



The Constitutions of the Academy of Catholic Theology

ARTICLE I: MISSION STATEMENT

The Academy of Catholic Theology's principal purpose is to foster theological work of the highest intellectual standard that is faithful in the Spirit to the Revelation of God in Christ, as that Revelation has been handed on in Scripture and Tradition, and authoritatively interpreted by the Magisterium.¹ Members of the Academy seek the integration of the sacred sciences and their related subdisciplines; they further value the role of philosophical investigation, especially metaphysics, in the integration of faith and reason. In this regard the Academy subscribes to the principles articulated in Instruction on the Ecclesial Vocation of the Theologian: "In theology ... freedom of inquiry is the hallmark of a rational discipline whose object is given by Revelation, handed on and interpreted in the Church under the authority of the Magisterium, and received by faith. These givens have the force of principles." The mission of the Academy is to receive and seek to understand these givens of faith, insofar as the Holy Spirit enables us to do so in via.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1: Admittance into Membership; Termination of Membership, Payment of Dues

- 1.1 Members may nominate new members by mailing or emailing nominations to the Chair of the Board, who will, after consultation with the Board, present a slate of nominees for a vote by those present at the annual meeting.
- 1.2 Election of new members will be held at the annual meeting by closed ballot of all members in attendance.
- 1.3 Membership is by nomination only and is not limited in number.
- 1.4 Membership in the Academy is presumed to continue unless the member fails to pay the annual dues for two consecutive years. Non-payment of dues may be construed as a voluntary resignation from the Academy.
- 1.5 Failure to attend three consecutive meetings will be construed as a voluntary resignation from the Academy.
- 1.6 The payment of dues will commence when a candidate is selected for membership in the Academy.
- 1.7 For continuing members of the Academy the payment of annual dues will be in January of the new year.
- 1.8 The amount of annual dues and the registration cost for the annual meeting shall be determined by the Board of the Academy.

¹ Cf. *Dei Verbum* § 10: "It is clear therefore that, in the supremely wise arrangement of God, sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture, and the Magisterium of the Church are so connected and associated that one of them cannot stand without the others. Working together, each in its own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they all contribute effectively to the salvation of souls."

1.9 Membership in the Academy, in addition to other qualifications mentioned in the Constitutions, is by invitation only and is open to anyone who possesses a doctoral degree, or its equivalent in academic accomplishment, and whose work accords with and furthers the Academy's principal purpose. Membership is only open to, and can continue for, one who adheres to conduct or lifestyle that is consistent with Scripture and Tradition, as authoritatively interpreted by the Magisterium, as well as the Code of Canon Law; and whose conduct or lifestyle demonstrates that one is a practicing Catholic who is committed to the Church's mission on earth.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 1: Board of the Academy

1.1 The governing Board of the Academy will be made up of eight ordinary members: the Chair, the Secretary/Treasurer, and six members elected by the membership to three-year terms. Additionally, the President and Vice President are *ex officio* members of the Board.

1.2 The Board will elect a Chair of the Board from among the Academy membership for a four-year term. The Chair will be an ordinary member of the Board.

1.3 The Board will elect a Secretary/Treasurer from among the Academy membership for a four-year term to perform all duties associated with the maintenance of the finances and membership of the Academy, including the collection of dues, monitoring account, and paying all of the bills associated with the business of the Academy. The Secretary/Treasurer will be an ordinary member of the Board of the Academy.

1.4 The Board shall meet at least once per year, in advance of the annual meeting of the Academy, normally they will also meet on the day before the meeting of the Academy.

1.5 For purposes of voting a quorum shall consist of five members of the Board and shall require a simple majority.

Section 2: Officers of the Academy

2.1 The Officers of the Academy will be made up of the President and Vice-President.

2.2 Membership on the governing Board of the Academy does not preclude a Board Member from being elected an Officer and serving in both positions.

Section 3: The Election of Board Members and Officers

3.1 Board Members and Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Academy.

3.2 Any full member of the Academy may be nominated for a position on the Board or the Officers. Normally, the nomination process will take place two months before the annual meeting with a slate of candidates presented to members at the annual meeting.

3.3 Elections for Board Members or Officers shall be officiated over by the Secretary of the Academy.

3.4 Election to the Board or Officers requires a simple majority vote by secret ballot.

3.5 The Board Members shall serve staggered three-year terms such that two members of the Board are elected by the membership at every annual meeting.

3.6 The President and Vice President shall serve one-year terms.

3.7 As a rule, the Vice Presidency of the Academy should alternate between a lay person and a cleric or consecrated religious.

3.8 Should a vacancy among the Board Members or the Officers occur before the end of a term, such vacancy may be filled through a simple majority vote of the Board. The member elected will complete the term of the vacancy.

3.9 No limit is set on the number of times a person may be re-elected to the Board.

Section 4: The Duties of the Board of the Academy

4.1 The Chair of the Board shall preside at all of the meetings of the Board and all business meetings of the membership.

4.2 The Chair is authorized to enter into agreements with outside parties for the sake of the business of the Academy.

4.3 The Chair shall be the official spokesperson for the Academy.

4.4 The Board shall be responsible for planning for the development of the Academy's finances and membership.

4.5 The Board shall be responsible for identifying the date and location of the annual meeting of the Academy.

4.6 The Board shall exercise oversight of the program for each annual meeting, and must approve the program before the President issues calls for papers and invitations for speakers.

4.7 The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for the taking of minutes at the legislative and electoral sessions of both the Board and the Academy.

4.8 The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep an accurate list of all of the members of the Academy.

4.9 The Secretary/Treasurer shall make report on the finances of the Academy at each annual meeting.

4.10 The Board shall determine the nature of any annual awards to be granted by the Academy.

4.11 The Board shall select the recipient of any awards to be granted by the Academy.

4.12 The Board shall appoint any ad hoc committees they see fit to establish for the sake of the welfare of the Academy. All committees of the Academy shall abide by the Constitutions of the Academy.

4.13 The Board shall adopt the initial bylaws in accordance with the State of Florida's Not For Profit Corporations Law Section 617.0206 and shall have the power to alter, amend, repeal, or adopt new bylaws upon majority vote of the Board.

Section 5: The Duties of the Officers

5.1 In consultation with the Board of the Academy, the President shall develop the program for the annual meeting during his/her term and shall seek the Board's approval for the program before issuing a call for papers and inviting speakers to the meeting. The President shall preside at the annual meeting of the Academy and offer a Presidential Address.

5.2 The President shall either be the editor, or shall appoint the editor, of the proceedings of the annual meeting should

the President determine that these be published.

5.3 The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President if the President is unavailable.

5.4 Normally the Vice President shall be the President-elect.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS OF THE ACADEMY

1.1 The Academy shall meet annually at a date determined by the Board in consultation with the members of the Academy.

1.2 The Academy shall normally meet in the location designated by the Board at least six months in advance of the meeting.

1.3 Roberts' Rule of Order shall govern all of the voting and legislative deliberation of the Academy at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE V: AMMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONS

1.1 The Constitutions of the Academy may be amended at the annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present.

1.2 Notification of a proposed change in the Constitutions of the Academy must be made available to members at least two months prior to the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI: DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

1.1 If the Academy were to dissolve as an active organization, all remaining assets would be used exclusively for exempt purposes, i.e., charitable, religious, and educational purposes, to be determined by vote of the Board at the time of dissolution, and in accord with the law of the state of Florida in which the Academy is incorporated as a non-profit corporation.