

# **The Liberal Catholic Church**



## **Code of Canons**

**2004**

This Code of Canons. numbered I to 89, as revised by the 2004 General Episcopal Synod. is officially authorized for use in The Liberal Catholic Church. The Code of Canons together with the General Constitution form the body of Canon Law of The Liberal Catholic Church.

On behalf of the General Episcopal Synod.

+ TOM DEGENAARS Presiding Bishop

Michaelmas, 2004.

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# **CODE OF CANONS**

## **Canon 1**

### **Constitutions - Provincial**

A Provincial Constitution. before: presentation to the Presiding Bishop for approval shall have been accepted by not less than two- thirds of the Clerical Synod and by a majority of the parishes of the province.

## **Canon 2**

### **Seniority**

For all purposes of Canon Law (as distinguished from precedence) seniority shall be determined firstly by rank and secondly, within the same rank, according to priority of consecration or ordination. The several ranks shall be:

- (1) The Presiding Bishop
- (2) Regionary Bishops
- (3) Diocesan Bishops and Bishops Commissary
- (4) Bishops Emeritus and Auxiliary Bishops
- (5) Priests
- (6) Deacons

## **Canon 3**

### **Active and Inactive Lists**

A bishop who has been regularly assigned to a province or a dio- cese, a priest or deacon who is currently licensed to conduct public services, and a retired bishop, priest or deacon who has not been placed on the Inactive List, shall be regarded for the purposes of Canon Law as being on the Active List.

## **Canon 4**

### **Good Standing**

A member of the clergy, whether on the Active or Inactive List,, shall be considered to be in good standing for the purposes of Canon Law when he shall not be under suspension from office or under inhibition from the exercise of clerical functions, save that a mem- ber of the clergy who shall have been notified that his conduct is under investigation shall not be entitled to vote in any matter con- cerning any action in his own case arising from such investigation or to serve during such investigation on any body concerned there- with.

## **Canon 5**

### **Standing Committees**

The following Standing Committees, each of which shall consist of the Presiding Bishop ex officio as chairman and not fewer than four members, shall be appointed in accordance with Section II para. 6(i) of the General Constitution, which committees shall have power as provided by the Constitution or by Canon:

- (I) An Interim Committee
- (II) A Judiciary Committee

## **Canon 6**

### **Ad Hoc Committees**

The Presiding Bishop shall have power to appoint an ad hoc committee in accordance with Section II para. 6 (i) and Section IV para. 16 of the General Constitution, whenever necessary, to consider the election of a bishop, the assignment or re-assignment of a bishop or the establishment or rearrangement of a province or diocese or for any other purpose, which committee shall have full power in the premises. Such committee shall in each case consist of the Presiding Bishop ex officio as chairman and all bishops (but not fewer than four) immediately concerned with the matter to be considered and located in or nearest adjacent to the area involved.

## **Canon 7**

### **Interim Committee - Membership and Term of Office**

The Interim Committee shall consist of the Presiding Bishop as ex officio chairman and four other members, each of whom shall be elected for a term of eight years, in rotation, in such manner that one member shall retire every two years, but shall be eligible for re-election. A member whose term has expired shall continue in office until his successor is elected.

## **Canon 8**

### **Interim Committee - Vacancy**

A vacancy in the membership of the Interim Committee occurring otherwise than by expiration of term may be filled by action of the Committee, by temporary appointment, pending the next regular biennial election, at which election a new member shall be elected to serve the remainder (if any) of the expired term.

## **Canon 9**

### **Interim Committee - Nomination and Election**

The Presiding Bishop, on behalf of the Synod and as chairman of the Interim Committee, shall call for nominations and conduct all elections for members of this committee. Nominations to fill biennial and casual vacancies may be made by the Presiding Bishop or by any member of the Synod, subject to the consent of the nominee. If there are more than three nominations, the election shall be restricted to the three candidates having the largest number of nominating sponsors. In the event of a tie in the number of nominations or votes which candidates receive, the senior candidate shall be included in the election or declared elected. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected for the expiring eight-year term and the candidate receiving the next highest for the lesser unexpired term (if any) caused by a casual vacancy.

