

CONSTITUTION

— AND —

BY-LAWS

OF THE

St. Joseph Catholic

Benevolent Association

OF

Fort Wayne, Indiana.

LIBRARY

Organized May 2nd, 1874. OF

NOTRE DAME

FORT WAYNE, IND.:

SENTINEL STEAM PRINTING HOUSE, CALHOUN STREET.

1875.

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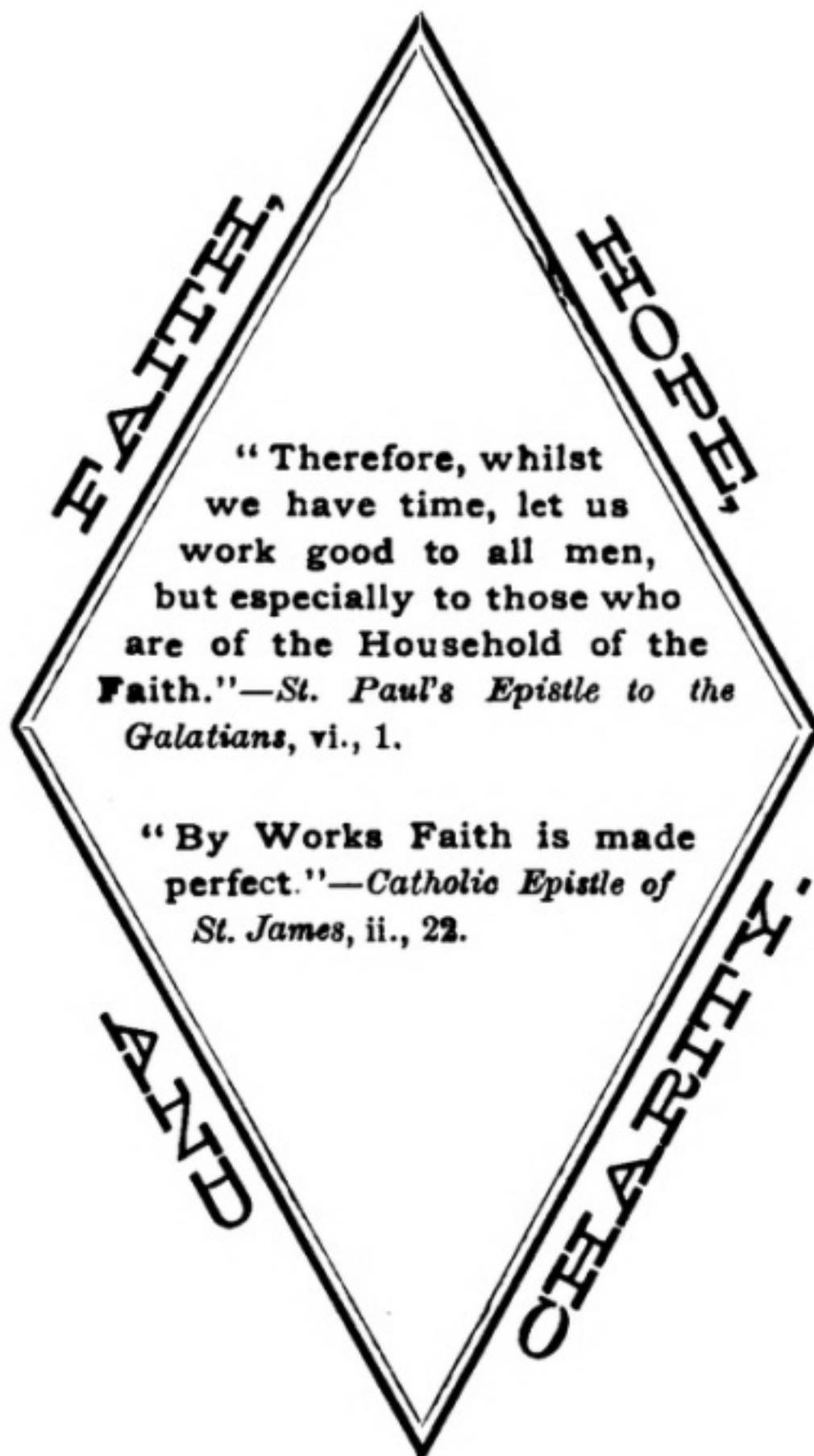
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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Saint Joseph Catholic Benevolent Association

OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA.

ORGANIZED MAY 2, 1874.

