

Articles of Association  
and  
By - Laws  
of the  
St. Michael's Priest Fund  
of the  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



A Corporation duly organized and existing  
under and by virtue of the  
Laws of the State of Wisconsin

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE  
2000 W. WISCONSIN AVE.  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

December 27, 1937.


Rev. John J. Grasser,  
Secretary of St. Michael's Priest Fund,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

My dear Father Grasser:

Saint Michael's Priest Fund is a Benefit Association of the Priests of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Carefully these good priests took under consideration the sorry plight of priests of the Archdiocese either temporarily or permanently disabled and sought to originate a plan for their care. Existing provisions from the Archdiocesan Assessments were inadequate, and yet the priests of the Archdiocese fully understood that from this source further revenues could not be expected. Intelligently they approached the problem. After much discussion and study, they resolved to supplement the Archdiocesan Assessment with levies made on the incomes of the priests of the Archdiocese. They wanted something more than a mere insufficient pension. Willingly they assessed themselves to make possible the granting of adequate relief to priests in distress or in need. St. Michael's Priest Fund was organized. It is not an insurance society, and yet from an examination of its records it is clear that it has met its obligations. Indeed we consider this plan to be the very best in the United States. To this date it has met all its obligations and has been able to accumulate a satisfactory reserve. This reserve, according to present provisions, will increase until some day in the future no assessments on parish revenues will be necessary. For the present it is necessary that a levy on parish revenues be made in the sum of at least fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00). Some day, with the accumulation of needed reserves, we shall be able to dispense with such assessments.

We approve whole-heartedly Saint Michael's Priest Fund as presently constituted and we ask all our priests for their own benefit to support this noble work.

With blessing,



Archbishop of Milwaukee.

AOM 0123

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ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION  
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**ST. MICHAEL'S PRIEST FUND**  
of the  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**

A Corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the  
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**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**  
(As Amended January 19, 1938)

The undersigned, the Most Reverend Frederick X. Katzer, Archbishop of Milwaukee, the Very Reverend James J. Keogh and the Very Reverend Hyacinth Galski, who are all adult persons, and residents of the State of Wisconsin, have made, signed and acknowledged these written articles for the purpose of forming a corporation.

**FIRST:** The above-named persons by this instrument declare that they do hereby associate for the purpose of forming a corporation under the provision of Chapter 86 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Wisconsin, entitled "Of the Organization of Corporations," and the acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto; and that the purposes for which said corporation is organized are to give financial assistance to infirm and disabled Diocesan priests of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and thereby to serve as an auxiliary to His Excellency, the Archbishop of said Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and his Successors as such Archbishop, to enable him and them to carry out in relation to the support and maintenance of infirm and disabled Diocesan priests of said Archdiocese, the instructions of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, as laid down in the decrees of said Council under Titulus II, De Personis Ecclesiasticis, Cap. VII, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, so far as the same relates and is applicable to such Archbishops and priests of such Archdiocese, which chapter and subdivision are hereby referred to for the sake of greater clearness; and to do all things necessary, proper or desirable to that end; to acquire and hold, and to sell and convey, and to lease and dispose of any real property or other property, necessary, desirable or proper for such corporation to acquire and hold, or to sell and convey, or to lease and dispose of for the purposes of its organization, and further to do all acts which its directors may deem advisable for the promotion of charity and religion.

**SECOND:** The name of said corporation shall be THE ST. MICHAEL'S PRIEST FUND OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE, and its principal office shall be located within the confines of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin, at which office its books shall be kept.

**THIRD:** Said corporation is formed without capital stock.

**FOURTH:** The general officers of said corporation shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one and the same person. The officers of said corporation shall perform the duties usually pertaining to their respective offices in civil corporations, and such other duties as may be prescribed by these articles or by the By-Laws, and such as the Board of Directors may from time to time prescribe; the principal duties of the President shall be to preside over all meetings of the members and Board of Directors, and to maintain a general supervision over the affairs of the corporation; the principal duties of the Vice-President shall be to perform the duties and functions of the President, in case of his absence or disability; the principal duties of the Secretary shall be to keep the minutes of all proceedings at the meetings of the members and Directors, to superintend the correspondence of the Corporation, to keep the

Corporate Seal and to use same when directed by the Board of Directors, to care for all books, documents and papers pertaining to his office, which belong to the corporation, and to perform such other duties as may from time to time be imposed upon him by the Board of Directors; the principal duties of the Treasurer shall be to have charge of the books of account, funds and property of such corporation, and he shall dispose of its moneys and care for its funds in the manner hereafter provided by the By-Laws, or by the direction of the Board of Directors, and shall furnish full statements of said corporation whenever required to do so, and the said Treasurer shall, upon assuming office, give bonds for the faithful performance of his trust, in such a sum and with such sureties as may be prescribed by the By-Laws of said corporation, or required by the Board of Directors. The said Frederick X. Katzer shall be *ex officio* a member and President of said corporation so long as he remains Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and his successors in such office shall each be, while he continues to be Archbishop of Milwaukee, a member and President *ex officio* of said corporation. The other officers of said corporation shall be elected at the first regular meeting of the Board of Directors, by said Directors, and their successors shall be elected thereafter at the regular January meeting of said Board of Directors by said Directors.