## **Canon 10**

### **Committees - Appointment of**

The members of other committees, except those ad hoc committees otherwise provided by Canon, shall be chosen by the Interim Committee to serve during its pleasure. The Interim Committee shall in - so far as practicable - have regard to special qualifications of Synod members when selecting such committees.

## **Canon 11**

### **Vice-Chairman and Committee Secretary**

The Presiding Bishop as ex officio Chairman shall appoint a vice-chairman and may appoint one member from each committee to serve as secretary thereof during his pleasure.

## **Canon 12**

### **Interim Committee - Powers Thereof**

The Interim Committee shall exercise all the powers and authority of the Synod between sessions thereof and, subject to the provisions of Canon 13, its decisions shall be final.

## **Canon 13**

### **Committee Action - Right of Review**

The Presiding Bishop as chairman of any committee authorized to exercise any of the powers of the Synod shall communicate to the Synod all actions of such committee involving the use of such powers. Unless requests for the review of any such action shall have been received within thirty days after the posting by airmail of such communication from not fewer than five Synod members such action shall become final. Should five such requests for review be so received, such action shall be referred to the Synod for vote thereon and the decision of the Synod shall be final.

## **Canon 14**

### **Powers of Committees**

Standing and other committees, other than the Interim Committee, shall, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution or Canons, perform such duties and exercise such powers of the Synod as shall be delegated to such committees by the Interim Committee on behalf of the Synod.

## **Canon 15**

### **Voting in Committees**

Action in any committee, where exercise of the powers of the Synod is not involved, shall be as determined by a simple majority. Where exercise of the powers of the Synod is involved, action shall be by concurrence of the chairman with a majority of the other members of the committee. Whenever the chairman shall not concur with such recommended action by a majority of the other members of the committee, such recommended action shall be submitted to the Synod whose decision thereon shall be final.

## **Canon 16**

### **Resolutions - How Submitted**

The Presiding Bishop or any standing, ad hoc or other committee of the Synod, or any five members of the Synod, may at any time offer a resolution for consideration by the Synod. Except as otherwise provided, such resolution when so offered shall be submitted to the Synod for a vote by correspondence unless a plenary meeting of the Synod is to be convened within six months, in which case such resolution may be held for and submitted to such meeting.

## **Canon 17**

### **Interim Committee - Request for Action**

The Regional Bishop of a province may request the Interim Committee to take suitable action in any matter, or may forward such request originated by a subordinate (with his endorsement thereon) and such committee may act upon such request or may direct an appropriate committee so to act or may table such request should it deem action thereon to be unnecessary or inadvisable.

## **Canon 18**

### **Resolutions - Vote by Correspondence**

All referring of resolutions to the Synod for vote by correspondence shall be conducted by the Presiding Bishop as chairman of the Interim Committee.

## **Canon 19**

### **Interim Committee - Elections**

The original election of the Interim Committee of the Synod shall be conducted by the Presiding Bishop. Subsequently all calls for nominations and all elections on behalf of the Synod shall be conducted by the Presiding Bishop as chairman of the Interim Committee.

## **Canon 20**

### **Election - Presiding Bishop**

A vacancy in the office of Presiding Bishop shall be filled in the following manner. The chairman or senior member of the Interim Committee shall issue a call for nominations. A member of the Synod may not nominate more than one candidate. Before nomination the consent of the nominee shall have been obtained. The names of all nominees shall be submitted to the Synod for secret ballot. Should no clear majority result, the names of the two having received the highest number of votes shall again be submitted for secret ballot. In the event of a tie vote, the senior nominee shall be declared elected.

