



THE MANUAL

of the

**SODALITY OF MARY,
MOTHER OF PRIESTS**

**SODALITAS MARIAE,
MATRIS SACERDOTUM**

*Second Edition
March 2018*

Quodcumque dixerit vobis, facite.

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Aaron

George Herbert

Holiness on the head,
Light and perfections on the breast,
Harmonious bells below, raising the dead
To lead them unto life and rest:
Thus are true Aarons drest.

Profaneness in my head,
Defects and darkness in my breast,
A noise of passions ringing me for dead
Unto a place where is no rest:
Poor priest, thus am I drest.

Only another head
I have, another heart and breast,
Another music, making live, not dead,
Without whom I could have no rest:
In him I am well drest.

Christ is my only head,
My alone-only heart and breast,
My only music, striking me ev'n dead,
That to the old man I may rest,
And be in him new-drest.

So, holy in my head,
Perfect and light in my dear breast,
My doctrine tun'd by Christ (who is not dead,
But lives in me while I do rest),
Come people; Aaron's drest.

I THE PURPOSE OF THE SODALITY

As he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

I Peter 1:15-16

Every Christian is called to live in community as a member of the Church. Christ in his wisdom draws each disciple into that particular expression of community which will be the best means of his or her conversion. Our way of life in this [Sodality] is one of many expressions of the common life in the Body of Christ. We can be confident that Christ has called us together because he knows that the challenges and the gifts it offers are the very ones we need for the working out of our salvation.

From The Rule of Life of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist

The Sodality of Mary, Mother of Priests is a dispersed community of priests. Our aim is the sanctification of priests through the hearts of Jesus and Mary, for the glory of God, and for all people.

We remember that Mary is both our heavenly patron and our model for life. The first believer, she is the one we follow in saying ‘yes’ to Jesus:

*Mary the Dawn, Christ the perfect Day;
Mary the Gate, Christ the heavenly Way.
Mary the Root, Christ the mystic Vine;
Mary the Grape, Christ the sacred Wine.*

*Mary the Wheat-sheaf, Christ the living Bread;
Mary the Rose tree, Christ the Rose blood-red.
Mary the Font, Christ the cleansing Flood;
Mary the Chalice, Christ the saving Blood.*

*Mary the Temple, Christ the Temple’s Lord;
Mary the Shrine, Christ the God adored.
Mary the Beacon, Christ the Haven’s Rest;
Mary the Mirror, Christ the Vision blest.*

2 THE SODALITY PRAYER

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for

one another.

James 5:16

The unfailing love of its members one towards another will be increased by extending this love to all, whether within the Church or without it. Members will have a concern for living interests and problems in Church and State, and in discussing opinions which differ from their own will avoid harsh judgments. Brethren must try to understand these differing opinions, in the hope that they may help to restore the unity of all Christian people in the spirit of charity and peace. They will recognise in all people those for whom Christ died, and will treat them with the courtesy and reverence due to his great love.

The Seven Notes of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd

As a dispersed community, our daily contact will be through mutual love and intercession. The cycle of prayer will be a way of bringing each other before the Lord. The Rosary or other prayers may be offered specifically for members of the Sodality, or the 'intention' of each of the Hours of the Office might be applied to our brother and sister Sodalists. In particular, we will commend one another to Mary our patron. Sodalists will make specific requests for prayer from our fellow members as a way of developing our common life.

In praying for each other, Sodalists, Associates, and Aspirants will use the Sodality Prayer each day:

Father,
in your love for us
you chose Mary to be the Mother of your Son,
the first to welcome Him into her heart
and to bring Him forth for a waiting world.
Grant us such a measure of her grace
as to be truly devoted to your Word.
By the loving intercession of Our Lady,
re-consecrate us each day,
and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit
bring us, *your pilgrim priests*,
to be set forth upon the ocean of light which is the Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

3 CALLED TO IMITATE MARY

“Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.”

Luke 1:28

To take Mary with one means to introduce her into the dynamism of one's own entire existence – it is not something external – and into all that constitutes the horizon of one's own apostolate.

Benedict XVI

As priests under the patronage of Mary, Mother of God and Mother of Priests, members of the Sodality desire not only to honour her with traditional forms of devotion, but also to imitate her life, asking that her charism may infuse ours. We seek to wait and trust, to listen and to serve, as we, like her, endeavour to do God's will.

With Mary on the flight to Egypt,

we take special care of the homeless and refugees.

With Mary at Nazareth,

we find God in the ordinary tasks of daily life.

With Mary at Cana,

we turn to Christ with our prayers.

With Mary at the Cross,

we stand with all who suffer.

With Mary, praying with the disciples,

we are faithful to the Church's life of prayer in Mass and Office.

With Mary at Pentecost,

we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*Let us take Mary for our own; let us dwell with her,
let us associate her in our works, in our troubles, in our joys.*

*Does not she desire, more than anyone else,
to help each one of us to become a holy priest
and to reproduce in ourselves the virtues of Jesus?*

Blessed Columba Marmion

4 CALLED TO BE DEVOTED TO MARY

From now on all generations will call me blessed.

Luke 1:48

*And first O Lord I praise and magnify thy Name
For the Most Holy Virgin-Mother of God,
who is the Highest of thy Saints.*

The most Glorious of all thy Creatures.

The most Perfect of all thy Works.

The nearest unto Thee, in the Throne of God.

Whom Thou didst please to make

Daughter of the Eternal Father.

