

REVISED - 02-26-26 (*edited + education expanded*)

Strikethroughs indicates deleted text; **bolded text** indicates new text

# Lay Orders of St. Louis, King and Confessor



## St. Elizabeth, Queen and Confessor

### **Nature of the Orders**

The Lay Orders of St. Louis, King and Confessor, and St. Elizabeth, Queen and Confessor, are purely lay associations of Catholics dedicated to the sanctification of temporal life and the restoration of Christian order in society.

The Order of St. Louis, King and Confessor, is a fraternity for men.

The Order of St. Elizabeth, Queen and Confessor, is a sorority for women.

Together, they form a united lay apostolic body oriented toward the renewal of families, culture, and social life according to the perennial teachings of the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

### **I. Purpose**

The fundamental purpose of the Orders is to unite faithful Catholics who are called to live their baptismal vocation fully in the world by actively reordering society according to divine and natural law.

Members seek:

- the sanctification of their personal lives
- the strengthening of Catholic family life
- the restoration of Christian culture
- the permeation of temporal institutions with the spirit of the Gospel

The Orders provide a spiritual, fraternal, and formative framework for lay Catholics who desire to live a disciplined Christian life while contributing to the renewal of society under the Kingship of Christ.

## **II. Foundational Rule of Life**

The spiritual discipline of both Orders is rooted in the venerable Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis, adapted for lay life in contemporary circumstances and oriented toward apostolic engagement in the temporal order.

Members commit to integrating the following elements into daily life:

### **Prayer and Sacramental Life**

A faithful sacramental rhythm including frequent Mass attendance, regular Confession, daily prayer (such as the Rosary and portions of the Divine Office), and devotion consistent with Catholic tradition.

### **Study and Doctrinal Formation**

Ongoing study of Sacred Scripture, Catholic doctrine, Church history, the Magisterium, and the philosophical principles that inform sound social and political thought.

### **Simplicity and Poverty of Spirit**

A life marked by moderation, temperance, modesty, and freedom from excessive materialism, recognizing all temporal goods as ordered toward God.

### **Apostolic Action in the World**

Active engagement in family, professional, civic, and cultural life so as to influence institutions and social practices in conformity with Catholic moral and social teaching.

## **III. Patrons and Models**

### **The Order of St. Louis, King and Confessor (Men)**

**Patron:** St. Louis IX, King of France (1214–1270)

St. Louis exemplifies the Catholic layman who exercises authority in temporal society while maintaining deep personal holiness. He united justice, charity, and fidelity to the Faith within public life and family leadership.

Men of the Order are called to emulate his:

- integrity in leadership
- devotion to family and Church
- pursuit of justice and charity
- integration of faith and public duty

### **The Order of St. Elizabeth, Queen and Confessor (Women)**

**Patron:** St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Queen and Confessor (1207–1231)

St. Elizabeth exemplifies the sanctification of womanhood in every state of life—wife, mother, widow, or single laywoman—through charity, humility, and prayer.

Women of the Order are called to emulate her:

- works of mercy
- interior spiritual life
- courage in Christian charity
- service within family and community

## **IV. Education and Formation of Families**

A central apostolic concern of the Orders is the formation of Catholic families and the transmission of Christian culture across generations.

Recognizing that the renewal of society begins in the household, members commit to fostering environments in which children and youth are formed intellectually, spiritually, and practically for Christian life in the world.

Formation within the sphere of the Orders includes:

### **Domestic Religious Formation**

The cultivation of daily prayer, sacramental life, liturgical awareness, and familiarity with Scripture and Catholic tradition within the home.

### **Intellectual and Cultural Formation**

The study of the liberal arts, Church history, philosophy, and the cultural inheritance of Christian civilization, adapted prudently to the capacities and vocations of each child.

### **Experiential and Practical Formation**

The transmission of practical skills, crafts, trades, and vocations through family instruction, mentorship, and community cooperation, fostering competence, responsibility, and service.

## **Apprenticeship and Guild-Oriented Learning**

Where possible, members encourage apprenticeship relationships in which youth learn through participation in meaningful work alongside skilled adults, integrating moral formation with practical ability.

## **Formation According to Individual Gifts**

Recognizing differences in aptitude and learning style, families are encouraged to nurture each child's capacities through varied modes of learning—memorization, hands-on practice, observation, and guided exploration—so that all may develop their God-given talents.

## **Integration of Faith and Daily Life**

Education is understood not as mere schooling but as the shaping of the whole person—mind, character, and skill—within the rhythms of family, work, and community life.

Through such formation, the Orders seek to raise future generations capable of sustaining Christian family life, cultural continuity, and responsible participation in society.

# **V. Membership Requirements**

Membership in the Orders is restricted to lay Catholics in good standing with the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

Applicants must:

- be baptized and confirmed Catholics
- adhere faithfully to Church doctrine
- regularly receive the Sacraments
- discern a vocation to the apostolate of Christian social renewal
- commit to living the Rule of Life of the Orders

# **VI. Structure**

The Orders are strictly lay associations governed by their members and oriented toward the sanctification of the temporal order.

Given present confusion within the Church, members seek spiritual guidance from their own priests or spiritual directors while remaining united in lay apostolic purpose.

Structural characteristics include:

- purely lay membership
- fraternal and sororal mutual support

- shared rule of life
- cooperative apostolic activity in the world

A central aspect of the Orders is fraternal charity, mutual encouragement, and shared commitment to Christian life in family and society.

## Application for Membership and Pledge

Please complete the form below to apply for membership in the Lay Order of St. Louis, King and Confessor (for men) or St. Elizabeth, Queen and Confessor (for women). The Applicant's Pledge

I, the undersigned, having discerned a vocation to the apostolate of Christian social renewal and having read and understood the foundational principles and Rule of Life of the Lay Orders, hereby pledge:

- To adhere faithfully to the doctrine and teachings of the Holy Roman Catholic Church.
- To regularly receive the Sacraments, maintaining a faithful sacramental rhythm including frequent Mass attendance and regular Confession.
- To commit to integrating the elements of the Foundational Rule of Life into my daily life:
  - **Prayer and Sacramental Life**
  - **Study and Doctrinal Formation**
  - **Simplicity and Poverty of Spirit**
  - **Apostolic Action in the World**
- To strive for personal sanctification and actively contribute to the renewal of families, culture, and social life according to divine and natural law, under the Kingship of Christ.
- I attest that I am a lay Catholic in good standing with the Holy Roman Catholic Church, baptized and confirmed.

I desire to join the Lay Order of St. Louis, King and Confessor / St. Elizabeth, Queen and Confessor (Circle one). Applicant Information

**Full Name:**

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**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:**

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**Mailing Address:**

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**City, State, Zip:**

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**Diocese:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Application:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Signature:**

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**CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP**

**THE LAY ORDERS OF ST. LOUIS, KING AND CONFESSOR, AND ST. ELIZABETH,  
QUEEN AND CONFESSOR-----Certificate of Enrollment**

**By this instrument, it is known that-----has been duly enrolled as a member ofThe Lay  
Order of St. Louis, King and Confessor**

**(for men)The Lay Order of St. Elizabeth, Queen and Confessor**

**(for women)**

**(Circle one)**

**and has pledged to uphold the Foundational Rule of Life and contribute to the renewal  
of families, culture, and social life according to the perennial teachings of the Holy  
Roman Catholic Church.**

**As a dedicated lay Catholic in good standing, this member is committed to the Orders'  
central apostolic concern for the sanctification of temporal life under the Kingship of  
Christ.-----Date of Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of Authority (Lay Order Head):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Place (City, State/Country):**

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