## **Canon 21**

### **Removal from Office - Presiding Bishop**

At a written request of not fewer than one-third of the members of the Synod, submitted to the senior elected member of the Interim Committee, he shall place before the Synod a resolution to remove the Presiding Bishop from office. Should such resolution be adopted by not fewer than two thirds of the members of the Synod, such office shall be declared vacant and the Interim Committee shall proceed with the election of a new Presiding Bishop.

## **Canon 22**

### **Removal from Office - Other than Presiding Bishop**

On the request in writing from five or more members of the Synod, the Presiding Bishop as chairman of the Interim Committee, shall submit to the Synod a resolution for the removal from office of any officer of the Synod or committee member (other than the Presiding Bishop) named in such request. If such resolution for removal shall be approved by not less than a two-thirds vote of the Synod, such office or such committee membership shall be declared vacant and another member shall be elected in the established manner to fill such vacancy. For the purposes of this Canon. the Vicar General or other deputy of the Presiding Bishop shall be deemed an officer of the Synod.

## **Canon 23**

### **Judiciary Committee - Investigation and Action**

The Judiciary Committee shall consider such appeals and requests as shall be regularly submitted to it and shall make such investigations as it shall deem necessary. Upon conclusion of an investigation such committee may take such action as lies within its powers, or may recommend to the Interim Committee appropriate action, or may initiate a resolution for action on the part of the Synod. When considering appeals and request which come before it, the Judiciary Committee shall determine the facts in each case and recommend action in accordance with Canon Law and precedent. In all cases, justice and impartiality to the individual and persons shall be preserved. A member of the Judiciary Committee shall not sit on the Committee in an investigation when he is a party in the case.

## **Canon 24**

### **Judiciary Committee - Regulation of Bishops**

An appeal from within a province for investigation of the conduct, inaction or negligence of its Regionary Bishop shall be submitted to the Judiciary Committee. Such appeal may be originated by the Provincial Episcopal Synod (if any), the Clerical Synod (or Chapter), the Provincial Board of Trustees (or equivalent representative body) or by petition of not less than one-third of the parishes of such province.

An appeal concerning a subordinate bishop shall be addressed to and acted upon by the Regionary Bishop, who, after consulting the Provincial Episcopal Synod, if any, may forward such appeal to the Judiciary Committee.

## **Canon 25**

### **Inactive List - Transfer to**

Any member of the clergy may be transferred voluntarily or with his consent to the Inactive List, without prejudice to his future reinstatement. The Interim Committee shall have authority to transfer bishops to the Inactive List for manifest and prolonged inactivity or other reasons, subject to the right of appeal to an ad hoc committee which shall be set up in the same manner as provided for the election and assignment of bishops. An Ordinary may transfer any member of his clergy (other than a bishop) to the Inactive List and may decline to renew his license, for manifest and prolonged inactivity or other reasons, subject to, the right of appeal to the Judiciary Committee.

## **Canon 26**

### **Musical Settings - Sursum Corda and Prefaces**

The melodies of the Sursum Corda and Prefaces (as set forth in the first and second editions of the musical liturgy) may not be altered without authorization of the Synod. Necessary adaptations of these parts, for use with languages other than English, shall be examined and authorized in the same manner as provided for translations of the liturgy. New musical settings of other parts of the services may be authorized for use by the Regionary of the province, in which they are to be used, who should exercise extreme care in permitting changes.

## **Canon 27**

### **Episcopal Consecrations**

The Presiding Bishop shall confirm the canonical election of each bishop-elect by issuing a Protocol of Election and Mandate for Consecration and, if not himself electing to act as Consecrator, he shall designate the consecrating bishop and shall authorize suitable bishops to act as assistants to the Consecrator. No bishop not so designated or authorized shall officiate at any Episcopal consecration, nor shall any such consecration be effected without the presence and public reading of such Protocol and Mandate.



