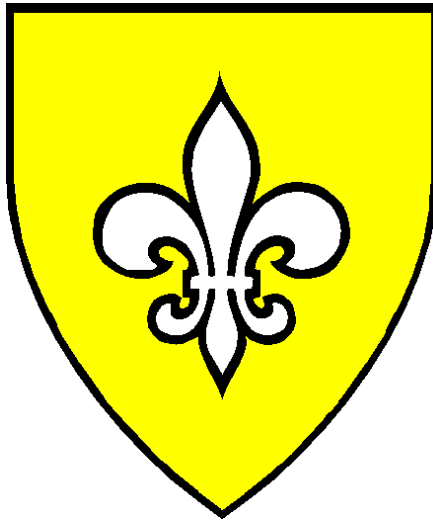


The Adrian Empire, Inc.

THE CHURCH OF ADRIA

Rules and Guidelines



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Anyone is welcome to point out any error or omission that they may find.

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PREFACE

During the Middle Ages and Renaissance in Europe, the Church played a very important role. While historically the Christian Church (in its various demoninations) was the most influential, Adria is a non-religious organization. The Church of Adria was created to be a non-religious way to acknowledge the importance of the Church in history, and to bring the pomp and circumstance into our ceremonies. That is the extent of the Church's role in the Adrian Empire.

For information on the Adrian Empire's policy on religion, see the [Bylaws, Article XIII](#).

This document provides a guideline as to how the Church of Adria operates, and governs itself. For all intents and purposes, the Church of Adria is considered to be a guild.

Maedb and Karl, Empress and Emperor of Adria

I. PHILOSOPHY

"We believe in everything."

II. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Church of Adria is open to all members of Adria. To join and participate as a clerical persona, simply ask. To withdraw, simply inform the Church of Adria. By default, all non-secular personas and groups fall within the auspices of the Church of Adria.

III. WRITS, FAVORS, AWARDS

The Church of Adria shall have the right to enact "Holy" writs and codicils insofar as such do not conflict with those of the by-laws nor Imperial Law. The Patriarch shall have the right to create and grant holy orders, favors and awards. The appointed Heads of the Church in each subdivision may make recommendations and petitions to the Patriarch concerning giving favors, or awards to those serving in their subdivision.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

The Church shall appoint individuals who will represent the interests of the Church in each subdivision. They will serve until they:

- Vacate the office voluntarily
- Are replaced by a 2/3 vote of the assembly at the official Synod
- No longer actively serve the Church
- Are prohibited from serving in the case of violations as per the by-laws concerning conduct

A. ELECTION OF THE PATRIARCH

The Church will elect the Patriarch from its members who have achieved Knighthood as per the by-laws or who have attained the level of Vicar General through the Course of Study outlined by the Church, and whose membership is current and active. These votes will be cast in a Synod consisting of those who are of the level of Vicar and above.

B. USE OF TITLES

The Church, as a "guild", has final say concerning the use and granting of any sectarian titles to be used by guild members. The Head of the Church may dedicate Knights of the Church, as well as giving out titles (such as "Defender of the Church", etc.). The Head of the Church may also assemble guardsmen, and gather armies as needed. The Church, through the office of the Holy Scribe, shall announce any Knighting, appointments, and holy writs in the Adrian Herald.

C. MINISTERS

The Patriarch of the Church shall be responsible for the administration of the Body of the Church. He will appoint ministers and deputies when necessary.

D. REPORTING

The appointed heads of the Church in each subdivision shall report on a monthly basis to the Head of the Church on activities within their individual subdivisions. They shall also keep any records of ceremonies performed, monies raised for the Church etc. The Church will, as all within Adria are, be accountable to the Board of Directors. This is mostly concerning the Steward and the Holy Scribe for reasons of the Business of Adria concerning the monies if any the Church takes in and documentation of Church Ranks, dedications etc.

V. CEREMONIES

The Church shall attempt to obtain and record copies of the ceremonies, oaths, and blessings used in the Adrian Empire and keep them as a trust. The populace is encouraged but not required to share their individual ceremonies. The ceremonies, etc., that are collected by the Church shall be available to the populace, without regard to their membership within the Church.

VI. HERALDRY

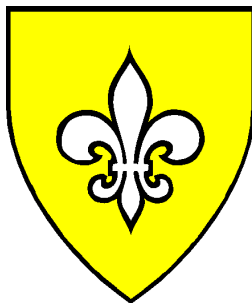
All heraldry connected to the Church of Adria shall be non-sectarian in nature.

A. EXISTING HERALDRY

Any arms that is registered to the Church of Adria, or pertains to the Church of Adria shall be compiled and presented once a year at the Synod. During the year, it shall be available to the populace, without regard to their membership in the Church.

