

Society of Catholic Priests
North American Province
By-laws and Constitution
Updated November 2022

I. TITLE

This Province of the Society shall be called the “Society of Catholic Priests, North American Province”, hereafter referred to as “the Society”

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Society are

- a) the formation and support of priestly spirituality; and
- b) the promotion of catholic evangelism.

III. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership is open to all bishops, priests, and deacons who
 - a) believe that the churches of the Anglican Communion are part of the one holy and catholic and apostolic church;
 - b) are all members of the provinces of the Anglican Communion in North America;
 - c) embrace as colleagues all those admitted to Holy Orders in the same;
 - d) believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist;
 - e) embrace the sacramental life of the Church as means of God’s grace;
 - f) and keep the rule of life of the Society.
2. Professed, but unordained, members of monastic communities may also be admitted as full members with the same constitution rights as ordained persons.
3. Persons who have been granted postulancy for ordination by their diocese may be admitted as provisional members. A provisional member pays half the dues of a full member, and is entitled to voice but not vote at both Chapter and Provincial levels. A provisional member, upon their diaconal ordination, becomes eligible for full membership. The provisional member desiring to become a full member should so notify both the Chapter Convener and the Provincial Secretary, and should arrange to pay the full dues.
4. While their religious affiliation may make them ineligible for membership in the Society, members of our ecumenical partners are welcome to participate in local conversations and events at the discretion of the local chapter.
5. Voting on matters affecting other provinces of the Society shall be conducted by order (bishop, priest, deacon, religious).

IV. RULE OF LIFE

1. Members of the Society must
 - a) affirm their fidelity to The Episcopal Church or the Anglican Church of Canada, depending upon their canonical residency, and to the canonical leadership of the same;
 - b) affirm their conformity to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the same said province of the Anglican Communion; and

- c) pledge to provide mutual support and encouragement among the Church's clergy.
2. Members of the Society will commit themselves to living the Society's Rule of Life, namely to
 - a) center their spiritual life on the Eucharist;
 - b) say the daily office;
 - c) consult regularly a spiritual director;
 - d) make use of the sacrament of reconciliation;
 - e) pray for their sisters and brothers in the Society;
 - f) offer confidential pastoral care to fellow members of the Society; and
 - g) attend all meetings of their local Chapter unless prevented by good reason.

V. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

1. An aspirant for membership must
 - a) make application through the Membership Officer;
 - b) be sponsored by a current member of the Society;
 - c) be interviewed by the Local Convener of the local Chapter; and
 - d) attend two local Chapter meetings.
2. An aspirant for membership may join the Society as an at-large member if he or she does not live within the boundaries of an active Chapter.
3. The aspirant will be admitted to membership at a meeting of the Chapter by the Local Convener, or another Chapter officer delegated by the Local Convener, using the form provided in Appendix C. Admission to membership using the Rite of Admission may also take place at the annual Provincial Assembly.. Members wishing their Admission to take place at the annual Assembly shall so petition the Chaplain.
4. Each newly-admitted member may be given a Society manual and token of membership.
5. After appropriate consultation with the officers of the local Chapter, Local Conveners or the Provincial Council may exclude from the Society any member who fails to continue to satisfy the conditions of membership.
 - a) Upon denying aspirancy or membership to a person, the Local Convener or Provincial Convener shall send a letter to the member, noting the reason for possible exclusion.
 - b) Should the person choose to appeal this decision, he/she may do so in writing, by responding to the reasons provided in the letter specified in V.4a.
 - c) If after a letter of appeal is received, the decision to exclude still stands, and the member wishes to appeal further, he/she may do so, in writing, to the Provincial Council through the Council Advisor. The decision of the Council shall be final.
 - d) A person denied aspirancy or membership may reapply after a period of not less than 12 months, provided the requirements for membership are met.

VI. THE COUNCIL

1. Leadership of the Society shall be vested in its officers. With the exception of the Council Advisor, officers shall be elected to a three-year term, eligible for re-election, by the membership at large during the Annual Assembly.
 - a) The election of the Evangelism and Membership Officer shall take place at annual assemblies every three years beginning with 2018.

