



INASMUCH as, on Monday, the 22nd of May, in the Year of Our Lord 2023, members of the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. (currently known as the Pious House) in good standing with the Bishop of Tyler, TX seek to continue living by means of common life as brothers, striving for the perfection of charity; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. is undertaking the project for the foundation of a Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri according to the *Modus Procedendi in Praeparandis Congregationibus* as established by the Very Reverend Procurator General of the Confederation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri; and

WHEREAS the Bishop of the Diocese of Tyler, Most Reverend Joseph Edward Strickland, has expressed his encouragement and support for the members of the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc., as well as his approval of this undertaking toward the hoped-for foundation of an Oratory in his Diocese, and their ministry at Veritatis Splendor;¹ and

WHEREAS the Bishop of the Diocese of Tyler, Most Reverend Joseph Edward Strickland, has maintained that the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. and Veritatis Splendor are entirely responsible for their own respective expenses. Thus the Diocese of Tyler, and the Bishop of the Diocese of Tyler, TX are in no way financially responsible for the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. or Veritatis Splendor;

THEREFORE, with the grace of God and the intercession of our Immaculate Mother, St. Joseph, St. Philip Neri, all the Oratorian Saints and Blesseds, and to favor the success of both Veritatis Splendor and the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc., the following are agreed upon between both parties:

PART 1: GENERAL STRUCTURE & CO-OPERATION

- A. The Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. is a separate and distinct organization from Veritatis Splendor.
- B. Veritatis Splendor is a lay-run organization.
- C. The By-Laws of Veritatis Splendor will be amended in such a way as to exclude the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. from board membership and from any voting, veto, or approval privileges.

¹ *Memo of Understanding Between the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. and the Diocese of Tyler, TX* signed on September 26, 2021. (#s 8-9)

- D. With the pleasure, blessing, and direction of the Bishop of the Diocese of Tyler, the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. will serve the liturgical needs of Veritatis Splendor until at least 2073 A.D., with the hope that this agreement will be renewed every fifty years.

PART 2: EDUCATION

- A. Veritatis Splendor understands that the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. generates income from education initiatives. Thus, Veritatis Splendor will allow the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. to hold classes in the JP II Lodge and any other facilities on Veritatis Splendor property deemed appropriate by both parties.
- B. Generally speaking, the Pious House will be given priority scheduling for use of the JP II Lodge's dining room and front parlor room for educational initiatives.
- a. N.B. Regarding the Fall 2023/Spring 2024 school year please see [this link](#) for the current schedule. Most teaching days will only require the inner Dining Room area of the JP II Lodge for classes. Tuesdays will require both the inner dining room area and the Front Parlor room.

PART 3: LITURGY & LITURGICAL BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT

- A. The Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. will manage all liturgies and events held at all chapels, oratories, shrines, altars, and tabernacles located on Veritatis Splendor property; the management listed above will take place under the direction of the local Bishop. Management includes the following items:
- a. The Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc will manage all tabernacle keys and all copies of tabernacle keys.
- b. The Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc will manage all ambry (i.e. holy oil safe) keys and all copies of ambry keys.
- c. The Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. will have full management over the sacristies as well as mutually approved spaces in the immediate vicinity of said chapels, oratories, and shrines.²
- d. Visiting priests, in good standing, will be allowed to celebrate any rite approved by the Roman Catholic Church.
- B. The Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. will be consulted on any construction, expansion, decoration, and/or renovation of any chapels, cemeteries, oratories, and/or shrines on the Veritatis Splendor property.

² For example: The Master Bedroom of the JP II lodge, because of its direct and immediate connection with the Holy Family Chapel Sacristy, can serve as an office and meeting space for the The Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc.

- a. Agreements concerning the financial and maintenance responsibilities for any future (i.e. after June 2023) construction, expansion, and/or renovation of any chapels, cemeteries, oratories, and/or shrines on the Veritatis Splendor property as well as fundraising policies for these projects will be discussed at later dates.

PART 4: HOUSING

- A. Veritatis Splendor recognizes that the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. is in need of housing that can support all its members current and future to form a clerical communal homelife. Thus in order to achieve this end, the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. is free to choose to live within or without the bounds of Veritatis Splendor property.
- B. Veritatis Splendor will provide the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. on-site housing (which includes among other rooms at least 1 bedroom per member of the Oratorian Community) rent free if said community chooses to live on-site. If the Oratorian Community chooses to move off-site and later chooses to return to living on-site, provisions will be made with mutual understanding for the housing of the community members.

PART 5: FINANCIAL AGREEMENT

- A. All monetary collections at Holy Family Chapel will be collected and managed exclusively by The Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc.
- B. Further financial agreements could be made in addition to this document.
- C. Arrangements concerning collections taken at future shrines, chapels, and oratories will be discussed at a later date.

PART 6: PRIVACY AGREEMENT

- A. Veritatis Splendor understands that the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri, Tyler, Inc. cannot be used in any future marketing without the Pious House's explicit permission in every instance.
- B. It is appropriate to advertise that Veritatis Splendor has daily Mass, Confessions, and a community of priests currently serving its liturgical needs.

PART 7: NATURE OF THIS AGREEMENT

- A. This Memorandum of Understanding is not a legally binding document.
- B. All of these agreements will expire unless this *Memo of Understanding* is renewed in 2073 A.D..

These matters are agreed upon between both parties in Christian truth and charity, at Veritatis Splendor on the 22nd day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2023, as evidenced by their signatures below.

Mr. Will Kirk

Veritatis Splendor
Board President

Fr. Andre Metrejean

Pious House
Priest Moderator