



The Pusey Guild: The Green Rule

- I. The relationship between the Society of the Holy Cross and the Pusey Guild
- II. The Basis of the Rule
- III. The Rule of the Church
- IV. The Holy Eucharist
- V. The Divine Office
- VI. Sacrament of Reconciliation
- VII. Prayer and intercession
- VIII. Christian Unity
- IX. The Departed
- X. Study of the Scriptures and teaching of the Church
- XI. Fasting and Self-denial
- XII. The outward life of an Aspirant of the Society
- XIII. Recollection and Retreat
- XIV. The Pusey Guild, its Patronage and Rule of Life
- XV. The Pusey Guild Prayer

I. The relationship between the Society of the Holy Cross and the Pusey Guild.

Members of the Pusey Guild are Aspirants to the Society of the Holy Cross, as such they should seek to follow the Rule of the Society in all ways as may be applicable to their situation. Therefore:

1. They should seek to live the Catholic life both outwardly and inwardly for the greater glory of God and in order that His vocation may be fulfilled in them.
2. They shall seek to assist their parish priest and those responsible for their training in the liturgical and pastoral opportunities offered to them.
3. They should be sponsored for admission to the Society as a member of the Pusey Guild by a priest who has been a member of SSC for at least five years, and who has known them for at least three years. This priest will be responsible for seeing that the ordinand is nominated for full membership at the appropriate time.
4. Aspirants are invited to take part in meetings of the Pusey Guild, Local Chapters (save for confidential business) and Synods of the Society.
5. Once admitted to the Pusey Guild they should receive the Pax at the end of meetings.
6. Members of the Pusey Guild will assist, as requested, at Society meetings and Synods.

II. The Basis of the Rule

The Society's first Object aims at the sanctification of its members, through and in union with the mystery of the Holy Cross, for the greater glory of God, and for the sake of all. Its' Aspirants are encouraged at all times to live their lives akin to its' Rule of Life, that they will be called upon

to embrace on becoming full members of the Society, so that the character of priesthood may be formed in them. To this end:

1. All the Aspirants shall earnestly strive to deepen their union with our Lord by regular prayer and frequent resort to the Sacraments and to the Holy Scriptures.
2. They shall endeavour to cultivate in themselves a lively sense of the Communion of Saints, practising devotion to the Saints, especially to our Blessed Lady, and prayer for the departed.

III. The Rule of the Church

All are called through the word and sacrament to extend God's love and the boundaries of His Kingdom. Therefore, to encourage that priestly formation in themselves, Aspirants to the Society:

1. Must attend Mass on all Sundays of the year and Holy Days of Obligation;
2. Are encouraged to say the Divine Office, as they are able;
3. Should observe the appointed fast before Holy Communion, and other fasts and abstinences prescribed, especially those of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday;
4. Ought to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as conscience requires and at least once a year.

IV. The Holy Eucharist

The Mass is not only the central act of worship for the Church, it also brings the Church into being and to its fulfilment. Therefore:

1. Aspirants attend Mass every Sunday and during the week as their discipline requires;

2. They are invited to make the Society and the Pusey Guild their intention at Mass on Fridays throughout the year and on the following days:

- 28th February, the Anniversary of the Foundation of the Society
- 27th May, S. Augustine of Canterbury, Missionary
- 29th June, SS. Peter & Paul, Apostles
- 4th August, S. John Mary Vianney, the Cure d'Ars
- 9th September, Commemoration of Fr Charles Fuge Lowder, SSC
- 14th September, the Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross
- 27th September, S. Vincent de Paul
- 30th November, S. Andrew – for the work of Mission Direct

3. They shall carefully prepare themselves before Holy Communion and should make thanksgiving afterwards;

4. They should take every opportunity to adore the presence of Christ in His Blessed Sacrament so that their lives might be permeated with a tremendous reverence towards this mystery of faith;

5. Aspirants should seek to assist the priest at the altar during the celebration of the Mass, to take a leading part in the liturgy of the word, and to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion, as he is invited so to do.

V. The Divine Office

All are called to unite themselves with the unceasing prayer of the Church on earth and in heaven. Therefore, Aspirants to the Society are encouraged to:

1. Recite the Divine Office, daily, as they are able, in a spirit of adoration and intercession;

2. When not able to fulfil this expectation, they are encouraged to make an appropriate act of devotion to associate themselves with the daily prayer of the Church.

