

**O. T. O.
E. G. C.**



**U.S. GRAND LODGE
O.T.O.
E.G.C. MANUAL**

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Issued by Order:

Hymenaeus Beta

*Frater Superior, Ordo Templi Orientis
Sovereign Patriarch, Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica*

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I. Introduction

This manual sets forth the policies of Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica within the U.S. Grand Lodge of Ordo Templi Orientis with respect to the celebration of the Gnostic Mass, the administration of the various Ceremonies of E.G.C., and the qualifications, powers, authorities, duties and responsibilities of the clergy of E.G.C. None of the policies set forth herein are intended to infringe on the legitimate authority of any Church outside O.T.O.

II. Structure of E.G.C. within O.T.O.

A. *General Considerations*

Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica (E.G.C.), or the Gnostic Catholic Church (the Church), is the ecclesiastical aspect of Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O.). The Gnostic Catholic Church was founded in 1907 e.v. by Jean Bricaud, Gérard Encausse and Louis-Sophrone Fugairon; the latter two having been bishops of Jules Doinel's Gnostic Church (1890) before Doinel's abdication as Patriarch. In 1908 e.v., Theodor Reuss appears to have received episcopal consecration and primatial authority in the Gnostic Catholic Church from Encausse, Bricaud and Fugairon in gratitude for his issuance to Encausse of a patent for the Masonic Rites of Memphis and Mizraim. The same year, Encausse, Bricaud and Fugairon changed the name of their church to the Universal Gnostic Church, leaving Reuss exclusive authority in the Gnostic Catholic Church. As with all his other affiliations, Reuss incorporated the Gnostic Catholic Church into the system of O.T.O.

The name "Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica" was coined by Aleister Crowley when he wrote the Gnostic Mass for O.T.O. in 1913 e.v. Reuss translated the Gnostic Mass into German and published it in 1918 e.v., adopting it as an official rite of the Gnostic Catholic Church; and proclaiming himself "Sovereign Patriarch and Primate of the Gnostic Catholic Church," as well as Gnostic Legate to Switzerland for Bricaud's Universal Gnostic Church. Reuss's publication of the Gnostic Mass constituted the formal acceptance of the Law of Thelema by the Gnostic Catholic Church, and its formal declaration of independence from Bricaud's Universal Gnostic Church.

Thus, the Gnostic Catholic Church, or Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica, is an inseparable part of Ordo Templi Orientis; and the Gnostic Mass is one of the official rituals, more specifically the central ritual, of Ordo Templi Orientis.

While E.G.C. traces its historic origins to the French Gnostic revival of the turn of the century, which was a movement within Christianity, it has since accepted the Law of Thelema, has declared itself independent from the Christian Universal Gnostic Church and

its successors, and is no longer to be considered a Christian Church. E.G.C. does not administer Christian Sacraments, and its ecclesiastical powers are founded on a spiritual succession from the Master Therion and the constituent originating assemblies of O.T.O., rather than on the traditional Christian Apostolic Succession. The theology, doctrines and sacramental theory of E.G.C. are based on the principles of the Thelemic Religion. Its rites and ceremonies, while eclectic in form (drawing upon the sacerdotal practices of a wide variety of cultures and historical religious systems) are fundamentally Thelemic in character. The traditional doctrines, theology, canon law, and insignia of the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Jacobite Churches do not operate within E.G.C.

B. Membership

There are three recognized subclasses of Church membership, the Clergy (Clerical membership), the Laity (Lay membership) and Bishops in Amity (Advisory membership). The Clergy is composed of the Father (or Mother) of the Church, the Primate, the Bishops, the Priests and Priestesses, and the Deacons. The Father (or Mother) of the Church may, from time to time, designate additional subcategories within the above classes of Church membership, with such qualifications, privileges and duties as he or she may deem desirable.

