



Constitution

Preamble

It is hereby declared and decreed that the purpose of this Association, the Central Ohio Purgatorial Society, is:

1. To promote the devotion of offering spiritual works of mercy for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, also known as the Church Penitent;
2. To provide mutual support and resources for those who have a personal devotion to offering spiritual works of mercy for the Holy Souls in Purgatory;
3. To encourage members to spread the devotion to the Holy Souls in Purgatory within their own parish;
4. To promote the attendance of parishioners at funeral Masses;
5. To work with individual parishes to form parish-level groups that attend funeral Masses and offer spiritual works of mercy for recently-departed parishioners;
6. To offer corporal and spiritual works of mercy for the families of recently-departed parishioners;
7. To offer Masses for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Article I: Name

The name of this Association shall be the Central Ohio Purgatorial Society.

Article II: Headquarters

The Headquarters for this Association shall be Saint Michael Catholic Church located at 5750 N. High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085,

Article II: Purpose

The Purpose is set forth in the Preamble of this Constitution. The Association pledges to work in harmony with the doctrines and laws of the Roman Catholic Church and operate under the authority of the Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus.

Article III: Association Governance

1. This Constitution shall be the governing document of the Association.
2. A meeting of all Officers must be held at least once every 12 months.
3. A meeting of the general membership shall be held at least once every 12 months for the purposes of electing officers.
4. An Officers' meeting may be called by any Officer at any time.
5. All Officers must be present to vote.
6. Amendments to this Constitution must be made by a simple majority vote of the Officers.
7. Changes to or determination of Association policies must be made by a simple majority of the Officers.

Article IV: Conditions of Membership

For membership in the organization, a person must be:

1. of the age of reason
2. a Catholic in good standing in their parish, and
3. be of good moral character

Article V: Association Duties and Qualifications

Section 1: Organization

1. The Association is made up of Officers and Members

Section 2: Selection of Officers

1. Selection of officers is by a general election at the designated annual meeting
2. Officers are nominated for election by the general membership in attendance
3. Officers are elected by a simple majority vote of members in attendance.
4. Officers terms shall run for a 12 month term.

Section 2: Duties of Officers

1. The Officers are tasked with ensuring the Association is operating in a manner that most effectively achieves the Purpose, by means of working to promote the Association and providing resources to the Members. The Officers are:
 - A. *Director*: Tasked with the overall execution of the Purpose to include but not be limited to:
 - i. Ensure a website is maintained
 - ii. Ensure a contact list of Members is maintained
 - iii. Ensure materials such as pamphlets, flyers, and cards are readily available
 - iv. Ensure parishes in the Central Ohio area are contacted and informed about the Association, its Purpose, and the resources available
 - v. Ensure Masses are said on the first Tuesday of months December through October with the intention of the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 - B. *Vice Director*: Tasked with assisting the Director in the overall execution of the Purpose and keeping basic meeting minutes

- C. *Chaplain*: Tasked with providing spiritual direction to the Association
- 2. Members are tasked with the execution of the Purpose, under the direction of the Officers.

Section 3: Qualifications of Officers

- 1. The Director and Vice Director must:
 - A. Be Catholics in good standing in their parish
 - B. Have received the Sacrament of Confirmation
 - C. Be 21 years of age
 - D. Be of good moral character
- 2. The Chaplain must:
 - A. Be an ordained Priest or Deacon of the Catholic Church in good standing and with full faculties
 - B. Be assigned to a parish or other Diocesan office in the Diocese of Columbus

Article VI: Patron Saint

The patron saint of the organization shall be St. Catherine of Genoa.

APPENDICES

Promoted Prayers and Devotions

The Association, as part of its Purpose, shall promote the following:

Section 1: Promoted Prayers

1. The Chaplet for the Dead (*See Appendix I*)
2. Prayers for the Holy Souls In Purgatory (*See Appendix II*)
3. The Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great (*See Appendix III*)
4. A Prayer to Be Said at the Consecration (*See Appendix IV*)

Section 2: Devotions

1. First Tuesday Devotion which shall occur on the first Tuesday of every month from December through October:
 - M. All Officers and Members shall take part in this devotion
 - i. A fast from midnight until 7pm as determined by each individual, based on their state of life (i.e. a Black Fast, a water-only fast, a bread and water fast, fasting and abstinence, et cetera)
 - ii. Attendance at Mass and reception of the Eucharist
 - iii. Recitation of the Promoted Prayers
 - N. All Officers and Members shall promote this devotion
2. On All Souls' Day, all Officers and Members shall:
 - O. Fast from midnight until 7pm as determined by each individual, based on their state of life (i.e. a Black Fast, a water-only fast, a bread and water fast, fasting and abstinence, et cetera)
 - P. Attend Mass and receive the Eucharist
 - Q. Recite the Promoted Prayers
 - R. Visit a cemetery and pray the five Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Appendix I: The Chaplet for the Dead

The Chaplet resembles a standard Rosary, except it has only four decades instead of five. It starts on the Cross, and has 4 introductory prayers, followed by 4 decades starting with 1 Pater bead (typically red) and 10 Ave beads (typically black). The 5 Pater beads represent the 5 wounds of Christ. The 40 Ave beads are in memory of the 40 hours which Our Lord is thought to have spent in Limbo. There are 49 beads total. A partial indulgence is granted and applied to the souls in Purgatory for each recitation of this chaplet. The Chaplet was established by the Archconfraternity of Our Lady of Suffrage in Nimes, France, and approved by Pope Pius IX in 1873.

