

REGIONAL STATUTES

Atlantic Region of the Union of the Blood of Christ

1. Eucharistic Life

(Gen. Stat., Part II, Sect. 6)

In the Eucharistic sacrifice, the Blood of Christ, of the new and eternal covenant, is offered sacramentally to the Father for the remission of sins. This covenant meal is eaten to manifest our communion with Christ and with his Body, the Church. “The blessing cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ.”(Cor10:16-17) Eucharistic communion, then, is the concrete expression of our joining in Christ’s redeeming sacrifice. Realizing the supreme importance of Eucharistic communion for the spirituality of the Union, as well as our own fellowship, its members are strongly encouraged to receive Communion daily when possible, but especially on Friday, the day of the Lord’s passion and death. The universal precept of the Church regarding participation in the Sunday Eucharist is taken for granted.

2. Penitential Life

(Gen. Stat., Part II, Sect.7)

The Pascal mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection has accomplished our reconciliation with God and destroyed the power of sin. "When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son" (Rom. 5:10). God, in Christ, was reconciling the world to himself, and has entrusted this ministry of reconciliation to the Church's priests. This message of reconciliation is present in the sacrament of Penance in a special way (cf. 2 Cor. 5:18-20). In the name of Christ and by the power of the reconciling Blood there is remission of sin and the penitent is restored to God's friendship and ecclesial communion. Members of the Union, having themselves been brought near to God and one another by the Blood of Christ (cf. Eph 2:13), strive to remain free from sin and reconciled with God and each other through a frequent reception of the sacrament of reconciliation. It is recommended that members make a sacramental confession at least every two months.

3. Prayer Life

(Gen., Stat., Part II, Sect. 8)

To deepen their relationship with God, members of the Union are urged to have frequent recourse to personal prayer, striving thereby to live the life of grace ever more fully. Among the means recognized by the Church for growth in the spiritual life are a



daily period of meditation and spiritual reading, Eucharistic adoration, and recitation of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin. Members of the

Union are also encouraged to foster a particular devotion to the Most Precious Blood as illustrated in manuals and books of prayer published by Precious Blood communities.

4. Liturgical Life

(Gen. Stat., Part II, Sect. 8)

The public prayer of the Church contained in the Liturgy of the Hours calls Christians to join, as members of Christ's Body, in the sacrifice of praise offered by the priestly people of God united to their Head and High Priest, Jesus Christ.



Members of the Union, whose spirituality focuses on the priestly intercession of Jesus “who has entered the sanctuary once for all with his own blood” (cf. Heb. 9:12), are encouraged to pray Morning and Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours thus exercising their own priestly ministry in union with Jesus.

5. Special Liturgical Celebrations

(Gen. Stat., Part 11, Sect. 8)

The seasons and feasts of the liturgical year place before us the entire mystery of salvation and provide the Christian with an opportunity of personally absorbing the grace of the mystery celebrated.

The following liturgical celebrations have special relevance to members of the Union and are proposed as days of special devotion.

- The Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday)
- Solemnity of the Most Precious Blood
- Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ
- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- Solemnity of St. Gaspar del Bufalo
- Feast of Our Lady of the Precious Blood
- Memorial of St. Maria de Mattias

The Paschal Triduum
(Holy Thursday, Good Friday,
and Holy Saturday)

the heart of the liturgical year enables us to share most fully in the redemptive mission of Jesus who on these days established the New Covenant in his Blood.

Solemnity of the Most Precious Blood
(July 1st)

the titular feast of the Union, presents to the faithful who celebrate it the price of their redemption, and invites them to worship the Redeemer who revealed the mystery of our salvation in shedding his Blood.

Solemnity of the Body and Blood
of Christ (2nd Sunday after
Pentecost)



this Eucharistic feast draws attention to the real presence of the Blood of our redemption contained in the Blessed Sacrament, and the worship and reverence which is its due.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception *(December 8th)*

the Union was inaugurated by Fr. Francesco Albertini, assisted by St. Gaspar, on December 8, 1808 in Rome at the Basilica of San Nicola in Carcere. Mary's freedom from sin intimately links her to the mystery of redemption.