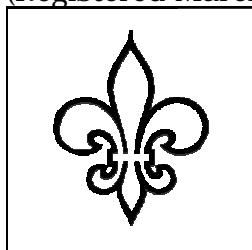
Church of Adria

Or, a fleur-de-lis argent
(Registered December 1998)



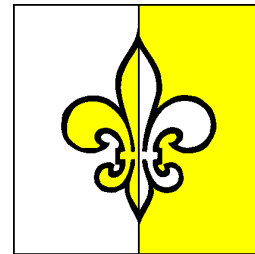
Badge

(Fieldless) A fleur-de-lis argent
(Registered March 1992)



Patriarch

Per pale argent and or, a fleur-de-lis counterchanged
(Badge, registered December 1998)



Badge

Vert, a fleur-de-lis argent
(Registered March 1992)



B. PROPOSED HERALDRY

The Church must approve all proposed heraldry concerning anything dealing with the Church before it is presented to the Imperial Sovereign of Arms. This is to ensure that a non-sectarian theme is maintained for all arms of the Church.

VII. FUNDS AND MONIES

This section of the guide is not approved AT THIS TIME. The gathering and use of monies within Adria complies with the IRS guidelines for non-profit historical education groups. This section will be finalized as soon as possible.

The Church will have several areas in which to raise funds for the putting on of events and buying Paraphernalia for use by the Church. What follows are some suggestions that have a basis in historical facts...

A. PILGRIMAGES

One such suggestion would be to establish "Holy Pilgrimages" within the boundaries of Adria. Ideally there would be one within every subdivision of the Empire where the Church is represented. Members of a subdivision may not take part in their own subdivisions pilgrimage if one exists. The Church would sell tokens commemorating the Pilgrimage. The Pilgrim would also receive a certificate signed by the Head of the Church in the subdivision in which the pilgrimage was made and by Patriarch/Matriarch of the Church upon confirmed completion of the Pilgrimage. The Holy Scribe of the Church, for purposes of record will record such in the "Sacred Records." The individual upon completing the pilgrimage may augment their arms reflecting the successful completion of the Pilgrimage. This of course will be worked out with the Imperial Sovereign of Arms before such Pilgrimages would be put in place. Such Pilgrimages would have the added incentive to encourage members of Adria to visit other subdivisions.

B. HOLY MEDALLIONS, BLESSINGS, CHARMS

Another suggestion was for the Church to sell blessings, charms and medals, vials of water etc to augment their treasury. Crosses and Medals bearing symbols of the various Saints were very common.

C. USE OF CHURCH FUNDS

Use of said funds Synod in favor of any expenditure. Records will be kept by the Holy Steward concerning all areas concerning the intake and output of funds.

VIII. THE SYNOD

The Synod is the term used for the governing body of the Church of Adria. All members of the Church are members of the Synod are encouraged to attend the meetings.

A. MEETINGS

The Synod will try to meet three times a year (one month before each Imperial Estates meeting; October, February and June respectively). The Synod will consist of any Church Member who is of Vicar or higher rank. This meeting can be held in one of the following ways:

- In person, at a site chosen by the Patriarch/Matriarch of the Church. Proxies would be used for those unable to attend
- In an electronic format such as a group chat or through another electronic format such as e-mails.

At least one of these meetings shall be in person being a formal meeting which will be for purposes of record that of the October Synod.

An agenda will be prepared by the Holy Chancellor and given to the Holy scribe for distribution to all eligible Members 30 days before such an assembly.

B. VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Any member of the Synod can call for a "Vote of Confidence". Such a proposal must be sent to the Holy Chancellor with the reasons for such. To call such is an accusation of incompetence, and or violation of the rules of the Church. To call such, the person requesting a "Vote of Confidence" must present enough evidence to the Holy Chancellor to validate the reason for calling a "Vote of Confidence."

The Holy Chancellor will review the information to see if such a claim has validity. If the Holy Chancellor deems such is valid the following will occur depending on the severity of the evidence and accusation. The Chancellor will make a decision to either:

- Such a vote shall be the first order of business at the next scheduled synod.
- If the evidence presented is severe enough the Holy Chancellor will call for an emergency Synod to determine the results of such a vote.

The Holy Chancellor will inform the Head of the Church of an intended "Vote of Confidence" giving him an agreed-upon set of time to present evidence at the next meeting of the Synod.

The Chancellor shall announce that A vote of Confidence has been called and will either present the evidence in the name of the person who called such a vote or ask for the person to now do so. After the vote has been announced and evidence presented the Patriarch/Matriarch will be allowed to speak on their own behalf, call any witnesses and present any evidence.

