

**The
Sub-Priory
of
Our Lady of Philermo**

**Article I
*Territorial Jurisdiction***

The Sub-Priory's territorial jurisdiction covers the same territory as that covered by the Western Association U.S.A.

**Article II
*Mission of the Sub-Priory***

1. a. The Sub-Priory of Our Lady of Philermo is a community by which prayer, action, and sacrifice draws to its members the grace of God, so that they may live a life in conformity with the spirit of the evangelical counsels in accordance with their state of life.

- b. The Sub-Priory is created as a constituent branch of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta, pursuant to the *Constitutional Charter* and the *Code*, in order to guarantee that its members fulfill the requirements of the Order.

c. To attain this end, the Sub-Priory considers that it is its particular duty:

- i. to intensify the religious life of its members and to organize spiritual exercises and other religious activities; and
 - ii. to encourage its members in a special way to defend and advance the Faith, and to devote themselves individually and corporately to spiritual works of mercy.
2. a. The Sub-Priory also assists in the religious activity of the Western Association.

 - b. The creation and operation of charitable institutions and projects is the responsibility of the Western Association. The charitable activity of the members of the Sub-Priory will be carried out within the framework of the Association.

 - c. Members of the Sub-Priory pay their annual dues to the Association. The Association in turn provides financial management and support for the Sub-Priory on the basis of an agreement reached with the Association.

**Article III
*Membership***

The following are members of the Sub-Priory and must live in the territorial jurisdiction of the Sub-Priory:

- Knights of Justice and professed Conventual Chaplains in perpetual vows;
- Knights of Justice and professed Conventual Chaplains in temporary vows;
- Aspirant Knights of Justice and Novice Knights of Justice without the right to vote;
- Knights and Dames in Obedience;
- Candidates in rank in Obedience in their year of probation without the right to vote.

Article III
Admission of Members

1. Admission to the Sub-Priory of those members listed in Article III is automatic. After the Sub Priory is established, the procedures for admission to the Novitiate for candidates to the First Class, or to the year of probation to the rank of Knight or Dame in Obedience, are prescribed by the *Code* (art. 6-107) or, more precisely:

a. The candidate must have belonged for at least five years to a Priory or Association of the Order of Malta. In special cases, the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council may shorten this requirement, if a deliberative vote of the Regent or his Council is favorable. The candidate should forward his request to the Regent of the Sub-Priory and to the President of his association. The Regent, having consulted his Council and the President of the concerned Association, then transmits the Request and his Report to the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council.

b. Before presenting the request to the Grand Master, the following are required:

- i. the agreement of the President of his association;
- ii. the evidence of the suitability of the candidate according to the Rule and the other relevant requirements of the Order (*Code*, Art. 6-16 and 94-99);
- iii. the consultative vote of the Council of the Sub-Priory.

c. The proposal of the Regent accompanied by the name of the proposed Novice Master (for candidates for profession) or Master of Probation (for candidates for Obedience), and a priest who is preferably a Chaplain of the Order, under whose direction the Novice or Aspirant will carry out the Novitiate or the year of probation. For the admission of Profession of vows or to the Promise the following are prescribed:

- i. that a deliberative vote of the council of the Sub-Priory be taken by a secret ballot;
- ii. that the request be transmitted by the Regent to the Grand Master and Sovereign Council, if the vote is favorable.
- iii. In a case where the Article provides for a deliberative vote of the Council of the Sub-Priory the Regent may exercise his veto on the admission of an Aspirant.

d. A candidate acquires membership in the Sub-Priory by the fact of starting his/her year of formation for the First or Second Class.

e. A Knight of Justice, a Knight or a Dame in Obedience, or a professed Conventual Chaplain, who has become a member of the First or Second class without being a member of the Sub-Priory, if the Regent, having a favorable vote of the Council, should request the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council to attach that person to the Sub-Priory with the previous agreement of the candidate.

Article V ***Cessation of Membership***

1. A Knight of Justice in Simple Vows or a professed Chaplain in Simple Vows who does not renew his vows ceases to belong to the Sub-Priory. Similarly, a Knight or Dame in Obedience who wishes to withdraw from his or her promise is governed by Article 104 of the *Code of the Order*. A Knight of Justice continues to belong to the Sub-Priory as a Knight of Obedience, when he is a former member of that Class or makes the Promise instead of renewing his vows.
2. Dismissal or resignation from the Order comprises *ipso facto* exclusion from the Sub-Priory.
3. In the event when the demeanor of a member might prejudice the good name of the Sub-Priory, the Regent, with the approval of the Council, in taking action against the

member must follow the procedures set forth in Articles 119 to 129 in the *Code of the Order*.

Article VI ***The Organization of the Sub-Priory***

1. The Regent
2. The Council
3. The Chapter

Article VII ***The Regent***

1. The Sub-Priory is preferably presided over by a Professed Knight or a Knight of Obedience with the title of Regent, in accordance with Article 33 of the *Constitutional Charter* of the Order. The Regent, in addition to fulfilling the conditions prescribed by the *Constitutional Charter and the Code*, must be at least forty years of age and must have been a member of the Order for at least ten years.
2. The Regent is elected by the Chapter by secret ballot. He cannot exercise his powers until he has obtained the confirmation of his election by the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council. Until such confirmation has been received, the previous Regent continues to exercise his powers. The Regent is elected for a six-year term and may be re-elected for an additional period of three years.

3. The Regent may offer his resignation to the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council. The resignation enters into effect only on its acceptance.

In case of the death or the resignation of the Regent, the Vice-Regent or, in his place in case he in turn is impeded, the most senior as a Knight of Obedience Councilor, shall summon the Council to determine the procedure for the election of a new Regent, which election must be carried out within three months.

