



The Order of St. Anthony

Oblates

The Order of St. Anthony
7100 E 31st Street
Tulsa, OK 74145

Patronage and Dedication

The Order of St. Anthony takes its name in honor of the “father of monasticism,” St. Anthony of Egypt, or St. Anthony the Great. While not the first monastic, St. Anthony the Great pioneered the concept of going to remote places to practice contemplation, worship God, and fight spiritual principalities and powers.¹

Purpose and Mission

The purpose of the Order of St. Anthony is two-fold. Primarily, the purpose is to provide an ordered way of life for both clergy and laity for prayer, spiritual direction, confession and spiritual friendship and fraternity. We believe that entering holy habits like these are formative to the human soul, empowering it to be reflective of God’s glory and making those who participate in them carriers of God’s kingdom.

Secondarily, the Order provides a flexible ecclesiastical authority structure for facilitating new regional networks of churches and ministries, local worship communities and clergy being brought into full affiliation with the Province USA of the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches (CEEC) through the Diocese of the St. Anthony by means of a missionary dynamic.²

The mission of the Order is to engage in the apostolic mission of the Gospel our Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming, living and demonstrating the Good News of His saving love and redemptive rule for the salvation and reconciliation of human beings and of all creation to the friendship of the Triune God, the Creator, Sustainer and Ruler of all.

We express this mission through welcoming existing clergy and laity into an ordered life, and also through the planting, facilitating and equipping support and training of new local (Eucharistic) worship communities gathered around the Lord Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, in the fellowship of the Apostolic Tradition and Faith passed on from our Lord Jesus Christ to His Apostles, and through them to believers of all ages.

We have two levels of engagement in the Order of St. Anthony. First, there is the Oblate of St. Anthony. This is an individual who has individually affiliated him/herself with the Order. They make a formal, private, time-framed promise (annually renewable or, after three years, for life) to follow the Rule of the Order in their private life as closely as their individual circumstances and prior commitments permit. Oblates are considered an extended part of the Order of St. Anthony and have the letter ObSA after their names on documents. Secondly, we have the ordinary Member of St. Anthony. These individuals make a formal, public, time-framed promise (annually renewable or, after three years, for life) to follow the Rule of the Order in their private life as closely as their individual

¹ Additionally, the Order is a tribute to the life and work of Bishop Anthony (Tony) Palmer of the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches. Bishop Palmer was instrumental in the bringing together of Roman Catholic and Evangelical Christians from around the world, most notably through his relationship with His Holiness, Pope Francis.

² This enables said jurisdictions, local congregations and clergy to affiliate and receive episcopal incardination in the CEEC while maintaining relational and ecclesiastical connection with Bishop Ed Gungor and Archbishop Quintin Moore as their Archbishop.

circumstances and prior commitments permit. Members are considered a part of the Order of St. Anthony and have the letter OSA after their names on documents. These are individuals who have been ordained in Historical Succession through the Diocese of St. Anthony or are licensed by the order as they are being formed for Succession (this is helpful for those wanting to enter Succession while currently involved in ministerial care in a tradition outside the CEEC).

Collect of the Order St. Anthony

O God, who by your Holy Spirit enabled your servant Anthony to imitate the ways of the Prophet Elijah and follow the straight path of John the Baptist, thereby resisting the cares and temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil: Give us grace, with pure hearts and minds, to strengthen the world by our prayers and actions, and follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

The Rule

“The Rule is not intended to be a source of division and condemnation but rather an instrument of communion...It is not intended to be an end in itself but a temporal means toward our eternal life in heaven. Members bind themselves to the Rule, for the Rule defines who we are and what we are for. The 'Order' is simply the Rule in practice, and its members are those who practice it.”³

Oblates of the Order of St. Anthony (the Order) commit to the following for a period of one year⁴:

1. **The Daily Office** – Oblates of the Order will follow the Daily Office through use of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Oblates are asked to pray two offices daily—the Morning Prayer (also known as Matins) and Evening Prayer (also known as Evensong).
2. **The Eucharist** – Oblates of the Order should receive the Eucharist once a week. It is preferable that this be done in the context of the corporate worship service you attend. If the Eucharist is not available corporately it may be celebrated privately (if the Oblate is clergy). If the Oblate is a layperson, they should only receive Communion from an ordained clergy (either present or with elements previously consecrated).
3. **Spiritual Direction**– Oblates of the Order will submit to spiritual direction. Spiritual directors may be from within or outside the Order.
4. **Confession and Absolution** – Oblates of the Order will meet with a Priest Confessor at least once a year for the Rite of Confession/Reconciliation.
5. **Retreats** – Oblates of the Order will invited to participate in the Order's annual Convocation or other retreats offered by the Order.

³Kevin Seraphim Clay, *The Rule of the Brotherhood of the Last Martyrdom* (MONKROCK: Nashville, 2014), 6.

⁴ Lifelong vows can be done after three consecutive one-year vows are completed. These are conducted publicly at the Order's annual Convocation.

6. **Report and Reaffirmation** – Oblates of the Order must submit a yearly report of spiritual, ministerial, and educational activities and reaffirm their vows in writing to the Bishop Protector.
7. **Self-denial** – Oblates of the Order will undertake to fast as physically able, or to engage in some activity that will help them put God as the focus of their life. Additionally, Oblates will give a portion of their time, talents, and resources to the Order, their parish, and those in need in their surrounding area.
8. **Support** – Dues of \$35/year will be paid by an Oblate in support of the Order.

The Vows

(Done privately, or if lifelong, at the Order's Convocation)

Follow the Rule -- as articulated above.

Simplicity – Oblates of the Order will learn to live with what they truly need, not frivolously by wants only, and be good stewards of Creation.

Morality – Before God, Oblates of the Order pledge their commitment to moral and sexual purity. Oblates seek purity in body, mind, and spirit, along with singleness of heart. Oblates commit themselves to purity of life and purity of expression in their sexuality through fidelity in marriage, and abstinence in singleness.

Accountability – Oblates of the Order will commit to lives of transformation through the Rule in which they are accountable to one another, their Bishop, and Elders of the Order in love. No member will ever use a position of authority as an instrument of oppression or to take advantage of another in any way. Those in authority will accept the responsibility to lead, instruct, and protect. A position of authority is a call to service rather than an opportunity for personal aggrandizement. Oblates will not slander or engage in disputes, nor should they quarrel among themselves or with others, but rather respond in all humility. They should love one another and express that love by their deeds.

Fraternity and Unity – As unity is at the heart of convergence, Oblates of the Order will respect the various streams/traditions of Christianity. Oblates will uphold the great Tradition of the Church as handed down in the Scriptures, the two Gospel sacraments (Baptism and Eucharist), the Creeds (Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed), and the Historical Episcopacy. However, Oblates will support and encourage the participation of other members in their respective stream/tradition when those streams/traditions do not fully embrace all aspects of what the Tradition holds.

The Doctrinal Essentials

The Order of St. Anthony

We affirm decision-making based on Scripture, Tradition, and Godly wisdom. The Word of God, Incarnate and written, provides the foundation for the following, which doctrines we affirm along with Apostles' and Nicene Creeds

1. We affirm the Holy Scriptures...

as self-attesting and the essence of Truth, which requires our unreserved submission in all areas of our lives. The written Word of God is a unified witness to God's redemptive acts culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. We submit to the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds as guidance for the determination of the doctrines we affirm and emphasize.

2. As we endeavor to meet the standards of God's love...

we believe we are to participate in the Great Commission: "Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." We believe that ALL people have value to God—that each one is a dream of God come true (Ps. 139, Acts 17:16-28), whether or not they are people of faith. We believe God is working in every heart in all places at all times. Evangelism is more about helping people discover and surrender to the working of God and his “testimony” already happening in their lives than it is anything else (Acts 14:1-17).

