he shall dutifully consider the locale and personal condition of the new bishop. In any jurisdictional dispute, appeal may be had to the Council, but the Archbishop shall have the right to exercise his veto, to be sustained as provided elsewhere in this Constitution.

ARTICLE XXIII  
ECCLESIASTICAL REPORTS

SECTION 1. PASTORS.— Every pastor shall submit a written report to his Ordinary each year, at a time designated by the Ordinary, stating the condition of his charge. All vital and fiscal statistics shall be included, the form of which may be legislated by the Council.

SECTION 2. RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS.— Superiors of religious communities shall submit to the Archbishop each year written reports, as legislated by the Council, at a time designated by the Archbishop.

SECTION 3. ORDINARIES.— Each Ordinary shall submit annually a report to the Archbishop, stating the condition of his complete jurisdiction, at a time designated by the Archbishop.

SECTION 4. ARCHBISHOP/PRIMATE; STATE OF THE CHURCH.- The Archbishop/Primate shall, on the basis of the reports submitted to him, report to the Church the State of the Church, such report being



disseminated not less than once every two years, and a similar report shall be made at each Convocation of the Council.

ARTICLE XXIV  
ENCYCLICALS; PASTORALS

SECTION 1. ENCYCLICALS.— To the Archbishop alone, either personally or by delegation by him, belongs the right to address this Communion throughout the world. Such encyclicals may address any matters the Archbishop feels appropriate for Church concern.

SECTION 2. PASTORALS.— The Archbishop and each Ordinary have the responsibility of addressing pastorals to their subjects at regular intervals, certainly for each of the great penitential seasons each year, Advent and Lent.

ARTICLE XXV  
METROPOLITANS

SECTION 1. NATIONAL.— Each nation having one or more ordinary jurisdiction(s) within this Communion shall be entitled to the dignity of one and only one Metropolitan/Archbishop, not including the Archbishop/Primate. The position shall be one of honor and not of jurisdiction, all other provisions of Canon Law withstanding.

SECTION 2. APPOINTMENT.— The Archbishop shall designate the Metropolitan for each nation from among the existing bishops, which Metropolitan shall hold that position for his lifetime or until removed as provided by Canon Law, he resigns, or by deposition of the Council.

ARTICLE XXVI  
INCARDINATION

SECTION 1. GENERAL NORM.— All persons in Holy Orders desirous of being received into this Communion under the provisions of this Article shall be received consistent with the provisions of Article XI of this Constitution.

SECTION 2. PRIESTS; LESSER CLERICS.- Ordinaries alone have the right to incardinate priests and lesser clerics into their own jurisdictions, but not without prior scrutiny, as provided elsewhere in this Constitution. Each such priest and lesser cleric shall publicly proclaim the Profession of Faith and the Oath Against Modernism as a condition of incardination.

SECTION 3. BISHOPS.— The Archbishop alone, but not without the consent of at least fifty percent (50%) of the Conclave, shall have the right to incardinate a bishop whose orders are considered valid by this Communion. Such a bishop shall serve this Communion in a manner prescribed by the Archbishop, in consultation with the Conclave, for a period of not less than one (1) year; and every such bishop shall be guided by a bishop of this Communion designated by the Archbishop, which guiding bishop shall submit a complete report to the Archbishop

at the end of that year, indicating the suitability or lack of the same of the newly-incardinated bishop to assume Ordinary jurisdiction. The Archbishop may then grant such a bishop Ordinary jurisdiction, provided two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Conclave concur.

SECTION 4. CHURCH BODIES WITHOUT BISHOPS.- A church body not having members of the episcopate may be received into communion by the Ordinary in whose jurisdiction such a church body exists, provided the Archbishop and fifty percent (50%) of the Conclave concur, all other provisions of this Constitution being strictly adhered to. In such a case, the Ordinary shall designate a Visitor-Priest, who shall guide the newly- incardinated clergy and people for a period of not less than one (1) year, which Visitor shall make regular reports to the Ordinary. At the end of the year, the Ordinary, in consultation with the Visitor, shall determine the suitability or lack of same in continuing the communion status with that church body. The decision of the Ordinary shall be final.

SECTION 5. CHURCH BODIES WITH BISHOPS.- The Incardination of church bodies which have bishops whose orders are considered valid may be received into communion only by the Archbishop and with the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the Council voting by ballot, as provided elsewhere in this Constitution. Should such a group be approved for incardination, the Archbishop shall designate a bishop and priests responsible for guiding such a group for a period of not less than one (1) year. No bishops of such a group shall have ordinary jurisdiction until, as with all other provisions of this Article, all conditions have been met.

ARTICLE XXVII  
EXCARDINATION

SECTION 1. THE INDIVIDUAL.— Only an individual may be excardinated, and then only into the jurisdiction perceived by the excardinating prelate to be Catholic, as defined in Article II of the Constitution.

SECTION 2. ORDINARY'S RESPONSIBILITY.- No Ordinary within this Communion may incardinate clergy of another jurisdiction of this Communion without receiving a document of excardination from the cleric's former Ordinary.