## **Canon 28**

### **Clergy Visiting Other Churches**

No member of the clergy of this Church shall participate as such, other than as a guest in choir or as a guest speaker, in the services of any other Church or Religion, without permission from the local Ordinary of this Church.

## **Canon 29**

### **Clergy Under Temporary Jurisdiction**

In all matters wherein they are acting as clergy of the Liberal Catholic Church, clergy temporarily outside the territory of their own Ordinary, shall be subject to the authority of and under obligation of canonical obedience to the local Ordinary.

## **Canon 30**

### **Illicit Consecrations and Ordinations**

No member of the clergy shall participate, in any official capacity whatever, in any irregular or illicit consecration or ordination conferred by or upon a member of this Church.

## **Canon 31**

### **Amenability to Canon Law**

Any member of this Church in Holy Orders, whether major or minor, shall be amenable to the provisions of the Canon Law insofar as such provisions shall be applicable and shall be subject to the canonical authority of the Ordinary with respect to the exercise of the duties and privileges of his order.

## **Canon 32**

### **Visiting Officiant**

No church or mission shall invite any clergyman not currently licensed by its Ordinary to officiate at any sacramental service without permission from the Ordinary.

## **Canon 33**

### **Title of Emeritus**

A bishop who retires from the office of Presiding, Regionary or Diocesan Bishop (as for age or infirmity or as provided in Canons 35 and 36) may use the title of, and be addressed as, the Presiding, Regionary or Diocesan Bishop Emeritus and as such shall take precedence next after his successor in office: and he shall continue to be classed as an active member of the General Episcopal Synod unless he shall request otherwise. A Bishop Emeritus, if still on the Active List, has the status of an Auxiliary.

## **Canon 34**

### **Action by Proxy**

Proxies of bishops, to be valid, shall be executed in duplicate, the original copy being forwarded to the Presiding Bishop's office and the duplicate furnished to the proxy-designate. Proxies covering temporary absence during a Synod meeting may be given verbally to the Presiding Officer and the proxy-designate.

## **Canon 35**

### **Age Limits**

A bishop holding territorial jurisdiction and members of the Interim and Judiciary Committees shall retire at the age of 75. If the Presiding Bishop considers that there is no one available and suitable to take the place of such a bishop, he may extend the term of office for a period of not more than two years. Such extension may be repeated if he deems it necessary. A Regionary Bishop, with the consent of the Clerical Synod of his province, shall similarly determine the age limit of priests holding administrative office.

## **Canon 36**

### **Age Limit for Presiding Bishop**

This Canon, which had set an age limit on the office of Presiding Bishop, is removed

## **Canon 37**

### **Name of the Church**

In provinces using a language other than English, the name of the Church shall be a translation of either the Latin term „Ecclesia Catholica Libera“ or the English term „Liberal Catholic Church“.

## **Canon 38**

### **Dedication of Churches - Patron Saints**

Each congregation should dedicate its place of worship to some recognized Christian saint. Dedication to the Holy Spirit or to Christ the King is permissible, as is dedication to Bishop Wedgwood or Bishop Leadbeater and the Synod may from time to time authorize dedication to other saintly characters of our own Church.

## **Canon 39**

### **Priest's Crosses**

A pectoral cross, whether jewelled or plain, may be worn exposed ceremonially by a priest provided that it does not exceed two inches in length. If jewelled, the form set forth in the Ceremonial Book is recommended. Smaller crosses of gold or silver, which shall be plain, may be worn ceremonially by others in the sanctuary and may be worn exposed when the wearer is vested in surplice.

## **Canon 40**

### **Ages of Candidates**

The minimum ages of candidates for ordination shall be as follows: Minor Orders- no fixed age. but usually not before 14; Subdiaconate- 22; Diaconate- 23; Priesthood- 24; Episcopate- 30. These ages, except for the Episcopate, may be altered slightly at the discretion of the Ordinary.

