

The Constitution of the Young Catholics Ottawa – English

PREAMBLE

Inspired by the words of **St. John Paul II**:

“Dear young people, let yourselves be taken over by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are.”

WHEREAS it is necessary, to thrive in our catholic faith and fight against the current of the world, to recognize the support of other young Catholics on our path to sanctity, and to encourage each other to affront life following the teachings of the Roman Apostolic Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to create a welcoming environment to invite young adults to flourish in their faith and to bring others closer to Christ.

WHEREAS it is necessary to revise and affirm the rules of conduct governing our organization, the following constitution necessitates to be created;

THEREFORE do we in 2024 affirm ourselves as the Young Catholics Ottawa and adopt the following Constitution.

ARTICLE ONE: NAME

This organization shall be known as the YOUNG CATHOLICS OTTAWA, hereinafter referred to as YCO.

ARTICLE TWO: OBJECT

1. The object of this organization shall be to gather young Catholics of the region with the intent of creating a community which encompasses young adults ages 18-35. To support each other in our faith journey building friendships rooted in Christ, supporting the mission of the Church in the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. And to create a welcoming environment to bring other young adults closer to Christ, providing them with the necessary resources to foster their relationship with God.
2. The object shall be met through social gatherings, service-based activities, or other activities aimed at young adults that shall respect and follow the religious teachings of the catholic church.
3. All events shall be preceded by a Mass, Confession, prayer of the rosary, or other activity which connects young adults closer to each other as Catholics and brings others closer to God.
4. The events shall be organized at least once per month.
5. The events shall be any which have received approval of the Executive.
6. The events shall encourage young adults to practice the catholic faith.

7. The organization shall promote events not organized by YCO but aimed at young Catholics from the Ottawa/Gatineau region ages 18-35.

ARTICLE THREE: VISION

To give all young Catholics from Ottawa a place to come together, to celebrate, to grow in faith, and to build friendships rooted in Christ, while fostering a welcoming space for other young adults who are exploring their faith.

ARTICLE FOUR: AFFILIATION

Young Catholics Ottawa is an agent of the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall, operating under its guidance and support; therefore, its views and actions must be representative of the broader Catholic Church.

ARTICLE FIVE: MEMBERS

1. Eligibility: Membership in the community shall be open to all young adults from the Ottawa-Gatineau region ages 18-35.
2. Active Members: Active members are those who regularly participate in YCO activities and support its goals.
3. Executive Team: The executive team shall be composed of volunteers who assume responsibility for organizing events, communications, and ministry planning.
4. Members of the community shall be entitled to an opinion and to vote on public surveys raised by members of the Executive Team. Only members of the Executive Team may vote on an item of business.

ARTICLE SIX: EXECUTIVE TEAM

1. The organization shall be governed by an Executive Team composed of the Founder, Chair & President: María Fátima Proano Gallegos, Co-Founder & Vice-Chair: Natalia Proano Gallegos, Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Connor O'Hara, Outreach & Coordination Lead: Itzel Elizalde, Events & Logistics Support Lead: Steven Wilson, Community Engagement & Support Lead: Maria Rechner.
2. All decisions must be made through a democratic process, requiring approval from the majority. The Chair holds the right to veto (reject) any decision but may not unilaterally enact decisions without majority approval.
3. All members of the Executive Team contribute to YCO's public image and reputation. As such, they shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with YCO's values and refrain from behaviours that could harm its reputation or image.

ARTICLE SEVEN: FINANCES

1. YCO is a volunteer-led initiative.

2. Any funds raised shall be used solely for the operation and mission of YCO.
3. A financial record shall be maintained and available upon request.

ARTICLE EIGHT: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution must be proposed by the Executive team and approved by the Founders, with consultation from the archdiocese if necessary.

ARTICLE NINE: DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution, any remaining funds shall be donated to a Catholic parish, charity, or organization approved by the Chair.