Solemnity of St. Gaspar del Bufalo *(October 21st)*

the feast of the founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood honors the illustrious priest and missionary upon whom has been bestowed the title, "Apostle of the Precious Blood".



Feast of our Lady of the Precious Blood*(May 24 th)*

known also as the feast of Mary, Help of Christians, this day recalls the collaboration of Mary in the work of redemption, her intimate union with the sacrifice of her Son, and her powerful intercession as universal mediatrix.

***Memorial of St. Maria de Mattias****(Feb. 4)*

the foundress of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ worked closely with St. Gaspar and his successor, Ven. John Merlini, in making known the glories of the Precious Blood.

6. Apostolic Life

(Gen Stat. Part. II, Sect. II)

The members of the Union are encouraged to engage in some apostolic work where they seek to apply the merits of Jesus' redemption in a special way. They should do their apostolic work in the same spirit and for the same ends envisioned by St. Gaspar. *"The Society dedicated itself to service of the Church through the apostolate and missionary activity of the ministry of the word"* (Const, of the Society of the Precious Blood, 3)

The devotion to the Precious Blood likewise gives impetus to the Society's work. Among the apostolates recognized as most effective for members of the Union, whereby they collaborate with St. Gaspar's Community, are the ministry of intercession, causes in the defense of life, catechesis, liturgical ministries, the propagation of the faith, and missionary endeavors.

7. Regional Director

(Gen. Stat., Part III, Sect. 16)

The Regional Director of the Union shall be, *ex officio*, the Provincial of the Atlantic Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. He may delegate this responsibility to another person of his choice. The Regional Director is the competent ecclesiastical authority who ensures that integrity of faith and morals is maintained in the Unions and that abuses in ecclesiastical discipline do not creep in. He has the right and the duty to visit the local Unions (cf. Code of Canon Law, Canon 305,1).

8. Levels of Commitment

(Gen. Stat., Part III, nos. 19 and 20)

Membership in the Union is possible at three levels of commitment depending on individual possibilities and circumstances:

- **Devotional**
 - **Formative**
 - **Integral**
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- At the *devotional* level, members are invited to enrich their Christian lives through prayer - privately, or preferably in conjunction with other members of the Union - focused on the mystery of Christ's blood.
 - At the *formative* level, members are invited to meet on a regular basis for periods of study, reflection and prayer, including an annual retreat. They are also asked to engage in some form of apostolic work in conjunction with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.
 - At the *integral* level, members are invited to collaborate more fully in the life and ministry of the Missionaries as true companions in the pursuit of a common spirituality.

9. Officers of the Union

(Gen. Stat., Part II, Sect. 17)

At the *devotional* level of commitment, the Regional Direction appoints a Coordinator to organize any gathering of prayer held in common. The Regional Director also ensures that a Chaplain will look after any necessary liturgical or sacramental ministry associated with such meetings.

At the *formative* level of commitment, the Regional Director appoints the following officers of each local Union: *Moderator, Chaplain, Secretary and Treasurer.*

- The Moderator shall be responsible for animating the Union at the local level, promoting the goals and objectives of the Union in accordance with the statutes, calling and organizing meetings, determining the agenda of the meetings, communicating necessary information to the members, and confirming proposed expenditures. Other responsibilities are outlined in the subsequent articles.
- The Chaplain shall work in close conjunction with the moderator and see to the spiritual, liturgical and sacramental needs of the Union.

- The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the archives, conducting official correspondence, keeping membership records, and any other duties entrusted by the Moderator.
- The Treasurer shall be responsible for making periodic financial reports to the Union, collecting dues, making necessary purchases, handling bank transactions and, along with the Moderator, the Treasurer shall submit to the regional director a yearly financial report in accordance with Canon Law (cf. Canon 319).

At the *integral* level, the local director appoints a Missionary of the Precious Blood to serve as spiritual director. He shall be responsible for overseeing the collaboration between the Missionaries and members of the Union at the local level.

The Regional Director also appoints a member of the Union to serve as a liaison between the Missionaries and the members of the Union. The liaison shall also facilitate the means necessary for promoting a concrete inter-relationship between the respective bodies.

