**MEN OF ST. JOSEPH – PHILIPPINES (MOSJ-P)**

PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL

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**KNOW YE ALL BRETHREN IN CHRIST BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT:**

* COMPLYING with the exhortations of the Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church, for the laity to foster in themselves a vital union with Christ, and take active part in the apostolic work of His Church;
* INSPIRED by the virtues of St. Joseph as guardian of the Holy Family and patron of the universal Church, and;
* BY THE GRACE OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD;

WE, hereby voluntarily associate ourselves to form a religious association of laymen to be known as:

**“MEN OF ST. JOSEPH (MOSJ)”**

AND WE HEREBY AGREE ON THE FOLLOWING:

**1.0 VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT**

**OUR VISION:**

As Men of St. Joseph, our vision is to be a community of men aspiring for a higher level of spirituality through the devotion to and propagation of the virtues of Saint Joseph.

**OUR MISSION:**

* To help Catholic men to open their lives more to the workings of the Holy Spirit through a deeper commitment to Jesus by means of promoting the devotion to St. Joseph, to increase our love for him and imitate his virtues, and to encourage us to implore his intercession and protection.
* To undertake formation to enhance our spirituality and become servant-leaders of role models as men of faith and integrity.
* To provide opportunities which foster growth in human character, holiness and Christian fatherhood in his family and in the community, following the qualities of St. Joseph.
* To sanctify work and promote the dignity of labor in society.
* To serve the needs of the Church and society through corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
  1. **Developmental Thrusts**

In achieving the above declared, vision and mission objectives, the developmental thrusts will be exerted among the following: Prayer, Unity, Formation and Service.

* Prayer. To pray is to communicate with God, to “Talk to Him.” In imitation of Christ and our patron saint, St. Joseph, the Men of St. Joseph must be known as “Men of Prayer”
* Formation. Upgrading or development of our spirituality is the “formation” that strengthens our union with Christ through catechetical instruction.
* Unity. To be “united” with Christ is to be “one” with all members of His mystical body. Men of St. Joseph are brothers, not only with each other, but also with all members of the community, and all members of Christ’s Church.
* Service. The quality and kind of “service” we give to our neighbor, the Church, our community, reflects the level of our spirituality.

**1.2 Code of Behaviour**

**Creed / Knowledge**

* He knows the basic articles of the faith in the Apostles’ Creed.
* He has a basic knowledge of the Bible, the Church, the Sacraments, the Commandments etc.
* He knows the person, virtue, mission and vocation of St. Joseph.
* He knows the vision/mission/objectives of the association.

**Cult / Liturgy**

* He has a healthy spiritual and prayer life.
* He has devotion to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary.
* He has a deep devotion to St. Joseph and promotes it by devoutly praying the St. Joseph Rosary, by participating in the Wednesday novena to St. Joseph and the first Wednesday Eucharistic communion.

**Code / Life**

* He values good moral standing and fosters spirituality in his own family.
* He lives the virtues of St. Joseph.
* He performs spiritual and/or corporal works of mercy at least once a month.
* He contributes to the good of the Church.
* He contributes to the good of the Men of St. Joseph by participating in its election, accepting leadership duties, attending meeting, joining the committees and contributing financial help.
* He promotes the dignity of labor and honesty in work.

**1.3 THE MEMBER’S PLEDGE**

**OATH OF FIDELITY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, solemnly pledge and commit myself to the Men of Saint Joseph adhering myself freely and willfully to its spiritual ideals and objectives cherished by the Organization. I pledge to fulfill with deep faith and ardent zeal the responsibilities required of me.

I humbly accept my membership in the MOSJ as God’s special call for my greater sanctification as a disciple of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary. I pledge to live as a person consecrated and committed to a life of holiness, prayer and discipleship in imitation of the virtues of St. Joseph.

For these, I invoke the help of St. Joseph our Protector and Father. So help me God.

**2.0 Membership**

**2.1 GENERAL**

Any man of at least 18 years of age, a Catholic who is willing to learn and commit himself to practice, the virtues of St. Joseph, may become a member of the association.