We, the subscribers, being citizens of the United States, residents and citizens of the State of Indiana, in order to raise a Common Fund, and organize an Association for that purpose, in conformity with an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, entitled, "an Act establishing general provisions respecting Corporations," approved June 5th, 1862, and also, "an Act concerning the organization of voluntary Associations," and repealing former laws in reference thereto, approved February 12th, 1855, and amended March 9th, 1861, do hereby adopt the following Articles of Association, to wit:

The aim and object of the Association is, that in its character it shall be truly Catholic, fully imbued with the spirit and practice of the Catholic Faith, and in all things be in strict harmony with the Eccl-

siastical authority, as represented in the person of our Right Reverend Bishop, or through him, by our Spiritual Director, and by the cultivation of brotherly love and pecuniary assistance, promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of its members.

The members of this Association shall be composed of good, practical Catholics, between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five years; to be well known for sobriety, good moral character, free from infirmities, and disease, and without any regard as to nationality, and who in all things will conform to the Constitution and By-Laws.

Any member associating himself with us, hereby expressly binds himself, that in case of any dissatisfaction, and the cause of said dissatisfaction having been appealed to our Right Reverend Bishop, he will fully submit to the action and decision of the Bishop, and in no case will he have recourse to the Civil Courts.

This Association shall be known and designated as the "Saint Joseph Catholic Benevolent Association, of Fort Wayne, Indiana."

The officers of this Association shall consist of seven Directors, who shall be elected annually, by ballot, on the second Saturday in May, between the hours of seven and ten o'clock, p. m., and shall hold their respective offices until their successors are elected and qualified.

The Spiritual Director, appointed by our Bishop, shall always be President *ex officio* of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors, elect, shall meet on the Monday succeeding their election, and shall elect

from among their number a President, Vice-President, Secretary,, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board of Directors shall have the power to fill all vacancies occurring by resignation, death, or otherwise, from among the members, for the unexpired term for which said member or members were elected, or until an election can be held. .

The Board of Directors shall have full and unlimited power to control and manage all the business and affairs of the Association, for the term for which they were elected, *provided*, that in all matters of sufficient importance (the Father Director being the Judge), they shall act with his advice and consent, and in case of any misunderstanding, arising between the Board of Directors and the Spiritual Director, or in case of any dissatisfaction of any member, who having had his case or grievances adjudged by the Board of Directors, all such cases shall be appealed to our Right Reverend Bishop, and his decision shall, in all cases, be final.

The Board of Directors will in no case, whatever, act contrary to the wishes of our Right Reverend Bishop.

This Association shall exist until its members are reduced to five, and its dissolution can only be accomplished by a majority of said five members. If the number of members shall at any time be less than five, or dissolved by vote of the five remaining members, then all property pertaining to said Association shall be taken possession of by the Right Reverend Bishop, or in his absence, the Spiritual Director, for the use and benefit of the Catholic Orphan Asylum.

The Seal of the Association shall be, the name,

“Saint Joseph Catholic Benevolent Association,” of Fort Wayne, Indiana, around the circumference, with date of organization in the centre.

This Constitution cannot be altered or amended, unless by a four-fifths majority vote of all the members present, at a regular quarterly meeting, after three months' written notice, signed by at least a majority of all the members of the Association, is given to the board of Directors, accompanied with the written consent or approval of our Right Reverend Bishop, of such alteration or amendment.



NAMES OF CHARTER MEMBERS.

FRANK H. WOLKE,
P. S. O'ROURKE,
MARTIN A. NOLL,
JAMES FOX,
THOMAS MEEGAN,
WILLIAM B. WALTER,
A. F. SCHOENBEIN,

GEO. A. LITTOT,
CHAS. A. BLEE,
JEROME S. STUDER,
LOUIS JOCQUEL,
GEO. B. FRY,
W. CONNAIR.

BY-LAWS.

This Association organized May 2nd, 1874, in conformity with Constitution and By-Laws annexed.

ARTICLE I.

SEC. 1. The regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the Monday evening succeeding the second Sunday in each month, between the hours of seven and nine o'clock. A majority of the Board shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

The regular meetings of the Association, for the collection of dues and fines, election of members, &c., shall be held on the second Sunday in each month, immediately after vespers. Seven members shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE II.—Duties of Officers.