C. The Clergy

1. The Patriarchate

a. The Father (or Mother) of the Church, also known as the Sovereign Patriarch or Sovereign Matriarch, is the O.H.O., regardless of the country in which the Church is established. For convenience, the term "Patriarch" is used hereinafter to mean the Father (or Mother) of the Church. All official rites and ceremonies used within E.G.C. are subject to the approval of the Patriarch. The Patriarch has the sole authority to suspend, revoke, and reinstate the recognition of any person's clerical status as Bishop, Priest, Priestess or Deacon within E.G.C., and any person's Clerical or Advisory membership in E.G.C. The Patriarch has the authority to approve texts to be used in celebrations of the Gnostic Mass by Priests and Priestesses of E.G.C., modify the Gnostic Mass to suit special functions and occasions, to set guidelines for its proper performance, and to issue guidelines for the preparation of the eucharistic elements.

b. At this time, the Patriarch is Frater Superior Hymenaeus Beta, Caliph and Acting O.H.O. of O.T.O.

2. The Primacy

a. The Primate, or Presiding Bishop, is the National Grand Master General X°. The Primate shall in general supervise and control the affairs of E.G.C. within the U.S.A., subject to the ultimate authority of the Patriarch. The Patriarch may delegate, in full or in part, any or all of his or her duties and authority within E.G.C. to the Primate for exercise within the U.S.A. Such delegation does not constitute surrender of authority, and any duties and authority so delegated may be revoked and recovered at any time.

b. At this time, the Primate of E.G.C. within the U.S.A. is Sabazius X°, National Grand Master General of the U.S. Grand Lodge of O.T.O. Frater Superior Hymenaeus Beta has delegated, in full, his duties and authority within E.G.C. to Sabazius X° for exercise within the U.S.A. The actions and decisions of the Primate are subject to modification or reversal by the Patriarch upon appeal by any Bishop within the U.S.A.

3. The Episcopate

a. The Bishops of E.G.C. are men or women who are recognized by the Patriarch as possessing episcopal powers, which powers they apply in the furthering of the Law of Thelema through their ministry. Effective October 1, 1991 e.v., only Initiate members of the Theoreticus sub-degree of Seventh Degree in good standing are eligible for recognition as Bishops within the Clerical membership of E.G.C. Bishops in good standing recognized prior to this date need not be members of the Seventh Degree, but shall be known as "Auxiliary Bishops" until such a time as they are initiated to the Theoreticus sub-degree of the Seventh Degree.

b. Within E.G.C., the Bishops shall have such authority, and perform such duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Primate and the Patriarch.

At this time, Bishops have the power and authority within E.G.C. to celebrate the Gnostic Mass; to ordain Priests, Priestesses and Deacons of E.G.C.; and to perform baptisms, confirmations, marriages and last rites, in accordance with local laws.

The term "Bishop" as used herein shall mean a Bishop who possesses the Theoreticus sub-degree of VII° unless the term is preceded by the word "Auxiliary" or followed by the words "in Amity." Auxiliary Bishops of E.G.C. have all the privileges and authority of the E.G.C. Priesthood, along with those additional privileges and authority specified herein for Auxiliary Bishops, and those conferred upon them individually by the Primate or the Patriarch.

c. Bishops and Auxiliary Bishops of E.G.C. have the responsibility of serving as official representatives of E.G.C. within O.T.O. Therefore, any public celebration of the Gnostic Mass which involves the participation of a recognized Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop of E.G.C. as an officer is by definition an official O.T.O. event and is subject to the policies of O.T.O. regarding official O.T.O. events.

d. The term "Bishop" does not carry the same meaning within E.G.C. as it does in Christian Churches or in the so-called "Wandering Bishops" tradition. Possession of a

valid and documented Apostolic Succession does not make one a Bishop of E.G.C.; neither is a Christian Apostolic Succession necessary to the Bishops of E.G.C.

e. Gnostic Bishops of the Doinel Succession assume a Mystic Name prefaced by the Greek letter "T" or "Tau" upon their consecration. Bishops and Auxiliary Bishops of E.G.C. who wish to emphasize this part of their spiritual heritage may, at their option, follow this tradition. However, the Double Tau is reserved for use by the Patriarch and the Primate.

4. The Priesthood

a. The Priesthood of E.G.C. includes both Priests and Priestesses. The Priests and Priestesses of E.G.C. are men and women, respectively, who are recognized by the Patriarch as possessing sacerdotal powers, which powers they apply in the furthering of the Law of Thelema through their ministry. For Priests and Priestesses to be recognized and accorded full status as such within the Clerical membership of E.G.C., they must be Initiate members in good standing of at least Knight of the East and West; and their ordination must be reported to and recorded by the Grand Secretary General and the Ecclesiastical Secretary. Prior to their ordination, they must have been accorded Lay membership in E.G.C. With the permission of the Primate, they may, prior to their formal ordination, take on limited duties and authority of the Priesthood under the supervision of a Bishop.

b. Within E.G.C., the Priests and Priestesses shall have such privileges and authority, and perform such duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Primate and the Patriarch.

