





**LIGHT ON  
CELESTIAL CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

## LIGHT ON CELESTIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## THANKS

To the Lord: may this book perfectly materialize your mind!

*To my Dad Prosper: for his strong education and patience*

*To my Mom Pauline, who used to tell me: "Do whatever is in your heart; the Lord Jesus is with you"*

To Carine; my darling wife and daily help

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To Karina A. from Russia for her generous contribution as you will see

**"Whenever you are a newcomer in God's house, stay quiet at least for three good years. Listen to everybody and search for truth"**

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## **A. TRINITY AND HOLY NAMES**

## **1. Place of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit – Trinity**

Celestial Church of Christ believes in one God. The Lord, trinity and uniqueness, is the only God who made heaven and earth. God is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Three personalities made of a single material. These three divinities are equal in: power, wisdom, might... none is superior to another. The Father is neither greater than the Son and nor larger than the Holy Spirit. The three have ever existed, are everlasting and none of them was created. However, they differ through the fact that the Father is unbegotten and the Son is generated by eternal generation through the Father, and the Holy Spirit eternally derives from the Father and the Son. Nevertheless, there aren't three gods but a unique God.

Celestial Church of Christ has not received fresh revelations about God. Herein, it doesn't differ from former men of God's teachings who took their grounds from the bible. It is the way towards Him that is specific without contradicting the faith of the fathers of the Church. Though not deriving from any religion, Celestial Church of Christ acknowledges the fact that God did not start manifesting His kindness over His Children from its existence. Christianity began two thousand years ago with Jesus Christ. The Church particularity rather comes from the additional revelation resulting from liturgy, prophetic hymns, some rites and prayers. Some people who misunderstand God's greatness and kindness over His people give names to the Church, such as esoteric group, syncretic... some even further by calling it a failed monastery or a transformation of existing Churches. Others based on single acts call it a cult. Here is the only plausible answer: because some physicians are incompetent are we then going to reproach the entire body? It is better to judge by yourself!

As a little reminder of God's attributes we can say He is spirit, therefore has no arm, no leg, no mouth or any other member of a

human body. The members mentioned in the bible are mere illustrations that enable to understand Him better.

Actually, God does not get angry or sad and does not react emotionally like human... He is unchangeable. If we can explain this unchangeable aspect, we will say He is eternally, infinitely and invariably cheerful. As He was, so is he and will everlastingly be. Furthermore, God is timeless, both present and future are equal before him. Nevertheless, we should not be carried away by some prophetic interpretations. The Lord said to his disciples, including Judas: "...so shall you be seated upon twelve thrones, and shall you judge the twelve tribes of Israel". Thereafter, Judas committed suicide and was replaced by Matthias. Was God wrong? Was He not aware of Judas' betrayal and suicide? He might have known it and even qualified namelessly Judas of demon! The Lord releases many conditional prophecies while knowing in advance man's future choices. That was the case with Cain and He still does it now. An action is judged either practically or intentionally. That is why a so-called "saint" today is a potential sinner tomorrow, vice-versa.

Another characteristic of God is that He is prompt in understanding and does not conclude by multiple thoughts. He has a simple clear way to comprehend things. This is just a shadow of the teachings given in Celestial Church of Christ parishes.

We therefore invite leaders to make sure that teachings about God reach all the sheep in order to lead them to salvation. Any parish that does not preach on God, salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ and Christian tasks towards his or her Lord and men, is a highway to hell and a tasteless salt for the society. Oldsters and youngsters, rich and poor, sympathizers or predecessors should make sure that each and everyone knows who is being worshipped. Let it be clear for each and everyone that there is one God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, just as confessed in our creed.

**Suggestion 1:** each diocese has to organize quarterly training sessions to make sure that the "creed" is well understood by all parish leaders. Though being essential, videos are no longer enough for leaders; they should attend some courses and video conferences in order to ask live questions.

