



Corpus Christianum

Statutes

Nature, Purpose & Name

- Art. 1. *Corpus Christianum* is an international Private Association of the Faithful, wherein which its members, by private agreement, choose to support the structure and follow the charism outlined in these statutes. (*Canons 298, § 1; 299, § 1, 2; 321*)
- Art. 2. The purpose of *Corpus Christianum* (*Canon 304, § 1*) is to pray for the renewal of Christendom through the intercession of Mary, Help of Christians.
- Art. 3. The association's name *Corpus Christianum*, taken from the Latin, refers to a community of all Christians, united under the Roman Catholic Church, living and working together in society under the banner of Christ the King. (*Canon 304, § 2*)

Membership

- Art. 4. Membership is open to all men and women who are baptized persons, in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, and are joined with Christ in the Church's visible structure by the bonds of profession of faith, of the sacraments, and the Church's ecclesiastical governance. (*Canon 304, § 1*)
- Art. 5. To insure that they are fully aware of the association's purpose and duties, persons may request membership only after having read through the statutes. (*Canon 307, § 1*)
- Art. 6. Members always retain the right to leave *Corpus Christianum*. This is done by notifying the association in writing. (*Canon 308*)
- Art. 7. Persons may belong to other public/private associations during their affiliation with *Corpus Christianum*. (*Canon 307, § 2*)

Manner of Action (CC 304, § 1)

- Art. 8. Members aspire to:
- a. Daily pray a Rosary, with the decade intentions being offered for:
 1. The renewal, unity, and spread of Christendom.

2. The Supreme Pontiff and all priests/religious.
 3. The protection of Christians.
 4. The restoration of the family.
 5. The conversion of sinners and the sanctification of all persons;
- b. Daily pray the Mary, Help of Christians prayer:

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Help of Christians, how sweet it is to come to your feet imploring your perpetual help. If earthly mothers cease not to remember their children, how can you, the most loving of all mothers forget me? Grant then to me, I implore you, your perpetual help in all my necessities, in every sorrow, and especially in all my temptations. I ask for your unceasing help for all who are now suffering. Help the weak, cure the sick, convert sinners. Grant through your intercessions many vocations to the religious life. Obtain for us, O Mary, Help of Christians, that having invoked you on earth we may love and eternally thank you in heaven. Amen.

- c. Daily pray the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary [Permission is given to substitute the Divine Office in place of the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary if new members already pray the Divine Office as part of their existing prayer life]. The Little Office [or Divine Office] can be prayed in whole or in part ;
- d. Daily pray the Corpus Christianum Preces;
- e. Pray, on Saturdays, the Litany of Loreto.

No sin is committed if members are unable to perform any of the above-mentioned items.

- Art. 9 Those members who wish to incorporate more into their daily prayer life may follow the Acta Militum.
- Art. 10. Members may gather to pray the Little Office or Holy Rosary together. Any gathering must always be moderated by prudence and charity, along with the proper ecclesiastical approval if located in a parish church or chapel.
- Art. 11. When appropriate, members are encouraged to wear the association pin.
- Art. 12. To strengthen the association's sense of Marian chivalry, members may elect once to receive the Corpus Christianum rosary and the sacramental conferred in the ceremony "*De Benedictione Novi Militis.*" This opportunity is offered every three years.

Governance & Centre

- Art. 13. *Corpus Christianum* is governed by a Moderator, along with six officers called "Chancellors." (*Canon 324, § 1*)
- Art. 14. The Moderator and Chancellors hold their positions for life, excepting a written resignation or if the individual cannot be contacted for a period of at least six months, at which time the position will be considered vacant.
- Art. 15. The Moderator duties shall include:
- a. accepting memberships;
 - b. appointing Chancellors;
 - c. representing the association to the Holy See and other entities;
 - d. maintaining the integrity of the association's statutes;
 - e. other duties which serve the purpose of the association.
- Art. 16. Chancellor duties shall include:
- a. election of the Moderator;
 - b. supporting the work of the Moderator as needed.
- Art. 17. When the Moderator's position is vacant, the Chancellors shall elect a new Moderator from among themselves as soon as possible. The new Moderator is appointed after a majority vote.
- Art. 18. The association's physical headquarters are located wherever the Moderator resides.
- Art. 19. Due to its international nature, and because technology makes it possible to institute a "virtual" headquarters, the association shall use the Internet both to communicate with members as well as to provide information to prospective members.
- Art. 20. The Moderator, with the advice of the Chancellors, may determine the proper administration of goods of the association. (*Canon 309; 310*)

Review & Amendment of Statutes

- Art. 21. The association shall, after an appropriate period, request a review of its statutes in order to request juridical personality. (*Canons 299 § 3; 312; 322, § 1, 2*)
- Art. 22. Once approved, in respect to Church authority, the statutes shall remain open for ecclesiastical review. (*Canons 299, § 3; 305, § 1, 2; 322, § 2*)

Art. 23. If changes are to be made to the approved statutes, the Moderator shall propose the modification to the Chancellors for ratification by a majority vote. Once passed, the changes shall be added to the statutes as dated addendums.

Art. 24. For everything not expressed or regulated by these Statutes, the rules of Canon Law are to be applied.

Statement of Non-Liability

Art. 25. The Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska - as well as all other Catholic Archdioceses/Dioceses - possess no legal and/or financial responsibility and/or liability for the statutes, policies, or actions of *Corpus Christianum* and its individual members.

Art. 26. Individual *Corpus Christianum* members understand and recognize that they are solely responsible for their own actions, speech, and activities.

These Statutes have been approved by His Excellency, Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz [*of the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska, USA*] on August 2, 2010. The letter granting the *nihil obstat* and expressing his blessing and support for *Corpus Christianum* is found on the next page of this document.

DIocese of LINCOLN
CHANCERY
P.O. Box 80328
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68501-0328
402-488-0921 FAX 402-488-3569

August 2, 2010

Mr. Robert Overkamp
Corpus Christianum
4801 West Superior Street
Lincoln, NE 68524

Dear Robert:


This letter is in response to your requests asking for a *nihil obstat* from the Diocese of Lincoln so that you may seek recognition for *Corpus Christianum* by the Pontifical Council of the Laity as a "Private Association of the Christian Faithful".

After having considered your petition, the information you have provided in your letters and in your "Fact Sheet" dated June 24, 2010, and the letter of recommendation provided by Father Brendan Kelly, the Bishop has asked me to inform you that he grants, by means of this letter, the requested *nihil obstat*. The Bishop also has asked Father Kelly to serve as his liaison to *Corpus Christianum*. Should you have any questions, concerns, or desire any assistance or advice, please be in contact with Father Kelly. The Bishop also asks that you keep Father Kelly informed about the activities and status of *Corpus Christianum*.

The Bishop grants his blessing upon you and your organization, and prays that it will serve Christ, His Church and its members well, and be an occasion of grace for all concerned.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Monsignor Timothy J. Thorburn
Vicar General

✓ cc: Rev. Brendan Kelly