Priests and Priestesses have the Sacerdotal power and authority to celebrate the Gnostic Mass as representatives of E.G.C. within O.T.O. A Bishop may also delegate to them the authority to ordain Deacons and perform baptisms, confirmations and last rites; and, in certain cases, to perform weddings. Priests and Priestesses are expected to coordinate their work with a Bishop, with whom they should communicate frequently.

c. Priests and Priestesses of E.G.C. have the responsibility of serving as official representatives of E.G.C. within O.T.O. Therefore, any public celebration of the Gnostic Mass which involves the participation of a recognized Priest or Priestess of E.G.C. as an officer is by definition an official O.T.O. event and is subject to the policies of O.T.O. regarding official O.T.O. events.

5. The Diaconate

a. The Deacons of E.G.C. are ordained assistants to the Priests and Priestesses. For Deacons to be recognized and accorded the status of Clerical member of E.G.C., they must be Initiate members in good standing of at least Second Degree; and their ordination must be reported to and recorded by the Grand Secretary General and the Ecclesiastical Secretary. Prior to their ordination, they must have been accorded Lay membership in E.G.C.

b. Within E.G.C., the Deacons shall have such privileges and authority, and perform such duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Primate and the Patriarch.

At this time, Deacons have the power and authority only to assist recognized Priests and Priestesses of E.G.C. in the performance of their duties. They are not considered as official representatives of E.G.C.

6. The Novitiate

a. Initiate members of any degree who have been accorded Lay membership in E.G.C. may undergo a period of Novitiate training under the supervision of a Bishop, to prepare them for ordination as Priest, Priestess or Deacon. Such Initiate members may participate in the celebration of the Gnostic Mass as Novice Priests, Priestesses and Deacons.

b. Novice status is not formally recognized by the Order, and is not included in the Order's records.

7. Recognition of Ordination

To apply for official recognition, ordained Priests, Priestesses and Deacons must write to the Grand Secretary General and the Ecclesiastical Secretary and provide the following information:

- a.** Full Civil Name and any Magical Names or Mottoes
- b.** Mailing Address
- c.** Telephone Number
- d.** Membership Class for which recognition is requested (i.e. Priest, Priestess or Deacon)
- e.** Name and E.G.C. Rank of the person who administered the ordination
- f.** Date of the ordination
- g.** Signature of the applicant
- h.** Signature of the person who administered the ordination.

8. Recognition of Ministerial Status

Those Bishops and Auxiliary Bishops regularly providing public performance of the Gnostic Mass in accordance with O.T.O. policies, and providing religious services to their congregation on a weekly basis, may apply to the Supreme Grand Council of O.T.O. U.S.A. for recognition of ministerial status within O.T.O. They will then be assisted by O.T.O. U.S.A. in undertaking such legal registrations as are necessary within their State of residence to permit them to serve their congregation by performing marriages, baptisms, last rites and other religious functions. Such registrations require the review of the Supreme Grand Council of O.T.O. U.S.A. if any part of the Bishop's authority to

undertake such registration is derived from his or her Ecclesiastical membership within O.T.O.

9. Withdrawal of Recognition and Authority

Clerical authority and recognition of Ministerial Status within E.G.C. can be revoked for cause by the Patriarch at any time, and is automatically lost upon resignation, suspension or expulsion from O.T.O., or lapse of active membership status in O.T.O.

D. The Laity

a. Lay Membership in E.G.C. is conferred by the ceremony of confirmation, which must be preceded by the ceremony of baptism. Lay Membership conveys no authority or special privileges within E.G.C. The Patriarch may, from time to time, modify or waive the ceremonial requirements for Lay membership in E.G.C.

b. Baptism is open to any person of at least the age of 11 years, but does not, in itself, confer Lay Membership. Confirmation is open to any person who has been baptized and who has attained the age of puberty. Baptism and/or confirmation for any person less than 18 years of age requires the prior written consent of a parent or legal guardian. Baptism and confirmation are public ceremonies.