- b) The election of the Provincial Convener, Council Treasurer, and Communications Director shall take place at annual assemblies every three years beginning with 2019.
 - c) The election of the Council Secretary, and Society Chaplain, shall take place at annual assemblies every three years beginning with 2020.
 - d) The Council Advisor shall be appointed by the Provincial Convener for a three-year term.
 - e) Candidates for these offices may be nominated by a local chapter and submitted by the Local Convener to the Council Secretary, no later than six weeks before the date of the annual assembly meeting.
 - i. After receipt of the names submitted, all nominations shall then be approved by the Council, which shall ensure that the nominated persons are members in good standing with the Society and willing and able to serve. To that end, the Provincial Convener, or another member of the Council appointed by the Provincial Convener, may confer with the nominated individual to review the duties of the particular office and to ensure that the candidate is prepared to perform the duties of the same, as prescribed by the Constitution.
 - ii. The Council may also nominate additional persons to the list of candidates at this time.
 - iii. To allow the membership and the nominated persons sufficient time to consider their nomination to an office, no nominations shall be made from the floor at the annual assembly.
 - f) The manner of voting shall be in accordance with VIII.2.
2. The corporate body of these officers shall constitute the Council, whose members shall communicate frequently and meet regularly, as possible, to tend to the life and work of the Society.
- a) Meetings of the Council shall be called and chaired by the Provincial Convener.
 - b) The Council shall meet at least four times a year, one of which shall be the Annual Assembly. These meetings may be physical gatherings or through the medium of computer or telephone conferencing, at the discretion of the Provincial Convener.
 - c) Additional meetings may be convened by the Provincial Convener or at the request of four members of the Council
 - d) At each meeting, the date, location, and medium of the next Council meeting shall be arranged.
 - e) At least one month's notice must be given for all Council meetings.
 - f) The Episcopal Visitor shall be an ex officio member of the Council, having both voice and vote.
 - g) At the invitation of the Council, other persons appointed under the auspices of VI.4 may also participate in meetings, having a voice but not a vote.
3. Traveling expenses related to the Annual Assembly of the Council members will be borne by provincial funds, and a specific line item for these expenses should be incorporated into the annual budget.
4. The Officers elected by the membership to lead the Society and to constitute the Council shall include
- a) **Provincial Convener.** The Provincial Convener shall be responsible for the life and work of the provincial level of the Society and shall collaborate with the Local Conveners of Chapters and support them in their local efforts. The Provincial Convener chairs the annual legislative assembly of the Society and serves as chair of the Council.

- b) **Council Advisor.** The Council Advisor is a person of experience and skill who generally assists the Provincial Convener in his/her duties and who specifically cares for the legal, constitutional, and logistical matters of the Society. In the absence of the Provincial Convener, the Council Advisor may assume the roles outlined in VI.4.a.
 - c) **Council Secretary.** The Council Secretary shall keep and maintain records of the Society, including minutes of Council meetings and the annual meeting of the Province. The Council Secretary shall also be responsible for overseeing the election process for officers of the Province and for maintaining an up-to-date roster of all elected and appointed officers.
 - d) **Council Treasurer.** The Council Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping the records of the Province's finances and accounts, for maintaining records on the payment and receiving of membership dues, for drafting the Province's annual budget, for disbursing funds as authorized by the budget or the Council, and for making financial reports from time to time, as requested, to the Council.
 - e) **Communications Director.** The Communications Director shall be responsible for disseminating news and information to the Society's membership, for making available reports from the Council and annual meeting, for publicity of the Society, and for representing the Society, when requested by the Council, at other religious meetings and gatherings.
 - f) **Society Chaplain.** The Society Chaplain shall be a member priest or bishop of good standing, with particular skills and experience in providing pastoral care to clergy, who is elected by the membership to provide pastoral care, counsel, and direction to the Society's members and to coordinate with Local Conveners to see that local opportunities for pastoral care are made available as well. At the discretion of the Provincial Convener, the Society Chaplain may be deputized with authority over liturgies of meetings of the Society.
 - g) **Evangelism Officer.** The Evangelism Director shall be responsible for promoting the work of the Society and encouraging membership among clergy and seminarians within the Episcopal Church and Anglican Church of Canada, and developing greater participation of women, people of color, and other under-represented groups.
 - h) **Membership Officer.** The Membership Officer shall be responsible for maintaining the Society's membership records.
5. In addition to its constitutional membership, the Council may appoint persons to offices for the good of the common life of the Society. These at-large appointments shall be for twelve months only, though the person may be reappointed for subsequent terms.