FIFTH: The Directors of said corporation shall be ten in number. The said Frederick X. Katzer, so long as he remains Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee, shall be *ex officio* a member of said Board of Directors, and his successors in such office shall each be, while he continues to be Archbishop of Milwaukee, a member *ex officio* of said Board of Directors; the other nine Directors shall be elected for three year terms by the members of the corporation, at the annual January meeting of the members of the corporation, the Directors being classified in such a manner so that three Directors shall be elected each year, provided that the first meeting of the members after the adoption of this amendment shall elect Directors for terms so that three of the Directors shall be elected for terms expiring the next succeeding January, three of the Directors shall be elected for terms expiring one year following the next succeeding January, and three of the Directors shall be elected for terms expiring two years following the next succeeding January, and thereafter three Directors shall be elected annually at the month of January meeting of said members for three year terms as directed above.

SIXTH: The first meeting of said corporation shall be held on the thirty-first day of January, A. D. 1901, at the Archbishop's residence, in the City of Milwaukee, in the County of Milwaukee, and the State of Wisconsin; the first regular meeting of said corporation thereafter shall be held on the first Wednesday after the first day of January, A. D. 1902, at some suitable place within the County of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, and thereafter regular annual meetings of said corporation shall be held on the third Wednesday after the first day of January in each and every year, at some suitable place within the County of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin.

SEVENTH: The first regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said corporation shall be held on the thirty-first day of January, A. D. 1901, at the Archbishop's residence, in the City of Milwaukee, in the County of Milwaukee, and State of Wisconsin, immediately after the first meeting of said corporation; and thereafter the regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall take place on the second Monday of every month, excepting in January, when the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors shall take place immediately after the annual meeting of the members of the corporation.

EIGHTH: The members of said corporation shall be Most Reverend Frederick X. Katzer, Very Reverend James J. Keogh, Very Reverend H. Gulski, Very Reverend E. M. McGinnity, Very Reverend Augustine F. Schinner, Very Reverend Henry Roche, Reverend A. B. Salick, Reverend J. J. Ryan, Reverend Anthony Decker, Reverend H. F. Fairbanks, Reverend W. Peil, Reverend P. A. Schwaiger, Reverend Mich. Ruckengruber, Reverend W. Grutza, Reverend F. P. Grome, Reverend P. J. Welbes, Reverend P. H. Durnin, Reverend R. J. Roche, Reverend P. A. Schleier, Reverend H. Wilmes; and other secular priests of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, ordained for or incorporated into said Archdiocese may become members of this corporation by applying in writing to the Directors, and by the favorable action of such Directors upon such application; provided, however, that any member definitely

leaving such Archdiocese, either by his own free will or by dismissal, thereupon and by the fact itself shall cease to be a member of this corporation; provided, also, that should the present Archdiocese of Milwaukee at any future time be divided, the members of this corporation so separated from such Archdiocese by such division shall thereby, and by the fact itself, cease to be members of this corporation.

NINTH: No salary or dividend shall ever be paid by said corporation to any of its members, directors or officers.

TENTH: This corporation shall be forever under the general ecclesiastical supervision and control of the proper officials of the Roman Catholic Church, and, in case of the dissolution of said corporation or of the extinction of said corporation, all its property, real, personal and mixed, shall vest in Frederick X. Katzer, or in his successors, as Archbishop of said Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

ELEVENTH: The Directors of said corporation shall have power to make the By-Laws thereof, and to amend the same by a majority vote of those present at any legal meeting.

TWELFTH: These articles may be amended by a vote of at least one-half of the members of this corporation present at any regular meeting thereof, or at any special meeting called for such purpose, written notice of such proposed amendment having been sent to all members.

THIRTEENTH: At the first meeting of said corporation, ten shall constitute a quorum of the members of said corporation, and at all subsequent meetings of said corporation, fifteen shall constitute a quorum of the members of said corporation.