E. Bishops in Amity

a. Bishops from affiliated or distant branches of the Gnostic Church with or without an historical connection with O.T.O. may affiliate with O.T.O. upon mutual recognition. Such Bishops shall affiliate as Advisory members of E.G.C., and shall be known as "Bishops in Amity."

b. Advisory membership in E.G.C. confers no clerical authority within E.G.C.

III. Ceremonies

A. The Gnostic Mass

1. General Considerations

Aleister Crowley wrote Liber XV in 1913 in Moscow, the year after his appointment by Theodor Reuss as the X^o Head of the British Section of O.T.O. According to W. B. Crow in *A History of Magic, Witchcraft and Occultism* (Aquarian Press, London 1968), Crowley wrote it "under the influence of the Liturgy of St. Basil of the Russian Church." Crowley published the Gnostic Mass three times during his life: in 1918 in *The International*, in 1919 in *The Equinox*, Volume III, No. 1 (the "Blue Equinox"), and in 1929 in Appendix VI of *Magick in Theory and Practice*. Theodor

Reuss published a German variant in 1918. It was first publicly celebrated on Sunday, March 19, 1933 e.v. by Wilfred T. Smith and Regina Kahl in Hollywood, California.

Crowley writes in Chapter 73 of his Confessions:

"During this period [The summer of 1913 e.v. - Ed.] the full interpretation of the central mystery of freemasonry became clear in consciousness, and I expressed it in dramatic form in 'The Ship'. The lyrical climax is in some respects my supreme achievement in invocation; in fact, the chorus beginning:

Thou who art I beyond all I am...

seemed to me worthy to be introduced as the anthem into the Ritual of the Gnostic Catholic Church, which, later in the year, I prepared for the use of the O.T.O., the central ceremony of its public and private celebration, corresponding to the Mass of the Roman Catholic Church."

2. Public and Private Celebration

a. A public celebration of the Gnostic Mass is one which is open to members of the public; or which is noticed in any official O.T.O. publication under the name "Gnostic Mass," "Gnostic Catholic Mass," "Liber XV," or equivalent names. A private celebration of the Gnostic Mass is one at which the individual participants are all initiate members of O.T.O. of at least 0ø. Private celebrations of the Gnostic Mass may be held for initiates of higher degrees as well.

b. Public celebrations of the Gnostic Mass shall be performed in accordance with the guidelines contained herein and with any other guidelines issued by the Primate under the authority of the Patriarch; and at least one of the three principal celebrating officers must be a Clerical member of E.G.C. with recognized status as Priest, Priestess, Bishop, or Auxiliary Bishop. In developing areas, this last requirement may be waived by the Primate or the Patriarch when the Gnostic Mass is being celebrated by Novices under the supervision of a Bishop.

c. Public celebrations of the Gnostic Mass are to be held to the highest standards of performance and fidelity to the approved texts of Liber XV (listed below). The officers of the Mass should know their parts by heart and should not use scripts; with the exception that the Deacon may use a script while intoning the collects if necessary.

d. The text of Liber XV, including the Collects, is not to be added to or modified without the express permission of the current Patriarch.

e. Passages quoted from Liber CCXX in Liber XV may be revised to conform to the original wording of Liber CCXX; i.e., "children of the Prophet" may be changed to "child of the Prophet."

f. Additional names shall not be added to the List of Saints in the Fifth Collect, or elsewhere in the Gnostic Mass, without the express permission of the Patriarch. Bishops may petition the Primate to recommend to the Patriarch the addition of a name to the list of Saints. The names Karl Johannes Germer and Grady Louis McMurtry may optionally be added to the list of Saints in any celebration of the Gnostic Mass.

g. All Anthems other than that included in Liber XV must be approved in advance by the Patriarch prior to use in a public celebration of the Gnostic Mass.

h. For performance purposes in public celebrations of the Gnostic Mass, the stage directions and descriptions of costuming and temple furniture given in the text of Liber XV are to be interpreted in a straightforward manner, not as metaphor or euphemism.

