

POLICIES

For the Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony

Please understand that these policies apply to all Brothers and Sisters (Clerical and Lay) associated with us.

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OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER IN THE BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY OF SAINT ANTHONY

Recent events in our country and society here in the United States and other parts of the world have made it necessary to publish and provide a clear understanding within the ranks of all of the clergy and the faithful, (and prayerfully we pray, eventually within each and every jurisdiction of the Church), that ZERO tolerance will and must be the standard operating guideline for issues of inappropriate misconduct by the clergy.

This will also be the standard operating understanding and procedure for the clergy of *The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony*.

We have adopted, herewith, a working and official policy of, and for, *The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony* regarding the sexual misconduct of clergy, employees, regular volunteers, seminarians, and candidates for ordination and/or incardination.

The permanent Canon of our Constitution will be our policy.

Ethical Standards

Standards of Conduct for Clergy and Religious follow the basic guidelines of the Roman Catholic Canon 285, and seek to further specify appropriate Clerical conduct and, in accordance with Canon 77, to provide more specific norms to Clergy for conducting themselves with due prudence. We feel these principles apply to all Religious members of BCSA. It is understood that acts already condemned by the Law of the Church or by Moral Teaching of the Church are always and everywhere forbidden; therefore it is not necessary to reiterate them in this document. Given the suspicious atmosphere that prevails today, even perfectly innocent activities may not be viewed as compromising, ambiguous or imprudent it is in this reality that these standards seek to address.

These standards apply to the membership of the Benedictine Community of St. Anthony at all times and every place. They apply to all Religious and Extern Priests, Deacons who exercise any Ministry under the authority or oversight of the Community. They apply, “Mutatis Muntandis”, to Laypersons in positions of trust exercise in an authorized ministry as Employee or Volunteer for the benefit of the Community of St. Anthony, its Offices, Agencies, Parishes, Institutions and Organizations.

All Clergy and insofar as applicable and other persons in positions of trust shall;
A) Ensure that their activities and interactions with other people, particularly youth, shall be as open as a situation allows, and shall avoid any interaction that gives the appearance of being secret or clandestine.

B.) Make a clear distinction between the Public and Private areas, and make Private areas generally inaccessible to Visitors.

C.) Meet with individuals only in Public areas, Church or School, and, insofar as possible, never be alone with a Minor, especially in circumstances that are concealed from public view (i.e. behind closed doors or in an automobile). The Confessional or an other location where the Sacrament Of Reconciliation is being properly celebrated according to approved rite is exempt from this provision. Another exception are those that hold Licenses in Professional Counseling. They may see Clients in private as required. Care must also be exercised whenever a Minor requests a Private, Confidential Conference.

D.) Avoid spending excessive amounts of time with the same person. While social interactions are encouraged with Laypersons imprudent boundaries can be misconstrued.

E.) Avoid forming purely personal relationships with Minors. Young Persons should not be the focus Adult social activities, nor should Adults share inappropriate personal information with youth or pursue purely social, recreational or interpersonal activities along with them. They should never visit their homes when Parents or other responsible Adults are not present.

F.) Remember, we are role models who must always reflect the values of the Catholic Church in Word and Action in all circumstances, Public and Private; on and off duty. In particular, speak and act gently and respectfully and with discretion in any mode of communication; avoid all coarse, the demeaning or suggestive language in conversations or discussions.

G.) Never request or permit young persons to accompany you on vacation trips or overnight or day trips unless there are proper Adult Chaperones present.

H.) Never invite young persons to a private residence or other private dwelling, be it a family home, vacation cottage, rental condominium or any other place, which is not then and there being used as a venue for a Church sponsored gathering.

I.) Always strive to act with utmost Professionalism, to develop a keen sense of propriety and ability to sense and avoid potentially problematic situations.

J.) Behave in such a forthright manner as if every action were being observed by an unseen third party.

****Failure to comply with the standards may result in disciplinary action, which could include criminal reporting. ****

This statement is approved and confirmed for use and distribution within: *The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony.*

Given under our hand and seal, this 23rd day of January, in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 2005, from our See City in Stevensville, Montana - this being the 1st year of our episcopate

X +Anthony

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STATEMENT OF LEGAL STATUS

Between the Church, its Clergy and Faithful (Monastic Houses and Houses of Prayer)

Be it known that:

The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony is a part of SAR, Inc., a non-profit organization organized under the laws of the state of Montana. Its governing body is by Board of Directors and the Abbas has an Advisory Council, chaired by the Abbas (i.e. Presiding Bishop).

It does not seek to own any property nor does it have any employees. Its operations are financed solely through donations and the private employment of the resident Brothers in the Monastery. It retains only that amount of money necessary to meet current operating expenses and distributes the rest to the costs of the cenobitic Motherhouse.

All of the clergy ordained by the Church are responsible for their Houses. They organize their Houses of Prayer, or a Monastic House of cenobites according to the Regula Benedicti and other documents, as they and their members deem appropriate, become legally responsible for apply for tax-exempt status as necessary and are further legally responsible for all their own assets and debts.

The relationship between the Motherhouse and the Houses in association with it is strictly spiritual in nature and essence, in authority and obedience, consisting of its priests, deacons and members (i.e. faithful Brothers and Sisters), and is based upon their shared beliefs within the One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of our Lord, Savior and God Jesus Christ.

NOTE PLEASE ~~ There is "no legal relationship" between the Church (i.e. SAR, Inc. and The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony) the independent, but spiritually cooperative Monastic Houses or Houses of Prayer and their clergy.

The Board of Directors of SAR, Inc. has voted to adopt this policy (as part of the documentation for the Community) at the request of The Most Reverend (Anthony) Ronald Curley, OSB/BCSA, Th.D., D.D., +Abbas of the Community.

It is further declared that this policy represents an accurate description of the relationship between The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony and its membership, both clerical and faithful alike.

Given under our hand and seal, this 23rd day of January, in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 2005, from our See City in Stevensville, Montana - this being the 1st year of our episcopate

X +Anthony

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ATTESTATION (3 copies ~ member retains one; Motherhouse; SAR, Inc.)

MEMBERS (WHO ARE CLERGY) ARE ASKED TO SIGN BELOW AS A WITNESS TO THEIR CONCURRENCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THESE DOCUMENTS.

I have read and understand the provisions of this document and will follow these understandings as stated in this document to the best of my ability.

I will provide by their provisions and become familiar with the contents and spirituality of the Regula Benedicti, the Constitution of the BCSA and the Declaration of Monastic Life.

I understand that the relationship between the Motherhouse and individual members of the BCSA and other Monastic Houses or Houses of Prayer that will be formed under the Regula Benedicti, the Constitution of the BCSA and the Declaration of Monastic Life of the BCSA are SPIRITUAL and not LEGAL in their nature.

I hereby attest by my signature and title in the presence of the witnesses ~~

_____, **Dated:** _____

Address and phone number

Witnessed: _____, **Dated:** _____

Address and phone number

Witnessed: _____, **Dated:** _____

Address and phone number

Filed by the Motherhouse and SAR, Inc.