

BYLAWS OF THE HOLY CROSS ASSOCIATES - MIDWEST PROVINCE



Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the Holy Cross Associates is to foster spiritual growth, to participate in the building of community in the traditions of Holy Cross and to offer and seek support in ministering to the people of God.

Article 2 - Relationship to the Congregation of Holy Cross-

The concept of lay people being a part of the Congregation of Holy Cross was laid out in Father Basil Moreau's earliest Circular Letters and was reestablished by the 2000 Provincial Chapter of the Brothers of Holy Cross – Midwest Province.

Article 3 – Leadership and Organization.

Annually, the Provincial of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross shall appoint the three-ex-officio members of the leadership committee:

- The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee
- The Director of Formation
- The Director of Communications

In council with these three, the Provincial shall appoint the balance of the Advisory Committee. The number appointed will vary with the needs of the province and Associates.

Each chapter shall select a coordinator and/or a contact person. This may be the same person or two different individuals. The contact person should be available in person, by phone, and by e-mail and should maintain contact with the Director of Communications on a regular basis.

Article 4 – Role of the Chairperson, the Director of Formation, and the Director of Communications.

The Advisory Committee Chair shall preside over the monthly meeting of the Advisory Committee and shall communicate to the Provincial the desires and recommendations of the committee. The Chairperson shall be available to assist in the establishment of new chapters and shall perform other tasks as assigned by the committee or by the Provincial.

The Director of Formation shall provide all materials needed by the individual chapters in preparing new members for making their initial promises and shall consult with new chapters in their formation stages.

The Director of Communications shall be responsible for maintaining the Holy Cross Associates Web Site, which serves as an important introductory and reference source for the organization. As part of this maintenance, he/she shall be in contact with each individual chapter coordinator or contact person. Because of these regular contacts, communications among the various chapters will be maintained.

Article 5 – Membership Requirements.

Confirmed Catholics who are physically able to attend monthly meetings and who desire to grow spiritually, are invited to become members of the Holy Cross Associates. They will be eligible to make annual promises after a year of formation.

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Article 6 – Local Chapters.

The Holy Cross Associates is comprised of local chapters. Below are the guidelines for local chapters.

CHAPTER GUIDELINES

- A. **Regular Meetings** – Regular meetings should include:
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Reflection on Reading from Scripture, the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross or other appropriate readings.
 - c. Personal Sharing
 - d. Business portion of meeting
- B. **Annual Retreat** – Each local chapter should schedule an annual retreat for a time and place that is convenient for most members. It is suggested that each chapter provide for two chapter retreats per year, if possible, to give members ample opportunity to attend at least one retreat each year.
- C. **Bi-Annual Conference** – A conference of all chapters will be held every other year (even numbered years) during the summer months. Each chapter needs to promote the bi-annual conference so that members may have the opportunity to share in this important experience. This conference is highly recommended as an enhancement to individual participation on the Holy Cross community.
- D. **Annual Promises** – Individual promises will be made on an annual basis as scheduled by each local chapter.