

Chapter 7: CORPORATION

As a religious community Holy Redeemer has been fortunate to be planted in the United States. The federal government makes provision for and encourages groups whose “business” is to be of benefit to her citizens. Those whose goal is not the generation of income for themselves can work within the structure of a not-for-profit corporation.

In the Spring following the move to Ladoga, Mother Paula and Mother Pilar filed with the federal government, and then the State of Indiana, to become Holy Redeemer Monastery, Inc. They took this step to be recognized as a legal entity with advantages under the tax codes so that their limited income could be used free from taxes for establishing and maintaining the monastery. Also, by being a not-for-profit corporation, monetary gifts from their financial donors could be claimed as tax exemptions.

Previously as a secretary Mother Paula had been involved with three employers who had formed their own businesses, which was great preparation for knowing legal and accounting requirements. A gift from one of their benefactors made it possible to register all the needed paperwork, and on June 29, 1987 the work of the women became legally recognized as a not-for-profit corporation.

As part of the incorporating process an official purpose had to be declared in the paperwork, and it was stated like this:

The Holy Redeemer Monastery is organized exclusively for religious purposes to house, instruct, care for, and nurture in the monastic life any religious Sisters from the Evangelical Orthodox Church who choose to commit themselves to this particular monastery. Additionally, the aim is to provide opportunities for the religious Sisters to participate in ministries available within the church which make use of their talents and abilities within the framework of lives under the religious vows of obedience, chastity, and poverty.

In 2008, when the move was made from the monastery in Bloomfield to more active involvement in parish life in Greenwood, the corporation’s purpose and name were amended to reflect a more open membership as an *order* rather than a *monastery*:

Specifically our aim is to provide opportunities for those individuals within the Evangelical Orthodox Church who wish to commit themselves to the Order’s participation in tasks assigned by the church for the furtherance of church life and the church’s charitable and religious ministries. This would include but not be limited to Sisters under the religious vows of obedience, chastity, and poverty.

STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

To Whom These Presents Come, Greeting:

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

THE HOLY REDEEMER MONASTERY, INC.

EVAN BAYH
I, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~, Secretary of State of Indiana, hereby certify that Articles of Incorporation of the above not-for-profit corporation, in the form prescribed by this Office, prepared and signed in duplicate by the Incorporator(s) and acknowledged and verified by the same before a Notary Public, have been presented to me at this office accompanied by the fees prescribed by law; that I have found such Articles conform to law; that I have endorsed my approval upon the duplicate copies of such Articles; that all fees have been paid as required by law; that one copy of such Articles has been filed in this office; and that the remaining copy(ies) of such Articles bearing the endorsement of my approval and filing has (have) been returned by me to the incorporator(s) or his (their) representatives; all as prescribed by the Indiana Not-For-Profit Corporation Act of 1971.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby issue to such Corporation this Certificate of Incorporation, and further certify that its corporate existence has begun.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed
the seal of the State of Indiana, at the City of Indianapolis, this

29TH day of

APRIL 19 87

Evan Bayh EVAN BAYH
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~, Secretary of State

By Debra G. Schaub Deputy



**State of Indiana
Office of the Secretary of State**

CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT

of

THE HOLY REDEEMER MONASTERY INC

I, TODD ROKITA, Secretary of State of Indiana, hereby certify that Articles of Amendment of the above Non-Profit Domestic Corporation have been presented to me at my office, accompanied by the fees prescribed by law and that the documentation presented conforms to law as prescribed by the provisions of the Indiana Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1991.

The name following said transaction will be:

ORDER OF THE HOLY REDEEMER, INC.

NOW, THEREFORE, with this document I certify that said transaction will become effective Tuesday, December 23, 2008.



In Witness Whereof, I have caused to be affixed my signature and the seal of the State of Indiana, at the City of Indianapolis, December 23, 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Rokita".

TODD ROKITA,
SECRETARY OF STATE

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Being incorporated involved assigning duties of officers, forming a Board of Directors of at least three people, and creating By-Laws which would govern the operation of all activities. Because of her earlier experience, Mother Paula took on the roles of corporation president and treasurer, and Mother Pilar the roles of vice-president and secretary, which tasks continue to the present. They were part of the initial Board plus the priest who had been designated as the liaison between them and their bishop. Over the years several godly men and women have given of themselves to be a part of the governing Board, and the Board now stands at four in addition to those who live in Agape House. Instructions for maintaining corporate and financial records are up-dated as needed and stored with a Non-Resident Member of the Board.

The original By-laws covered such things as officer and Board requirements and a date for an annual Board meeting. All Board members are members of the corporation, but after Carol came to Agape House in December, 2014, the By-laws were amended to clarify the financial responsibilities of the Resident Members of Agape House. When the Mothers were at the monastery, 100% of their incomes went into the monastery as part of their vow of poverty. Adding Carol, who is not under such a vow, to the household called for more clarification in the By-Laws of Member's financial contributions for the sake of good order.

Realizing that each person in Agape House would always have some personal expenses which applied only them, it was decided that the Mothers would contribute 80% of their income (after a church tithe to the Lord of the first 10%) to the corporation, and Carol would contribute 25%. Their combined contributions plus donations from benefactors would be used for housing costs, liability insurance, food shared in common, the corporation's vehicle, commonly used office and laundry supplies, expenses generated by Holy Redeemer ministries, and common entertainment and gift-giving. Family-related travel, gifts, and personal hobby costs would be the responsibility of each individual. Carol, maintains and insures her own car, and she covers the cost of her own health care. Due to their ages, the Mother's health care is now covered by Medicare. The corporation covers a burial-cost life insurance policy and burial plot deed for the Mothers as part of their care.

All of this may not sound very "religious", but faith is pressed out practically. Lives dedicated to God must realistically be involved with shelter and food and the day-to-day demands of the place they live. Initially Indiana required an accounting each year of how the corporation's money was spent, but now the reporting has been reduced to notification of Board changes and assurance that Holy Redeemer is working within the parameters of its stated purpose. The bishop responsible for the Order as well as the Board of Directors are regularly kept up-dated on the income and expenses of Agape House for accountability that the women are good stewards of all that the Lord has provided for them.