i. Interpretations of Liber XV by Auxiliary Bishops, Priests, Priestesses and Deacons for public celebrations of the Gnostic Mass are subject to review and modification by the Bishops. The decisions of a Bishop on interpretation may be appealed to the Primate.

j. Local economic and spatial constraints may prevent the full implementation of the provisions in Liber XV regarding temple furniture and costuming. However, these provisions should be implemented as best as possible; and improvements should continue to be made as additional resources become available.

k. For public celebrations of the Gnostic Mass, the role of Priest shall be filled by a man, and the role of Priestess shall be filled by a woman.

l. The roles of the two "Children" in Liber XV should be filled whenever possible for public celebrations of the Gnostic Mass. These roles may be filled by any two individuals who have been baptized in E.G.C., including adults. The Children serve the Cakes of Light and goblets of wine to the individual communicants. Where the roles of the Children cannot be filled in a public celebration of the Gnostic Mass, the Deacon should serve the Cakes of Light and the goblets of wine to the individual communicants.

m. Liber XV may be modified for Requiem Masses by including a brief mention of the deceased at the eleventh Collect.

n. Any celebration of the Gnostic Mass which is held at, or is sponsored by, an official O.T.O. Local Body is, by definition, an official E.G.C. and O.T.O. event, and is subject to the policies set forth herein and to the policies of O.T.O. regarding official O.T.O. events regarding drugs, firearms, etc. The Master of the Local Body is responsible for enforcing these policies.

3. Approved Texts of Liber XV

As of the date of issuance of this Manual, the following texts of Liber XV are approved by the Patriarch for public celebration of the Gnostic Mass:

- a.** The text published in "The International," March 1918 e.v.
- b.** The text published in "The Equinox," Vol. III, No. 1
- c.** The text published in "The Equinox," Vol. III, No. 10
- d.** The text published in "Book IV," Samuel Weiser, December 1994 e.v.
- e.** The text published in "Mystery of Mystery," *Red Flame* No 2, June 1995 e.v.

Texts other than the above shall not be used for public celebration of the Gnostic Mass without the prior permission of the Patriarch.

4. Steps and Signs

For private celebrations of the Gnostic Mass where only initiate members of O.T.O. of at least III° are present, the steps and signs known to initiates may be used. For

public celebrations of the Gnostic Mass, the following steps and signs shall be used, which are the steps and signs which were in use by O.T.O. when the Gnostic Mass was written in 1913 e.v.:

a) The Step and Sign of a Man and Brother

- (1) The Step. Stand perfectly erect, your feet formed into a square (Left foot pointing forward, right foot pointing right with the right heel in the hollow of the left foot). Hands, with linked thumbs, are held loosely. Take a short pace with your left foot, bringing the right heel into its hollow.
- (2) The Sign. Hands are held open, fingers together. Place your right hand level, with the thumb extended in a square towards the throat, just left of the windpipe. Draw the hand smartly across the throat to the right, and drop it to the side.

b) The Hailing Sign (of a Magician)

Hands are held open, fingers together. Press the right hand on the left breast, extending the thumb perpendicularly upward to form a square. Throw the left hand up, with the left arm horizontal from the shoulder to the elbow, and perpendicular from the elbow to the ends of the fingers, with the thumb and forefinger forming a square.

c) The First Three Regular Steps

- (1) Stand perfectly erect, your feet formed into a square. Hands, with linked thumbs, are held loosely. Take a short pace with your left foot, bringing the right heel into its hollow.
- (2) Take another short pace, as before.
- (3) Take another short pace, as before.

d) The Three Penal Signs

Hands are held open, fingers together.

- (1) Place your right hand level, with the thumb extended in a square towards the throat, just left of the windpipe. Draw the hand smartly across the throat to the right, and drop it to the side.
- (2) Place your right hand level, with the thumb extended in a square towards the heart. Draw the hand across the breast to the right and drop it to the side.
- (3) Place your right hand level, with the thumb extended in a square towards the navel. Draw the hand across the lower abdomen to the right, drop it to the side, and raise it again to place the point of the thumb upon the navel.

5. Cakes of Light

For any celebration of the Gnostic Mass, individual members of the congregation may bring their own Cakes of Light which they have prepared themselves for their exclusive personal consumption. Such Cakes of Light should be easily identifiable and distinguishable from all the other Cakes of Light; and individually wrapped, if necessary, in wax paper or the equivalent.