Mother of the Eternal Son.

Spouse of the Eternal Spirit.

Tabernacle of the most Glorious Trinity.

Mirror of Humility and Obedience.

Mirror of Wisdom and Devotion.

Mirror of Modesty and Chastity.

Mirror of Sweetness and Resignation.

Mirror of Sanctity.

Mirror of all virtues.

The most Illustrious Light in the Church,

Wearing over all her

Beauties the veil of Humility

to shine the more resplendently in thy Eternal Glory.

Thomas Traherne

Members of the Sodality use traditional and new devotions to Mary the Mother of Jesus. This rich vein, crossing denominational boundaries, provides a lifetime's meditation and reflection, and meets the needs of priests at all stages of life and work. As we bring these diverse devotions to our common life we will benefit from sharing in each other's discoveries and experiences.

When we cast ourselves at the feet of Our Lady, we can say to her: "I am a priest ... turn towards me your merciful countenance"; Mary sees in us, not only members of the mystical body of her Son, but a minister of Jesus who shares in his priesthood. She sees her divine Son in us and cannot reject us; it would be to reject Jesus Himself.

5 CALLED TO WAIT AND TRUST

**My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.**

**My soul is longing for the Lord
more than those who watch for daybreak.**

Psalm 129:6

We should realise more clearly that prayer is work. We have no difficulty in persuading ourselves that prayer is preparation for work. But how many of us today look upon prayer as a work in itself, as the essential work of a priest? Would indeed that more priests might realise that prayer is the first work to which they are called. There are others who may be qualified to undertake many parts of the work of a parish, but who will make good the losses that are incurred by an unprayerful priest?
Herbert Mather SSC

As Mary waited upon God, so Sodalists will place our trust in him. We remember that we are called to love God and that if we cannot offer the experience of God to those around us then we have nothing of worth to offer them.

Sodalists will pay special attention to the commandment to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind.”

6 CALLED TO LISTEN

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.

1 Samuel 3:9

*O Jesus, living in Mary,
come and live in thy servants,
in the spirit of thy holiness,
in the fullness of thy might,
in the truth of thy virtues,
in the perfection of thy ways,
in the communion of thy mysteries.*

*Subdue every hostile power in thy Spirit,
for the glory of the Father.*

Amen.

Jean Jacques Olier

Mary listened with her whole being to God; she was the first to hear the good news of the Word made flesh and she pondered this Word deeply in her heart. The source of our strength and joy is an ever-deepening love for Christ. Sodalists will make silent prayer part of every day and give special priority to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Each of us will find in the teachings of the saints and holy writers of the past a form of meditation that is appropriate to our own personality and will bring us to a deeper experience of the divine life. We ought never to let go of the awareness of the presence of God whether at work or rest, and recognise the divine presence abiding in the present moment.

7 CALLED TO STUDY

**With you is Wisdom, she who knows your works
And was present when you made the world.**

Wisdom 9:9

Among the different forms of intellectual work, we should have a preference for the study of theology and holy Scripture. Let our delight be to meditate on the law of the Lord day and night writes St. Jerome. And again: Love the knowledge of the Scriptures and not the vices of the flesh.

The most serious preparation we can make for the ministry of the Word is to keep up the knowledge of the Scriptures and theology which we acquired at seminary. But apart from its advantages for preaching, competence in the sacred sciences or, indeed, the profane ones, raises your level of life and increases the measure of your influence over many souls.

Blessed Columba Marmion

Sodalists commit ourselves to the discipline of study. Scripture, the teachings of the church and the writings and lives of the saints all provide material for intellectual and spiritual development. The Office of Readings (in the one- or two-year form) is a rich source of

patristic material.

We increase our knowledge of the world through other interests and share these with our fellow Sodalists as part of knowing and loving each other.

8 CALLED TO SACRIFICE

**My sacrifice a contrite spirit,
A broken, contrite heart you will not spurn.**

Psalm 50:19

As priests we know that sacrifice is at the heart of our lives. Sacrifice is an Act of Communion with God in Love. This is the true character of sacrifice. We are too apt to think of sacrifice as if it meant death - losing something of value. But no, sacrifice is the attainment of true life. In a state of sin it means death - death to sin. But in its truth it means life - rejoicing in the life of God.

Richard Meux Benson SSJE

At the altar we join our small sacrifices to the one saving Sacrifice; and beyond the altar we seek to live sacrificially that we may share in the life of our great High Priest.

*In Jesus of Nazareth
one person shows
how completely we can belong to God;
how much freedom and humanity,
how much courage and self-forgetfulness
one can possess
when one has been found by God
and has surrendered to Him.*

*In Jesus there is also a future for you
as you go by His road through sin and death
towards fellowship and love,
unfailing glory and life.*

Rule for a New Brother

9 CALLED TO SERVE

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you

gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Matthew 25:35-40

You will find out that Charity is a heavy burden to carry, heavier than the kettle of soup and the full basket. But you will keep your gentleness and your smile. It is not enough to give soup and bread. This the rich can do. You are the servant of the poor, always smiling and good-humoured. They are your masters, terribly sensitive and exacting masters you will see. And the uglier and the dirtier they will be, the more unjust and insulting, the more love you must give them. It is only for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give to them.