It is recommended that, where possible an interval of six or more months should elapse between the conferring of successive Minor Orders, particularly in the case of candidates under 21 years of age and that a minimum period of one year elapse between the successive ordinations of acolyte, subdeacon, deacon and priest.

## **Canon 41**

### **Marriage of Divorced Persons**

The Episcopal Synod does not see any sufficient reason for refusing to marry divorced persons.

## **Canon 42**

### **Provincial Patron Saint**

A Regional Bishop, with the approval of the clergy and congregations in his province, may place the Church in that province under the protection of any Christian saint.

## **Canon 43**

### **Consecrated Objects**

Consecrated jewels in altar stones, altar candlesticks, ray crosses and other consecrated objects must be and remain the property of the Liberal Catholic Church in the country concerned. The Ordinary shall require a custody receipt. with pledge to return such objects on demand. from any parish or individual clergyman entrusted with the same and, in the case of individual custodians, a pledge to ensure such return upon the death of the custodian.

## **Canon 44**

### **Use of Consecrated Churches**

A duly consecrated church shall not be used for any service or meeting other than those prescribed in our liturgy, except with the written permission of the Ordinary. A ritual of Homage to Our Lady, when performed at a side altar or shrine and distinct from any of the liturgical services, is so authorized. Before disposing of consecrated property, a service of Deconsecration must be held.

## **Canon 45**

### **Guilds and Lay Orders**

Guilds and Lay Orders may be organized at the discretion of the Ordinary, but their existence and terms of membership must be openly acknowledged.

## **Canon 46**

### **Communion of Children**

The Synod is of the opinion that it is not usually advisable to administer Communion to children under seven years of age. In the case of children who have been suitably instructed and who obviously understand something of the nature of Communion, the priest in charge may lower this age limit at his discretion.

## **Canon 47**

### **The Place of the Sermon**

The sermon, if any, shall be delivered at the place appointed in the liturgical service and not preceding or following that service as an integral part thereof: however, an informal address may be given as a separate action either before the lighting of the candles and the procession to the sanctuary, or after the retrocession and the extinguishing of the candles, as a separate and distinct presentation.

## **Canon 48**

### **Lay Preachers and Readers**

Members of the laity may preach or read the Epistle from within the Sanctuary, but may not read the Gospel.

## **Canon 49**

### **The Reserved Sacrament in Private Oratories**

Permission may be granted by the Ordinary, at his discretion, for the reservation of the Host in private oratories where there is no priest in charge, provided (1) that the oratory must be used for spiritual purposes only; (2) that the Host be reserved in a locked tabernacle; (3) that there must be some trustworthy person in charge; and (4) that some provision be made for its periodic renewal and for the consumption or return of the Host in the event of the death of the person in charge.

## **Canon 50**

### **Transporting the Host**

The Sacred Host should not be carried to a distant place, especially if the journey includes a night on public transport, except with special permission from the Ordinary.

## **Canon 51**

### **Election of Bishops**

The election of a bishop shall become invalid if he is not consecrated within two years of the definitive date of such election.

## **Canon 52**

### **Synod Procedure - Plenary Sessions**

All propositions on the agenda for plenary sessions of the Synod must be seconded at the meeting as a prerequisite for discussion. Only propositions in the name of members of the Synod shall be placed on the agenda.

## **Canon 53**

### **Synod Action - Effective Date**

Any action by the Synod becomes effective from the date of notification by circular to members of the Synod.

## **Canon 54**

### **Provincial Episcopal Synods - Institution**

Whenever there are three or more bishops on the Active List regularly assigned to a province they shall collectively constitute a Provincial Episcopal Synod, of which the Regionary Bishop shall be the chairman. Temporary reduction in the number of bishops below three shall not operate to disestablish such Synod.

## **Canon 55**

### **Provincial Episcopal Synods - Powers and Duties**

The primary function of a Provincial Episcopal Synod shall be consultative to the Regionary Bishop and, on request, to the Presiding Bishop. The Regionary Bishop shall consult the Synod on all matters of special importance or at the request of two or more of its members. Further powers and duties of the Synod, not inconsistent with the General Constitution and Code of Canons, may be established in the Provincial Constitution.