For all celebrations of the Gnostic Mass, public and private, except for those private celebrations of the Gnostic Mass at which all participants have specifically requested otherwise, the Cakes of Light provided by the celebrants to the congregation shall be made with the following ingredients and with no other ingredients:

- a.** Meal (any ground edible grain);
- b.** Honey;
- c.** Leavings of red wine;
- d.** Oil of Abramelin (a blend of cinnamon, myrrh, galangal and olive oils);
- e.** Olive oil; and
- f.** Optionally, one of the following ingredients may be added:
 - (1) Livestock blood obtained legally from a butcher shop or a farm; or
 - (2) Ash from Cakes of Light made according to any reasonable interpretation of CCXX III:23 and which have been burned in accordance with CCXX III:25.

The Cakes of Light are placed on the Paten before commencement of the ceremony. Communicants shall not be provided with lancets or other means of extracting blood at any celebration of the Gnostic Mass.

6. Communion Wine

For public celebrations of the Gnostic Mass, each communicant shall be provided with an individual goblet of communion wine, in accordance with the text of Liber XV. The wine may be kept on the High Altar during the ceremony.

Those who cannot drink alcohol may be provided with water, grape juice, or other acceptable substitute. One method which has been found widely acceptable and which preserves the "spirit" of the wine is to fill the goblet with wine, pour the wine out, and fill the goblet again with pure water.

B. Other Ceremonies

1. General Considerations

Any modification of the Gnostic Mass for public or private celebration, or any rite or mystery which involves the modification of the Gnostic Mass for public or private celebration, must be approved in advance by the Patriarch.

Approved rites for baptism, confirmation, and ordination, and recommended rites and ceremonies for other E.G.C. functions may be issued from time to time by the Primate under the authority of the Patriarch for use within the U.S.A. These may be modified for local use subject to the approval of the Primate.

In some jurisdictions, civil registration may be required to perform certain religious functions. Generally, civil registration is required only for the performance of weddings, but in some jurisdictions the performance of other religious functions may require civil registration as well. The Supreme Grand Council of O.T.O. will assist those Bishops and Auxiliary Bishops who qualify for recognition of Ministerial Status within O.T.O. to obtain the appropriate civil registrations (see Recognition of Ministerial Status, above). Bishops and Auxiliary Bishops with Ministerial Status who possess the necessary civil registrations may assist Priests and Priestesses within their jurisdictions to obtain their own civil registrations, if necessary.

2. Baptism

The ceremony of baptism may be administered by any recognized Priest or Priestess of E.G.C. under the direct or indirect supervision of a Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop. The person baptized must be of at least 11 years of age, and need not be an Initiate member of O.T.O. Baptism does not confer Lay Membership in E.G.C.

The Gnostic Mass should be celebrated as part of the baptismal rite, at which only the Priest and the child baptized partake of communion. Baptismal rites used within E.G.C. must be approved in advance by the Primate or the Patriarch. An approved rite of baptism is available from the Grand Secretary General.

3. Confirmation

The ceremony of confirmation may be administered by any recognized Priest or Priestess of E.G.C. under the direct or indirect supervision of a Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop. The person confirmed must have previously been baptized, must have reached the age of puberty, must have committed the Creed to memory, and need not be an Initiate member of O.T.O. Confirmation confers Lay Membership in E.G.C.

The Gnostic Mass should be celebrated as part of the confirmation rite, at which only the Priest and the persons confirmed partake of communion. Confirmation rites used within E.G.C. must be approved in advance by the Primate or the Patriarch. An approved rite of confirmation is available from the Grand Secretary General.

4. Marriage

The ceremony of marriage within E.G.C. may be administered by any Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop of E.G.C. whose Ministerial Status is recognized within O.T.O. and who has obtained the necessary civil registrations to perform such a function. In certain cases, recognized Priests or Priestesses of E.G.C. may also obtain authorization to perform the

ceremony of marriage, under the direct or indirect supervision of a Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop with recognized Ministerial Status.

If appropriate, the Gnostic Mass may be celebrated as part of the marriage rite, at which only the Priest and the two to be married partake of communion.

