



## THE CANONS OF THE ENGLISH CATHOLIC COMMUNION

### CANON 1. OF THE DUE CELEBRATION OF SUNDAYS

All persons within this Communion shall celebrate and keep the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, by regular participation in the public worship of the Communion, by receiving the sacraments, by hearing the Word of God read and taught, and by other acts of devotion and works of charity, using all godly and sober conversation.

### CANON 2. ON CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

All persons within this Communion, recognizing that they are stewards of the gifts and blessings of God, recognize their obligation to show their gratitude as they are able and as God has blessed them, by contributing for the building up of this Communion and the propagation of the Gospel.

### CANON 3. OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY

Member organizations of this Communion shall own their own property.

### CANON 4. CONCERNING ORDINATIONS AND CONSECRATIONS: DECLARATION.

No person shall be consecrated Bishop, or ordered Priest or Deacon to minister in this Communion, unless at the time, in the presence of the ordaining Bishop or Bishops, he shall subscribe and make the following declaration:

"I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do solemnly engage

to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of the English Catholic Communion.”

CANON 5. CONCERNING THE ORDAINING OF CLERGY.

Section 1. Persons ordained as Deacons in this Communion shall be heterosexual males and be twenty-one years of age or older.

Section 2. Persons ordained as Priests in this Communion shall be heterosexual males and be twenty-four years of age or older.

Section 3. Persons consecrated as Bishops in this Communion shall be heterosexual males and be thirty years of age or older.

Section 4. Persons ordained or consecrated in this Communion shall be celibate or married.

Section 5. Persons ordained or consecrated in this Communion shall not at any time have undergone gender-alteration therapy.

CANON 6. EXCOMMUNICATIONS

No priest shall refuse the Sacrament of Holy Communion to any person unless he shall have applied for permission for same to his Bishop and shall have been granted it by the Bishop after due investigation and consultation with the individual concerned.

CANON 7. OF THE SOLEMNIZATION OF HOLY MATRIMONY.

Section 1. Every minister of the Communion shall conform to the laws of the State governing the creation of the civil status of marriage, and also to the laws of this Communion governing the solemnization of Holy Matrimony.

Section 2. No Minister of this Communion shall solemnize any marriage unless the following conditions are complied with:

- a. He shall have ascertained the right of the parties to contract a marriage

- according to the laws of the State.
- b. He shall have ascertained the right of the parties to contract a marriage according to the laws of this Communion, and not in violation of the following impediments:
    - (1) Consanguinity (whether of the whole or of the half-blood) within the following degrees:
      - (a) One may not marry one's ascendant or descendant.
      - (b) One may not marry one's sister.
      - (c) One may not marry the sister or brother of one's ascendant or the descendant of one's brother or sister.
    - (2) Mistake as to the identity of either party.
    - (2) Mental deficiency of either party sufficient to prevent the exercise of intelligent choice.
    - (3) Insanity of either party.
    - (4) Failure of either party to have reached the age of puberty.
    - (5) Impotence, sexual perversion, or the existence of venereal disease in either party undisclosed to the other.
    - (6) Facts which would make the proposed marriage bigamous.
    - (7) Concurrent contract inconsistent with the contract constituting canonical marriage.
    - (8) Attendant conditions: error as to the identify of either party, fraud, coercion or duress, or such defects of personality as to make competent or free consent impossible.
    - (9) Both parties are of the same sex.
  - c. He shall have ascertained that at least one of the parties has received Holy Baptism.
  - d. He shall have instructed the parties as to the nature of Holy Matrimony.
  - e. There shall be present at least two witnesses to the solemnization of the marriage.
  - f. The Minister shall record in the proper register the date and place of the marriage, the names of the parties and their parents, the age of the parties, their residence, and their Communion status, and the witnesses and the Minister shall sign the record.

Section 3. It shall be within the discretion of any Minister of this Communion to decline to solemnize any marriage.

Section 4. No minister of this Communion shall solemnize any marriage except in accordance with these Canons.

CANON 8. CONCERNING DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE.

Provisions regarding divorce and remarriage of individuals in this Communion shall fall under the constitution and canons of the church of which they are an individual member.

CANON 9. PRAYERS AND SERVICES FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

The Primate of this Communion has the authority to approve special services of Worship and special prayers for use in this Communion for special occasions.

CANON 10. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.

Section 1. The Communion is not liable for any liability of any member or member organization. Members and member organizations specifically agree to indemnify the Communion in case of legal action against it.

Section 2. The Communion is not liable or responsible for any obligations, financial or otherwise, incurred by churches, congregations in union with it, other member organizations, or by individual members, without prior written consent having been given to same by the Communion through one of its canonically and legally recognized agents, specifically the Primate or the Supreme Council of Bishops when functioning as Trustee under Article I. Section C. or Article VI. Section C. of the Constitution of the Communion.

CANON 11. METHOD OF AMENDMENT.

Amendments to these Canons must be approved by a minimum of 2/3 (66%) of the Supreme Council of Bishops meeting in regular session. Notice of amendments to be presented must be circulated in writing to the member organizations and communicated to them at least sixty days before the regular session convenes.

CANON 12. COMMUNION CONSTITUTION AND CANONS TAKE PRECEDENCE,

The Constitution and Canons of the Communion are recognized to take precedence over any Constitution and/or Canons of churches or other member organizations.