**Suggestion 2:** based on the fact that it is completely wrong to allow a leader defining the "church doctrine" in his parish, the diocese should put in place a regulating unit that will go round the parishes to teach the Church doctrine. Every Sunday, members of this unit should go in assigned parishes to teach compulsorily after service evangelists and volunteers. Interventional days should be arranged in accordance with the parish leader. He is the one to gather the people for the teachings. Why does this duty lies neither on the parish leader nor on the assigned predecessor alone? It is proved that the level of understanding scriptures differs from one person to another and more often, if an important member of the congregation is wrong the entire people is misled. It can also be obvious that what a parish leader understands in ten sessions, a predecessor might understand it at once. Hence, having in charge a parish neither guaranties high knowledge nor uprightness. It is a matter of calling. For God calls a man with his shortcomings.

May God preserve us from some predecessors' heresies! If only they can humble themselves and receive teachings from those of their faithful who are closer to the bible truth, but their pride stops them to allow those with understanding and maturity to teach. This sectarian attitude deeply wounds the entire congregation. To avoid such deviations and heretic teachings, it is essential that a movable unit be placed upon parish leaders' doctrine. We keep on saying that it is not to church leaders to define the church doctrine. If there is any suggestion, they can touch the holy seat.

**Suggestion 3:** it is essential to put in place at the level of dioceses, a committee in charge of the Church doctrine. As well as the church not prioritizing grades rather than competences. Actually, they walk

together though at this level of suggestions we cannot be quite sure. Thus, teachings in a diocese cannot be handed over to Evangelists simply because they are not knowledge bearers. What can we expect from a committee focused only on grades while knowing the severe crisis that the church is going through concerning the anointing? This can be checked out by questioning anyone from the congregation to know those closer to the bible truth. Except in Africa, even people of just one year of seniority will direct you to Evangelists simply because their shortcomings are so obvious. Considering the high number of Evangelists, which exists in Africa, there is no more place for the Leaders section; they have been reduced only at arranging chairs and planning thanksgivings. It is now difficult to point gifts of knowledge and of preaching. In order not to compromise the regulating team before its creation, it is better not to take into consideration grades during the selection. Yet, can we still find some Evangelists who make difference? Yes, there are some of them who are upright and qualified enough to make the pride of the Church.

### **Bible references:**

**Matthew 19:28** *And Jesus said unto them: verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

**John 6: 70** *Jesus answered them, have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?*

### ***Christ divinity***

**Psalms 45:7** *Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows*

**John 1: 1-3** *In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.*

**John 20:28** *And Thomas answered and said unto him, my Lord and my God*

**Philippians 2:5-7** *Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no*

reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.

### **Holy Spirit divinity**

**Job 33:4** *The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life*

**Acts 5:3-4** *But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*

**1 Corinthians 6:19** *What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, ye are not your own.*

### **CREED**

*I believe in God the Father Almighty*

*Who made heaven and earth*

*And in His only begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord*

*Who was conceived from the Holy Ghost*

*Born of the Virgin Mary*

*Suffered under Pontius Pilate*

*Was crucified, died, was buried*

*Descended into hell*

*The third day was resurrected*

*Ascended into heaven*

*Sat at the right hand of God the Father Almighty*

*Where He will come to judge the living and the dead*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit*

*In the Holy Celestial Church of Christ*

*In the communion of saints*

*In the forgiveness of sin*

*In the resurrection of the flesh*

*And in the Everlasting life*

**Amen!**

## 2. The Lord Jesus Christ's role in the Holy Church

The Lord Jesus is the Word made flesh by God. Coexisting eternally with the Father and the Holy Spirit, He made himself flesh for the salvation of humankind. He is complete God and complete man. As God's word, God's Son, He is God and both equal to the Father and to the Holy Spirit. Being a human did not reduce His divinity in any way. As a man, He had the same flesh like us, except sin and begot from king David tribe: Judah. Let's avoid fake doctrines that stipulate that He came from Africa or Europe. He was born in Bethlehem and from Abraham offspring according to the flesh.

A flesh full of nerves, that needed to be fed and subject to pain. He had a human spirit, soul and body, just as every human being. Now is there any difference between them? The flesh is obvious because it is palpable. Both men and animals have it. As far as the soul is concerned, it is the seat of passions and its bottom part is linked to the flesh. Animals also have it, but being mortal, it cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven. That is why those who are subject to carnal lust are called sensual persons. How can a man at the likeness of God be having sex with his neighbor's wife? Or things by having sex with the same gender, a child or animals? Man's soul is made up of two sections: a bottom part, which is linked to the flesh and closer to animal, and an upper part which receives from man's spirit. This part reasons through the intellect, our mind. For Christ our model, the bottom part was completely submitted to the upper one; in such a way that He was not bothered by women proximity and men's insults. Remember that sexual desire derives from Adam sin. If there weren't sin, there would be another way of reproducing. Saint Paul, Saint John and John the Baptist are among those who have submitted their bottom part to the upper one. As far as the spirit is concerned, it is directly influenced by God (and His angels), and the devil. And most of the cases they speak by revelation.

