



**Decree of Promulgation of**  
*Norms for Associations of the Faithful, Movements, Programs, and Other Organizations*

---

One of the ways that the Spirit is active is through the activities of the faithful gathered in associations and organizations. It is necessary, however, for the protection of the people of God and of the spiritual and temporal resources of the Church, that these associations, movements, programs and other organizations be provided with sufficient structures and methods of operation. To that end, I am pleased today to promulgate the following *Norms for Associations of the Faithful, Movements, Programs, and Other Organizations*.

The norms are particular law for the Diocese of Honolulu and are effective immediately for any new organization seeking approval.

For existing organizations already meeting on property civilly owned by the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i, the norms are effective one year from today, September 28, 2013, with due regard for civil law requirements already in effect. This one year time period is meant to allow organizations to continue their activities while working toward full compliance with these norms.

These norms are being promulgated through publication in the *Hawai'i Catholic Herald* and will remain available as a download from the website of the Diocese of Honolulu. They will also be mailed to all current organizations listed in the diocesan directory.

Given at the Diocesan Curia on September 28, 2012.

*+ Clarence Silva*

---

Most Reverend Clarence Silva  
Bishop of Honolulu

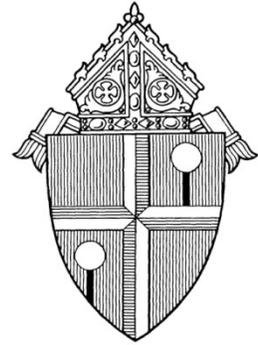
*[Signature]*

---

Signature of ecclesiastical notary

# THE OFFICE FOR CANONICAL AFFAIRS

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HONOLULU • ST. STEPHEN DIOCESAN CENTER  
6301 PALI HIGHWAY, KĀNE`OHE, HAWAI`I 96744-5224  
[808] 203-6766 • WWW.CATHOLICHAWAII.ORG



## Norms for Associations of the Faithful, Movements, Programs, and Other Organizations

### I. General Norms

1. The term *organization* is used in this document to refer to associations of the faithful (*Code of Canon Law*, canon 298), programs, movements, and other Catholic and non-Catholic organizations that meet on property civilly owned by the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai`i.<sup>1</sup>
2. The name of all organizations must be consistent on all documents, including both civil and canonical documents.
3. All organizations listed in the diocesan directory that maintain web sites must submit the Internet address to the Office of the Chancellor of the Diocese of Honolulu. This is required even if the organization does not want to be linked on the diocesan web site.
4. All organizations are to avoid completely all political activity (e.g., endorsement of specific candidates) and are to abide by federal law with regard to lobbying activities, the avoidance of benefits to insiders, and the transmission of funds to foreign organizations.
5. All fundraising that involves the sale of goods or services is subject to the General Excise Tax (GET). (Federal tax-exempt status does not exempt an organization from this tax imposed by the State of Hawai`i.) Generally speaking, donations, annual dues, and retreat fees are not subject to the tax, provided that the activity itself is religious, educational, or charitable.
6. Attendance at an event or meetings with the bishop or other priests, deacons, or religious does not constitute approval of an organization. Approval needs to be requested and given in writing in accord with the norms stated in this document.
7. All tasks in this document referred to as belonging to the bishop may be performed by one of his vicars or a delegate acting in his name.
8. Once an organization determines its proper category from among the following sections (II-VII), only those norms in that section apply to it in addition to the general norms nos. 1-7 above.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai`i is the corporation that civilly owns all diocesan and parish property, with the exception of St. Patrick Church in Kaimuki. Religious institutes and societies of apostolic life also civilly own various properties throughout the state.