St Vincent de Paul

Of all forms of service that Sodalists can offer, the most important is to show the beauty and power of Jesus and Mary, who are the inspiration and joy of our own lives. We preach the Gospel – in word and deed – not in a spirit of aggression, nor with contempt for the beliefs of others, but rather because, knowing in our own experience the love of Jesus and Mary, we long to share this supreme treasure. We also remember that, in the task of showing Christ, the witness of life is as eloquent as that of words and we will try to live lives through which Christ can manifest himself.

Sodalists will always remember that Christ calls us to serve the poor and the outcast. Following the example of St Vincent de Paul and the Congregation of the Mission, we commit ourselves to works of love for the least and the marginalised.

Although the Sodality is not a campaigning organisation, Sodalists are encouraged to follow the example of our Anglo-Catholic forbears who worked heroically for justice and challenged oppression and the misuse of power.

Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta

10 CALLED TO GENEROSITY

'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

Luke 6:37-38

We must love our neighbour as being made in the image of God and as an object of his love.

St Vincent de Paul

Members of the Sodality will work to foster a generous inclusivity. Confessing Christ as the High Priest of all creation, the Sodality affirms that God calls people to the Sacred Ministry regardless of ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. Sodalists recognise, however, that a true inclusivity also involves accepting those who, through their interpretation of Christian teaching, believe differently. Members of the Sodality will endeavour to practise charity at all times. Sodalists will be at the forefront of those seeking to understand what it means to ordain men and women to all orders of ministry; we will particularly celebrate women saints and integrate the writings of women and men into our experience and understanding of priesthood.

The priest must also remember that he is a workman, and that every true workman seeks to build rather than to destroy. He must have a positive rather than a negative end in view.

Fr S F Panton SSC

11 CALLED TO HUMILITY

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

The most powerful weapon against the devil is humility. For, as he does not know at all how to employ it, neither does he know how to defend himself against it.

St Vincent de Paul

Sodalists recognise that it is only possible to serve Christ if we do so with humility, following the example of his blessed Mother.

Humility is the recognition of the truth about God and ourselves, the recognition of our own insufficiency and dependence, seeing that we have nothing which we have not received. It is the mother of all Christian virtues.

Principles of the Society of St Francis

12 CALLED TO REPENTANCE

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt

And cleanse me from my sin.

Psalm 50:3-4

He came to put a harlot above a Pharisee, a penitent robber above a High Priest, and a prodigal son above his exemplary brother. To all the phonies and fakers who would say that they could not join the Church because His Church was not holy enough, He would ask, 'How holy must the Church be before you will enter into it?' If the Church were as holy as they wanted it to be, they would never be allowed into it! Our Blessed Lord brought a religion where the admission of sin is the condition of coming to Him. 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are ill.'

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Sodalists seek to live a repentant life, aware of our own deep sinfulness and making regular use of Confession and a regular examination of conscience to deepen conversion. We will encourage the use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation by those entrusted to our care. Sodalists will seek to make real in our lives a prayer used at Stations of the Cross:

I love thee, Jesus, my love, above all things.

I repent with my whole heart for ever having offended thee.

Never permit me to separate myself from thee again.

Grant that I may love thee always, then do with me what thou wilt.

St Alphonsus Ligouri

13 CALLED TO MERCY

As for me I trust in your merciful love.

Let my heart rejoice in your saving help.

Psalm 12:6

The more I read and meditate on the Scriptures, the more I pray, the more I see that God's treatment of us is all mercy ... this mercy of God is the infinite goodness diffusing itself into the hearts of us wretched ones ... now, when I am reciting the Divine Office, I seem to see in almost every verse of the psalms a beam of light which speaks to us of the divine mercy.
Blessed Columba Marmion

Knowledge of our own sinfulness will lead us naturally to exercise compassion to all we meet. Compassion expresses God's love for humanity, and is shown especially in the hearts of Jesus and Mary. Priests of the Sodality should be known as messengers of mercy, a safe refuge from the judgement of the world. Mercy is that quality in Jesus which enables each of us to say: "Jesus, I trust in you."

14 CALLED TO EVANGELISE

Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."

Mark 16:15

Evangelisation is always an overflow of something else – the disciple’s journey to maturity in Christ, a journey not organised by the ambitious ego but the result of the prompting and drawing of the Spirit in us. In our considerations of how we are once again to make the Gospel of Christ compellingly attractive to men and women of our age, I hope we never lose sight of what makes it compelling to ourselves, to each one of us in our diverse ministries. I wish you joy in the promise of the vision of Christ’s face, and in the fore-shadowings of that fulfilment in the joy of communion with each other here and now.

Archbishop Rowan Williams

Sodalists remember that the purpose of our life as a community, the purpose of growing in holiness, is to make Christ known. As we are sanctified so we will make Christian faith and life attractive to others. Members of the Sodality will work with other Christians to find ways to proclaim the gospel anew in our own generation.

15 CALLED TO BE ONE

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

1 Peter 3:8

If the problems about schism and reunion mean dying and rising with Christ, they will not be solved through easy humanistic ideas of fellowship and brotherhood, but by the hard road of the Cross.

Michael Ramsey

We desire unity because it is Our Lord’s command “*that they all may be one.*”

This dominical command requires us to work with, and work for unity with, Christians of all denominations. It is especially painful to work with those who are closest to us but separated by differing understandings: the command is harder to fulfil but no less a requirement of the Gospel.

As Anglicans, in working for unity members of the Sodality seek to understand, through study and prayer, what the universal ministry of the successor of Peter might mean for the whole Body of Christ.