FOURTEENTH: In case of the appointment of an administrator of said Archdiocese, by the proper ecclesiastical authorities of the Roman Catholic Church, at any time or times, then and in that case such administrator shall be *ex officio* a member, a Director and the President of said corporation, in the stead of said Archbishop of said Archdiocese, and shall so continue as long as he is such administrator, and when he ceases to be such administrator, he shall then and there, and by the fact itself, cease to be the President, and unless otherwise chosen shall also by the fact itself cease to be a Director of said corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed our seals, this 30th day of January, A. D. 1901.

FREDERICK X. KATZER (Seal)  
JAMES J. KEOGH (Seal)  
HYACINTH GULSKI (Seal)  
In Presence of  
Paul D. Carpenter  
A. Davidson

STATE OF WISCONSIN }  
Milwaukee County } ss.

Be it remembered that on the 30th day of January, A. D. 1901, personally came before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, the above-named the Most Reverend Frederick X. Katzer, Archbishop of Milwaukee, the Very Reverend James J. Keogh and the Very Reverend Hyacinth Gulski, to me known to be the persons who signed the above Articles of Association, and each for himself acknowledged the execution thereof to be his free act and deed for the uses and purposes therein specified.

(NOTARIAL  
SEAL)

PAUL D. CARPENTER,  
Notary Public, Milwaukee Co., Wis.

## BY-LAWS

(As amended January 19, 1938)

### ARTICLE I

Section 1. The Board of Directors may pay to each disabled priest member of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars a month.

#### Sec. 2—Classification of Beneficiaries:

**CLASS A BENEFICIARIES**—Members who suffer Permanent Total Disability, viz.: those who hold no salaried position in the Archdiocese and have, therefore, no income from salary or other emoluments of office, are entitled to benefits under this Class.

**CLASS B BENEFICIARIES**—Members who suffer Partial Permanent Disability, viz.: those who hold no salaried position in the Archdiocese, but are usually able to read Mass or are otherwise able to be of service to pastors or institutions and receive compensation therefor, are entitled to draw benefits under this Class.

**CLASS C BENEFICIARIES**—Members who suffer Temporary Total Disability, viz.: those who hold salaried positions but are temporarily totally disabled, owing to an illness that confines them entirely to their home, hospital or sanatorium, are entitled to draw benefits under this Class. The disability must be grave enough to require a substitute for work. Leave of absence, rest cures, etc., though undertaken for the sake of health, are not cases of total disability.

No benefits shall be paid for Temporary Partial Disability. The period of convalescence, which permits the performance of some work, though only of directive kind, shall constitute temporary partial disability.

Members drawing benefit under Class C (Temporary Total Disability) are limited to 26 weeks' indemnity for any one year, beginning with the time of their total disability. The Board of Directors is empowered to extend the period of total disability in exceptional cases.

### ARTICLE II

#### Sources of Revenue

##### Section 1—Personal Dues of the Priests:

All secular priests ordained for or incardinated into the Archdiocese of Milwaukee shall contribute annually to the Fund. After date of March 14, 1932, the Fund will not assess or accept dues from priests not ordained for nor incardinated into the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This action is not to affect those priests working in said Archdiocese who, even though not incardinated, have been paying the annual dues to the Fund up to that time. Any priest leaving the Archdiocese forfeits all right to benefits from the Fund, and dues will no longer be accepted from him.

The amount of dues to be assessed against each priest of the Archdiocese will be determined by the total amount of benefits paid by the Fund for Classes A, B and C in the preceding year. From the total amount of benefits paid in the preceding year, the amount collected from parish assessments, and the interest collected from securities held by the Fund shall be deducted. The amount thus obtained, plus twenty per cent for the reserve fund, is to be divided by the number of members of the Fund on the list at the close of the fiscal year. The quotient of this division determines the amount of dues to be paid by each member. Dues shall be assessed in multiples of five dollars, therefore all fractional amounts resulting from the division shall be counted as another five dollars. The surplus thus obtained shall be added to the reserve fund. Dues must be paid not later than February 15th of each year. Members who have not paid their dues by the 15th of February will be granted a month of grace to pay these dues after they have become due, and a notice to that effect will be sent to all delinquents. Failure to pay dues makes a member ineligible to draw benefits during that entire year.

**Sec. 2—Parish Assessments:**

All parishes of the Archdiocese shall contribute annually to the Fund according to a general assessment plan of the Archbishop. The parishes of the Archdiocese shall contribute a flat sum of not less than fifteen thousand dollars each year, until such time as reserves have been accumulated large enough to carry the costs of Class A out of the interest income.

**ARTICLE III**

**Applications for Benefit**

**RULES OF THE FUND**

**Section 1.** Members must make application for benefit in writing, using the regular application blank, and send same to the Secretary, who shall submit the same to the Board of Directors.

