



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Office of the Cardinal

Decree of Erection as a Private Association of the Christian Faithful GRATIA PLENA

I, the undersigned Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston;

in accordance with canons 298 – 311 and canons 321 – 326;

having received a petition from the Executive Director and Members of the *de facto* association known as GRATIA PLENA that the Association be canonically approved as a Private Association of the Faithful for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston so that they may better fulfill their mission to provide spiritual and mental health services in a manner in accord with the teachings of the Catholic Church;

having carefully considered the petition and studied its statutes; and

having determined that this Association would be useful to the Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; and

having been assured that this Association has the means and resources to achieve the ends for which it is being formed; and

in order to provide suitably for the care of souls; do hereby

DECREE

that the Statutes of GRATIA PLENA which have been appended to this decree are accepted and approved. Furthermore, GRATIA PLENA is herewith canonically approved as a Private Association of the Christian Faithful for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the People of God and for the purposes defined in the Statutes.

By virtue of Canon 300, until it is later revoked by a contrary decree, I hereby grant GRATIA PLENA permission to identify itself as a Catholic Association in good standing with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Care must be taken, however, that the Association does not falsely advertise itself as an organ of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, of which it is a separate entity.

All Associations of the Faithful are subject to the oversight and authority of the Diocesan Bishop who is to exercise vigilance so that:

- i. The goods of the Association are used for its proper purposes.
- ii. The integrity of faith and morals is preserved in the Association.
- iii. Abuse does not creep into ecclesiastical discipline.
- iv. Dissipation of the energies of the association is to be avoided.

v. The exercise of the apostolate of the Association is ordered to the common good.
(cc. 305 §1 and 323 §§1-2)

By virtue of canon 397 §1, I reserve to myself and my successors in office the right of ordinary episcopal visitation to ensure that the spiritual and material affairs of this Association are directed according to the norm of law and its statutes.

The approved Statutes of the Association cannot be changed or amended without the approval of the competent ecclesiastical authority. The Association can lose its status as an approved Private Association of the Faithful in accord with the norms of law.

I give you my blessing and pray for the success of your apostolic endeavor to help people obtain spiritual and mental health services in a manner in accord with the teachings of the Catholic Church here within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Given at the Chancery at 1700 San Jacinto Street, Houston, Texas on June twentieth in the year of Our Lord 2023.



+ Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

+ Italo Dell'Oro, S.A.S.

Most Reverend Italo Dell'Oro
Chancellor

DND: ael

Enclosure: Approved Statutes and Bylaws for GRATIA PLENA