## **Canon 56**

### **Area Episcopal Synods**

Regionary Bishops in anyone geographical area may by mutual consent organize Area Episcopal Synods to meet from time to time to consider matters relevant to and in such areas. The function of such Area Synods shall be consultative and advisory only. A summary of the proceedings of any such Area Synod shall be communicated to the entire Episcopal Synod through the Presiding Bishop. The Presiding Bishop, or a deputy appointed by him, shall be chairman of any such Area Synod.

## **Canon 57**

### **Nomination of Bishops**

The right to nominate bishops for election or appointment by the Synod is vested in the Presiding Bishop and in the case of provinces in the Regionary Bishop who shall consult the Provincial Episcopal Synod where such body exists.

## **Canon 58**

### **Bishops - Term of Office**

Presiding, Regionary and Diocesan Bishops shall be elected or assigned for a period of 7 years only, but they shall be eligible for re-election and reassignment, the procedure being the same as originally .

## **Canon 59**

### **Bishop Commissary**

A Bishop Commissary is a bishop who is empowered by the General Episcopal Synod to act, under its jurisdiction, as Ordinary of any specified extra-provincial area or areas for a given period of time, but not exceeding seven years. Such appointments may be extended.

## **Canon 60**

### **Re-Ordination of Clergy**

Clergy ordained in other churches who may desire to enter the Liberal Catholic Ministry shall be re-ordained sub conditione preceded by Baptism, Confirmation and the earlier grades of the Ministry. Exemptions to the rule above are made for clergy who can prove that they have been previously validly ordained in a Church having the Apostolic Succession.

## **Canon 61**

### **Voting - Priests and Deacons**

A ballot among the active priests and deacons of a province or diocese as required by paragraphs 16 and 24 of the General Constitution shall be conducted by a person especially appointed by the Presiding Bishop (in the case of a province) or the Regionary Bishop (in the case of a diocese).

## **Canon 62**

### **Voting - Abstention**

In any voting required under the General Constitution or Code of Canons on the part of any collective body, abstention from casting a vote shall constitute a waiver of the right to vote and shall reduce by the number of abstentions the total number of votes, the percentage of which is required. Failure to reply within a specified time to a call for vote by correspondence shall constitute abstention

## **Canon 63**

### **Women Servers**

This Canon authorizing the admission of women as servers in the sanctuary, at the discretion of the Ordinary, using the ceremony of Admission of a Server as laid down in the liturgy, is removed as redundant.

## **Canon 64**

### **Office of Deaconess**

- (a) An office of Deaconess is established.
- (b) The work of the Deaconess shall be defined by the Ordinary Bishop

## **Canon 65**

### **Episcopal Regalia - Ownership of**

All consecrated episcopal regalia (including crozier, cross and ring), however acquired, are the property of the General Episcopal Synod. The Presiding Bishop shall forward to each bishop and to each bishop-elect a custody receipt in duplicate stating that such regalia have been lent to the bishop for his episcopal use, subject to return at the pleasure of the Synod, or upon his death. The bishop shall sign this to indicate receipt of regalia and acceptance of responsibility for return to the Synod, returning one copy to the Presiding Bishop.

For any item of regalia not received from the Synod, the bishop shall execute a legal deed of gift vesting ownership of such item in the Synod and forward this to the Presiding Bishop, who shall legally accept the gift in writing on behalf of the Synod.

## **Canon 66**

### **Vestments - Materials and Design**

Vestments used in the services of the Church shall, as closely as available materials will permit, approximate to materials, patterns and design details set forth in The Science of the Sacraments. The Ordinary may rule on the use of newer synthetic fabrics and ornamentation as substitutes, having in mind the inner purpose of vestments as set forth The Science of the Sacraments.

