

## ***Orthodox Brotherhood of the Dormition of the Holy Ever-Virgin Mother of God Mary***

The Brotherhood is a society of Orthodox Christian men, both clergy and lay, in good standing with the Church, organized for the purpose of promoting the Orthodox Christian Faith, particularly in its expression of the Western Rite, through devotion to the Our Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary in her Dormition.

### **Structure**

- 1) The Brotherhood is directly subject to the Metropolitan as a stavropegial organization.
- 2) The Brotherhood's membership shall consist of only clergy and laity who are members of our Synod, the Autonomous Orthodox Metropolia of North and South America and the British Isles.
- 3) The head of the Brotherhood, under the Metropolitan, is Superior of the Brotherhood, who is appointed by the Metropolitan initially, but, after his repose, shall be elected by secret ballot by all members of the Brotherhood in a meeting. The Superior's election is subject to confirmation by the Metropolitan.

4) Bishops are not allowed to be members of the Brotherhood; the Metropolitan is himself not a member of the Brotherhood, though it operates directly under his patronage as stavropegial.

5) Each member of the Brotherhood shall agree to the statement of ecclesiastical and spiritual principles, specifically those outlined in the Statement of Spiritual Principles.

6) The Brotherhood's purpose is centered around the traditional Orthodox teaching of the Church, and condemns secret societies such as Freemasonry.

## **Spiritual Practices**

1) Members of the Brotherhood shall endeavour to chant the Little Office of the Virgin every day, irrespective of the appointed liturgical ordo of the day, in consultation with the Metropolitan or Superior.

2) An approved usage of the Mass Book, with certain variations, approved by the Metropolitan, shall be used by the Priests who are members of the Brotherhood in their celebration of the Holy Mass.

4) All Priests who are members of the Brotherhood must promise to celebrate the full services on the Vigil of the Dormition, as well as on the Feast of the Dormition, and on all days in the Octave of the Dormition.

5) Members must endeavour to go to Confession and Communion as often as possible. Members who are Priests should endeavour to celebrate Mass and Vespers as often as possible, and not just Sundays and major Feasts, unless otherwise impossible due to legitimate reasons and in consultation with the Superior.

6) Each member of the Brotherhood must endeavour to read through the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament each year.

7) The praying of the Jesus Prayer, as well as the Angelic Salutation, the Salve Regina, and other services to Our Lady should be a regular part of members' spiritual practices. These practices should be discussed with the Superior.

8) The Prayerbook printed by the Brotherhood shall be used by each member of the Brotherhood.

9) Priest members of the Brotherhood should sing Requiem Masses for each departed brother, as well as Nocturns, Vespers, Lauds, and other offices for the departed. These practices should be discussed with the Superior.

10) Members of the Brotherhood pray for the triumph of Orthodox Christianity in the life of their nation.

11) All members must observe a two week fast prior to the Feast of the Dormition; while not uniformly observed in the West prior to the schism, respect for the namesake of our Brotherhood demands the appropriate piety.

## **Admission and Postulancy**

1) Members are admitted to the Brotherhood through a rite of admission conducted by either the Metropolitan or the Superior.

2) The applicant must contact the Superior of the Brotherhood and apply for formal admission as a postulant. The Superior then contacts other members of the Brotherhood and informs them of this individual joining; they can either voice objection or acceptance, though the Superior has the final say. The

Postulants must attend the annual meeting, even if they are received before it. Postulants and full members must attend the annual meeting. After 1 year, if the Postulant has observed all the requirements, and has been in good standing, he may be admitted at the next annual meeting of the Brotherhood. A Postulant has no financial obligations to the Brotherhood before joining.

3) The applicant must arrange to come and stay at the Abbey of the Holy Name for a full 5 day, and must, during that period, attend services every day, and receive instruction from both the Metropolitan and the Superior.

4) At the end of this period, the Metropolitan, or Superior (if the Metropolitan designates him), will receive the applicant as a postulant in a special service, either immediately before Mass begins, or prior to Vespers, on that day. The postulant promises obedience to the Brotherhood and its statutes and constitutions in this service.

## **Duties of Members**

1) Every year, on the Feast of the Octave Day of the Dormition ( August 22 [OS] / September 4 [NS] ) all members of the Brotherhood shall be required to

assemble at a yearly meeting at the Abbey of the Holy Name or Holy Transfiguration Western Rite Orthodox Church. The meeting shall continue until August 26 OS / September 8 NS. Members must be present for at least the first day. On these days, with penitence and the Sacrament of Confession, there shall follow the celebration of the Orthodox Western Rite Holy Mass each day by either the Superior of the Brotherhood, or the Metropolitan; all priests shall concelebrate, all deacons and other servers shall serve as well; all laity shall take the Eucharist each day; a Procession shall be held around the grounds of the monastery with an Icon of the Feast, with the appropriate chants and material as given in the approved liturgical publication of the Brotherhood.