We aim to develop a “universal heart” which is catholic in love for the whole of creation. Together and individually we will use those practices that bring us more closely into unity with our brothers and sisters. We remember that *“Ecumenism is first of all an exchange of gifts.”*

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

The Nicene Creed

16 CALLED TO BE PRIESTS OF THE MAGNIFICAT

**My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.**

Luke 1:46-55

As priests under the patronage of Mary we will make the Magnificat our own special prayer and a frequent subject for meditation. It is already part of our daily prayer as *“that Canticle which seals in spirit every celebration of Vespers”* (Benedict XVI).

The *Magnificat*, as Mary's own song, will be a source of life for us as a Marian community:

*Mary will have her own place in your life.
You cannot separate her from the Lord
who chose her as His mother and His bride.*

*She is the selfless space
where God became man;
she is the silence in which God's Word can be heard.
She is the free woman, subject to none,
not even to the powers of evil.*

*She is the image of the Church.
Her self-effacing service will guide you to the Lord.
Her faith and fidelity
are a model for your life.*

*She has trodden all the paths
of our human existence;
she has gone through darkness and suffering,
through the abyss of loneliness and pain.*

*She is the little creature
through whom God's grandeur shines out;
she is the poor one
filled with divine riches.
She is wholly grace,
and grace for you.*

*Then take your part joyfully
in the prophecy of Scripture:
'Behold, henceforth all generations
will call me blessed.'*

Rule for A New Brother

17 CALLED TO THE SODALITY

**I rejoiced when I heard them say,
Let us go to God's house.**

Psalm 121:1

Members of the [Sodality] will regularly make thanksgiving to God for his love until thanksgiving be spontaneous and perpetual. They will be regular in recreation; they will avoid anxiety and fuss; they will disown discouragement and depression, and check all complaint and bitterness as destructive of the brethren's joy as well of their own. They will accept gladly their share of weariness and sorrow in the joyful spirit of the saints, and the faithful following of him who for the joy that was set before him endured the Cross. They will welcome any labour or sacrifice which will minister to the joy of others, looking toward that most blessed voice, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

The Seven Notes of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd

Sodalists commit ourselves to a common life of prayer and work for the sake of the Kingdom of God, in the place and condition of life in which God has set us.

The Sodality will seek to be a community of trust, where members are able to share difficulties and seek support from one another when their spirits are low, and anxiety or depression threaten their commitment.

Commitment to the Sodality is a serious one and attendance at meetings is an important obligation. When for some reason it is not possible to attend a meeting, an apology and some explanation should be given, to alleviate the concern of other Sodalists, and if further meetings are missed consideration will need to be given as to how attendance might be made possible. We will hold one another in particular affection and pray for each other every day, especially at times of notable need or importance. And when our brothers and sisters pass from this life, we will remember them before the Lord.

18 CALLED TO THE HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY

Deep is calling on deep.

Psalm 41:8

*We shall rest and see,
we shall see and love,*

we shall love and praise.

Behold what will be at the end without end.

For what other end do we have,

if not to reach the kingdom which has no end?

St Augustine of Hippo

As we seek to follow the call to grow into the likeness of Christ, Sodalists commend ourselves to the prayers of Mary, Mother of Priests, and pay particular devotion to the feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and all Marian feasts. The Sodality has a charism to foster a renewal of piety and of true sentiment in our faith, not being shy of the deep feelings which our love of Jesus and Mary evoke in us, and communicating these to others.

Inasmuch as priests can be called, by a very special title, sons of the Virgin Mary, they will never cease to love her with an ardent piety, invoke her with perfect confidence, and frequently implore her strong protection.

Pope Pius XII

19 CALLED TO THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

We are created to be social beings, as God is a social Being. And as the Three Divine Persons have no life whatsoever except in this relativity of action, so have we no life whatsoever except in relative actions towards others.

Richard Meux Benson SSJE

Knowing ourselves to be surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, Sodalists will honour and seek the intercession of the saints. Each of us will bring to the Sodality the fruit of our personal devotions and introduce new friends in heaven to our brothers and sisters. The saints are not mere models of good living, worthy examples from the past, but those who stand close to the throne of grace as our friends. Sodalists will cultivate friendship with the saints and communicate our passionate love of the saints to others. Members,

Associates and Aspirants should be invited to celebrate patronal festivals, anniversaries of ordination and other moments in the lives of our brothers and sisters. Priority should be given to attending such events even when there is a sacrifice of time, energy and money to do so, and that sacrifice should be offered as part of our sanctifying vocation as a community.

20 SAYING YES WITH MARY

Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”

Luke 1:38

We are going to establish a school for the service of the Lord. In founding it we hope to introduce nothing harsh or burdensome. But if a certain strictness results from the dictates of equity for the amendment of vices or the preservation of charity, do not be at once dismayed and fly from the way of salvation, whose entrance cannot but be narrow.

The Rule of St Benedict

Responding to Jesus’ call to repent and be renewed, membership of the Sodality is, primarily, a means to grow in holiness and so to better proclaim his good news to all humanity. Following the example of Mary, Sodalists desire to say a profound ‘yes’ to the Lord that we may incarnate God’s love for each human being.

21 REFLECTING ON COMMITMENTS

**It was your hands that made me and shaped me:
Help me to learn your commands.**

Psalm 118:73

The priest, putting on the stole, should remember these things:

First, when the stole is worn across the neck it symbolises a yoke or a halter. It is a reminder that the priest is to bear the burden of Christ, an easy yoke and a light burden when borne in love.