10. Appointment of Officers

(Gen. Stat., Part III, Sect. 17)

With the exception of Chaplains and Spiritual Directors, any incorporated member of the Union may hold office. Officers are appointed by the Regional Director after consulting with the members of the local Unions and with his delegate, where one has been appointed.

The duration of all appointments is at the discretion of the Regional Director, who may also remove the various officers for a just reason. Officers should, however, be changed periodically.

11. Membership and Formation

(Gen. Stat., Part III, Sect. 19)

Any properly disposed Catholic may be incorporated into the Union upon completion of the period of formation, provided that he/she is 18 years of age and confirmed at the time of incorporation.

The period of formation, in which the candidate receives special instruction regarding the nature and spirituality of the Union, varies with the level of commitment.

- At the *devotional* level, it is determined by the Regional Director
- At the *formative* level, it is determined by the Regional Director and the Moderator
- At the *integral* level, it is determined by the Regional Director working in close collaboration with the Spiritual Director and liaison.

Those responsible for formation should ensure that candidates are adequately informed about the charism of the Union, the spirituality of the Blood of Christ, the vocation and dignity of the lay faithful, and the statutes of the Union.

Upon recommendation of those responsible for the formation, and with the approval of the moderator and chaplain, candidates shall be admitted to incorporation using the Rite indicated.

12. Loss of Membership

(Gen. Stat., Part III, Sect. 19)

An incorporated member of the Union shall be liable for dismissal if, in the judgment of the Regional Director and upon recommendation of the moderator or liaison, he/she has failed in a serious way to live in accordance with the general and regional statutes.

The moderator or liaison, in a spirit of fraternal charity and correction, shall inform the member of impending dismissal so as to give the member an opportunity for personal evaluation and change.

13. Temporal Goods of the Union

Temporal goods of the Union shall belong to the Atlantic Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. They are intended for the sole use of the Union until such a time as the Union might be dissolved. Members of the Union are asked to support the Union according to their means.

14. Amendment of the Statutes

Amendments may be proposed to the Regional Directory by any member of the Union. Suggested amendments will be adopted upon a majority vote of the incorporated members of the Union subject to the confirmation of the Regional Director, in his capacity as Provincial Director of the Atlantic Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, with the consent of his Provincial Council.

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Those interested in joining this association or who seek more information are invited to contact:

**Union of the Blood of
Christ Chapel of St. Gaspar
540 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M6CIA4**

or

**Union of the Blood of
Christ The Mission House
1261 Highland Ave
Rochester, New York 14620**

Rite of Incorporation

Calling of the Candidates

Director: Will those who wish to be incorporated into the Union of the Blood of Christ, please come forward.

Request of the Candidates

Candidates: By the favor of God, we have come to know the life of devotion in the Union of the Blood of Christ. Father Director, we now ask to be accepted into the Union for the praise of God and our own sanctification.

Examination

Director: In Baptism you were washed and sanctified in the Blood of Christ. Do you now wish to follow the Lamb of God more closely, entering and forming part of the Union of the Blood of Christ, living in accordance with its statutes and the spirit of St. Gaspar, its zealous promoter?

Candidates: We do.

Promise of Fidelity

Candidates: In your presence, Father

Director, trusting in God who is ever faithful, and begging the intercession of Mary, Help of Christians, and of St. Gaspar, we freely promise fidelity to the Union of the Blood of Christ in accordance with its statutes.

Acceptance

Director: As Regional Director of the Union of the Blood of Christ, I accept your promise of fidelity and admit you to the Union. Through your faith in Christ, who has redeemed us through His Precious Blood, and through the communion of fellowship, may you, with God's help, remain a faithful member of the Union. May God, who has begun this good work in you, bring it to fulfillment in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Candidates: Amen.

Blessing and Presentation to New Members

Pin, Membership Card, and Copy of the Statutes of the USC

*Today there is
a greater thirst than ever
for a genuine, strong spirituality
centered in the Blood of the Cross,
present and alive
in the Eucharistic mystery,
capable of giving our lives
their essential dimension:
that of the giving of ourselves
with greater availability
to the Lord and to others.*