2) If a member of the Brotherhood is unable financially to afford coming to the annual meeting of the Brotherhood, the Superior of the Brotherhood shall be informed, and the members of the Brotherhood should all contribute to the finances to enable him to be able attend.

3) No member of the Brotherhood, shall, under any circumstances whatsoever, engage in disreputable practices either in their personal or business life.

4) The clergy members of the Brotherhood shall pledge support for the other clergy in terms of aiding them with vestments and other church material, in addition to spiritual support.

5) Each member of the Brotherhood shall aid in the burial expenses and medical expenses of members.

6) Each member of the Brotherhood must pledge to giving financial support to other members in times of dire need in as far as they are able.

7) Each member of the Brotherhood must pledge to giving, first and foremost, physical support and labor to the upkeep of the Abbey of the Holy Name, and only financial support if they are unable to do this. Full members of the Brotherhood must contribute 50 cents a day to a general fund administered by the non-profit Order of St. John the Apostle [i.e. the Abbey's non-profit). If they are unable to financially do this, they must contact the Superior and explain. All financial records of the Brotherhood's expenses, however, will be open and public. 50 cents a day, roughly, translates into 15 dollars a month. The General Fund will divide its funding of projects on the following basis:

a) 15% of the General Fund will go directly at the end of each fiscal year to the continuing building and

upkeeping fund of the Abbey of the Holy Name as our tithe.

b) 10% of the General Fund will go directly to an approved pro-life crisis pregnancy centre approved by the Brotherhood.

c) 10% of the General Fund will go directly into other approved charitable organizations.

d) 10% of the General Fund will go directly into a separate account with the purpose of raising money for building our hope for, and long term goal of, a replica of the Tomb of the Theotokos on Mt. Apshawa

e) 10% of the General Fund will be donated to the building fund of the monastery at Woodstock, until such time as the money is raised completely.

f) The remaining 45% of the General Fund shall sit in a non-interest bearing account, and funds are only to be extracted on an as needed basis for approved activities with (a) the approval of the Metropolitan and (b) the approval of the Superior of the Brotherhood, and (c) notification of the Brotherhood members. When any such extraction is made, all members of the Brotherhood must be made aware explicitly of where the money is going to.

8) The Brotherhood shall compose, print, or re-print all material promoting the Orthodox Christian Faith and Praxis in terms of writing of the Fathers, liturgical

books, works of saints, theological text books, pamphlets, etc.

9) The Brotherhood shall support missionary activity of our Synod for the Orthodox Christian Faith at home and abroad.

10) Although members of the Brotherhood may be people who use the Byzantine Eastern Rite, it must be understood that the Brotherhood is in its orientation Orthodox Western Rite (though, this is understood without detriment to the Orthodox in the East).

11) All Western Rite clerical members of the Brotherhood must pledge not only to use the rubrics of the Western Rite Books exactly, but, to learn Gregorian chant.

12) Members of the Brotherhood shall annually read through the Rule of Our Holy Father Benedict.

13) The Brotherhood shall fully support the usage of the traditional liturgical language of the Orthodox West, i.e. Latin, in the celebration of the Mass, Divine Offices, Sacraments, and other sacred rites and services; in order to facilitate this where it is desired, appropriate liturgical books with Latin on one side, and the high vernacular on the other shall be printed

by the Brotherhood. The Brotherhood, however, shall currently use a form of the high prosaic vernacular English [so called 'King James English'] only and exclusively in all liturgical books and publications, and the Brotherhood shall sternly oppose any attempt to use modern English in any liturgical service book of the Church. In so far as Slavonic was traditionally used in many areas for the celebration of the Orthodox Western Rite, its study and usage is encouraged.

14) The Brotherhood shall carry the Dormition Icon in procession on the Octave Day of the Dormition.

15) At the first meeting of the Brotherhood, prior to Mass, the Metroplitan (or delegate Priest) shall consecrated with Sacred Chrism a special Icon of the Dormition.

### ***Discipline***

1) Failure to attend the annual meeting two years in a row, even with an excuse, shall cause the member to be temporarily reduced to that of postulant. After which, he shall only be admitted again with a new profession before the Superior or the Metropolitan.

2) Each member of the Brotherhood shall refrain from negative criticism of the Brotherhood's goals, and shall avoid naysaying, backbiting, and gainsaying of fellow members, as well as clergy and laity of our Synod.