## **An instance of disruption**

Here is a beautiful married woman courting a man of God -> his flesh sees the woman's beauty -> he reasons within himself that he is right, since she is abandoned by her husband (devilish inspiration) -> such inspiration disrupts the upper part of his soul, therefore he is allowed to fetch there. In front of others' he says no to the woman while encountering her frequently. Secret encounters are multiplied -> hence, sin is consumed.

Though he gets warnings from God prompting him to stop, he does not consider any of them, taking excuses. While God is convincing him to flee from the woman's appeal as Joseph did, the devil on his own gives him false reasoning. Once the mind darkens, the disrupted soul turns to flesh. Woe to the congregation that has such a man as leader. Furthermore, examples of disruption are numerous: oppressing the people in God's name, legitimating masturbation, abortion and homosexuality, sanctifying prostitution money, harassing people to remain in congregation, allowing the people to walk in total disorder so as to keep them, making the love of money a lifestyle.... There are so many instances of man's union with sin. It is logical to find this type of behavior in the world, but not in the midst of God's people for we have Christ as model. While an unbeliever is being judged only according to the state legislation, a Christian is both judged by the state and God legislation. Once a man dies, God's judgment is irreversible. Both condemnation and absolution are eternal.

The Lord came to reestablish us in His glory. Let the spirit capture his light, the upper part of the soul accepts his will and dominates the bottom so that the body is being adjusted according to God. Through His divine nature, the Lord Jesus is God in the Holy Church and as a man He is the head of the Holy Church, and the only mediator between God and men. He is venerated the same way like God and the Holy Ghost. Celestial Church of Christ abides in the apostles' faith. It doesn't acknowledge any other way of salvation other than our Lord Jesus Christ. To inherit the kingdom of heaven; it is essential to be



baptized in a Christian church and follow the Lord's commandments. The bible certifies it and church can't stand against the kingdom of heaven's topic is too broad to be mention here; let's just mention the fact that it is not of this earth. The starting point is the heart of a man who has received water and Holy Ghost baptisms, and ends up in the God's supernatural world prepared for souls.

Reincarnation is not of Christ. It is appointed for man to live once and after death comes judgment. Therefore, a man cannot die and come back, be it as person or animal.

**Bible references:**

**Hymn: JESUS I SHALL WORSHIP THEE**

Jesus I shall worship thee (2ce)

In this holy place

Amidst thy great church

I shall worship thee until the end

I shall carry home thy blessings

*Amen!*

**Hymn: O HEARKEN ALL YE PEOPLE**

1. O hearken all ye people,  
To the voice of the Lord,  
The day of judgement draws near  
That ye shall be reckoned

**Choir:**

All the whole world have sinned  
And fallen short of his glory  
O sinner the name of Jesus shall save us all  
No other way that leads unto salvation  
Be prepared all ye people to accept Jesus.

2. Most precious blood of Jesus  
Paid ransom for our sins  
Ye sinners be washed in it  
And we shall all be Saved.

3. We shall all be assembled  
Before the Lord Jesus,  
All the youth and the adults  
We shall all give accounts.  
4. What reasons will we all give  
At the sight of Jesus,  
So many people have gone  
Without accepting Jesus

**Amen!**

**John 4:22** *You worship what you don't know; we know what we worship ; for salvation is of the Jews.*

**John 14:6** *Jesus said into him: I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

**1 John 2:23** *Whoever denies the Son doesn't have the Father either. He that acknowledges the Son has the Father also.*

**Hebrews 9:27** *As it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Genesis 9:4** *But you shall not eat the flesh with its life, that is, its blood*