Second, the stole also symbolises the towel with which Christ washed the disciples’ feet. To be a priest is to be an outward sign of Christ the servant.

Third, the stole is the vestment of angels. In the Greek version of St Mark’s Gospel, the angel who announces the resurrection is described as wearing

a white stole. The Gospel that we are called to preach is everlasting, it is heavenly, full of joy.

John Gribben CR

We recognise that, on account of their state of life or the context in which they minister, not all members of the Sodality are able to make the same commitments.

The Manual is divided into those practices which are required of members, and those which are encouraged, but not of obligation. Members of the Sodality are expected, prayerfully and regularly, to reconsider to which of the latter practices they can commit. In doing so they will always bear in mind both that they have a duty to care for themselves and their household, and that following Christ is not an easy option, but will involve discipline and sacrifice.

22 COMMITMENTS

**Teach me the demands of your statutes,
And I will keep them to the end.**

Psalm 118:33

St. Bernard tells us that everything has come to us through Mary; and we may also say that everything has come to us through the priest; yes, all happiness, all graces, all heavenly gifts. If we had not the Sacrament of Orders, we should not have Our Lord. Who placed Him there, in that tabernacle? It was the priest. Who was it that received your soul, on its entrance into life? The priest. Who nourishes it, to give it strength to make its pilgrimage? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, by washing that soul, for the last time, in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest – always the priest. And if that soul comes to the point of death, who will raise it up, who will restore it to calmness and peace? Again the priest. You cannot recall one single blessing from God without finding, side by side with this recollection, the image of the priest.'

St Jean Mary Baptiste Vianney

Members of the Sodality, together with Aspirants and Associates, will:

- ❖ recognise all seven Sacraments, and use them as appropriate

- ❖ confess the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament
- ❖ celebrate or attend Mass on every Day of Obligation (including during holidays)
- ❖ honour the Blessed Virgin Mary and recite the Angelus three times a day
- ❖ pray the Sodality Prayer each day
- ❖ pray with and for the other members of the Sodality, offering hospitality, friendship, and confidential pastoral care when necessary
- ❖ pray for deceased members of the Sodality
- ❖ rise above divisions in the Church, and act with courtesy towards those with whom we disagree
- ❖ have a personal Rule of Life agreed with a Spiritual Director

23 COMMITMENTS MADE BY SODALITY PRIESTS

I am a pilgrim on the earth;

Show me your commands.

Psalm 118:19

Yes, the priest stands at the altar, the priest stands there and makes a long supplication, not in order that fire from heaven may consume the things that lie to open view, but that grace, lighting on the Sacrifice, may thereby inflame the souls of all, and show them brighter than silver purified in the fire. Art thou ignorant that the soul of man could never bear this fire of the Sacrifice, but that all would be utterly consumed, were not the aid of the grace of God abundant? For if one would but consider how great a thing it is for a mortal, and one still clothed with flesh and blood, to be enabled to be nigh to that blessed and immortal nature, he would then see how great an honour the grace of the Spirit has vouchsafed to priests.
St John Chrysostom

Members of the Sodality are also expected to:

- ❖ celebrate or attend Mass daily, or as frequently as possible
- ❖ take opportunity to adore Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament
- ❖ observe the Eucharistic fast (one hour before

Communion)

- ❖ pray the daily Office every day, including on holiday
- ❖ commend ourselves into God's care on rising and sleeping
- ❖ observe regular time for silent prayer and reflection
- ❖ recite the Rosary once a week
- ❖ regularly study the Holy Scriptures, Patristic writings, and the teachings of the Church, and communicate them to those among whom we minister
- ❖ observe the season of Lent as a time of self-discipline in preparation to celebrate the Resurrection
- ❖ observe Friday abstinence, and the Church's Fasts (chiefly Ash Wednesday and Good Friday)
- ❖ consider prayerfully our commitment to charitable giving
- ❖ make confession at least once a year, and always according to conscience
- ❖ make a daily self-examination and act of contrition
- ❖ consult a spiritual director regularly
- ❖ make an annual retreat (or a series of quiet days if extended time in retreat is not possible)
- ❖ make an annual pilgrimage to a shrine of Our Lady
- ❖ attend all meetings of the Sodality unless prevented by good reason
- ❖ wear appropriate clerical dress when engaged in priestly duties
- ❖ avoid giving scandal through our language or behaviour, always bearing in mind our call to be conformed to Christ

24 PRACTICES COMMENDED TO PRIESTS OF THE SODALITY

Happy indeed are those

**... whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponder God's law day and night.**

Psalm 1:1-2

An age that is not heroic can scarcely be expected to give birth to heroic children. We need very much to cultivate the heroic consciousness as a necessary element of perfection.

Richard Meux Benson SSJE

Sodalists are recommended to:

- ❖ read a section of the Manual each day
- ❖ make a spiritual communion on those days when we cannot attend Mass
- ❖ have a daily time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
- ❖ make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land once in our lifetimes
- ❖ read the Ordinal on the anniversary of our priestly ordination
- ❖ read John 17 (the High Priestly Prayer) each week and meditate on our share in the priesthood of Christ.
- ❖ offer Novenas of Our Lady

25 OFFERING MASS FOR THE SODALITY

**The cup of salvation I will raise,
I will call on the Lord's name.**

Psalm 115:13

We are to remember that we which are priests are called angeli domini; and it is the angel's office not only to descend to the people and teach them God's will, but to ascend also to the presence of God, to make intercession for the people, and to carry up the daily prayers of the church in their behalf as they are bound to do.

