

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 assist through donations the formation of clergy in the Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church and to support the charitable work of the Church and its associated missions.

Governance

1. The Order is in the specific gift of the Metropolitan Primate of the Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church, as Archbishop-Abbot of the Order.
2. The Archbishop-Abbot may appoint such First Class members of the Order as Officers as is necessary for the efficient governance of the Order from time to time.

Membership

1. Membership of the Order is available to both men and women who are baptised and confirmed Christians over the age of twenty-one years.
2. The number of members of the Order is restricted to a maximum of twenty-five at any one time.
3. Although it is intended that membership of the Order be conferred for life, members wishing to resign their membership may do so in writing to the Archbishop-Abbot, but having resigned, may not be readmitted.
4. Members may be removed for cause. A member facing proceedings for their removal shall first be entitled to a hearing before the Archbishop-Abbot and other senior members of the Order. A member who is removed may not wear the decorations or use the titles of the Order.
5. Members are requested to donate to the work of the Church and its missions according to their means.
6. Clergy of the Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church become eligible for appointment as Companions of the Order on the first anniversary of their appointment to the clergy of the Church.

Classes of membership

There are two classes of membership:

1. Members in the First Class shall be persons, lay or ordained, who are members of the Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church according to its definitions of membership.

- Members in the Second Class shall be persons, usually ordained, who are senior members of other churches which enjoy ecumenical dialogue and relations with the Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church.

Ranks of membership

Membership is in the following ranks, given with their postnominals:

Companion	(C.St.J.B.)
Knight or Dame	(K.St.J.B./D.St.J.B.)
Knight or Dame Commander	(K.C.St.J.B./D.C.St.J.B.)
Knight or Dame Grand Cross	(G.C.St.J.B.)

The Order has further provision to confer other titles on a special basis.

Members may be promoted from one rank to another in recognition of meritorious service.

Use of titles

- Lay members of the Order may use the prenominal title of Chevalier (for Knights) or Dame within the Order and the Church solely. They may not use these titles in other contexts, for example in private business or where pecuniary advantage may be gained.
- Ordained members of the Order do not use prenominal titles deriving from their membership.
- Members may generally use the postnominal letters of the Order to signify their membership, but should do so with careful regard to the reputation of the Order.
- Male members of the rank of Knight and above must not use the prenominal title of Sir to signify their membership.
- Spouses of members may not use courtesy titles deriving from their relationship to a member.

Applications for membership

- It is not possible to petition for membership of the Order and self-nomination automatically disqualifies the candidate. Candidates, who must be members of either of the two Classes given above, must be nominated by a member of clergy of the Liberal Catholic Apostolic Church on the basis of personal knowledge and proven merit.
- Lay members of the public not having any connexion with the Church and not being members of either of the two Classes given above are ineligible for any form of membership.
- There are no passage fees associated with application for membership.

Oath of Allegiance

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

"You are Gods, and all of you are children of the Most High." – Psalm 82:6

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.

Insignia

1. The insignia and mantle of the Order shall be as promulgated from time to time.
2. As an alternative to the Order's own insignia, 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.
3. Members will be issued with a diploma of appointment via their priest.

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.

IMPRIMATUR:




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

JK/08/LCAC/OSTJB revised statutes 18-12