## II. Catholic Organizations That Are Part of a Parish

9. Pastors may permit the formation of parish organizations for spiritual or charitable purposes that meet on parish property. Such organizations are under the authority of the pastor with regard to all activities.
10. Such organizations are canonically part of the parish. They have no separate canonical status.
11. Such organizations are to have no separate civil status. That is, they are not to be civilly incorporated. They are not to have their own EIN (Employer Identification Number).
12. Such organizations are to have their own statutes that define, among other things, the purpose and constitution of the organization, the officers of the organization, membership requirements, activities of the organization, and means of loss of membership. The pastor has the authority to approve the statutes as well as to withdraw approval.
13. Such organizations may refer to themselves as Catholic organizations.
14. Such organizations may have a priest, deacon, or religious as a spiritual advisor, appointed in accord with the statutes of the organization and approved by the pastor.
15. All funds of the organization must be deposited into the checking account of the parish, although separate accounting will be maintained by establishing a subclass account for the organization. For bookkeeping purposes, the organization's funds are held as a restricted cash account of the parish.
16. The balances, income, and expense activity must be recorded and reported in the parish's financial records, including the annual budget and finance report provided to the Diocese of Honolulu. All receipts and bank statements are to be archived in the parish records.
17. The parish is responsible for following IRS regulations in regard to documenting tax-deductible donations that the organization may receive.
18. Such organizations that have direct contact with minors (those under the age of 18) must comply with diocesan Safe Environment requirements. This includes training and background screening for individuals with ongoing and unsupervised contact with minors, continuing education on child safety and welfare, and annual data and documentation submission to the designated parish Safe Environment leader for the annual Safe Environment audit.
19. The activities of such organizations are covered by the liability insurance of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i.
20. Organizations that wish to solicit members from beyond the parish may request listing in the diocesan directory, which is published by the *Hawai'i Catholic Herald*, and may be linked on the diocesan web site. A letter of permission from the pastor is required. Such requests are to be submitted to the Office of the Chancellor.
21. Organizations that wish to expand into other parishes may do so, provided that the new pastor gives approval to the statutes and supervises the finances in the same manner as the original pastor. In this situation, the organizations are regarded as separate parish organizations, even if certain activities are coordinated between them.

### III. Catholic Organizations That Are Part of the Diocese of Honolulu

22. Groups may seek approval of the bishop to form an organization for spiritual or charitable purposes that meets on diocesan or parish property. Such organizations are under the authority of the bishop with regard to all of their activities.
23. Such organizations also need permission of the pastor to meet on parish property.
24. Such organizations are canonically part of the Diocese of Honolulu. They have no separate canonical status.
25. Such organizations are to have no separate civil status. That is, they are not to be civilly incorporated.
26. Such organizations are to have their own statutes that define, among other things, the purpose and constitution of the organization, the officers of the organization, membership requirements, activities of the organization, and means of loss of membership. The bishop must approve the statutes and also may withdraw approval at any time.
27. Such organizations may refer to themselves as Catholic organizations.
28. Such organizations may have a priest, deacon, or religious as a spiritual advisor, appointed in accord with the statutes of the organization and approved by the bishop.
29. All funds of the organization must be deposited into the checking account of the diocese, although separate accounting will be maintained by establishing a program account for the organization. For bookkeeping purposes, the organization's funds are held as a restricted cash account of the diocese.
30. The balances, income, and expense activity must be recorded and reported in the diocese's financial records. All receipts and bank statements are to be archived in the diocesan records.
31. The diocese is responsible for following IRS regulations in regard to documenting tax-deductible donations that the organization may receive.
32. Such organizations that have direct contact with minors (those under the age of 18) are required to register their organization by contacting the Diocesan Safe Environment Office. The organization will be subject to Safe Environment requirements including training and background screening for individuals with ongoing and unsupervised contact with minors, continuing education on child safety and welfare, and annual data and documentation submission to the diocesan Safe Environment coordinator for the annual Safe Environment audit.
33. The activities of such organizations are covered by the liability insurance of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i.
34. Such organizations will be listed in the diocesan directory, which is published by the *Hawai'i Catholic Herald*. Such organizations may request to be linked on the diocesan web site; such requests are to be submitted to the Office of the Chancellor.

