



CATHOLIC MEN'S GUILD

Kampala Archdiocese

THE CONSTITUTION

THAT GOVERNS

THE CATHOLIC MEN'S GUILD

IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF KAMPALA

CATHOLIC MEN'S GUILD-KAMPALA ARCHDIOCESE

THE CONSTITUTION THAT GOVERNS THE GUILD.

INTRODUCTION

Be witnesses of Christ and the light of the world.

The lay faithful, in their category, also share in the work of redemption which Christ the priest, preacher (prophet) and King (the Good Shepherd) did while on earth and handed it to his apostles and their successors until he comes again. Mk 16:15-16, Vat II Laity No. 33, Canon 225.

Every other time, Christ (owner of the harvest) searches for people for to work in his garden as the Lord of all asking whoever he finds idle why not engaged and commands them to go and work (Mt 20:6-7). It should be remembered, that among the followers of Christ no one should be idle because the harvest is abundant but harvesters are few.

The duty proclaiming the good news of salvation should be reflected by each Christian's day-to-day personal conduct at work, relationship with others, politics and striving for justice (the social, economic, political and cultural aspects). This can only be fulfilled rightfully through the light of Christ (the Gospel) and Christian behaviour to show that person as a true follower of Christ (Mat. 5:14-16, Vat. 11 Laity No 13-4, 20) Pope John Paul II's Vocation and Mission of the Faithful No. 3.

In order to do their work properly, the lay faithful need to be enlightened on their responsible position and expectations in the church, that they can gain a new sense of responsibility and solidarity.

First of all, they have to be deeply rooted in the word of God (Holy Scriptures) and social teaching of the Catholic Church so that they can properly execute the work that can develop the church together with the priests and their Diocesan Bishop (Vat 11 Laity Nos. 10, 23, 31).

The foundation of all is the lay faithful to help one another to recognise and be true followers of Christ, the source of their life, the chief priest and prophet and king of all. Christ himself confirms it that "I am the true vine and you are the branches" John 15:5, Jer. 2:21, Isaiah 5:1-2, Mat. 21:28ff if we are all to abide by Christ we have to strive to be in union with him as Apostle Paul teaches (Gal: 3:27, Eph 4:22ff)

Those who are filled with Christ are the ones able to do the pastoral work that aims at spreading the news of salvation which Christ left with the church: Mark 16:15-16, Lk. 4:16-18. Mat. 25:40 so that all people can be saved (Vat II Laity No 5, 6). All who are baptised become one body in Christ their head but every part of their body has its specific work. In the same way every Christian has to do something without being idle, Christ wants all to work in his garden and harvest (1 Cor. 12:1-12,26.....)

The **Catholic Men's Guild** in the Archdiocese of Kampala emulate St. Joseph Mukasa Balikudembe (Martyr) is created to help them fulfil their desires. The catholic men will then be true witnesses of Christ in the world and his light as their guardian saint was during his time and era.

In a special way the lay faithful have the responsibility to spread the light of Christ (Gospel) to shine among people; themselves to become the salt and light (Laity 35). They will build the Kingdom of God in the hearts of people embracing holiness, truth, justice, love and peace (Laity 36).

Matthias Ssekamaanya

Auxiliary Bishop, Kampala Archdiocese

6-9-1995

In remembrance of the arrival of The Mill Hill Fathers to Kampala

On 6 – 9 – 1895.

PART 1. NAME

A CATHOLIC MEN'S GULD is hereby created in the Archdiocese of Kampala commencing on the day of 26/8/1995 with its head office at Lubaga on the postal address.

Catholic Men's Guild

P.O. Box 14125

Mengo – KAMPALA

PART 2: OBJECTIVES

Acquaintance, love, spirit of unity and cooperation among catholic men in order to fulfil commitments of the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, particularly:

- i.** To deepen understanding of Catholicism of the church among catholic men.
- ii.** Realise and visualise the responsibility of a catholic man **in the family**, in the church and the country.
- iii.** To stabilise families and build them on the basis of catholic teaching (Vat. 11 Laity No 11)
- iv.** To strive to be responsible and answerable for the **education of children at home, in schools and elsewhere** according to the teaching of the church (Vat. 11 Laity No. 12 & 30, Canon 226)
- v.** To prepare their children for holy marriage (matrimony) according to the teaching of the Catholic Church.
- vi.** To encourage their children in serving the church in priesthood, religious orders, as catechists and as school teachers.
- vii.** To strive for peace and justice among themselves and in the country in general.
- viii.** To attain social, economic, political and cultural development.
- ix.** To have a common stand on matters affecting the church and national issues.

PART 3: GUARDIAN SAINT

The Guild is entrusted to St. Joseph Mukasa Balikudembe as its guardian saint.

PART4: PATRON

The Guild patron shall be the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kampala.

PART 5: TRUSTEES

The trustees of the Guild will be only five (5) and will serve for six (6) years.