4. In the case of the death of the Regent or, in the event of his manifest incapacity he is impeded for a long period of time from exercising his functions, the Vice-Regent, until the moment of entry into office of the new Regent, carries on acts of ordinary administration. If the Vice-Regent in turn is impeded, the most senior as a Knight of Obedience in the Order of the Councilors will take his place.

The Regent:

- a. shall exercise the rights and duties of his office in the fulfillment of the ends specified in Article I hereof;
- b. shall represent the Sub-Priory in its relations with the Grand Master, Government of the Order, and others;
- c. shall, from time to time, convene the Council and the Chapter.

Article VIII ***The Officers of the Sub-Priory***

1. The officers of the Sub-Priory are:

- the Regent
- the Vice-Regent
- the Chancellor
- the Treasurer

2. The holders of the office of Vice-Regent, Chancellor, and Treasurer are nominated from, and elected by, the Chapter. The Vice-Regent is elected first.

2. The Chancellor holds the office of Secretary of the Council and of the Chapter and prepares and distributes the minutes of meetings, which shall be signed both by him and by the presiding officer at the meeting, within sixty (60) days of the meeting.

Article IX ***Councilors***

1. The Regent is assisted and advised by the Councilors, *i.e.* the Vice-Regent, the Chancellor, the Treasurer, and two Knights or a Knight and a Dame of the Sub-Priory. The Councilors are elected by the Chapter by secret ballot. They cannot exercise the powers inherent in their office until the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council has confirmed their election. The election shall be for a period of six years, and Councilors shall be re-eligible for a further period of three years. After their mandate has expired,

they continue to exercise their duties until the formal confirmation of the election of the new Councilors.

2. Councilors may, through the Regent, notify their resignation to the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council. The resignation is effective four weeks after its notification, unless it is accepted by the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council before that time. After the death or expiration of a mandate of one of the Councilors, a successor must be elected for the balance of the term of office.

The election must take place within four months of the death or effective resignation of his predecessor, but in the event of six months or less remaining before the next statutory election, a special election need not be held.

Article X ***The Council***

1. The Council consists of: the Regent, the Vice-Regent, the Chancellor, the Treasurer, and two councilors. The Chapter elects the Councilors, with a simple majority by secret ballot. One Councilor may be a Dame.

2. The Council meets at least once a year, according to need or on the demand of three of its members, with not less than fourteen days' notice given by the Regent who presides over the Council. The quorum for the duly summoned Council shall consist of the Regent or, if he be impeded, the Vice-Regent, and two other members with deliberative votes.

In so far as the Statutes do not otherwise provide, decisions are taken by a simple majority; in cases of equality of votes, the Chair shall have a casting vote.

3. It shall be within the competence of the Council:

- a. to submit a proposal or proposals to the Grand Master;
- b. to recommend to the Regent and approve of measures taken by the Regent in accordance with the present Statutes;
- c. to provide for spiritual exercises and other religious activities.
- d. The Council shall establish the principal office for the transaction of the business of the Sub-Priory in the County of San Francisco. Other offices may be established elsewhere in the State of California and in other states within the territorial jurisdiction of the Western Association.

Article XI ***The Chapter***

1. The Chapter consists of all members of the Sub-Priory.
2. The Chapter is summoned in writing by the Regent in case of need or when the majority of members so requests, at least every three years with at least fourteen days' notice of the meeting.

3. Unless otherwise provided, decisions of the Chapter are taken by a simple majority vote. In the case of an equal number of votes the presiding officer shall have a casting vote.
4. The quorum shall be the Regent, or, if he be impeded, the Vice-Regent and at least one-third of the members.
5. It shall be within the competence of the Chapter:
 - a. to elect the Regent;
 - b. to elect the Councilors;
 - c. to establish an annual subscription, if deemed necessary;
 - d. to approve the accounts;
 - e. to amend the present Statutes, but any Amendment must be approved by the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council.

Article XII
The Chaplain of the Sub-Priory

The Chief Chaplain of the Sub-Priory is appointed by the Prelate of the Order on the proposal of the Regent for a period of five years. Before exercising his right to propose a Chaplain of the Order as chief Chaplain of the Sub-Priory, the Regent must consult the Chapter.

Article XIII
Emergency Regulations

1. If the expiration of the mandate of the Regent or of the Councilors takes place at a time when the meeting of the Chapter would be extraordinarily

difficult, the holders of these offices remain in office until the next meeting of the Chapter, which shall meet as soon as the difficulties have been resolved.

2. The Regent, with a two-thirds approval of those members of the Council with whom contact can be established, shall determine whether there is a case of extraordinary difficulty in the sense of this Statute; any decision taken under this provision must be notified without delay to the Grand Master or the Sovereign Council.

Article XIV
General Regulations

The regulations of the *Constitutional Charter* of 1997 and of the *Code* of 1997 shall be applied in all cases not explicitly regulated by the present Statutes.

Article XV
Compensation for Expenditures

All offices of the Sub-Priory are honorary.

Article XVI

1. These Statutes become valid upon approbation by the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council.

2. Members of the Sub-Priory of Our Lady of Philermo, who are bound together by these Statutes in order to reach a common goal, must constantly bear in mind that the Church expects them to mobilize their strength for the defense and propagation of the Faith.

3. The members should constantly place themselves under the protection of Our Lady of Philermo to Whom, in 1988, in Lourdes, the Order of Malta was solemnly entrusted, to the Saints and Blesseds of the Order; and they should also observe that the Holy Father, Pope John XXIII, of glorious memory, provided the first Knights of Obedience in 1961, with his own motto:

***OBCEDIENTIA
ET
PAX.***