SEC. 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Board of Directors, keep order, and see that the business of the Association is despatched promptly and with decorum. He shall sign all just orders on the Treasurer, also sign and execute all legal or other documents, such as contracts, leases, transfer or sale of real estate or per-

sonal property, *with the consent and approval of the Board of Directors.*

SEC. 2. He shall see in general that the Constitution and By-Laws are enforced and correctly carried out, sign the minutes of the preceding meeting, after having been read and approved.

He shall call all special meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Association.

ARTICLE III.

SEC. 1.—*The Vice-President.* In the absence of the President he shall perform all his duties.

ARTICLE IV.

SEC. 1.—*The Secretary.* He shall keep full and correct minutes of all the proceedings of the meetings of the Association, shall read the names of members, while the collectors, as his assistants, shall collect the monthly dues. The collectors are to be appointed by the President at each meeting.

SEC. 2. He shall keep full and correct minutes of all the proceedings of the Board of Directors, shall sign all just orders on the Treasurer, and make out and submit quarterly reports of the affairs of the Association.

SEC. 3. When special meetings of the Board of Directors or of the Association are called by the President, he shall give notice, by publication or otherwise, to the members, and may employ a competent person to serve said notice, at the expense of the Association.

SEC. 4. He shall, at the close of each meeting of the Association, make out an exact account of all

initiations, dues, fines, &c., collected ; keep separate and appropriate accounts of the same, enter the same on the records of said meeting, and take the Treasurer's receipt therefor.

ARTICLE V.

SEC. 1.—*The Corresponding Secretary.* His duties shall consist of all correspondence that the business of the Association may require from abroad. He shall, in the absence of the Secretary, perform all his duties.

ARTICLE VI.

SEC. 1.—*The Treasurer.* He shall receive and disburse all moneys belonging to the Association, having due vouchers therefor, signed by the President and Secretary.

SEC. 2. He shall give bond, with sufficient security, subject to the acceptance and approval of the Board of Directors, and make out and submit quarterly reports of the condition of the Treasury, giving the amount of the several kind of funds on hand.

SEC. 3. He shall make settlement with the Board of Directors, in connection with the Secretary, within ten days after his successor is elected and qualified, and hand over to the Treasurer elect all moneys books, papers, and other effects in his possession as such Treasurer, and shall at all times hold his accounts, vouchers and funds subject to the inspection of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII.

SEC. 1. As the duties of the Board of Directors will, from the responsibility devolving on them, be

laborious, and as they receive no compensation for their services, they may, and have full power, to select and appoint, from among the members of the Association, such committees or assistance as they may deem necessary for the prompt and faithful transaction of business, and should the duties of said committees or assistants become laborious or excessive, they may allow a reasonable compensation for their services.

SEC. 2. They may, when deemed advisable, issue certificates of stock for not less than TEN nor more than FIFTY Thousand Dollars, for the purchase of real estate, and for the erection of a hall or building thereon, and may adopt the necessary rules and regulations to govern the same.

ARTICLE VIII.

Nomination and Election of Directors.

SEC. 1. Nomination of candidates for Directors shall be made by the members of the Association, at a meeting to be held for that purpose, between the hours of seven and ten o'clock on the second Saturday evening in May each year, and shall be balloted for forthwith; a majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to elect. The seven highest receiving said majority shall be declared elected. *Provided that* if on the second ballot a sufficient number shall not have been elected, then on the third ballot the number required receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared duly elected.

SEC. 2. No member shall be qualified to vote, or eligible to hold office, who is three months in arrears at the time of annual election.

ARTICLE IX.**Application and Election of Members.**

SEC. 1. Application for membership shall be placed in the hands of the Secretary at least six days before the monthly meetings of the Association, and shall be in the following form, accompanied with their initiation fee, which shall be graded according to age, as follows: All between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, five dollars; between forty-five and fifty years, seven dollars and fifty cents; between fifty and fifty-five years, ten dollars; between fifty-five and sixty years, twelve dollars and fifty cents; between sixty and sixty-five years, fifteen dollars. None over sixty-five years of age can become members of the Association.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

Fort Wayne, _____ 18

*To the Board of Directors and Members of the
Saint Joseph Catholic Benevolent Association:*

Gentlemen: Having formed a favorable opinion of your worthy institution, I am desirous, if found worthy, of being admitted a member thereof, based on the following representations:

What is your name?

Where is your residence?

What is your occupation?

What is your age?

Are you married or single?

Are you in the habit of using
spirituous or intoxicating
liquors immoderately.