On the Cross:

℣: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord;
℟: Lord, hear my voice.
℣: Let thine ears be attentive
℟: to the voice of my supplication.
℣: If thou, O Lord, shalt observe our iniquities,
℟: O Lord, who shall endure it?
℣: For with thee there is merciful forgiveness;
℟: and by reason of Thy law, I have waited for Thee, O Lord.
℣: My soul hath relied on His word:
℟: my soul hath hoped in the Lord.
℣: From the morning watch even until night,
℟: let Israel hope in the Lord.
℣: Because with the Lord there is mercy,
℟: and with Him plentiful redemption.
℣: And he shall redeem Israel
℟: from all his iniquities.

On the first Pater (red bead):

℣: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
℟: And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Act of Faith (first black bead):

℣: My God, I believe in Thee,
℟: because Thou art Truth itself; I firmly believe the truths revealed to the Church.

Act of Hope (second black bead):

℣: My God, I hope in Thee,

℞: because Thou art infinitely good.

Act of Charity (third black bead):

℣: My God, I love Thee with all my heart, and above all things,

℞: because Thou art infinitely perfect; and I love my neighbor as myself, for the love of Thee.

On all the Paters (red beads):

℣: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

℞: And let perpetual light shine upon them.

On All the Aves (black beads):

℣: Sweet Heart of Jesus,

℞: be my love.

℣: Sweet Heart of Mary,

℞: be my salvation.

At the End:

℣: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

℞: And let perpetual light shine upon them.

℣: May the souls of all the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℞: Amen.

℣: May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless us and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes.

℞: Amen.

Appendix II: Prayers For the Holy Souls

O Jesus, You suffered and died that all mankind might be saved and brought to eternal happiness.

Hear our pleas for further mercy on the souls of:

My dear parents, grandparents and spouse, **R: Jesus Have Mercy**

My brothers and sisters and other near relatives, R:

My Godparents and sponsor of Confirmation, R:

My spiritual and temporal benefactors, R:

My friends and neighbors, R:

All for whom love or duty calls me to pray, R:

Those who have suffered disadvantages or harm through me, R:

Those who have caused me disadvantages or harm, R:

Those who I have led astray, R:

Those who have led me astray, R:

Those who are especially beloved by You, R:

Those whose release is near at hand, R:

Those who desire most to be united with You, R:

Those who endure the greatest sufferings, R:

Those who are least remembered, R:

Those whose release is most remote, R:

Those who are most deserving on account of their services to the Church, R:

The rich, who now are the most destitute, R:

The mighty, who now are powerless, R:

The once spiritually blind, who now see their folly, R:

The frivolous, who spent their time in idleness, R:

The poor who did not seek the treasures of heaven, R:

The tepid, who devoted little time to prayer, R:

The indolent, who neglected to perform good works, R:

Those of little faith, who neglected the frequent reception of the Sacraments, R:

The habitual sinners, who owe their salvation to a miracle of grace, R:

Parents who failed to watch over their children, R:

Superiors who were not solicitous for the salvation of those entrusted to them, R:

Those who strove for worldly riches and pleasures, R:

The worldly-minded, who failed to use their wealth and talents in the service of God, R:

Those who witnessed the death of others, but would not think of their own, R:

Those who did not provide for the life hereafter, R:

Those whose sentence is severe because of the great things entrusted to them, R:

The Popes, kings and rulers, R:

The Bishops and their counselors, R:

The Priests and Religious of the Catholic Church, R:

My teachers and spiritual advisers, R:
The defenders of the holy faith, R:
Those who died on the battlefield, R:
Those who fought for their country, R:
Those who were buried in the sea, R:
Those who died of apoplexy, R:
Those who died of heart attacks, R:
Those who suffered and died of cancer or AIDS, R:
Those who died suddenly in accidents, R:
Those who died without the Last Rites of the Church, R:
Those who shall die within the next twenty-four hours, R:
[For the repose of the soul of *special intention*], R:
My own poor soul when I shall have to appear before your judgment seat, R:

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them with your Saints forever more because You are gracious.

Let us pray: May the prayer of Your suppliant people, we beseech You, O Lord, benefit the souls of Your departed servants and handmaids, that You both deliver them from all their sins and make them partakers of Your redemption.

R: Amen.

May the divine assistance remain always with us. And may the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R: Amen.

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart,

R: Make my heart like unto Thine.

Saint Nicholas of Tolentino, Patron Saint of the Holy Souls in Purgatory,

R: Pray for us!

St. Joseph, model and patron of those who love the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

R: Pray for us!

R: Amen

Appendix III: Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great

Eternal Father,

I offer You the most precious blood
of thy Divine Son, Jesus,
in union with the Masses said
throughout the world today,
for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory,
for sinners everywhere,
for sinners in the universal Church,
for those in my own home,
and in my family. Amen.

Appendix IV: A Prayer to Be Said at the Consecration

Written by Bill Hinger

Oh, God Almighty Father. Creator of Heaven and Earth and of all things, I beg you by the merits of your only begotten Son's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, and, through the intercession of His most holy and Immaculate Mother Mary, her most chaste spouse Joseph, and all the apostles, martyrs, saints, and angels, that You release from Purgatory, those souls, and admit them to Your Beatific Vision. Amen.