

SOCIETY OF ST. TARCISIUS

SODALITY OF TRADITIONAL ALTAR SERVERS

"Fidelis usque ad mortem"

The **Society of St Tarcisius** is a sodality of servers of the traditional Latin Mass. It was inaugurated on 15th May 2010, and is a private association of Christ's faithful, sponsored by the Latin Mass Society of England and Wales.

St Tarcisius was a 12 year-old Roman acolyte, who was martyred for his defence of the Blessed Sacrament, in one of the fierce persecutions of the third century. He was carrying the Eucharist to those in prison, and was killed on the way while preventing its profanation. He is one of the patron saints of altar servers, and his example reminds us of the reverence that we must have for the Body of Christ when we are serving on the Sanctuary.

Serving at the altar is a great privilege, and is not to be undertaken lightly. It should be carried out devoutly and with precision, giving a good example to others of reverence for the Blessed Sacrament. Altar servers must ensure that they are fervent in their devotion to Our Lord, and exact in carrying out their duties on the altar.

Objects of the Society

1. To promote the dignified, devout, and accurate service of the altar in the traditional Roman rite.
2. To promote the spiritual formation of altar servers, in the spirit of St Tarcisius, who accepted death rather than allow the profanation of the Most Holy Sacrament.
3. To disseminate information on the correct service of the altar, and arrange from time to time training events for servers.
4. To maintain a list of those who are willing and able to serve at the traditional liturgy, and provide this information to those organizing traditional events, where needed.

The Society is specifically committed to the traditional Latin liturgy of the Catholic Church, in a form no later than that which was current in 1962.

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give to thee the crown of light." Apocalypse 2:10

Membership

1. Full membership will be open to any Catholic boy or man who is able correctly and devoutly to serve low Mass in the traditional rite. Where applicants for membership are not known to the Secretary, a reference may be required to ensure that this condition is fulfilled.
2. Those not yet able to fulfil the requirement for full membership, but in training, may be admitted as probationary members.
3. Others who wish to may join as supporters.

Membership is on application to the Secretary. There is no fee or subscription for membership, though donations will be gratefully accepted.

Spirituality

The Society promotes among its members a strong devotion to the Blessed Eucharist, and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Members are encouraged to be devout the Immaculate Mother of God, and to the saints.

The national Chaplain of the Latin Mass Society, Fr Andrew Southwell, has agreed to provide spiritual oversight to the Society.

Newsletter and Website

A quarterly newsletter will be sent to members and supporters. It is intended to communicate with members electronically where possible, but those without access to email or the Internet may apply to the Secretary to receive the newsletter by post.

A website has been set up at <http://www.saint-tarcisius.org.uk> and materials relevant to altar serving will be added to the site as they become available.

Insignia

It is planned to produce a medal of St Tarcisius, which will be worn on a royal blue ribbon by members of the Society at its events, and also when serving where no objection is raised by the MC or celebrant. If the medal of St Tarcisius is not available, a medal of the Sacred Heart may be substituted.

How to Contact the Secretary

By email preferably: secretary@saint-tarcisius.org.uk

By post: Mr David Forster, c/o The Latin Mass Society, 11 - 13 Macklin Street, London. WC2B 5NH.

SOCIETY OF ST. TARCISIUS

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Full Name: _____

Full Postal address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email (where possible): _____

Experience of serving: _____

Age, if under 18: _____

Fill in EITHER part 1, OR part 2, OR part 3, below.

1. FULL MEMBERSHIP

I am a full, communicant member of the Roman Catholic Church, in good standing. I agree with the aims and objects of the Society and fulfil the requirements of membership. I am able to serve low Mass in the traditional form devoutly and correctly, and can provide references to this if necessary. Please enrol me as a full member of the Society.

Signature: _____

2. PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP

I am a full, communicant member of the Roman Catholic Church, in good standing, and agree with the aims and objects of the Society. I do not yet fulfil the requirements of membership, but I am training. Please enrol me as a Probationary member of the Society.

Signature: _____

3. SUPPORTER

I do not fulfil the requirements for membership, but support the objects and aims of the Society, and would like to be on the mailing list.

Signature: _____

This form should be sent to the Secretary when complete, either by post or by email.

REFERENCE FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

For full membership of the Society, we require an assurance that you are able to serve low Mass in the traditional form devoutly and correctly, and therefore normally require a reference from a suitable person to this effect.

Suitable people would include chaplains to the Latin Mass Society, priests who are known to celebrate the traditional Mass regularly, MCs of the Society, officers of the Latin Mass Society or similar organizations.

Title and name of referee: _____

Capacity in which the referee knows your ability to serve Mass:

Address of referee: _____

Email of referee (where possible): _____

Prayer of the Society of St Tarcisius (for private use)

Lord Jesus, I profoundly adore Thee, really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love Thee, and desire to love and serve Thee more perfectly. I do reparation to Thy Sacred Heart, for the negligence and indifference which is often shown to Thy true Body and Blood.

I thank Thee for the great privilege of serving Thee on the Sanctuary, and resolve for the future to serve Thee with greater fervour, devotion, attention, and exactness. O Lord, let my example when on the Sanctuary never be an occasion for scandal to my neighbour, but rather encourage others to greater reverence. May I always act as I believe, and show by my example my belief in the great truths of our Faith.

Most Blessed Mary, Mother of our Lord, obtain for me by thy prayers the grace to serve thy Son with reverence and devotion.

Saint Tarcisius, pray for me, that I may follow thy example by defending the honour of the Blessed Sacrament all the days of my life and even unto death. Amen.