## **Canon 67**

### **Dioceses**

When convenient for administrative or legal purposes, an area in an existing province or an unattached area may be designated a diocese. Normally a diocese will have a bishop regularly assigned as Ordinary, but, when there is no Diocesan Bishop, the Regional Bishop or the Presiding Bishop, as appropriate, shall be the Ordinary.

## **Canon 68**

### **Liturgy - Authorized**

The Liturgy referred to in paragraph 29 of the General Constitution shall be the latest edition of the Liturgy authorized by the Synod for use in The Liberal Catholic Church, including authorized translations thereof, together with any subsequent variations thereto which may have been made by resolution of the General Episcopal Synod.

## **Canon 69**

### **Ceremonial - Authorized**

The „instructions“ referred to in paragraph 29 of the General Constitution shall be the whole content of the current edition of the book entitled Ceremonies of the Liberal Catholic Rite by Bishop Irving S. Cooper. These instructions shall also include such supplementary or modifying instructions as may have been made by resolution of the General Episcopal Synod and/or included in the Code of Canons.

## **Canon 70**

### **Baptismal and Confirmation Rites**

The complete form of the Baptismal Rite of the Church is: The proper use of water (by process of ablution at least) and the usual Trinitarian formula, together with the application of the Oil of Catechumens and Chrism. That of its Confirmation Rite is: The imposition of the bishop's hand with proper formula and the use of Chrism.

When persons who wish to join the Liberal Catholic Church have received these sacraments according to any less complete form, it is usual to repeat them „conditionally“. For all candidates for Holy Orders these rites must be repeated „conditionally“ according to the Liberal Catholic Rite unless a Rite comprising the full form above has been used.

## **Canon 71**

### **Ordination Rite**

No service of ordination to Major Orders or Minor Orders and no consecration to the Episcopate may be varied in any way from that shown in the authorized Liturgy except by resolution of the Synod. This does not apply to re-ordinations sub-conditione when the charges only may be omitted for ordinations below the Priesthood.



## **Canon 72**

### **Annual Report**

Every year in January, each Regionary Bishop or Bishop Commissary shall prepare an annual report on the state of the Church in his province as of December 31 of the previous year, including a list of names and addresses of parishes, missions, centers and the priests or other persons in charge thereof. This report shall be sent to the Presiding Bishop, who shall incorporate this information in an annual report to members of the Synod.

## **Canon 73**

### **Church Premises - Consecrated or Blessed**

Premises which will, as far as can be foreseen, be used for many years to come for the services of the Church and for no other purposes, may be consecrated. Where such use is for a shorter term, the premises may be blessed and dedicated, but not consecrated. If premises where church services are conducted are also used for other purposes, they may not be consecrated, blessed or dedicated, but moveable consecrated ray crosses may be used.

## **Canon 74**

### **Ownership of Church Property**

Each Regionary or Diocesan Bishop shall satisfy the Interim Committee that he has taken all possible action to ensure that all land, buildings and other substantial property belonging to the Church within his jurisdiction he legally protected, as far as is possible or reasonable, against sequestration from the Liberal Catholic Church. An updated report shall be furnished to the Committee every five years.

## **Canon 75**

### **Patron Saint of the Liberal Catholic Church**

St. Alban is the Patron Saint of the world-wide Liberal Catholic Church and the 22nd June is to be observed as a feast Class A with an octave.

## **Canon 76**

### **Definition of Membership**

#### a) Baptism and Confirmation

The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation admit to membership of the Church Catholic in general and the Liberal Catholic in particular. These sacraments are irrevocable and ipso facto membership of the Church Catholic obtained thereby cannot be revoked.

#### (b) Form of Admission

This service admits to membership of The: Liberal Catholic

Church. Since this form of admission is not a sacrament, membership obtained thereby can be terminated.