VII. EPISCOPAL VISITOR

1. At a convenient time, subsequent to the elections at the annual assembly, the Council, constituted with the newly elected officers, shall appoint a member in episcopal orders to serve as the Episcopal Visitor for the period of one year.
 - a) A bishop who is a non-member may be invited by the Council to assume this office, provided that the candidate feels able to support the life and work of the Society and is willing to first be admitted as a member to the Society before assuming the office of Episcopal Visitor.
 - b) At the end of the one-year term of the Visitor, the Council may re-appoint the Visitor for an additional year.
2. The Episcopal Visitor shall provide care and support to the Council and represent the interests of the Society to other Bishops in The Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Anglican Communion.

VIII. ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

1. An annual assembly for all members of the Society shall be organized by the Council each year. Normally this will incorporate the Society's annual meeting.
 - a) Members are expected to attend the annual assembly at least once every three years and are encouraged to attend every year.
 - b) The agenda of the Annual Assembly business meeting shall be reported to the Council Secretary who shall give notice of the meeting and of the proposed agenda to all Chapters no less than four weeks in advance of the meeting date.
 - c) All meetings at the provincial level shall be chaired by the Provincial Convener, or in his/her absence, by the Council Advisor.
2. In the Society's annual meeting, the members may vote in the election of officers, on changes to the Constitution, on the dissolution of Chapters, and on matters of interest to the Society as a whole.
 - a) Voting in meetings may be done with a simple voice vote.
 - b) Only members present shall be eligible to vote.
 - c) If a vote by voice is contested, or at the successful motion of a member of the Society, the vote may be made by secret ballot.
3. Legislative discussion and matters at the business meeting and at the Annual Assembly shall follow the procedural rules found in the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order. For such meetings, the Council Advisor shall either serve as Parliamentarian or, at his/her discretion, may appoint someone to serve as Parliamentarian, whose duty it is to ensure that business is conducted in accordance with said rules.
4. Extraordinary general meetings of the Province may be called at the request of the Council or when requested by the majority of Local Conveners.

IX. REGIONAL AND LOCAL STRUCTURES

1. The Society consists of local Chapters, each covering one or more dioceses, organized in such a way as to enable the Society's common life to flourish.
2. The life of the Society shall exist within these local Chapters, and the primary goal of the Council shall be to support the life of the Society as a whole.

Chapters may group themselves into regions, and regional matters and events may be coordinated by a regional council, whose membership consists of the Local Conveners of the constituent chapters.

3. All Chapters shall be governed by this Constitution; however, each Chapter may adopt its own Bylaws. (A model for Chapter Bylaws is provided in Appendix B.) Whenever discrepancies may arise, this Constitution shall have precedence.

X. CHAPTER MEETINGS

1. It is recommended that each Chapter meet at least quarterly, in Advent, Lent, Eastertide, and the Season after Pentecost, for the offering of the Eucharist, for fellowship (normally including a meal) and for study and discussion. In planning meetings Chapters should have regard to the working patterns and personal circumstances of members.

2. Each Chapter meeting shall be convened by its Local Convener, who will chair the business of the meeting. The focus of Chapter meetings should be the promotion of the objects of the Society.
3. Chapters may at their discretion meet on occasion in smaller groups, providing that there shall be at least one annual business meeting at which the whole Chapter gathers and during which new members may be admitted using the form in Appendix C.
4. Persons from other religious groups and churches, who although not eligible for membership in the Society are nonetheless sympathetic to its cause, may be invited, at the discretion of the Chapter's members, to participate in discussions, communal worship, and other events in the life of the Chapter.