After such has been done the Chancellor will then call for a vote.

For a Vote of Confidence to be successful requires a two-thirds majority vote in favor of such.

In the case that such a vote does pass the next order of business will be to elect a new Patriarch/Matriarch.

A vote of Confidence supercedes all other Church Business.

Such a vote may also be called by the synod against an individual serving as a representative of the church in a Subdivision. The accused has the same rights afforded the Head of the church in this matter where a "Vote of Confidence is called."

C. EMERGENCY SYNOD

The Patriarch in times of crisis or when such a meeting is so mandated by two-thirds vote of eligible members can call such a meeting. The Holy Chancellor also has the right to call an Emergency Synod in the case of a "Vote of Confidence".

OPTIONAL RULE REGARDING TERM OF SERVICE

It is the historical practice that the Head of the Church served until death in most cases. However it has been suggested to limit the term or rather require elections on a regular basis to give others the opportunity to hold such an office. If this option is used the Head of the church will serve for two years starting at the day after the November Estates meeting. After this period of time elections will be held on an annual basis occurring at the October Synod.

If this option is the one so decided to be used rules governing such will be drawn up at a later date, this date not more than 1 year from the ratification of this proposal.

IX. ROBES, VESTMENTS, TITLES

All titles given are appropriate to the medieval Church, which was more often than not, the Catholic Church. In keeping with historical accuracy, the higher a person was in the hierarchy, the more likely they were to be a member of the Catholic Church. These titles are intended to reflect history, not preference. A member is free to use an alternate title in keeping with their persona, and is encouraged to use the style of clothing appropriate to their title.

| Title | Color Worn | Population Needed | Experience Requirement |
|--|--|--|---|
| First-level clergy | | | |
| Priest, Nun, Sister, Frere, Friar, Father, Rabbi, Chaplain, Reverend, Pastor, Elder, etc | Grey. Sects and orders are allowed to have other colors as long as they do not conflict with set colors of other levels of clergy. | 1 current member. In fact an area may be started by a member of the clergy. | None |
| Second-Level Clergy | | | |
| Bishop | Green with a non-metallic colored trim (no silver, gold, copper etc) | 30 current members | Knight Minister or Vicar General as attained through the Course of Study |
| Vicar of the Patriarchal See | Green with a non-metallic colored trim (no silver, gold, copper etc) | 1 current member | Appointment by and under the authority of the Patriarch of Adria |
| Third-Level Clergy | | | |
| Archbishop | Green with gold or silver trim | 90 current members, and two other Bishops serving in the subdivision. | Knight Minister or Vicar General as attained through the Course of Study |
| Fourth-Level Clergy | | | |
| Cardinal | Blue with gold or silver trim | 270 current members, and 2 Archbishops, 4 Bishops serving in the subdivision | Knight Minister or Vicar General as attained through the Course of Study Retirement from the seat of Patriarch and approved by the synod |
| Fifth-Level Clergy | | | |
| Patriarch | Gold with gold or silver trim | None. They are elected by the synod | Knight Minister or Vicar General as attained through the Course of Study |
| Non-Level Clergy | | | |
| Monsignor | Whatever level the person is currently | One current member | Knight Minister. They are appointed by the Patriarch as counselors to the Patriarch. |

X. COURSE OF STUDY

Not all people wish to pursue a path toward knighthood. These people are still welcome to adopt non-secular personas, participate in the Church of Adria, and move up through the ranks. To facilitate this, the Church of Adria has prepared a Course of Study, or "path" of participations.

In order to reach the level of Vicar General you must participate at 18 events in your religious persona. These may include demos. You may not accrue more than one event per month. During at least 12 of these events, you must offer to perform some type of ceremonial service, for example:

- Combatant blessing
- Sanctification of the list field
- Assisting with a knighting or coronation
- "Being" your persona at a demo by answering questions and being available to the public

If you are in an area with more than one cleric you may share the duties, or serve as the assistant to the higher or same level clerical persona (as a priest would assist a bishop).

These offers must be made to the local crown or the parties involved, and verified by them.

Date of induction, and title chosen (Brother, Chaplain, Elder, Father, etc.) _____

1. Date and performance offered: _____

Signature of person verifying the offer: _____

2. Date and performance offered: _____

Signature of person verifying the offer: _____

3. Date and performance offered: _____

Signature of person verifying the offer: _____

4. Date and performance offered: _____

Signature of person verifying the offer: _____

5. Date and performance offered: _____

Signature of person verifying the offer: _____

6. Date and performance offered: _____

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7. Date and performance offered: _____

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8. Date and performance offered: _____

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9. Date and performance offered: _____

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