Are you free from disease and
all bodily infirmities, both
physical and mental, to the
best of your knowledge
and belief.

Applicant's signature,

Recommended by

*Members of the Asso-
ciation.*

Approved by

Board of Directors.

SEC. 2. Applicants must be recommended by not less than two members of the Association.

SEC. 3. The Board of Directors shall examine all claims of eligibility of candidates for membership, and shall make report of the same at next regular meeting of the Association.

SEC. 4. Any person coming into the Association under false pretences, shall forfeit all benefits, and also forfeit all monies paid by him into the Association, and be expelled.

SEC. 5. Persons charged with, and found guilty, of conduct incompatible with the objects of the Associa-

tion, or any act derogatory, or that may detract from his standing as a Catholic and good moral citizen—particularly drunkenness; after a full examination by, and trial if necessary, before the Board of Directors, if found guilty, his name shall be erased from the books, forfeit his membership, and all monies paid by him into the Association, and be expelled.

SEC. 6. When a member is expelled from the Association, his application shall not again be presented for the space of six months, and *then only*, on contrition and sorrow for the offense, with promise of amendment.

SEC. 7. All members are to be elected by ballot after a favorable report from the Board of Directors. On admission, each member shall sign the Constitution and By-Laws, and pay fifty cents dues each month; the dues shall be considered as for the calendar month, succeeding his election, and shall be credited as such.

SEC. 8. Any candidate receiving five black balls, in being balloted for, shall not be received as a member of the Association, and his name shall not again be proposed for the space of three months.

SEC. 9. No person, except a member, will be admitted to any meetings of the Board of Directors, or of the Association, except our Right Reverend Bishop and all Catholic Priests, who are hereby declared honorary members, who have at all times the privilege of being present at all meetings, but have no vote in, or any pecuniary benefits from the Association.

ARTICLE X.—Impeachment of Members.

SEC. 1. Any member having charges to prefer against another member of the Association, for violation of Section 4 and 5, Article 9, or for any other cause, shall reduce said charges or specifications to writing, stating particularly the nature of the offence, and the name of witnesses, if any, by whom he proposes substantiating said charges, and shall place the same in the hands of the President of the Board of Directors, who shall convene the Board. They shall examine into the nature of said charge and complaint within thirty days, and report their action and finding in the premises at the next monthly meeting of the Association.

SEC. 2. When complaints and charges are filed with the Board, as contemplated in the foregoing Section, the Board will have power to cite the accused and the accuser, together with witnesses mentioned in said specifications or charges, and institute trial, and after full examination and hearing of the same, shall render judgment, and make report as contemplated in the foregoing section.

SEC. 3. The report and decision of the Board of Directors, or a majority of them, shall be final, with no right of appeal, except to our Right Reverend Bishop, as provided in the Constitution.

ARTICLE XI.

Benefits to Members, in case of Sickness, Death, &c.

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors, either in person or through a special Committee, or visitors appointed by them, for that purpose, to visit the sick members of the Association,

and report his or their condition to the Secretary, or in his absence to the President, within twenty-four hours after having received notice of the indisposition of said sick member, and if in their opinion said sick member is entitled to assistance, two or more of them shall certify the same to the Secretary, stating particularly the date and time for which said assistance has been allowed, whose duty it shall be to forthwith draw an order, signed by the President, on the Treasurer, for the amount so certified to; *less* arrearages of dues, fines, &c., due the Association, and have the same forwarded to said sick member, as the Board of Directors may direct, not exceeding FIVE dollars per week to any member, *provided*, such sick member is in good standing on the books of the Association. If otherwise, the Secretary will NOT draw said order. No member shall receive any benefits for less than one week.

SEC. 2. Every member if sick, and in good standing, and unable to follow his usual occupation, will be entitled to FIVE DOLLARS per week from the funds of the Association, *provided* such sickness is not caused by his own bad and improper conduct, the Board of Directors being the judges. No member can claim any benefits for any known infirmity that existed prior to his admission into the Association.

SEC. 3. No member will be entitled to the foregoing benefits, until notice shall have been given to the Secretary, or in his absence to the President, and shall have been visited by one or more of the Board of Directors, or Committee. The Secretary's books shall always be conclusive evidence of the standing of a member of the Association.

SEC. 4. All members are compelled to accept their weekly benefits in case of sickness, and cannot return or donate the same, or any part thereof, to the Association. Nothing in this section is to be construed, as preventing any member from placing in the hands of the Secretary or Treasurer, any donations he may be pleased to make for the benefit of the orphans, or for charitable purposes.