XI. FORMATION AND DISSOLUTION OF CHAPTERS

1. A group of priests interested in forming a Chapter of the Society (a minimum of six priests) should have met in advance of the inaugural chapter meeting and discussed the constitution of the Society. Having agreed to form a Chapter, they shall provide the Provincial Convener with possible dates for the inaugural meeting. The Provincial Convener should satisfy himself/herself of the bona fides of those making the request and should then arrange the inaugural meeting. The Provincial Convener should normally preside at the inaugural meeting but may delegate this responsibility to another member of the Council.
2. At the inaugural meeting the Provincial Convener, or his/her appointed representative, shall admit the new members to the Society using the form provided in Appendix C.
3. Before the inaugural meeting, one of the local priests shall write to the diocesan bishop informing him or her of the proposal to open a Chapter of the Society and asking him or her to become its visitor. Should the diocesan bishop not wish to perform this ministry, he or she should be asked to nominate another bishop. Where a proposed Chapter is to cover more than one diocese, the diocesan bishops in question should be invited to select one of their number, who is able to support the ethos of the Society, to be its Local Episcopal Visitor. If none of them wish to become the Local Episcopal Visitor they should be asked to nominate another bishop.
4. In the event of a Chapter ceasing to exist, its assets and liabilities shall pass to the Council.
5. The Society may be dissolved upon a two-thirds majority of members voting at an extraordinary or annual general meeting of the whole Society. Following such a resolution its remaining assets shall pass to some charity or church-related organization specified in the motion for dissolution.

XII. AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to any part of this Constitution may be proposed by the Council officers or by any Chapter who has, through majority vote, agreed to submit the amendment.
2. The Society shall vote on the proposal at the annual meeting. Proposals which are supported by a two-thirds majority shall be adopted.

XIII. INTERPRETATION, DISPUTES, AND DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

1. The interpretation of this constitution rests with the Council in consultation with the Local Conveners. A majority vote on a matter of interpretation by the Council shall be final.
2. Any dispute arising within a Chapter shall be referred to the Council, whose decision shall be final.
3. A member of the Society may withdraw his/her membership at any time, in writing to the Local Convener of his/her local Chapter, who shall forward the information on to the Chapter Secretary and to the Council Secretary.
4. A member of the Society who has caused grave scandal (including, but not limited to, violating the Conflict of Interest policy contained in Appendix A), has been accused or found guilty of abandoning the communion of The Episcopal Church or the Anglican Church of Canada, or rejected articles of section IV of this Constitution may be suspended from membership by the Local Convener with the support of the majority of the Chapter's officers. Such action shall be provisional until the matter can be decided upon by the Council, whose decision shall be authoritative.
5. In the event that an officer of a Chapter has become incapacitated or delinquent in his/her responsibilities or that an officer has resigned, the Local Convener may appoint another member to serve as a provisional replacement until the next meeting of the Chapter, whose members by vote may respond to the situation as they see fit.
 - a) If the officer in question is the Local Convener of a Chapter, the Council shall be notified and the Provincial Convener may appoint another member to serve as a provisional replacement until the next meeting of the Chapter, whose members by vote may respond to the situation as they see fit.
6. If an officer in the Council has become incapacitated or delinquent in his/her responsibilities, the remaining members of the Council may appoint, by majority vote, another member of the Society to the Council to serve as a provisional replacement until the next annual meeting.
7. The Society maintains a Conflict of Interest Policy (Appendix A) for Council Officers, Chapter Officers, and any designated by Officers of the Society to serve in any leadership or decision-making function. Failure to comply with the Conflict of Interest Policy may result in disciplinary action VIII.4 of this constitution and may be reported to the member's ecclesial superiors for action under the member church's disciplinary canons.

Appendix A: Conflict of Interest Policy

This Conflict of Interest Policy governs the activities of the board and staff of the Society of Catholic Priests, North American province (hereafter referred to as the Society). Questions about the policy should be directed to the Council Advisor of the Society. It is the duty of all board members and staff to be aware of this policy, and to identify conflicts of interest and situations that may result in the appearance of a conflict of interest and to disclose those situations / conflicts / or potential conflicts to their immediate superior in the Society as defined in section 3, below.

This policy provides guidelines for identifying conflicts, disclosing conflicts and procedures to be followed to assist the Society in managing conflicts of interest and situations that may result in the appearance of a conflict.