John Cosin

In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God: command that these gifts be borne by the hands of your holy angel to your altar on high in the sight of your divine majesty, so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Roman Missal

Recognising that the Holy Eucharist lies at the heart of the home in which Mary and Jesus dwell, Sodalists shall seek to make this the centre of our lives. We will offer Mass for the Sodality regularly, especially on those Feasts important to the Sodality, and ideally once a week. For this Thursdays would be especially appropriate, using a Votive Mass of Our Lord Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest when permitted by the rubrics.

It is an important part of Catholic practice to form a clear intention when offering Mass and also a pious custom to make an intention for our offering of each Hour of the Divine Office.

26 MEMBERS, ASSOCIATES AND ASPIRANTS

How good and pleasant it is when people live in unity.

Psalm 132:1

Today the ordained priest is called to reflect the priesthood of Christ and to serve the priesthood of the people of God, and to be one of the means of grace whereby God enables the Church to be the Church.

Michael Ramsey

In baptism the sign of the cross makes king of all who are reborn in Christ, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit consecrates them priests. So, apart from the obligations of our ministry, any Christian who has the gifts of rational and spiritual understanding knows that they are a member of a royal race and share in the priestly office.

Pope St Leo the Great

Full members of the Sodality are those who commit themselves, initially for a year at a time, and, after five years – if they wish – for life, to live in accordance with the Manual, and in love for one another.

Associates of the Sodality, lay or ordained, also commit themselves in love and are bound to live according to some elements of The Manual (*which are listed at Section 22*).

Those who are **Aspirants** may be training for the priesthood, at theological colleges or on courses, be ordained as deacon, or be discerning their vocation.

The Sodality has a special calling to nourish vocations to the priesthood and religious life and to be engaged in the formation as Catholic priests of those in training, in diaconate and all who seek to deepen their Catholic practice.

This threefold pattern of relationship to the Sodality should itself be a source of energy and renewal for the Sodality. Those in formation must be nurtured with special care and concern and with the utmost gentleness and mercy. Those ordained for longer need to be wise in nurturing a spirit of piety and true sentiment in the Sodality as we learn to love Jesus and Mary.

27 MEETINGS OF THE SODALITY

Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another.

Romans 14:13

Before beginning our Hours, let us say to God:

"I believe that by this official prayer of which I am the minister, I can achieve much, in union with thy son Jesus, for the needs of the church; to help those who are in suffering, who are in their death agony, who are about to appear before thee, to co-operate in the conversion of sinners and of the indifferent, to unite myself to the holy souls on earth and to the blessed in heaven. May everything that is in me, Lord, confess and adore thee."

Blessed Columba Marmion

The Sodality will meet four times a year, including a residential retreat. As the Sodality develops, local Chapters, of no greater than twelve members, will be established according to need.

At such times Mass will be celebrated according to the Use of the Sodality which, rooted in Anglican liturgical life, is enriched with suitable texts and rubrics from the Western Rite.

National meetings will be held within the context of prayer and include:

- ❖ *Prayer During the Day,*
- ❖ *Concelebrated Mass, according to the Use of the Sodality*
- ❖ *Vespers*
- ❖ *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, silent prayer and Benediction*

Attendance at our meetings is a sign of our love and commitment

for each other. Absence should be for serious reasons and with regret, not because of being busy. Attendance at meetings should be given priority over all commitments that can be arranged for another time. When a Sodalist does not regret his or her absence it should be a cause for reflecting on and re-evaluating the commitment made.

The Sodality is to be a source of joy, renewal and re-energising for each of us. When it is not, we need to seek to find ways to be open to the Spirit to renew and revive us.

28 CALLED TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34

*'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou diedst for me!
I hear Thy whisper in my heart;
The morning breaks, the shadows flee,
Pure, universal love Thou art;
To me, to all, Thy bowels move;
Thy nature and Thy Name is Love.
Charles Wesley*

Celebrating the call to love one another, Sodalists will seek to express that love in the first instance by praying for each other. Attendance at meetings and the annual retreat, sharing in festive occasions whether parish or personal and being willing to be honest about disappointments and failures will all build our sense of community.

We recognise the importance of taking an active interest in other members of the Sodality, visiting and spending time with them. We will be quick to offer support to any in need, especially those who feel isolated in their Catholic witness, and make it our particular concern to spend time with those who are ill or infirm, to pray with them, and offer the last rites when required.

'Holy conversation' should be at the heart of our times spent together. Such conversation will help us to notice where God has been present in our lives and to recognise such times as a cause for thanksgiving.

29 DEPARTED SODALISTS

**But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.**

**In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.**

Wisdom 3:1-3

Those who pass on their pilgrim way into the peace of God's Kingdom are one with those on earth, and Sodalists hold that prayer for the dead is an act of charity. Therefore we commit ourselves to:

- ❖ offer Mass upon the death of a Sodalist
- ❖ attend wherever possible the funeral of departed members
- ❖ pray regularly for the departed using the Chantry Roll
- ❖ offer, or take part in, the annual requiem
- ❖ leave written requests upon the event of our death

A prayer for departed members of the Sodality:

Grant, O Lord,

that the soul of our sister/brother N., your priest
who in this life you honoured

with the sacred office,

may rejoice in the glory of heaven for evermore.

Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

God for ever and ever.

Amen.

30 IN THE SPIRIT OF THE BEATITUDES

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and

after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

**Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.**

**Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.**

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.**

**Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.**

**Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.**

**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:1-12

One of the first things Christ says in the Gospel is this: "Happy the simple-hearted!" Yes, happy those who head towards simplicity, simplicity of heart and simplicity of life.

Brother Roger of Taizé

As a dispersed community, our common life is built, on prayer for each other, attendance at meetings, the annual retreat, common activity and mutual love. We commit ourselves to making the effort required to build a community of love.

In the richness of our Catholic life we never lose sight of the simplicity of the Gospel:

Bless us, Lord, be with us and all who are dear to us and with everyone we meet. Keep us in the spirit of the beatitudes: joyful, simple, merciful.

Amen.

Brother Roger of Taizé

31 THE SIGNS OF MEMBERSHIP

The outward signs of membership of the Sodality are reminders of the holiness to which we aim and so often fail to reach.

At admission to the Sodality we receive the badge. Sodality priests, may choose to wear a blue scapular, like that worn by students of the *Society of the Sacred Mission*. This clerical apron, a sign of service, links us to Father Kelly's "*Idea in the working*." This connection makes the scapular a reminder of the "*dynamic of the provisional*", a recognition that all our structures and forms are temporary. This provisionality should bring us energy as we seek to follow the promptings of the Spirit. The scapular is also a reminder of the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and that the first admissions to the Sodality were at the shrine of the Carmelite St Simon Stock, who received the scapular from Our Lady.

God uses ordinary things as signs to express his extraordinary mercy toward us. Through simple things we express our gratitude, declare our willingness to serve God, and profess the resolve to live up to our baptismal consecration.

The Scapular of Mary, Mother of Priests is a sign of the motherly love of the Virgin Mary, which reminds us of her care for the members of the Sodality family, especially in moments of great need. It is a love which seeks a reciprocal love. The Scapular is a mirror of the humility and purity of Mary: through her simplicity she invites us to live modestly and in purity. By wearing the Scapular, it becomes a sign of our constant prayer and of our special dedication to the love and service of the Virgin Mary. By wearing the Scapular, we renew our baptismal vow to put on our Lord Jesus Christ. In Mary, our hope of salvation will be safeguarded, because in her the God of Life has made his abode.

*O God,
the author and perfecter of all holiness,
you call all who are reborn of water*

*and the Holy Spirit to the fullness of the Christian life
and the perfection of charity.*

Look with kindness

*on those who devoutly receive this scapular
in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

As long as they live

*let them become sharers in the image of Christ your Son
and, after they have fulfilled their mission on earth,
with the help of Mary, the Virgin Mother,
receive them into the joy of your heavenly home.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Adapted from the Carmelite rite of conferral of the Scapular

JOHN 17 - THE HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER OF JESUS

(Sunday)

After Jesus had spoken these words, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, **2** since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. **3** And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. **4** I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. **5** So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

(Monday - Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said)

6 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. **7** Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; **8** for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. **9** I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

(Tuesday - Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said)

10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. **11** And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. **12** While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. **13** But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.

(Wednesday - Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said)

14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **15** I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.

(Thursday - Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said)

16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

(Friday - Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said)

20 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

(Saturday - Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said)

22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, **23** I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. **24** Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. **25** 'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. **26** I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

V. I will feast the souls of my priests with abundance. [Alleluia]

R. And my people shall be satisfied with my goodness.
[Alleluia]

Father, in your love for us
you chose Mary to be the Mother of your Son,
the first to welcome Him into her heart
and bring Him forth for a waiting world.
Grant us such a measure of her grace
as to be truly devoted to your Word.
By the loving intercession of Our Lady,
re-consecrate us each day
and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit
bring us, *your pilgrim priests*,
to be set forth upon the ocean of light which is the Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

MASS AND OFFICE INTENTIONS

In order that the ministerial fruit may be, as it always should be, applied to a definite object, a priest ought never to go to the altar without first formulating a specific intention which, for the same reason, should be both explicit and formulated, at latest, before the Sacrifice is consummated by the consecration of the chalice: though, of course, s/he will never wait till then to do so but will, before vesting, direct his/her intention as part of the preparation. Indeed it would be well to fix the intentions for some time ahead; and then, even if not subsequently adverted to, they will remain in force unless retracted by the formulation of other intentions.

The only restriction on a private (unannounced) intention is that it is not permissible to say Mass for those in heaven (the saints, the blessed, and baptized infants who die under the age of reason); nor yet for those in hell (but who shall dare to say that any particular soul is damned?); since in neither of those cases can the souls be aided by the Eucharistic Oblation.

Adapted from Fr Whatton

Prayer of Intention before Mass

I desire to celebrate this Mass with due attention and devotion, and to offer God the sacrifice for – (*state the intention*) – desiring to satisfy my obligations in every way. I wish, further, to communicate the fruit of this sacrifice both to my own needs and to all those for whom I am bound or have promised to pray, or for whom it is thy wish that I should pray. And I desire to make this communication of the fruits of this sacrifice, both to myself and to those others, as far as it is lawful in justice or in charity to desire and ask it, and this I ask of God.