**2.2 Classification of Members**

MOSJ members are classified into:

1. Regular- He is required to attend all meetings, participate in all the activities and support all the undertakings of the MOSJ.
2. Spiritual benefactor- He is a member of the MOSJ spiritual alliance though he is not required to be in all the meetings and activities of the MOSJ. He regularly supports the MOSJ spiritually and materially. He may be present in the annual gatherings especially during the Feast of Saint Joseph on March 19.

**2.3 Recruitment and Admission Procedures**

2.31 Any member may recommend or sponsor any number of aspirants. He takes the initiative of asking the aspirants to fill out an application for membership form and submit the same to the Membership Committee. The sponsoring member is responsible for shepherding the aspirant/s in the active participation ad attendance in the orientation, meetings and other activities leading to the aspirant’s investiture.

2.32 The Secretariat and Membership Committee is in-charge of the recruitment, orientation and eventual investiture of prospective members.

1. The Committee goes over the applications.
2. After a positive examination as to the aptitude of the aspirants for membership, it takes the initiative of scheduling and inviting the aspirants to orientation sessions for a specific period of time. The committee discusses with the applicants about the Catholic faith, the MOSJ ideals, structures, activities and the responsibilities of the members, etc. Upon completion of the orientation sessions, the names of the aspirants shall be reported to the Parish Priest for final approval and acceptance.

2.33 The new member is required to enlist in at least one of the committees and immediately participates in meetings and activities.

**2.4 Maintenance**

2.41 Any one who blatantly contradicts the Christian faith, violates the rules of the Catholic Church, or undermines the objectives of the association, to the extent that he scandalizes others, may be dropped from the roster of regular members.

2.42 Any one who fails to attend general meetings for six (6) consecutive months, may be transferred to the roster of inactive members with the approval of the Parish Priest.

2.32 Reinstatement to regular membership requires a recommendation of the membership committee and approved by the Parish Priest.

**2.5 MEMBER’S Commitments**

2.51 Daily prayer to St. Joseph.

2.52 Monthly meetings (2 hours each). The recommended format or agenda of the general membership meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order and roll call
2. Opening Prayer
3. Religious studies/exercises
4. Lesson for the month
5. Josephology
6. Business Reports
7. Of the Secretariat
8. Of the Committes
9. Other Matters
10. Thanksgiving Prayer
11. Adjournment

2.53 Yearly conference of St. Joseph to build national unity and propagate the MOSJ through a yearly conference (6 hours).

2.54 Yearly retreat to deepen our commitment to the Lord and His Church, and promote deeper devotion among the members to St. Joseph (42 hours).

**2.6 Support for the MOSJ**

2.61 The members are required to assist in the various fund-raising projects of the MOSJ to sustain its organizational need and support its various outreach projects.

**3.0 THE GOVERNING BOARD** (SYSTEM OF SERVANT-LEADERSHIP IN THE MOSJ)

**3.1 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NATIONAL LEVEL)**

The general management of the MOSJ shall be vested in the Executive Committee which functions analogously to the Board of Directors of other organizations, Its sense of responsibility is realized more by the offer of service than by the use of power.

**3.2 Composition**

The Executive Committee shall be composed of 7 (seven) members; the Head Servant-Leader (HSL) and the 6 committee Servant-Leader (CSL). The Head Servant-Leader is the main coordinator of the different activities and programs of the MOSJ. Each Committee Servant-Leader is head of a committee. The Executive Committee is under direct supervision and guidance of the Spiritual Director and ably assisted by and Assistant Spiritual Director.

**3.3 Election**

The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the regular members of the association at the general membership meeting in September of the election year. The Executive Committee members are to serve for a term of two (2) years and may be re-elected for another term. An elected Executive Committee member can serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

3.31 At the special meeting in August of the election year, the Executive Committee and

the membership committee will prepare a list of qualified nominees for the Executive

Committee. This list shall be submitted to the general membership for the September

election.

3.32 The election shall be held at the general membership meeting in September of the election year. Election will be by secret balloting. Considered elected to the Executive Committee are those receiving 7 highest number of votes cast by members present. In case of a tie, the slot will be determined by drawing lots.

3.33 The Spiritual Director and the Assistant Spiritual Director shall act as the Committee on Election and that they shall have the final authority on all election related matters.

**3.4 Meetings**

Immediately after election, the Executive Committee shall hold its organizational meeting. Regular meetings are held at least once a month at the time and place agreed upon by the members. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of a majority of the members.

