

# STATUTES FOR BROTHERHOOD OF ST. JOHN OF SHANGHAI & SAN FRANCISCO OF ST. VLADIMIR CHURCH, ANN ARBOR, MI

Adopted from the Statue for Sisterhoods in North America  
Approved by Resolution of the Synod of Bishops on 15/28 April 1955

## I. ORGANIZATION & OBJECTIVES OF THE BROTHERHOOD

1. At **St. Vladimir** Church in the city of **Ann Arbor, MI** a church brotherhood has been established which bears the name of **St. John of Shanghai & San Francisco**. The brotherhood was established with the blessing of Archimandrite Peter, Administrator of the Diocese of Chicago & Detroit, on January 20/February 2, 2003.
2. The brotherhood celebrates its annual feast on the day commemorating **St. John of Shanghai & San Francisco (Saturday nearest June 19/July 2)** and has an icon appropriate to this feast which is kept in the church.
3. The brotherhood comprises a component and integral part of the parish and exists in accordance with the parish's charter, as a parish organization.
4. It is the brotherhood's objectives on the one hand that those who enter its membership may perfect themselves morally in Christian virtue, in accordance with the teaching of the Russian Orthodox Church under the pastoral guidance of their Pastor and in close contact with the life of the Church; and on the other hand, the object of the brotherhood is, on the whole, to render active aid to its church and to carry out, in a practical manner, the duties of the parish in accordance with paragraph #2 of the Normal Parish By-Laws which are accepted by the local Parish Council.

*Paragraph #2 of the Normal Parish By-Laws:*

*It shall be the aim of the parish to unite the believers around the parish church on the basis of the teachings, the canons, the traditions and the rules of the Russian Orthodox Church for the satisfaction of the religious need and moral benefit of its members.*

5. The duties of the brotherhood are:
  - a. Preparing the Church building for Divine Services according to the List of Brotherhood Responsibilities (addendum). To better fulfill these obligations on a regular schedule, teams of brotherhood members may be established.
  - b. Maintenance of the physical aspect of the Church building, both interior and exterior (e.g., painting, repairing the Church building, etc.).
  - c. Aiding in the spread of the Orthodox Faith in the parish geographical area.
  - d. Concern for the unbaptized and the unwed; bringing them to the church, that the Holy Mysteries may be performed over them.
  - e. Concern for those who are Orthodox, but who do not attend services, especially those from the former Soviet Union, that they will begin to attend services, partake of the Holy Mysteries of the Church, and enroll their children in the Church School.
  - f. Care for the financial wellbeing of the parish (for this purpose special fundraising activities may be established).
6. The brotherhood holds occasional meetings at which spiritual issues and brotherhood activities are discussed.

## **II. GOVERNMENT & MEMBERSHIP**

1. With the priest's blessing, and on the recommendation of the brotherhood's Council, parishioners of the parish who have attained the age of twenty-one may be admitted to membership.
2. In its activity, the brotherhood is subject to and is under the guidance of the parish priest.
3. The brotherhood is governed by the Council of the Brotherhood which is composed of the Head of the Brotherhood, his assistant and deputy, the treasurer and the secretary, all of whom are elected for a one-year term of office by the General Assembly of the Brotherhood.
4. The General Assembly of the Brotherhood is convoked no less than twice annually. Notification of such meetings is sent out two weeks prior to the event and the proposed date of the meeting is indicated. Additional meetings of the brotherhood may be convoked by the pastor, or by the Head of the Brotherhood with the pastor's blessing. The General Assembly is considered valid when a majority of the brotherhood's membership is present. All votes are taken on a majority basis (only members of the Brotherhood may vote). Elections of the members of the Council of the Brotherhood, which are conducted at the General Assemblies, are subject to confirmation by the pastor.
5. The Council of the Brotherhood manages the brotherhood's funds. The treasurer keeps a record of receipts and expenditures, which is countersigned by the parish priest and is sealed with the parish seal, as prescribed by the priest. The brotherhood's monetary resources and accounts are reviewed by the parish's Auditing Committee. The yearly accounts, along with the decision of the Auditing Committee, should be submitted to the General Assembly of the parish for confirmation.
6. Minutes of all the meetings of the brotherhood and of the sessions of the Council are kept by the secretary and are signed by the Head of the Brotherhood and the secretary. A brother may be expelled from the brotherhood by the parish priest, and also at the suggestion of the brotherhood's Council or of its General Assembly.
7. The membership dues are fixed by the General Assembly of the brotherhood.
8. The brotherhood cannot establish titles of honor.

## **III. DISBANDING**

1. The disbanding of the brotherhood is carried out by the parish priest with the blessing of the diocesan bishop, by resolution of a meeting of the General Assembly of the brotherhood especially convoked for that purpose and which is attended by two-thirds of the actual membership of the brotherhood.
2. In the case of disbanding, all the property of the brotherhood is transferred to the parish to which the brotherhood belonged.

## **IV. ALTERATION & AMENDMENT OF THIS STATUTE**

1. If local conditions require, alterations and amendments of this statute may be made at the General Assembly of the brotherhood by resolution of a two-thirds majority vote of those present at the Assembly. No less than two-thirds of the actual membership of the brotherhood must be present at such an Assembly. The proposed text of alterations or amendments should be cited in full in notices distributed two weeks prior to the General Assembly.
2. Alterations and amendments of this statute which are accepted at the General Assembly of the brotherhood take effect only after they are confirmed by the pastor and the diocesan bishop.