**Sec. 2.** The application must be signed by the Dean of the claimant.

**Sec. 3.** The claimant must submit sufficient proof of his condition of disability.

**Sec. 4.** The application must be filed within thirty days of the termination of disability.

**Sec. 5.** All applications must be passed on by the Board of Directors.

**Sec. 6.** Benefits shall not be paid to members in arrears.

**Sec. 7.** No benefits shall be paid for a period of disability of less than two weeks.

**Sec. 8.** No benefits shall be paid for partial temporary disability. Since the Board of Directors is not authorized to disperse the money of the Fund for partial disability, all such applications must be refused.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Suspensions**

**Section 1.** In the event that a priest has not paid his personal dues for three years he shall automatically be suspended from the Fund, so as to make him ineligible to ever draw benefits from the Fund during such time of suspension. Should such a priest become indigent and a charge upon the Archdiocese, the Archbishop MAY authorize the Fund to pay him a maximum benefit of fifty dollars a month.

**Sec. 2.** Reinstatement to membership shall be made only upon the written request of the suspended member, and shall take place only after the delinquent member has paid in full all dues in arrears, plus six percent interest per annum on the amount due each year. He shall moreover be ineligible to draw any benefits from the Fund until three years from the date of his reinstatement, and then only provided he has faithfully paid his dues during those three years.

**ARTICLE V**

All priests having labored in the Archdiocese for a considerable time, having become incapacitated for duty while so employed, although not incorporated into the Archdiocese, upon due evidence being presented to the Board of Directors as to their financial dependence, may receive benefits from this corporation in as far as the Board of Directors shall deem just and suitable.

**ARTICLE VI**

**Special Meeting**

The President may call a special meeting of the members or Directors at any time.



ARTICLE VII

Special Duties and Rights of Officers and Directors

Section 1. In case of an application for relief which allows no delay, the President shall have the right to order the payment of money without recurring to the Board of Directors; all orders and drafts are to be signed by him and the Secretary.

Sec. 2. The duties and rights of the Vice-President shall be the same as those of President in case of and during the absence of the latter.

Sec. 3. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of the revenue and expenditures of the corporation. He shall not pay out moneys without an order of the Secretary, signed by the President. The Treasurer shall not keep in hand any money of the corporation, but shall place it at interest as soon as possible. He may not lend money to any person on notes or mortgages without being authorized to do so by the Board of Directors. He shall give an account of all business transactions to the Directors at the annual meetings of the Board of Directors, and whenever asked by the President to do so. His books shall at all times be open for inspection by the Directors, and they shall be annually audited by the Diocesan auditor.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall give a bond or other security, the amount thereof to be fixed by the Board of Directors at the annual meetings. His bond or other security must be approved by the Board of Directors, and placed in the hands of the President.

Sec. 5. The Directors shall have the general management, direction and control of all matters pertaining or in any wise relating to said corporation, and shall manage and conduct the business thereof. Their approval shall be required:

- (a) For the bond or security of the Treasurer;
- (b) Whenever money is to be lent;
- (c) On all applications for relief.

Sec. 6. In case any officer neglects the duties of his office, the Directors shall have the right of removing him and of appointing a new officer.

Sec. 7. Any vacancy on the Board of Directors, either by death or resignation, shall be filled by appointment by the President of the corporation.

Sec. 8. The Directors shall designate the bank or banks in which the Treasurer must deposit the money of the corporation in its name. If such a bank fails, the Treasurer shall not be held responsible for the money therein deposited.

ARTICLE VIII

Voting by Proxy

Voting by proxy shall be allowed at any regular or special meeting of the members of this corporation, in which case votes by proxy shall be accepted and shall be given the same force and effect as if personally cast by members giving the same. All proxies shall be in writing and signed by the members giving the same.

The Fund is dependent upon the good will of the priests. The ordinary sources of revenue must be supplemented by gifts and donations. The security of the Fund is guaranteed by an adequate reserve fund. The priests of the Archdiocese are the direct beneficiaries of the Fund and therefore priests should remember the Fund when making their will. In making bequests to the Fund, use the official corporate title of the Fund:

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH TO THE ST. MICHAEL'S PRIEST FUND OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE, A CORPORATION DULY ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, THE SUM OF.....DOLLARS.

PRESENT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE FUND

January, 1938

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Samuel A. Stritch.....President  
The Rt. Reverend Monsignor Michael J. Wenta.....Vice-President  
The Rev. John J. Grasser.....Secretary-Treasurer

Members of the Board of Directors— {  
The Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Clark  
The Rev. George A. Meyer  
The Rev. John Bonk  
The Rev. Frederick J. Hillenbrandt  
The Rev. Joseph Heller  
The Rev. Henry Schmitt  
The Rev. Louis Zirbes