- 1) **What is a conflict of interest?** A conflict of interest arises when a board member or staff member has a personal interest that conflicts with the interests of the Society or arises in situations where a board/staff member has divided loyalties (also known as a “duality of interest”). The former can result in situations that result in inappropriate financial gain to persons in authority at the Society which can lead to financial penalties and violations of IRS regulations. Similarly, situations or transactions arising out of a conflict of interest can result in either inappropriate financial gain or the appearance of a lack of integrity in the Society’s decision-making process. Both results are damaging to the Society and are to be avoided.
 - a) *Example #1:* a person in a position of authority over the Organization may benefit financially from a transaction between the Organization and the board/staff member; or others closely associated with the board/staff member may be affected financially. Family members, or their businesses, or other persons or the businesses of persons with whom the board/staff member is closely associated, could benefit from similar transactions.
 - b) *Example #2:* A conflict of interest could be a direct or indirect *financial interest* such as those described above, or a *personal interest* such as the situation where a board member of the Society is also a board member of another nonprofit or for-profit entity in the community with which the Society collaborates or conducts business.
- 2) **Who might be affected by this policy?** Typically persons who are affected by a conflict of interest policy are the Organization’s board members, officers, and senior staff. In some cases a major donor could also be in a conflict situation. The Society takes a broad view of conflicts and board/staff are urged to think of how a situation/transaction would appear to outside parties when identifying conflicts or possible conflicts of interest.
- 3) **Disclosure of Conflicts.** All those in positions of leadership or decision making at any level of the Society shall disclose conflicts as they arise, those situations that are evolving that may result in a conflict of interest, and situations that might result in the appearance of a conflict of interest. Advance disclosure must occur so that a determination may be made as to the appropriate plan of action to manage the conflict. Disclosures to be made in writing to their superior(s) in the Society, as defined below:
 - a) If they are members of a Chapter, they shall inform their Local Convener.
 - b) If they are a Local Convener, they shall disclose these situations/conflicts/or potential conflicts to the Council Advisor of the Council.
 - c) If they are members of the Council, they shall disclose these situations/conflicts/or potential conflicts to the other members of the Council.

- 4) **Procedures to manage conflicts.** For each interest disclosed the appropriate superior (as defined in section 3, above) will determine whether the organization should
- a) take no action or
 - b) disclose the situation more broadly and invite discussion/resolution by the full Chapter Committee or Council, as appropriate, as to what action to take, or
 - c) refrain from taking action and otherwise avoid the conflict.

In most cases the broadest disclosure possible is advisable so that decision-makers can make informed decisions that are in the best interests of the organization.

- a) When the conflict involves a decision-maker, the person with the conflict (“interested party”)
 - i. must fully disclose the conflict to all other decision-makers;
 - ii. may not be involved in the decision of what action to take (e.g., may not participate in a vote) but may serve as a resource to provide other decision-makers with needed information.
- b) In some cases the person with the conflict may be asked to recuse him/herself from sensitive discussions so as not to unduly influence the discussion of the conflict.
- c) In all cases, decisions involving a conflict will be made only by disinterested persons.
- d) The fact that a conflict was managed and the outcome will be documented in the minutes of Council meetings.
- e) The Council Advisor or the Local Convener (as applicable) will monitor proposed or ongoing transactions of the organization (e.g., contracts with vendors and collaborations with third parties) for conflicts of interest and disclose them to the Council or Chapter Committee, as appropriate, whether discovered before or after the transaction has occurred.

Appendix A: Model Chapter Bylaws

I. TITLE

1. The Chapter shall be called “the _____ Chapter of the Society of Catholic Priests, North American Province”; hereafter the “Chapter.”

II. ANNUAL MEETING

1. There shall be an annual meeting of the Chapter, at which:
 - a) the Local Convener shall present an annual report;
 - b) the members shall elect a Local Convener, a secretary and a chaplain together with such other officers and committee members as the membership considers necessary;
 - c) aspirants may be admitted as new members using the form in Appendix C;
 - d) the existing members shall renew their promises using the form provided in Appendix D; and
 - e) officers for the local chapter may be elected (or re-elected) by the members.

III. FINANCES

1. All membership dues and fees for the Society shall be paid directly to the Council Treasurer.
2. For meetings and Chapter events, each of the members is expected to pay for his/her share in the event’s costs.
3. Financial assistance may be available from the Council to underwrite certain Chapter events. These funds in all cases should be paid directly to the vendor from whom costs are incurred. Access to these funds is at the discretion of the Council Treasurer, in consultation with the Council.