**3.5 Vacancies**

Any vacancy in the Executive Committee due to resignation or incapacity or other causes shall be filled in by elevating the nominee with the 8th highest votes.

**4.0 THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM**

**4.1 General Provisions**

4.11 The Committees are the working units of the association. Plans or programs are prepared, discussed, and implemented in the committees and by the committee members.

4.12 The Committee is a way to classify the activities of the association. In the pursuit of its objectives, an activity of the association somehow can be classified as the responsibility of a particular committee.

4.13 In committee discussions or actions by relatively more people, it is assumed that Jesus is with them, thus the plans, resolution, or programs adopted by them, are almost always considered or respect as the agreement of the whole membership of the association. Of course, committees are careful whenever their acts commit the association.

4.14 Committees report in writing circularized to general members. They are also given time (briefly) to report their plans, activities, and/or problems in general meetings. Any member of the association in the general meeting can raise questions or make brief remarks on the committee report.

4.15 There are 6 regular standing committees. Other committees as may become necessary may be organized.

**4.2 The Standing Committees**

4.21 COMMITTEES: The MOSJ is to be divided into 6 working committees for a greater sense of co-responsibility and cooperation in the governance of the association and allow for a greater collaboration with other parish organizations and the Parish Priest.

1. Josephite Spirituality: this is the committee in charge of the spiritual development of the association and serves as the research and publication group.

* They are in-charge of organizing lectures and conferences for the growth of members in the faith and in their devotion to St. Joseph.
* They are responsible for contributing articles and write-ups to the Parish Newsletter, Bulletin Board and the Parish Website.
* They are in-charge of collecting and organizing materials for the proposed mini-library and exhibit.

2. Devotion to Saint Joseph: This is the committee in-charge of animating the Liturgical life of the MOSJ and promoting the devotion to St. Joseph.

* They are to organize the 1st Wednesday Novena and the entrustment of the Pilgrim Image of Saint Joseph.
* They are to work for the promotion of the devotion to St. Joseph through materials and activities for the faithful.

3. Church Assistance: This is the committee which shall function as the liaison of the MOSJ with the Parish.

* They are responsible for assisting the parish in its various activities and needs especially for the care of the church and in construction matters.
* They function as external affairs committee tasked with coordinating with other parish organizations.

4. Community Service: This is the committee with the task of conscientizing and uplifting the awareness of the MOSJ members in the social apostolate field.

* They are to organize and implement out-reach programs for the community, the poor and the under privileged as inspired by the spirit of St. Joseph.
* They are to create labor desks in their respective parishes which will provide job opportunities for the less fortunate members of the community and cater to their other special needs (for example medical and legal assistance).

5. Secretariat/Membership: This is the committee responsible of the recruitment, admission and formation of members and the sustenance of the interest and commitment of the members to the MOSJ and the Parish.

* They are responsible for the recruitment and admission procedures.
* They are responsible for documenting/recording the meetings and activities of the MOSJ.
* They are in charge of informing members of meetings and activities.
* They are to organize social activities to deepen the sense of belonging of the members to the MOSJ.

6. Finance: This is the committee responsible for the assurance of the financial health of the MOSJ so that it may realize its objectives and allocate its resources properly.

* They are to organize fund raising activities to sustain in the various activities of the MOSJ.
* They are to submit regular financial reports to the Parish Priest, Executive Committee and the members.
* They are in charge of providing food during meetings and events of the MOSJ.

**4.3 Membership in Committees**

4.31 Each member of the association is required to be a member and be active in at least one committee.

**4.4 Committee Meetings**

4.41 Committees should meet at least once every two months. The CSL sets a regular meeting date. Special meetings may be called. The committee member should be informed of all the meeting dates.

**5.0 ANNEX**

**MOSJ Encourages its members to:**

1. A life of daily personal prayer

2. A deeper realization of the personal love of God the Father,

3. A personal relationship and commitment to Jesus as Lord,

4. An experience of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and openness to all His gifts,

5. A frequent participation in the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation,

6. A regular study and daily reading of the Word of God,

7. A marked faithfulness to one's roles and responsibilities in life, within the family, the workplace and to society,

8. A deep love for and loyalty to the Catholic Church, the pope and their local bishops.