SECTION 3. DEFECTION. — No cleric of whatever rank who defects from this Communion shall be received again into this Communion only upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Council.

ARTICLE XXVIII  
DIVINE OFFICE; RETREATS

SECTION 1. CLERICS WITHOUT LAY OCCUPATIONS.- Any cleric in major orders and above, whose living is provided by the Church, is obliged to daily recitation of the Divine Office (*Breviarium Romanum*).

SECTION 2. CLERICS HAVING LAY OCCUPATIONS.- Any cleric in major orders and above, whose living is provided by lay employment, shall be exempt from the obligation of the Divine Office, but he is urged to pray the Office, or whatever parts he is able, as often as it is possible for him to do so, especially when he is making a religious retreat.

SECTION 3. RETREATS.— All clerics in major orders and above are obliged to make a religious retreat. For those clerics not employed in lay occupations, this shall be not less than once annually, as provided within Canon Law. For those clerics employed in lay occupations, not less than a weekend retreat or some similar arrangement per annum is required.

SECTION 4. RETREAT ACCOMMODATIONS.— Owing to serious limitations due to lack of facilities within our Communion, Ordinaries shall be flexible in approving such retreats for their subjects, but in all events the Ordinary's approval is required.

#### ARTICLE XXIX VISITORS

SECTION 1. UNIVERSAL PRACTICE.— Every religious entity, secular as well as religious, within this Communion shall have a Visitor, as provided by legislation of the Council.

SECTION 2. THE VISITOR.— The Visitor of each entity shall make such visit not less than annually, and shall instruct, admonish and report as provided within the Code of Canon Law.

#### ARTICLE XXX INTERCOMMUNION

SECTION 1. PRIESTS OF THIS COMMUNION.- No priest of this Communion may function in any church or other ecclesiastical establishment- which in his judgment deviates from the principles of Catholic belief outlined in Article II of this Constitution.

SECTION 2. CLERICS NOT INCARDINATED.— No priest or cleric of any rank who is not incardinated within this Communion shall function in any church, chapel or other ecclesiastical establishment of this Communion without the Ordinary's approval.

SECTION 3. INTERCOMMUNION.— Members of this Communion may receive the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist from priests whom they perceive to be Catholic as outlined in Article II of this Constitution.

#### ARTICLE XXXI LAST TESTAMENTS

All bishops, religious superiors and pastors of souls shall have last testaments (wills) prepared according to the norms provided in Canon Law.

#### ARTICLE XXXII ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS

SECTION 1. FIRST INSTANCE. — The court of First Instance shall be provided within each ordinary jurisdiction according to the norms of Canon Law.

SECTION 2. APPEALS.— Courts of appeal shall be established on a Metropolitan basis and at the Primatial level, according to norms legislated by the Council.

SECTION 3. LAST INSTANCE. - The Council shall be the court of last instance in all matters affecting the polity of this Communion.

#### ARTICLE XXXIII EXPULSION FROM MEMBERSHIP

Loss of the status of Communion shall be had by any member of this Communion, clerical or lay, according to the norms of Canon Law, and/or for failure to abide by the provisions of this Constitution and the lawful authority of the Council, subject to appeal to the ecclesiastical courts.

A. M. D. G.





## TABLE OF APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION OF THE OLD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1655	+ Antonio, Cardinal Barberini	Archbishop, Reims
1668	+ Charles Maurice Le Tellier	Archbishop, Reims
1670	+ Jacques Benigne Bousset	Bishop, Meaux
1693	+ Jacques Goyon de Matignon	Bishop, Condom
1719	+ Dominique Marie Varlet	Bishop, Babylon
1739	+ Petrus Johannes Meindaarts	Archbishop, Utrecht
1745	+ Johannes Van Stiphout	Bishop, Haarlem
1763	+ Gualtherus Van Nieuwenhuisen	Archbishop, Utrecht
1778	+ Johannes Adrian Broekman	Bishop, Haarlem
1797	+ Johannes Jacobus Van Rhijn	Archbishop, Utrecht
1805	+ Gijbertus Cornelius de Jong	Bishop, Deventer
1814	+ Willibrordus Van Os	Archbishop, Utrecht
1819	+ Johannes Bon	Bishop, Haarlem
1825	+ Johannes Van Santen	Archbishop, Utrecht
1853	+ Hermanus Heijkamp	Bishop, Deventer
1873	+ Gaspard Johannes Rinkel	Bishop, Haarlem
1892	+ Gerardus Gul	Archbishop, Utrecht
1908	+ Arnold Harris Mathew	Archbishop, London
1912	+ Rudolphe de Landes Berges	Bishop, Scotland
1915	+ Carmel Henry Carfora	Archbishop, Chicago
1935	+ Richard Arthur Marchenna	Archbishop, Newark
1950	+ Gerard George Shelley	Archbishop, Caer-Glow
1975	+ John Joseph Humphreys	Archbishop, Caer-Glow