IV. CHAPTER OFFICERS

1. Candidates for offices shall be nominated by members, either in advance of a regular Chapter meeting or from the floor during a Chapter meeting.
2. The officers shall be elected by a simple majority of those active members present at the Chapter meeting.
3. The corporate body of these elected officers and any appointed officers shall be known as the Committee.
4. **Local Convener.** The Local Convener shall
 - a) serve as a center of unity for the Chapter;
 - b) speak for the Chapter and represent it in meetings and communications with the local diocesan bishops;
 - c) receive from the Council the names of prospective candidates for membership, meet with these candidates, and, upon confirming their eligibility for the Society, confer upon them “aspirant” status;
 - d) ensure that aspirants fulfill the conditions for membership and determine whether they intend to keep a rule of life;
 - e) chair meetings of the Committee;
 - f) plan meetings, retreats, and/or other gatherings of members during the year;

- g) convene an annual meeting of the Chapter membership and preside at the renewal of promises as part of the meeting, using the form in Appendix D, and, when there are eligible aspirants, admit them to membership, using the form in Appendix C;
- h) maintain regular communication with the Provincial Convener, other members of the Council, and other Local Conveners, keeping them updated on the life and work of the Chapter; and
- i) work with the Council and the membership to promote catholic evangelism in the local dioceses.

5. **Secretary.** The Chapter's Secretary shall

- a) keep records of attendance at all meetings;
- b) maintain an up-to-date list of members including addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses, and promptly convey that list and any changes to it to the Chapter's Secretary;
- c) assist the Local Convener as necessary with Society business;
- d) circulate to members annually dates of meetings and the address list;
- e) be responsible for communication between the Council and the membership within the Chapter and when needed disseminate information and news from the Council to the Chapter's members; and
- f) submit an annual report on the activities of the Chapter to the Council Secretary no less than one month before the province's annual assembly.

6. **Chaplain.** The Chapter's Chaplain shall

- a) provide pastoral care, counsel, and direction to the Society's members, with particular care given to the support of those members who are isolated or homebound;
- b) with the consent of a member who has confided in the Chapter's Chaplain, provide other appropriate resources for pastoral care, including, but not limited to, referring to the member's bishop, the Society Chaplain, or a professional counselor.
- c) At the discretion of the Local Convener, the Chapter's Chaplain may be deputized with authority over liturgies of meetings of the Chapter.

V. AMENDMENTS

- 1. Amendments to these Bylaws may only be made with the consent of two-thirds of the members and with the consent of the Council.
- 2. In no circumstances, may these Bylaws be at odds with the Constitution.
- 3. Whenever a discrepancy shall occur, the provisions of the Constitution shall have priority and be authoritative.

Appendix B: Rite of Admission of New Members

The rite of admission normally takes place during the Eucharist after the Gospel and any homily with the Local Convener serving as the Celebrant. In cases of the inaugural meeting of a new Chapter, the Provincial Convener or a Council member appointed by the Provincial Convener will act as Celebrant. The candidate may be presented by any appropriate Chapter member. Local custom may be followed regarding posture, etc.

The sponsoring member(s) presents the aspirant(s) to the Celebrant, saying
A., I present to you B.B., who desires to be admitted to the Society of Catholic Priests.

The Celebrant says to the candidate(s) to be admitted

Members of the Society of Catholic Priests believe that the churches of the Anglican Communion are part of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, as members of The Episcopal Church or the Anglican Church of Canada, embrace as colleagues all those admitted to Holy Orders in the same; believe in the real presence of the risen Lord Jesus in the Eucharist, use and embrace the sacramental life of the Church as the God-given means of grace; and undertake to keep the rule of life of the Society.

Do you accept these precepts?

Candidate(s)
I do.

Celebrant

Members of our Society seek to center their spiritual lives on the real presence of Christ in his sacraments; to follow a corporate rule of life with integrity and humility; to give and receive hospitality after the example of Jesus; to seek the peace and unity of Christ's church, aspiring to live in full communion with all of the baptized; and to proclaim by word and example the gospel. Our life together is expressed in the hospitality of our meetings, mutual pastoral care for each other, and regular prayer for the priestly work of all the brothers and sisters.