#### IV. Catholic Organizations That Are Part of a Religious Institute or Society of Apostolic Life

35. Moderators of religious institutes of pontifical right or societies of apostolic life of pontifical right, within the norm of their proper law, may permit the formation of organizations for spiritual or charitable purposes that meet on property civilly and canonically owned by the institute or society.
36. Determinations regarding the civil and canonical status, approval of statutes, and financial management of such organizations are left to the moderator of the institute or society.
37. Such organizations that have direct contact with minors (those under the age of 18) are required to register their organization by contacting the Diocesan Safe Environment Office. The organization will be subject to Safe Environment requirements including training and background screening for individuals with ongoing and unsupervised contact with minors, continuing education on child safety and welfare, and annual data and documentation submission to the diocesan Safe Environment coordinator for the annual Safe Environment audit.
38. If such organizations wish to meet on property civilly owned by the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i, Certificates of Insurance must be provided evidencing Commercial General Liability coverage for Bodily Injury or for Damage to Property with a minimum limit of liability of \$1,000,000 for claims arising out of the organization's activities on church property. The Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i is also to be named as an Additional Insured under the policy. For parish property, the pastor is responsible for making sure that these certificates are received and kept current. For diocesan property, the diocesan finance officer is responsible.
39. These organizations may request listing in the diocesan directory, which is published by the *Hawai'i Catholic Herald*, and may be linked on the diocesan web site. To secure such a listing or linking, a letter of authorization must be sent by the moderator of the institute or society to the Office of the Chancellor. This letter must state that the religious institute or society is responsible for the organization.
40. Those organizations that wish to be included in the *Official Catholic Directory*<sup>2</sup> must comply with the regulations established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Information needed to be listed must be submitted to the Office of the Chancellor. (The group must complete the application at the end of this document.)

---

<sup>2</sup> The *Official Catholic Directory* is the national directory published by P.J. Kenedy & Sons under the auspices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

## V. National Catholic Organizations

41. Groups may seek approval of the bishop to form a division of a national organization in the Diocese of Honolulu. (The group must complete the application provided at the end of this document.) The bishop reserves the right to withdraw approval of all such organizations at any time.
42. If the organization has a canonical status from another diocese or from the Holy See, copies of the canonical statutes must be submitted to the bishop prior to his approval.
43. Copies of the civil articles of incorporation and civil bylaws must be submitted to the bishop prior to his approval.
44. A copy of the national organization's IRS determination letter showing that the organization is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization must also be submitted to the bishop prior to his approval. If a national organization's tax-exempt status is covered by being listed in the *Official Catholic Directory* under another diocese or as a national organization, the page number of the listing is to be submitted to the bishop.
45. These organizations must file a Form 990 with the federal government each year in accord with IRS regulations.
46. These organizations must follow IRS regulations in regard to documenting tax-deductible donations.
47. Unless the division of these organizations is civilly incorporated in the State of Hawai'i or has canonical status from the Holy See, such organizations need to seek canonical status from the diocese where each is civilly incorporated.
48. If a division of a national organization is civilly incorporated in the State of Hawai'i, the division may seek canonical status as a private<sup>3</sup> juridic person from the bishop of Honolulu. However, this is not required.
49. If a division of a national organization is civilly incorporated in the State of Hawai'i, it must secure its own IRS determination letter showing that it is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.
50. Unless an organization has been granted canonical status as a private juridic person by the bishop of Honolulu, it must receive permission to refer to itself as a Catholic organization from the Mainland diocese where the entity is civilly incorporated or from the Holy See.
51. If such organizations meet on property civilly owned by the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i, Certificates of Insurance must be provided evidencing Commercial General Liability coverage for Bodily Injury or for Damage to Property with a minimum limit of liability of \$1,000,000 for claims arising out of the organization's activities on church property. The Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i is also to be named as an Additional Insured under the policy. For parish property, the pastor is responsible

---

<sup>3</sup> The term *private* in canonical usage refers to entities that possess greater autonomy than *public* associations, which are more directly subject to direct and immediate control by Church authorities. However, all Catholic entities are subject to the vigilance and governance of the authorities of the Church.

for making sure that these certificates are received and kept current. For diocesan property, the diocesan finance officer is responsible.

52. National organizations also need permission of the pastor to meet on parish property.
53. Such organizations may have a priest, deacon, or religious as a spiritual advisor, appointed in accord with the canonical statutes of the organization.
54. Such organizations that have direct contact with minors (those under the age of 18) are required to register their organization by contacting the Diocesan Safe Environment Office. The organization will be subject to Safe Environment requirements including training and background screening for individuals with ongoing and unsupervised contact with minors, continuing education on child safety and welfare, and annual data and documentation submission to the diocesan Safe Environment coordinator for the annual Safe Environment audit.
55. Such organizations may request to be listed in the diocesan directory, which is published by the *Hawai'i Catholic Herald*, and may be linked on the diocesan web site. Such requests are to be submitted to the Office of the Chancellor.
56. A national organization civilly incorporated in the State of Hawai'i with its own 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status may be listed in the *Official Catholic Directory* under the Diocese of Honolulu with an \*asterisk listing. However, any organization civilly incorporated in another state may not. Requests to be listed in the *Official Catholic Directory* are to be submitted to the Office of the Chancellor.