VI. Sacrament of Reconciliation

Penitence lies at the heart of the Christian life and that in using the Sacrament of Reconciliation we come to the foot of the Cross. In recognition of this:

1. Aspirants should make regular use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year, especially at Easter;
2. They should each have a spiritual director, with whom they should meet regularly for guidance on the life of prayer;
3. They should make a daily self-examination and act of contrition, so that they may be drawn into a deeper surrendering of their wills to the will of God.

VII. Prayer and intercession

Prayer is the heartbeat of the Church's life so that through the suffering and joy of all whom they encounter Christians will aim to let all their daily experiences reverberate through prayer. Therefore:

1. Aspirants shall commend the day to God on first awakening and the night on going to bed, making the sign of the Cross at rising and lying down;
2. Aspirants are encouraged to make use of the Stations of the Cross as a devotion, appropriate to members of the Society, so that they may learn themselves to follow more faithfully in the way of the Cross.

VIII. Christian Unity

The prayer for Christian unity is offered in obedience to God's own will for His Church so that:

1. Aspirants should pray that they may be united in their witness and in their duty to serve each other, so as to strengthen their brothers in the Pusey Guild and those preparing for priesthood;

2. They pray for the unity of God's Church.

IX. The Departed

Prayer for the dead is an act of charity to assist those who have died on their pilgrim way into the peace of God's Kingdom, so that the whole world might become a new creation. Therefore:

1. Aspirants of the Society should pray regularly for departed Brethren using the Chantry Roll;

2. They are expected to attend wherever possible the funeral rites of an SSC priest who may be known to them.

X. Study of the Scriptures and teaching of the Church

All are called every day to look at the way they live in the light of God's word so that they may be renewed in faith, hope and love, and so:

1. Aspirants shall seek the Lord in regular reading of the Holy Scriptures, in the writings of the Fathers and the lives of the saints;

2. They are commended to read each week the High Priestly Prayer of Christ, as set out in the Gospel according to Saint John, Chapter 17, and to look forward to the time when they may share in that priesthood.

XI. Fasting and Self-denial

All are called to impose some discipline in their daily lives to reflect a life of service and fidelity. It follows:

1. Aspirants shall regard the Lenten fast as a joyful season of sacrifice and through self-discipline and denial to prepare fully to greet the Risen Lord;

2. They shall observe the appointed fast before Holy Communion, and other fasts and abstinences prescribed, especially those of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

XII. The outward life of an Aspirant of the Society

Christians must be ready to put themselves at the service of others. In so doing:

1. Aspirants shall be known for their forbearance and good manners, the more so when associating with those with whom they disagree;
2. They shall exercise charity in conversation and moderation in their recreational activities. They must avoid giving scandal in any form of personal behaviour;
3. They must at all times, whether in public or private, be aware of the language they employ, so as never to take the Lord's Name in vain.

XIII. Recollection and Retreat

All members of the Society must seek to deepen their awareness of the meaning of salvation and the place of the Cross in their lives. To help achieve this:

1. Aspirants shall strive to surrender their will to God and must recognise that the spiritual life can only develop in a climate of silence;
2. They are encouraged to participate in retreat and quiet days as may be offered, especially in Advent and Lent, so that in this way their lives may be fed with prayer and be full of the search for God.

XIV. The Pusey Guild, its Patronage and Rule of Life

The Green Rule is designed to help members pattern their lives after the example of the crucified Saviour and to reflect His love in the way of life they are called to lead so that the image of His priesthood may be formed in them.

The Guild places itself alongside the Society and looks to Edward Bouverie Pusey as an example of disciplined priestly life. It prays that God may bring to fulfilment the vocation He gives to each of its members and that, with His grace, they may be entrusted with the gift of His priesthood in due time.

Standing up for Jesus, we honour His Holy Name at all times, for ‘at the Name of Jesus every knee must bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord’. So, Beloved, be faithful to this Rule today so that we should glory in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pax Tibi. Per Crucem.

Under God, in the power of the Cross, all things are possible and in this Sign, conquer!

XVI. The Pusey Guild Prayer

Aspirants shall be bound together by the acceptance of this common Rule and their obligation to pray for each other. They are united above all through the Guild Prayer which they are encouraged to say daily (after either Morning or Evening Prayer) in the following form:

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for He is our salvation, our life and our resurrection, through Him we are saved and made free.

Let us pray.

Father, your Son showed the depth of his love when for our sake he opened his arms upon the Cross, and he has commanded us to love one another; Keep the brothers of the Society of the Holy Cross and the Pusey Guild united in love and in faith, through the saving power of the ✠ Cross, impressed inwardly upon our lives and revealed outwardly in our work, may others come to know your love and truth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.