**Matthew 2:1** *Now after Jesus was born at Bethlehem in Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem.*

**Jude 1:19** *These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, having not the spirit.*

**Romans 8:16** *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*

### **3. Relationships with other churches**

Celestial Church of Christ is opened to differences but doesn't adhere to any divinity other than our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, the place given to Jesus Christ determines whether we worship the same God. If Christ Jesus is regarded as God, then we worship the same God; otherwise, we don't worship the same God and this

regardless of the number of followers in other religions. In a country where celestial Christians are majority; there should be freedom of religion. Even those who decide to venerate the devil are citizen with same rights and duties like others of the country; probably not in Celestial Church of Christ. Presently, celestial Christians have become civil society's key actors in three African countries: Nigeria, Benin and Ivory Coast. Our Lord Jesus Christ, being the only way that leads to God and the Truth, which is the only truth, anyone who confesses otherwise cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven. This should be obvious to every celestial Christians; there is no salvation out of Jesus Christ! Only those who have confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and have been baptized, are called children of God. For, He is the Messiah predicted by the Old Testament Prophets.

A celestial Christian can actually socialize with unbelievers; there is nothing wrong to that, but he can never fellowship with them except he leads prayer! Socializing with other congregations doesn't mean accepting their faith, but it is a responsible approach that brings trust and peace in a country. This is very important in the sense that some fanatic celestial Christians would probably think that to worship God means underestimating unbelievers. For sure, fanatics are everywhere, in politics, religion, association, sports... our Lord is a peaceful God who grants men choice to accept Him or not. Therefore, how can a human compel another on how, where and who to worship? It is totally unbiblical to compel someone to Christianity. In a process of interreligious interactions, it is wrong for a celestial Christian to ask an unbeliever to pray for the congregation. If he or she wants to pray aloud, he or she is free to do so, but no "amen" should be heard. Otherwise, there shall be an incongruity! Interreligious interaction is rather a responsible and human act than unifying beliefs. Different faiths can gather around the same table as society key actors so as to promote peace.

Some people believe that we are linked by the Abrahamic faith according to flesh. Wrong! Let's avoid sentimentality. According to the scriptures, one cannot believe in God without believing in Christ Jesus.

If this is unclear in the old covenant, it is made clear by Christ's apostles; who came 2000 years ago and who, according to our creed, will still come to judge the living and the dead. If we question other beliefs on whether they share Christian faith and acknowledge Christ as Savior, we will get a "NO"! Indeed, because of their basics and oral traditions, they foresee a great incompatibility of faith. That's right! Otherwise, would have been ignorance or hypocrisy. Why associating what is basically not associable? Let no one be inhibited compared to others religions which increase digitally.

Some trends, pretending to promote peace in the world, would like to put everybody in the same mold; one religion, one race, one way of thinking... The question we can actually ask is this: what size should we all have? Because if our differences create conflicts all over the world, we should all have the same size in order live in peace. As well as having the same job, same clothes, same DNA, identical houses... conflict comes from man's heart who is inherently selfish from Adam's sin, and not from the difference. The difference here is just an excuse for doing evil, which already exists in the heart. As far as a celestial Christian is concerned, it is essential to seek peace with everyone, regardless of his/her origin, social status, religion, sex... as recommended by the Lord.

Every celestial Christian must beware of ancestral customs practiced in both Africa, Asia and other continents. For, most of them are inherited from idol worshipers' parents and to venerate deities or dead. This can be demonstrated through dances, words, consumption or not of some foods or drinks, incenses, baths, wearing some items... all this is idolatry. This is extraneous to Christ as well as to a celestial Christian. Nevertheless, it isn't wrong for an unbeliever to practice this, it is just further demonstration of his/her denial for Christ.

**Suggestion 4:** at the level of dioceses and especially parishes, dialogues must be undertaken with non-Christian congregations. Sporty interactions, humanitarian interactions... can be undertaken. This would enable some celestial Christians who do not understand the

Lord's mind to open up to others in order to be more enlightened. These responsible exchanges would keep away extremists and unnecessary conflicts. This is also how those promoting violence towards other congregations are being unveiled. Thus, it becomes easier to explain that overall peace is God's will and advantageous to the entire nation. Thank God that such initiatives and exchanges are already undertaken in Africa, especially in countries that number numerous celestial Christians. This should also be promoted in associations, schools and other components of the society.