3) Members of the Brotherhood shall refrain from inter-jurisdictional disputes, except in cases where our Church is unfairly attacked, and then only engage in such disputes to the extent that our Church must be legitimately defended, minding what St. Augustine said, i.e., how we must attack principles, and not persons.

### ***Alms and Charitable Giving***

1) The Brotherhood shall collect money to donate to approved Pro-life organizations, and charities helping with Pro-life causes.

2) At the annual meeting of the Brotherhood, all members shall be present for the singing of all the Divine Offices, and Mass shall be celebrated each day in the morning. After this, a meal shall be held in the refectory of the monastery, at which spiritual readings shall be read, and talks given on spiritual subjects. After this, all shall assemble in the nave of the Church

for the official meeting of the Brotherhood to be held and conducted according to the appointed order. Later that day, before Vespers, after each day of the meeting, all members of the Brotherhood shall assemble in a prayer vigil with appropriate prayer services against abortion and in protest of abortion clinics. Vespers shall be celebrated at 6 pm. After each Hour of the day, and the Mass, the Salve Regina shall be sung.

3) The Brotherhood shall eventually seek to establish a theological house of studies for the Orthodox Christian Faith in terms of its Western Rite expression (though all Orthodox Christians may attend). Although non-Western Rite Orthodox members of our Synod may attend. The initial house of studies shall be attached to the Abbey of the Holy Name.

4) The Brotherhood shall seek to establish an academy for the study of Orthodox canon law in order to provide expertise on this subject for the purpose of advising the Synod of Bishops.

5) The Brotherhood shall seek to eventually build a replica of the Tomb of the Mother of God, and to dedicate a Church to her Dormition attached, on the property of the Abbey of the Holy Name. The church

shall be subject to the Abbot of the Abbey of the Holy Name.

6) The Brotherhood shall support the buying, building, and establishing of physical church buildings as permanent properties of our Church; the Brotherhood shall raise appropriate means for the making of iconographic paintings in such churches, the building of rood / chancel screens, the construction of Altars, purchasing of holy vessels, vestments, and the establishment of chapters of minor and major clergy in each church, subject to the Metropolitan. The Brotherhood shall seek to obtain or buy the material needed for the consecration of each church building.

7) The Brotherhood shall promote the establishment of monastic houses, subject to the arch-abbacy of the Abbey of the Holy Name.

8) The Brotherhood shall promote any and all charitable activities in accordance with Orthodox Christian Faith and Praxis.

9) The Brotherhood shall promote the establishment of a monastic community at the Church of the Holy Transfiguration on Mt. Overlook, in Woodstock, NY, as well as the upkeep.

10) Clergy members of the Brotherhood must pledge continued support to the Orthodox Western Rite; the Superior shall only be a monk of the Abbey of the Holy Name and thus only Orthodox Western Rite.

11) The Brotherhood shall handle all financial matter with open transparency.

12) The Brotherhood shall support the making of and consecration of Orthodox cemeteries which contain Orthodox funerary chapels.

13) The Brotherhood shall support the construction of Orthodox Western Rite chapels and shrines.

14) The Brotherhood shall support the construction of, administration of, support of ,and running of hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, pro-life centres, and educational institutions that operate in conformity with our Faith.

15) Each clerical member of the Brotherhood shall pledge to extensively and devoutly study the rubrics of the Holy Mass, the Divine Office, the Sacraments and Rites of the Orthodox Western Rite.

16) The Brotherhood shall support the establishment of a chapel dedicated to exclusively celebrating the

Orthodox Old Hispanic (Mozarabic) Rite with Mass, Divine Office, and other rites, every day. In support of this, at the third day of the annual meeting of the Brotherhood, the Old Hispanic Mass shall be celebrated with Terce and Sext in that rite and custom. In addition to this, the Brotherhood shall seek to eventually establish a monastic community, initially attached to this chapel, but, thereafter separated, which shall celebrate only the Old Hispanic (Mozarabic) rite.

17) The Brotherhood shall promote the establishment of chapels dedicated to the other Orthodox Western Rites in conformity with Synodal praxis.

18) The Brotherhood shall support an annual Western Rite Orthodox Conference at the Abbey of the Holy Name.

19) The Brotherhood shall support the bi-annual Synod meeting by providing canonical and theological experts and presentations.

20) The Brotherhood shall support the building of the cemetery at the Abbey of the Holy Name, as well as dedicating a funerary Chapel there in honour of All Souls, as well as an additional Chapel dedicated in

honour of the Seven Holy Archangels and the  
Celestial Powers.

21) The Brotherhood shall promote additional meetings and assemblies, convocations, seminars, events, although, members are only required to attend the annual meeting.