The executive committee shall request Guild members to nominate trustees and nominees shall be discussed upon in the general assembly. The executive committee shall then choose five (5) of the nominees and send their names to the patron of the Guild to give them appointment letters.

PART 6: WAYS OF FULFILLMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES

1. To organise workshops and seminars when necessary and at different levels
2. To establish firm relationship between catholic men in Kampala Archdiocese and other catholic dioceses in Uganda and other nations.
3. To lay strategies that will help every member and the Guild to develop financially
4. To promote co-operation in the objectives between the Catholic Men's Guild and the Catholic Women's Guild in developing both the church and the nation.

PART 7: REQUIREMENTS (CRITERA) OF MEMBERSHIP

(A) ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP

- i.** Any lay catholic man of eighteen (18) years to be a Guild member shall first be introduced by a local member of his Sub-parish or Parish. To be confirmed, he shall take a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months as he learns about it as well as members observing him. If both sides are contented, he shall swear on either 30th April or 15th November. In case those dates are not convenient, the nearest Sunday to those shall be used.
- ii.** He should have paid dues proposed by the executive committee from time to time and approved by the general assembly every year.
 - a) Membership proposal and observer fee
 - b) Membership fee
 - c) Annual subscription fee
- iii.** To be confirmed for full membership, the applicant should first fulfil the following
 1. To be well behaved and exemplary to the society.
 2. Active in attending meetings and has attended not less than 3 consecutive times, but in case he has failed to attend, a written apology to the chairperson with the reason for failing should be forwarded.
 3. Being recommended by not less than 3 members of his local executive
 4. Should be an active member of the catholic religion.
 5. Should not have been imprisoned for any criminal offence and should not have been convicted for a criminal case.

(B) ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

1. A person who is a catholic or catholic group aiming at achieving the same objectives similar to those of the Catholic Men's Guild whether in Uganda or outside Uganda.
2. He or they must have paid dues proposed by the executive committee and have been approved by the general assembly every year.

(C) LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Some one to be accepted for life membership will be one who has been supportive to the Guild in different ways, such as showing interest in the Guild and be not less than 45 years of age and has lived an exemplary life as a true catholic.

PART 8: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

The following can make someone to lose membership

- i. If he quits the catholic religion
- ii. If he blasphemes the catholic religion
- iii. If he fails to abide by the constitution of the Guild
- iv. If he causes disgrace to the religion and the Guild.

PART 9: LEADERS

Guild members shall vote people whom they see that have the spirit and zeal to responsibly serve.

The Executive Committee shall have the following leaders at every level, i.e Sub-Parish, Parish, Deanery and Archdiocese

1. Chairman
2. Vice Chairman
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Liaison/Mobiliser
6. Other five (5) leaders responsible for family affairs, youth affairs, social development, peace and justice, and children's education
7. Not more than three advisors

N.B. A person to be elected as a leader has to be receiving sacraments (See OBUTUME BW'OMUKATOLIKI MU SSAZA LY'E KAMPALA 1990, pp.109, Canon 512:3)

PART 10: ELECTION OF LEADERS

Leaders shall be elected in a secret ballot and the winner shall get not less than fifty one percent (51%)

Election shall be conducted at the following levels

- 1) Sub parish - the Catechist and the Head of Laity (SSABAKRISTU) of the Sub-parish Pastoral Council.
- 2) Parish - the Parish priest and the Head of Laity (SSABAKRISTU) of the Parish Council
- 3) Deanery - the Dean and Head of Laity (SSABAKRISTU) of the Deanery Pastoral council
- 4) Archdiocese - the Pastoral Coordinator and the Head of Laity (SSABAKRISTU) of the Archdiocese Pastoral council.

N.B. Any one of the executive committee at parish, deanery or the diocese shall not be eligible for election on the Guild Executive Committee. This does not apply to advisors.

PART 11: CHANGE AND REMOVAL OF LEADERSHIP

- a) The term of office shall be for duration of five (5) years.
- b) A leader is free to contest for re-election but shall not be elected in the same position for more than two consecutive terms.
- c) A leader is free to resign from any position as long as he informs the chairman or the secretary in a month's period prior to resigning.
- d) A leader shall be removed from that position:
 1. If his behaviour causes disrespect to the catholic religion and the Guild.
 2. If he fails to perform his duties.
 3. If he has other assignments that hinder him from fulfilling his obligations.
 4. Due to incurable disease.

The executive committee will meet and make a decision on the issue and their decision will be endorsed by the general assembly in a period not exceeding three (3) months.

PART 12: DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. All leaders

- i. To make a follow-up on the decisions of the general assembly to ensure they are implemented.
- ii. To lay strategies that will help the Guild to fulfil its objectives, promote it and attract other people to join the Guild.
- iii. To strengthen the spirit of pastoral work in the church.