SEC. 5. In case of death, the member (if in good standing), will be entitled to decent interment, at the expense of the Association, not exceeding THIRTY dollars.

SEC. 6. No person now a member, or who may hereafter be admitted, will be entitled to any pecuniary benefits, until he shall have been six months a member of the Association, shall have paid his dues and other assessments thereto, and fulfilled all obligations imposed on him by the Association; and being delinquent for three consecutive months, deprives a member from any benefits for three months thereafter; being delinquent for six consecutive months, deprives a member from any benefits for six months thereafter, and being delinquent for twelve consecutive months, his name shall, in every case, be stricken from the books of the Association, *provided*, however, that any member paying his arrearages or delinquency, while in good health, entitles him to all benefits from the Association, the same as though he had not been delinquent.

SEC. 7. When once the name of a member is erased from the books, constitutionally or at his own request, he can only become a member again on application like a new member, except by special dis-

pensation of a majority of the members of the Association, with the sanction of the Board of Directors.

SEC. 8. In case of sickness of any member in good standing, and it being necessary to have some person sit up with, and attend on said sick member during the night, the Secretary being advised of the same, it will be his duty to notify two members to set up with said sick member, commencing with the first names on the roll. Any member who shall have been notified by or through the Secretary to attend on a sick member through the night, and fails to comply, or procure a substitute, shall be fined in the sum of two dollars; sickness, or being absent from the city, only excepted; *provided*, said sick member lives within one mile of the limits of the city of Fort Wayne.

SEC. 9. Absent members, in good standing, if sick and unable to follow their occupation, by sending to the President or Secretary, a certificate signed by the attending physician, attested to by the Parish Priest, stating the cause or nature of his disease, and the length of time disabled, will be entitled to all the pecuniary benefits of the Association.

SEC. 10. The President or Secretary, on receiving notice of the death of a member of the Association, shall cause the members thereof to be notified. All members are obliged to attend the funeral of a deceased member, except in case of sickness, or being absent from the city. Any member failing to attend and answer to their names on such occasions, will be subject to a fine of two dollars, the roll to be called on leaving and returning to the Hall. Accompanying the remains to the city limits is all that is expected.

SEC. 11. When a member in good standing dies, the Board of Directors shall, within thirty days, examine the register of names of members, and allow the deceased member's widow, or his legal heirs, three dollars from each member so registered, which amount shall be paid out of the Treasury within NINETY days from the date of said member's death; but said amount shall be paid into the Treasury, by assessing each member three dollars, to be paid by him within sixty days. Any member failing to pay said assessment of three dollars within the time specified, his name shall be stricken from the books of the Association, and not again placed thereon until said three dollars, together with all dues or fines, are paid up; *provided*, however, the Directors shall not include, in said assessment, or in the amount to be paid said widow, or legal representatives, as aforesaid, the names of persons who may be on the books, but are not in good standing, without first ascertaining whether said member intends paying said assessment of three dollars; and

Provided, further, That the amount paid said widow or legal heirs, as aforesaid, shall not exceed the total amount of assessments paid in by the members.

SEC. 12. This Association will have a High Mass celebrated, within thirty days, for the repose of the soul of all its members, who at the time of their death were in good standing.

ARTICLE XII.

Reservations and Rights of the Association in case a Member becomes a confirmed invalid or Permanently Disabled.

SEC. 1. When a member is sick or disabled, and

has received his weekly benefits for six consecutive months, the Board of Directors shall make careful inquiry into the nature of his disease and prospects of recovery, and if they ascertain and are satisfied, on the certificate of a respectable physician, that said sick member is a confirmed invalid, and is likely to remain so during life, they shall make an assessment, same as in case of a deceased member, as provided in Art. XI., sec. 11, and shall pay the amount collected on said assessment over to said invalid, taking his receipt therefor.

SEC. 2. When a member is sick or disabled, and has received weekly benefits for twelve consecutive months, the Board of Directors shall make an assessment same as in case of a deceased member, as provided in Art. XI., sec. 11, and shall pay the amount collected on said assessment over to said invalid, taking his receipt therefor.

SEC. 3. All members for whom an assessment has been made, collected and paid over, as contemplated in the foregoing sections 1 and 2 of Art. XII., obligates himself to sign or execute a receipt, relinquishing his membership and all further claim or demand from any cause whatever, from the Association.

ARTICLE XIII.