Moreover, I desire to receive the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist at this Mass with the intention of receiving it as Viaticum; that is, should an unprovided death happen to me this day, so that I cannot fulfill the precept of receiving this sacrament at the end of my life, it is my mind that this reception of Holy Communion may satisfy instead.

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

THE DIVINE OFFICE – INTENTIONS

OFFICE OF READINGS

Sunday

For those with cure of souls: For my parish and its needs

For religious: For my community and Order, and all communities

For other Priests: For all whom, by personal or official ties, I am bound to pray

Monday For the bishop and all my superiors

Tuesday For peace and concord among the nations

Wednesday For the propagation of the faith

Thursday For the unity of Christendom.

Friday For the afflicted members of Christ's Body.

Saturday For the good estate of the Queen [/President] and the realm

LAUDS In thanksgiving for the gifts of God

DAYTIME PRAYER

Sunday / Tuesday / Saturday For all with whom I am in touch this day

Monday / Friday For the final perseverance of the dying

Wednesday / Thursday For the conversion of sinners

VESPERS For the increase of the priesthood in numbers, learning and holiness

COMPLINE For the faithful departed.

For those using the Prayer Book or Common Worship Office:

MATINS/LAUDS

Sunday For the bishop and all my superiors

Monday For all the persons and objects commended to my prayers

Tuesday For the increasing of the priesthood in number and holiness

Wednesday For the propagation of the faith

Thursday For the Unity of Christendom

Friday For the afflicted members of Christ's body

Saturday For the good estate of the Queen and realm

VESPERS / EVENSONG

Sunday	For all for whom I am bound to pray
Monday	For the faithful departed
Tuesday	For all religious communities
Wednesday	For the conversion of sinners
Thursday	For peace and concord among the nations
Friday	For the final perseverance of the dying
Saturday	In thanksgiving for the blessings of the past week

PRAYERS BEFORE THE HOURS OF THE OFFICE

Before the first Hour of the day:

Lord, God, I offer this Divine Office to you, together with the adoration and praise of the angels and saints, as well as that of all the priests of our Sodality and of all your Church, all holy monks and nuns, all consecrated to lives of prayer and all the devout faithful. I present to you, holy Father, together with the prayers of holy Mary the God-bearer, this chorus of prayer, made holy in the Heart of Jesus and made one with His most holy prayer.

May all the words of this prayer be acts of pure love, adoration, thanksgiving, satisfaction, trust and surrender to your holy Will. Let this prayer be for my weak self a spiritual communion, an act of humility, and of perfect self-denial; and may it be a sacrifice of praise and glory to you, O Blessed Trinity. Amen.

I offer this Office for (*here state the intention*) to the glory of the Holy and Undivided Trinity and for the salvation of the whole world.

Before other Hours:

Eternal Father, through the Heart of Jesus your Son, in union with Mary the Mother of Jesus, Saint Joseph her husband, N. and all the saints, I humbly offer this holy Office, with all the priests of our Sodality, as a sign of love and as a means of reparation.

I offer this Office for (*here state the intention*) to the glory of the Holy and Undivided Trinity and for the salvation of the whole world.

THE ROSARY

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

After the final mystery:

Hail Holy Queen, mother of mercy; our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us. And after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

O God, whose only-begotten Son by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech Thee, that by meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the divine assistance remain always with us. Amen.

May the souls of the departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

On Monday and Saturday, the Joyful Mysteries

First Decade: The Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary

Second Decade: The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

Third Decade: The Birth of Our Lord

Fourth Decade: The Presentation of Our Lord

Fifth Decade: The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

On Thursday, the Luminous Mysteries

First Decade: The Baptism of Our Lord in the River Jordan

Second Decade: The Wedding at Cana

Third Decade: The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Fourth Decade: The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Fifth Decade: The Last Supper

On Tuesday and Friday, the Sorrowful Mysteries

First Decade: The Agony of Our Lord in the Garden

Second Decade: Our Lord is Scourged at the Pillar

Third Decade: Our Lord is Crowned with Thorns

Fourth Decade: Our Lord Carries the Cross to Calvary

Fifth Decade: The Crucifixion of Our Lord

On Wednesday and Sunday, the Glorious Mysteries

First Decade: The Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord

Second Decade: The Ascension of Our Lord

Third Decade: The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Fourth Decade: The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

Fifth Decade: The Coronation of Mary

THE SODALITY ANTHEM TO MARY, MOTHER OF PRIESTS

O Holy Mother of God, O Mother of Christ,
To the Messiah Priest you gave a body of flesh,
Guard your priests in your heart,
Guard your priests in your Church,
We humbly ask by your grace.

O holy Mother of God, O Mother of faith,
Through your prayers may we render
to God the Father due praise,
Through the priests of your Son,
Through the priests of your church,
We humbly ask for your grace.

O Ark of the Covenant, you, O Queen of the Church,
On all who venerate your motherhood of the faith,
We pray you obtain,
For your Presbyters
A generous measure of gifts.

V. I will feast the souls of my priests with abundance. [Alleluia]

**R. And my people shall be satisfied with my goodness.
[Alleluia]**

Father,
in your love for us
you chose Mary to be the Mother of your Son,
the first to welcome Him into her heart
and bring Him forth for a waiting world.
Grant us such a measure of her grace
as to be truly devoted to your Word.
By the loving intercession of Our Lady,
re-consecrate us each day
and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit
bring us, *your pilgrim priests*,
to be set forth upon the ocean of light which is the Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Collect and Anthem are based on words of Pope Saint John Paul I