## VI. Diocesan Catholic Organizations That Are Civilly Incorporated

57. Groups may seek approval of the bishop to form a Catholic organization in the Diocese of Honolulu. (The group must complete the application that follows this document.) The bishop reserves the right to withdraw approval of all such organizations at any time.
58. The bishop's approval takes the form of a decree granting the organization status as a private juridic person of diocesan right. Specific permission should be requested for the organization to refer to itself as a Catholic organization, and this permission should be included in the decree of the bishop.
59. Such organizations are to have their own canonical statutes that define, among other things, the purpose and constitution of the organization, the officers of the organization, membership requirements, activities of the organization, and means of loss of membership. The bishop must approve the statutes and also may withdraw approval at any time.
60. Copies of the civil articles of incorporation and civil bylaws must be submitted to the bishop prior to his approval. If desired, the civil articles of incorporation and civil bylaws may also be given the status of canonical statutes. However, if an organization prefers, the civil documents and canonical statutes may be separate.
61. A copy of the organization's IRS determination letter showing that the organization is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization must also be submitted to the bishop prior to his approval.
62. The organization must file a Form 990 with the federal government each year in accord with IRS regulations.
63. The organization must follow IRS regulations in regard to documenting tax-deductible donations.
64. If such organizations meet on property civilly owned by the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i, Certificates of Insurance must be provided evidencing Commercial General Liability coverage for Bodily Injury or for Damage to Property with a minimum limit of liability of \$1,000,000 for claims arising out of the organization's activities on church property. The Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i is also to be named as an Additional Insured under the policy. For parish property, the pastor is responsible for making sure that these certificates are received and kept current. For diocesan property, the diocesan finance officer is responsible.
65. Such organizations also need permission of the pastor to meet on parish property.
66. Such organizations may have a priest as a chaplain or a deacon or religious as a spiritual advisor, appointed in accord with the canonical statutes of the organization.
67. Such organizations that have direct contact with minors (those under the age of 18) are required to register their organization by contacting the Diocesan Safe Environment Office. The organization will be subject to Safe Environment requirements including training and background screening for individuals with ongoing and unsupervised contact with minors, continuing education on child safety and welfare, and annual data

and documentation submission to the diocesan Safe Environment coordinator for the annual Safe Environment audit.

68. Such organizations may request to be listed in the diocesan directory, which is published by the *Hawai'i Catholic Herald*, and may be linked on the diocesan web site. Such requests are to be submitted to the Office of the Chancellor.
69. Such an organization may request to be listed in the *Official Catholic Directory* under the Diocese of Honolulu with an \*asterisk listing. Such requests are to be submitted to the Office of the Chancellor.
70. Organizations that propose to hand on Christian doctrine in the name of the Church or to promote public worship must seek to be established as a public association of the faithful or public juridic person in accord the *Code of Canon Law*. Such organizations are subject to greater control of their activities by the bishop than private ones.

## VII. Non-Catholic Groups

71. A non-Catholic organization that wishes to meet on property civilly owned by the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai`i must be invited to do so. Organizations need to be invited by the pastor to meet on parish property and by the bishop to meet on diocesan property.
72. The organization must provide the Diocese of Honolulu with a copy of its IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status determination letter for the civil corporation of the entity. For-profit corporations are completely prohibited from meeting on property civilly owned by the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai`i.
73. If such organizations meet on property civilly owned by the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai`i, Certificates of Insurance must be provided evidencing Commercial General Liability coverage for Bodily Injury or for Damage to Property with a minimum limit of liability of \$1,000,000 for claims arising out of the organization's activities on church property. The Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai`i is also to be named as an Additional Insured under the policy. For parish property, the pastor is responsible for making sure that these certificates are received and kept current. For diocesan property, the diocesan finance officer is responsible.
74. Non-Catholic groups cannot be listed in the *Official Catholic Directory*, the diocesan directory, or linked on the Diocese of Honolulu web site.