#### (c) Membership of a Parish, Center or Mission

Baptism, confirmation or admission to a parish, center or mission will qualify for membership. Such local membership will be in accordance with the terms laid down by the local rules and may be terminated.

## **Canon 77**

### **Intercommunion**

The Church or an Ordinary or a Provincial Episcopal Synod may enter into formal written agreements of intercommunion or inter-relationship with other Christian religious organizations, the terms of which must comply with the Statement of Principles section „Relation to Other Churches“. Such agreements must be ratified by the Interim Committee in accordance with Canons 12 and 13 and must be subject to review at the request of any of the parties concerned.

## **Canon 78**

### **General Episcopal Synod Fund**

All provinces and independent dioceses shall contribute at last 5% of their annual income.: to the: G.E.S. Fund. This fund is to be used to pay the expenses associated with the: work of the Synod and the Presiding Bishop, including publishing and support of the Church in poor countries at the: discretion of the Interim Committee.

## **Canon 79**

### **Bishop's Administration Fund**

An annual Whitsuntide Collection from all parishes, missions and centers shall be allocated to the: Presiding Bishop's Administration Fund.

## **Canon 80**

### **Changes in the Liturgy**

Any resolutions of the Synod concerning the: wording, notes or lay- out of the Liturgy shall be referred to a committee. for inclusion in subsequent drafts of the next edition, but they shall not take effect until the: next English language edition of the Liturgy is printed and becomes available for purchase. Editions in other languages shall be brought up to date before they are published.

## **Canon 81**

### **Clergy - Marital Fidelity**

The Church expects marital fidelity and moral integrity from its clergy, but recognizes that marriages may fail. Therefore neither divorce.nor separation necessarily inhibits a member of the Clergy from the exercise of clerical function. In all cases fidelity and integrity are to be paramount considerations when a Regionary exercises his judgment in accordance with paragraph 23 of the: General Constitution. The foregoing considerations apply also to bishops. who are subject to regulation by the Synod in accordance. with paragraph 26 of the General Constitution.

## **Canon 82**

### **Judiciary Committee - Appeals Thereto**

Any appellant to the Judiciary Committee must lodge a Notice of Appeal to the Presiding Bishop within thirty days of becoming aware of the cause of such appeal. Within sixty days thereafter a written appeal giving facts and an argument in full must be sent to the Presiding Bishop for submission to the Judiciary Committee. The Presiding Bishop may. at his discretion. extend this time.

## **Canon 83**

### **Experimental Services**

Experimental services may be authorized by the Ordinary for special occasions or for occasional use in private

## **Canon 84**

### **Celebration Contra Populum**

The Ordinary may at his discretion authorize, although not on a permanent basis, the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with the celebrant facing the congregation.

## **Canon 85**

### **Celebration After Noon**

The Ordinary may in exceptional cases authorize the celebration of the Holy Eucharist between midday and midnight but only where otherwise a congregation could not receive communion. Such permission may be given only when the Reserved Host cannot be made available.

## **Canon 86**

### **Concelebration**

Concelebration may take place only on special occasions and must be authorized by the Ordinary.

## **Canon 87**

### **Position of the Tabernacle**

In all churches where the Host is Reserved, the tabernacle with the Host therein must be on, or immediately behind, the centre of the altar during the conduct of church services.

## **Canon 88**

### **Notice of Ordination**

For a period of thirty days prior to the ordination of a priest or deacon a notice shall, if possible, be displayed in a prominent position frequented by the laity, in the church or churches to which he will be assigned.

## **Canon 89**

### **Jurisdiction**

- (a) Every Diocesan Bishop is under the jurisdiction of the Regionary Bishop for the province to which he has been assigned, and every Auxiliary Bishop is under the jurisdiction of the Ordinary to whose diocese or province he has been assigned. A Bishop Commissary is under the jurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop.
- (b) An Ordinary may not ordain a person who has not continuously resided and been active within his territory for a minimum period of one year, without the written agreement of the candidate's previous Ordinary.