3. We affirm the Author of Life...

the stewardship of creation, through environmental preservation, and the protection and validation of the irrevocable and inherent sanctity and dignity of all forms of human life - from conception to the grave. We affirm and pursue the peaceful resolution and reconciliation of conflicts between persons, groups, and nations..

Affirmations and Declarations

The Order of St. Anthony

(Please read, sign, and date the following statements.)

Affirmation of Doctrinal Essentials

It is by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, by the witness of the Holy Spirit, trusting in the inspiration and supremacy of the Holy Scriptures and with a confirming heart and mind that I affirm the Doctrinal Essentials of the Order of St. Anthony and the Province USA of the CEEC. By my signature, as a faithful and accountable Oblate, I will endeavor with God’s help, to live and teach in concord with the spirit and intention of the Doctrinal Essentials that I will be asked to reaffirm annually.

Signed _____ Date _____

Commitment to Purity

Before God, I pledge my commitment to sexual purity, as understood in the historical Christian Church since the earliest of times. I commit myself to purity of life and purity of expression in my sexuality; through fidelity in marriage, and abstinence in singleness.

Signed _____ Date _____

Affirmation and Blessing from Spouse

By the signing of this document I am showing forth my support, affirmation, and blessing of my husband/wife (applicant’s name) _____. Let it be known that my spouse has my full support and blessing in their decision to become an Oblate in the Order of St. Anthony in the Province USA of the CEEC.

Signed _____ Date _____

Certificate of Declaration

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~ The One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church ~

I do solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation.

I do believe the teachings and doctrine of the holy catholic Church as they come to us from the ancient historical Faith.

I do solemnly purpose to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ’s holy catholic and apostolic Church.

Signed _____ Date _____

Oblate Statement and Pledge of Fraternity

The Order of St. Anthony

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, diversity; in all things, charity.”

--St. Augustine

Inclusion in the Order of St. Anthony, the Diocese of St. Anthony, and the Province USA of the CEEC calls for commitment to the basic ideals for relationship, standards of behavior, and accountability to a pledge of fraternity.

As orthodoxy and personal morality is expected, so relationships of trust, mutual support, camaraderie, love and respect are anticipated.

ALL OBLATES COVENANT TO:

1. Do nothing to fracture the unity of the Order of St. Anthony, the Diocese of St. Anthony, and the CEEC. This unity is understood as proceeding from the love of God between us and mutual commitment to the Truth of God received in Christ through the historic, catholic, and apostolic faith.
2. Uphold and support fellow Members, whether laity, deacons, priests, pastors, and bishops, both publicly and privately.
3. Do everything possible to create and contribute to an atmosphere of cooperation.
4. Deal with differences honestly, forthrightly and in a straightforward manner.
5. Settle contention privately in the matter of personal conflict. Should the problems persist, adjudication will follow through the Order's Council of Elders. All Members agree to submit to the final decision of the Order of St. Anthony, the Diocese of St. Anthony, and the CEEC in settling areas of conflict.
6. To adhere to the standards of the inspired Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God, the Rule and Vows of the Order of St. Anthony, and the Canons of the Diocese of St. Anthony and the CEEC as the governing guidelines for our life and ministry together in Jesus Christ.
7. Send \$35 annual dues to: The Diocese of St. Anthony, 7100 E 31st Street, Tulsa, OK 74145, or through our online giving portal @ www.orderofstanthony.com/tithe.

Failure to maintain both the spirit and the letter of this agreement constitutes grounds for removal as a Oblate in Good Standing in the Order of St. Anthony, the Diocese of St. Anthony, and the CEEC. In contrast, we agree to pray for one another daily, respond immediately to need or personal call, stand together in controversy, disagree in charity, and persevere in supporting our corporate calling.

Signed by the Oblate below on this, the _____ day of _____,
in the year of our Lord, 20____, in the city of _____,
in the state of _____, in the country of the United States of America.

(Member Signature)