

Charter

for the

Society of St. Nicholas Ferrar

i. Rationale

By the grace of God, the Liturgical Movement of the 20th century reestablished the Holy Eucharist as the principal act of Christian worship, addressing its gradual replacement by Morning Prayer in many parts of the Anglican Communion.

However, this Eucharistic renewal has coincided with lamentable neglect of the Daily Office as a pillar of historic Anglican worship.

We hold firmly that the spiritual lives of Anglican Christians in all orders of ministry, both lay and ordained, ought to be built around the sustained exercise of the Daily Office as well as the regular practice of the Holy Eucharist.

In order that we might cultivate and exemplify such a corporate life of devotion, we covenant to establish an apostolate inspired by the example of St. Nicholas Ferrar, who fostered a life of prayer in his family and community.

ii. Bylaws

The 'Society of St. Nicholas Ferrar' (SSNF) shall be a voluntary association of Christians within the Anglican Communion committed to the preservation and propagation of this classical Anglican rhythm of worship.

The core of this rhythm consists of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sundays and Feast days and the daily recitation of the liturgy of canonical hours known as the Daily Office.

The Society shall not be a religious order bound by vows and shall not recognize gradations of membership. Members may be clerical or lay, secular or religious. Membership in the Society shall complement, not replace, membership in any other orders and societies with similar aims, such as the Society of Catholic Priests.

All Members shall be uniformly bound by a shared, fourfold commitment:

- a. To observe at least the major canonical hours of the Daily Office—Morning Prayer (Matins) and Evening Prayer (Vespers or Evensong)—every day.
 - i. These Offices should be recited in community with other Christians whenever possible.
 - ii. Recitation of the Daily Office, whether private or public, shall conform to the rubrics of the current prayerbook of the Member's province (i.e., the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* for Members in the Episcopal Church).
- b. To attend a celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday and on Principal and Major Feasts of the Church, insofar as circumstances allow.
- c. To encourage, through word and example, the public observance of this same pattern of worship in their communities and dioceses.
- d. To intercede daily for other Members, both generally (using the Collect for the Society) and by name.

Recognizing the diocese as the fundamental unit of the local church, Chapters of the Society shall be organized at the diocesan level. Consisting of a minimum of three (3) members, each Chapter shall be constituted with knowledge and consent of the other Chapters. Each Chapter shall appoint a Moderator, who shall act as a point of contact within and between Chapters.

Members of a Chapter are encouraged to pray the Office together on a regular basis, normatively once each month. Reasonable provisions shall be made for including those sodalists who are unable to physically attend Chapter gatherings.

Chapters shall renew their commitment to the Society's rule every year on the Feast of Saint Nicholas Ferrar (1 December, or as celebrated by their Province) by sending a Renewal of Intent letter to the office of the Society. This letter shall include an updated roster of Chapter members and shall identify the member selected to serve as Chapter Moderator in the coming year.

iii. Collect for the Society of St. Nicholas Ferrar

Most Merciful Father, who through your Holy Apostles has enjoined us to persevere in the prayers of the Church and diligently to observe the Sacraments of the New Covenant; grant that we, who strive in the spirit of your saint Nicholas Ferrar to uphold this office, may be faithful stewards of this worship and constant beacons of its fruits; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

iv. Constitution of a Chapter

We, the undersigned, covenant to uphold the above rule as a Chapter of the Society of Saint Nicholas Ferrar for the duration of the coming year.

We covenant to renew our commitment to the rule of this Society on a year-to-year basis thereafter, as the Holy Spirit guides us and circumstances permit us.

**on the Feast of St. Nicholas Ferrar, A.D.
in the Diocese of**