Application and Disposition of Funds.

SEC. 1. The funds of the Association shall be carefully guarded and economically appropriated for the use and benefit of the members, and for the furtherance of the objects for which the Association has been established.

SEC. 2. The monthly dues and fines are to be ap-

plied to the weekly benefits of members, burial expenses, and the necessary incidental expenses of the Association.

The initiation fee shall be kept as a reserved fund, but should the dues and fines at any time not be sufficient to meet the liabilities hereinbefore mentioned, a necessary amount of the reserved fund may be used, but must be refunded as soon as circumstances will permit.

SEC. 3. If at any time a sufficient amount of money is in the Treasury, it may be loaned out on interest as the Board of Directors may direct. In an Association like this, sudden and unforeseen calls for money may be expected; it is therefore important that, while the directors should loan the money out at the highest legal rate of interest, it should be to such persons, and under such circumstances that it could be called in at any moment, without being obliged to force collection by law. And as the loaning it exclusively to members of the Association would invite emulation, invidious comparisons about honesty, solvency, security and punctuality, and be calculated to mar the harmony and brotherly love that should exist between the members, therefore the application, disposition and loaning of the funds is left exclusively to the Board of Directors, they being held individually and collectively to strict accountability for the same.

GENERAL.

The members of this Association do, in a special manner, place themselves under the protection of our Holy Patron, St. Joseph, and will, semi-annually,

approach Holy Communion, in a body, on the third Sunday after Easter (the patronage of St. Joseph), and on the first Sunday succeeding the eighth of December, being within the octave of the Immaculate Conception. Any member failing to go to Holy Communion on both these days shall be fined two dollars, a reasonable or sufficient explanation on his part to the Board of Directors, or being excused by our Spiritual Director, only excepted. And should they, in addition, fail to make their Easter Communion, they will be expelled, and forfeit all moneys paid into or claim on the Association.

The Anniversary of the Association will be on the second Monday in June.

The members of this Association will not, in a body, turn out in procession or on parade, except in going to Holy Communion, Funerals, and on the day of the Anniversary.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

On the payment of twenty dollars, all persons having the proper qualifications may become members of this Association, and will not during life be subject to any further assessments. They will be entitled only to the members attending their funeral in a body, and of having a high mass celebrated for the happy repose of their soul within thirty days after their death.

They will have the right and privilege of being present at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and of the Association, but will have no voice or vote in the deliberations of said meetings.

RULES OR ORDER OF BUSINESS.

All meetings of the Board of Directors, and of the Association, will be opened in fifteen minutes after the time appointed, provided a quorum be present.

A majority of the Board will be a quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors. Seven members will be a quorum at all meetings of the Association.

The usual parliamentary rules are to be observed at all meetings, and all meetings are to be opened by the Spiritual Director, or by the President, by prayer. One our Father, and Saint Joseph, pray for us, that we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

The Order of Business of the Board of Directors, shall be reading, and adoption of minutes of preceding meetings, reports of Officers and Committees, unfinished business, new and miscellaneous business.

The Order of Business of meetings of the Association, shall be reading and adoption of minutes of preceding meetings, proposition or application for new members, balloting for new members, collection of dues, fines and assessments, reports from Officers and Committees, unfinished business, new and miscellaneous business.

The Order of Business, at all meetings, may be suspended by a two-thirds vote.

No political subject of any kind shall be introduced or discussed before the Association.

These By-Laws may be altered or amended, after the lapse of one year from date of organization, by a vote of two-thirds of all the members present, at a regular monthly meeting of the Association, after three months' notice shall have been given, signed by not less than fifteen members, in good standing, and endorsed or recommended by our Right Rev. Bishop, or Spiritual Director.



I cordially approve of the St. Joseph Catholic Benevolent Association and its Constitution and By-Laws.

† JOSEPH DWENGER,
Bishop Fort Wayne.

Ft. Wayne, Ind., July 22, 1875.

Translation of the official document granting a plenary Indulgence to the members of St. Joseph Catholic Benevolent Association, of Fort Wayne, Ind.

“Pope Pius IX, in an audience given the 21st day of June, 1874, at the request and prayer of the undersigned Bishop of Fort Wayne, kindly granted a Plenary Indulgence to the members of St. Joseph Benevolent Association twice a year, those days the above Association goes in a body to Holy Communion.”

(SEAL)

† JOSEPH DWENGER.
Bishop Fort Wayne.

AFC6435

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