B. The Chairman

At every level; the Chairman will;

- i. Chair all the meetings
- ii. Link and coordinate activities of departments.
- iii. Call meetings in consultation with secretary
- iv. Be the protector of the policy.
- v. Together with the executive committee prepare and present a report to the annual general assembly.
- vi. Officially speak on behalf of the Guild and will sign all official documents.

C. Vice Chairman, at all levels

He will help the chairman with the above duties.

D. Secretary: at all levels

- i. In consultation with the chairman, he will call meetings
- ii. He will keep all records of the Guild
- iii. He will write minutes of all meetings and distribute them to all members

- iv. He will keep the registers of the members
- v. Together with the chairman, he will prepare reports after every after six (6) months and every year.

E. Treasurer: at all levels

1. Together with the executive committee he will keep custody of the Guild funds
2. He will be responsible for the accountability of the income and expenditure of the money
3. He will incur expenditure after approval by the executive committee
4. He will keep a register of the Guild properties/assets
5. He will be responsible for writing a financial report to the executive committee every six (6) months and with the help of the executive committee he will write the annual report which will be presented to the general assembly.
6. He will be responsible for keeping books of accounts to show transactions and proper accountability.
7. He will prepare an annual budget to be approved by the executive committee before any expenditure is incurred.
8. He will strategise ways of bringing in money to the Guild that will be endorsed by the executive committee.

F. LIAISON/MOBILISER: at all levels

1. To persuade people's interest to join the Guild
2. Working together with the secretary to know what takes place in other departments and sensitise other people.
3. To carry out other duties assigned by the committee or the chairman

G. COMMITTE MEMBERS

1. Each will carry out official duties for which he was elected.
2. They will carry out duties assigned to them jointly by the Executive Committee or the Chairman.
3. Every one will give a report of what has been done in his department every six (6) months.

One to be elected should possess one of the following qualities:

1. Family affairs

A respectable married man interested and prepared to help others establish good Christian families.

2. Youth Leader

One who is able to help the youth to prepare for holy marriage and getting involved in religious affairs; i.e. to help those in secondary schools, colleges, tertiary institutions and those not at school.

3. Children's Upbringing

One who sympathises and advocates for proper upbringing of catholic children in primary, secondary and higher learning institutions.

4. Development

A hardworking person with visible development(s) and has concern for others.

5. Peace and Justice

A person who has interest, also able to advance the cause of peace and justice.

H. Auditor

The Executive committee shall propose three (3) names from which the general assembly will choose the auditor. He will write a report to the chairman and (Auditor) will present it to the general assembly. This will be done at each level.

PART 13: GUILD FINANCES

1. The Guild will have money kept on its accounts. These accounts will be opened by the treasurer after authorisation by the executive committee.
2. The Guild sources of income will be:
 - a) Membership fee
 - b) Annual subscription fee
 - c) Membership proposal and observer fee
 - d) Money collected from various activities by the Guild
 - e) Monetary gifts/donations to the Guild
 - f) All other money collected from miscellaneous projects to run the Guild
3. To withdraw money from the Guild's account, the cheque shall bear the signature of the treasurer, chairman and any person chosen by members from the general assembly, but not a member of executive committee.

PART 14: SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- i) The executive committee will meet as follows;

	Archdiocese	Deanery	Parish	Sub-parish
Every (months)	4	3	2	1

- ii) The general assembly will meet once a year at every level and extra – ordinary meetings will be held when necessary.

One third plus one ($1/3 + 1$) of the members will be needed as a quorum for a meeting to be held.

Not less than one third (1/3) of members may resolve to ask the secretary (in writing) to call a general assembly meeting, giving the reasons why they are calling for the meeting. After receiving the request and informing the chairman, the secretary will be obliged to call the meeting within thirty (30) days.

PART 15: LANGUAGE

The official language to be used in meetings and documents will be Luganda. However, English will also be used where necessary at Sub Parish, Parish, and Deanery with people from other areas, but at the Archdiocese only Luganda will be used.

PART 16: AMENDING OF THE CONSTITUTION

Amendment of the Constitution shall be done by the annual general assembly and this will be effected by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of members present. Notice of calling a meeting to amend the constitution shall be sent to members giving an advance period of not less than two (2) months. The Archbishop (PATRON) and trustees will be consulted about the proposed amendments.

PART 17: DISSOLUTION OF THE GUILD

A motion to dissolve the Guild shall be endorsed by the annual general assembly or an extraordinary meeting of the Archdiocese being seconded by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of members present in that meeting.

If the motion of dissolving the Guild is confirmed and approved, the remaining Guild properties and assets after payment of all debts shall be distributed among all member Parishes within a period of three (3) months from the date of dissolving the Guild, except where a Parish declines (in writing) to take a share of the assets. The method of distributing the items/assets shall be determined by the Executive committee of the Archdiocese and the Guild trustees.