Do you aspire to this way of life?

Candidate(s)
I do.

Celebrant

Do you also reaffirm the vows you took at your ordination or at your monastic profession, and do you continue to pledge yourself to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church or the Anglican Church of Canada and to be guided by its canonical leaders?

Candidate(s)
I do.

The Celebrant says to each candidate

N., I admit you into the Society of Catholic Priests in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A symbol of membership may then be presented with these or other words
Receive these tokens of your membership.

The Celebrant may bless the newly admitted member, saying
May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things give you the grace and power to perform them.
Amen.

The Nicene Creed may be said.

Then follows the Prayers of the People (see Appendix D).

Celebrant
The Lord be with you.

All respond
And also with you.

Celebrant
Let us pray:

All join in the Society Prayer
Father,
we thank you that you have called us to your service,
to feed your people by word and sacrament.
By the power of your Spirit,
keep us faithful to you and to those in our care.
Keep united in the bonds of peace and love
the members of our Society,
that by sharing in Christ's priesthood here on earth,
we may come to share in the joys of his eternal kingdom,
where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever. Amen

The Eucharist continues with the Peace.

Appendix C: Rite of Renewal of Promise

The rite of renewal of promise should be celebrated annually by Chapters, normally during the Eucharist at the annual meeting. All stand. This rite follows a sermon or homily, before the Prayers of the People and the Peace.

Local Convener

Sisters and brothers, let us join together in renewing our promise as members of the Society of Catholic Priests.

All

We believe that the churches of the Anglican Communion are part of Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic church, as members of The Episcopal Church or the Anglican Church of Canada; we embrace as colleagues all those admitted to Holy Orders in the same.

We believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, we embrace the sacramental life of the Church as the means of God's grace; and we undertake to keep the rule of life of the Society.

We affirm our intention to center our spiritual lives on the real presence of Christ in his sacraments; to follow a corporate Rule of Life with integrity and humility; to give and receive hospitality after the example of Jesus; to seek the peace and unity of Christ's church, aspiring to live in full communion with all of the baptized; and to proclaim by word and example the Gospel of Christ.

Local Convener

The Lord be with you.

All respond

And also with you.

Local Convener

Let us pray:

All join in the Society Prayer

Father, we thank you that you have called us to your service,
to feed your people by word and sacrament.

By the power of your Spirit,
keep us faithful to you and to those in our care.

Keep united in the bonds of peace and love
the members of our Society,

that by sharing in Christ's priesthood here on earth,
we may come to share in the joys of his eternal kingdom,
where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever. Amen

Then the Local Convener introduces the Prayers of the People (see Appendix E).

Appendix D: Sample Prayers of the People

The following is only a model form for the Prayers of the People at Eucharistic Celebrations of the Society, particularly when admitting new members or when existing members renew their membership promises. Each local chapter may adapt this form as appropriate.

Leader

Brothers and Sisters, let us pray for this Society and those whom we serve, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

Leader

For Christ’s one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, that it may be filled with all truth, strengthened in grace, and defended from adversity, let us pray to the Lord.

After this and each successive petition, all present respond

Lord, have mercy.

Leader

For the Society of Catholic Priests, that we and all its members may faithfully serve the people of God and live our vocations to the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader

That in our life and ministry we may witness to the abiding power of the Cross and the joy of the Resurrection, and share the hope of creation’s renewal through God’s word and Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader

In thanksgiving for our life together within the Church, for the grace of the sacraments and the witness of faithful men and women, for fellowship with colleagues and for all who support our common life, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader

For the world, that it may know the goodness of its Creator and that its leaders may serve the common good, seeking the well-being of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader

For the poor and destitute, for those who live under threat of violence or oppression, for those who suffer persecution; and for those whose hearts are hardened, unable to see or respond to human need, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader

For those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, that they may be comforted and relieved in their troubles and find encouragement in God’s grace, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader

For those who have died, that they may continue in the life of perfect service in Christ’s heavenly kingdom, and that with the ever blessed Virgin Mary, _____, and all the saints, we may come to the fullness of glory, let us pray to the Lord.

The Celebrant then leads the Society Prayer or some other concluding collect.