Several approved rites of marriage are available from the Grand Secretary General, although the persons to be married will often wish to participate in the composition of the ceremony with the assistance of the presiding clergy, and will usually wish to compose their own vows.

5. Last Rites

Last Rites may be administered by any recognized Priestess of E.G.C. under the direct or indirect supervision of a Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop. Ideally, the Priestess performing Last Rites should also be a Dame Companion of the Holy Grail. A Priest may perform Last Rites if a Priestess is not available. Liber 106 shall be included as a part of the Last Rites service. An approved ceremony for Last Rites is available from the Grand Secretary General.

6. Ordination to the Diaconate

Any Initiate Member of O.T.O. of at least II^o who has been accorded lay membership in E.G.C. (baptism and confirmation) may be ordained a Deacon of E.G.C. by any Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop of E.G.C.; or in the absence of a Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop, by any recognized Priest or Priestess of E.G.C. under the direct or indirect supervision of a Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop. In developing areas, an Initiate member of the I^o may be ordained to the Diaconate upon approval by the Primate.

The Gnostic Mass should be celebrated as part of any rite of ordination to the Diaconate. Ordination rites used within E.G.C. must be approved in advance by the Primate or the Patriarch. An approved Diaconate ordination rite is available from the Grand Secretary General.

7. Ordination to the Priesthood

Any male Initiate Member of O.T.O. of at least the rank of Knight of the East and West (K.E.W.) who has been accorded lay membership in E.G.C. (baptism and confirmation) may be ordained a Priest of E.G.C. by any recognized Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop of E.G.C.

Any female Initiate Member of O.T.O. of at least the rank of Dame Knight of the East and West (K.E.W.) who has been accorded lay membership in E.G.C. may be ordained a Priestess of E.G.C. by any recognized Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop of E.G.C.

Ideally, the ordinand will have served as a Deacon, and will have been ordained to the Diaconate, prior to his or her ordination as Priest or Priestess.

The Gnostic Mass should be celebrated as part of any rite of ordination to the Priesthood. Ordination rites used within E.G.C. must be approved in advance by the Primate or the Patriarch. Approved Priesthood ordination rites are available from the Grand Secretary General.

8. Ordination (Consecration) to the Episcopate

All persons who attain to the Theoreticus Sub-degree of the VII° of O.T.O. are, as part of their initiation, consecrated Bishops of E.G.C. Only the Primate and the Patriarch have the authority to consecrate Bishops within E.G.C. Regardless of the putative validity of his or her Apostolic Succession, no person consecrated by any person other than the Primate or the Patriarch after October 1, 1991 e.v. will be recognized as a Bishop of E.G.C.

9. Feasts and Celebrations

The Feast for the First Night of the Prophet and His Bride (August 12), the Feast for the Three Days of the Writing of the Book of the Law (April 8, 9, and 10), the Feast for the Supreme Ritual (March 20), Rituals of the Elements and Feasts of the Times (at the equinoxes and solstices), Feasts for Fire (celebrating male puberty), Feasts for Water (celebrating female menarche), Feasts for Life (celebrating birth), Greater Feasts for Death, and other occasional festivals, celebrations and observances may be conducted as official E.G.C. rites by the membership of the Church under the direct or indirect supervision of a Bishop. An Initiate Member of O.T.O. of at least K.E.W. must be physically present if the rite is to be held publicly as an official E.G.C. or O.T.O. event. If the Gnostic Mass is celebrated as part of a Feast or occasional festival, celebration, or observance, only the Priest partakes of communion (see instructions at the end of Liber XV).

IV. Administration

All funds collected at official Ceremonies of E.G.C. within O.T.O. shall be duly recorded and reported through a chartered local body of O.T.O. to the Grand Treasurer General.

Ordinations should be reported to the Grand Secretary General and the Ecclesiastical Secretary for recording and official recognition. Baptisms and consecrations may also be reported to the Ecclesiastical Secretary.

Certificates commemorating baptism, confirmation and ordination may be issued by individual Bishops. The design of such certificates must be submitted to the Grand Secretary General for approval by the Primate.

The Ecclesiastical Secretary is an Assistant Secretary of O.T.O. whose duty is to log and maintain records of Ecclesiastical Membership.

Questions on E.G.C. policies and procedures should be addressed to the Grand Secretary General.