### **Bible references:**

**1 Corinthians 5:10** *“yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortionists, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.”*

**Jean 3:18** *“he who believes in Him is not condemn; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten son. “*

**Romans 9: 2-8** *“that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accused from Christ for my brethren; my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises... that is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed”*

**Galatians 4:25** *“for Hagar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and correspond to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children”*

**1 John 2:22** *“who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.”*

**1 John 5:1** *“whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.”*

**2 John 1:7** *“for many deceivers have gone into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.”*

**Romans 12:18** *“if it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”*

#### 4. Dissimilitude between Christian churches

Celestial Church of Christ cannot force other churches to believe in revelations that she received from the lord, but which are a base for celestial Christians. During Christ era, haven't many people pretended to be Christ? Thus, did He keep silent so far, as the true Christ? We cannot reject God's revelations just to be seen as meek before men. This is an instance of what the Holy Spirit revealed to a Christian from another congregation who asked to the founder pastor about what will be his gain at the end of the day being celestial Christian: " young man, we have given you a kobo to save and you saved it; now we ask you to render the kobo and accept two kobos for the glory of two kobos is greater than that of a kobo. But if you refuse to give the kobo on time; when in the future you will come to see the glory of the two kobos, you would like to reconsider your position and therefore possessing it will be too late because others might have taken your place". A kobo is the one hundredth of Naira, Nigerian currency. This does not mean that celestial Christians are more spiritual and irreproachable than others from other congregations. The frame – services, temple, parvis, type of prayers, convents, and priestly clothes ...- when being respected, becomes favorable to spiritual growth. Therefore, if somebody enters a celestial church parish, which has the true worship, he will say: verily, verily the God that my soul longs for is here. That is why it's essential that our parishes reflect God's will.

It is true that presently the Church has many internal challenges and divisions regarding its organization. We can only advise leaders to give their best as far as the work of God is concerned, relying on the available skills. Undoubtedly, Celestial Church of Christ is the «Last Boat from Heaven". The one that will fight against the Antichrist and his money oriented government. On those days, many martyrs shall come from this Church, who would only have as weapons the love of the truth, of their neighbors and their words. Nobody knows when all these events will occur except God. What matters is the Lord's recommendation to watch out and pray.

## 5. The importance of Christ effigy upon the cross

This issue was sorted out at the first meeting called by the first pastor of the Church. At the beginning of the Celestial Church of Christ, a man appeared to him in a vision and this is what is said in "Light on Celestial Church of Christ": I answered: "since I am protesting, I am going to put a mere cross without Christ effigy." And he said: "No, I want a real cross with Christ crowned the pierced rib and the Hebrew inscription on top. A simple cross might be taken to the ones of the thieves crucified along with Jesus Christ or any other, since before Christ death by crucifixion already existed. Therefore, a cross with Christ's effigy is needful. It is a peculiar sign to show how God man agreed to suffer and die for the sake of humankind.

We can add some bible explanations to this by saying that we all know that Christ is the lamb of God who takes away the world sin. Yet, a lamb is consumed by fire on an altar; which enlightens us on the fact that Christ cross represents God's altar in heaven. Hence, a cross without Christ representation upon is an altar without a lamb; therefore, we are talking of a non-existing or passed redemption. However, once completed, the sacrifice becomes perpetual. While occurring here on earth, our Lord's sacrifice was also taking place in God's handmade tabernacle in heaven. It is the task of a high priest to sacrifice a lamb on an altar, thus Christ presented as the High Priest. A high priest is appointed for God's service in the temple. Yet, Christ is God. For God the perfect sacrifice could only be emanating from Him because He perfectly accepts what come from Him only. In other words, only God was able to repair the offense caused to Him by Adam sin. That's why the Word was made flesh. To sum up, Christ is the lamb, the high priest and God. Thus, Christ crucifies gives us access to His glory.

We therefore urge celestial Christians to put on crosses with Christ crucified upon so as to remember their Lord's sufferings for their salvation. We are conscious that in some countries it is forbidden to wear cross necklaces in some public places. However, it is also funny to

see that wearing trademarks and even insulting representations against citizen ethics do not disturb people. The worst thing is that several kiosks are promoting pornographic magazines by exposing naked women posters. Let's imagine the negative impact of this on teenagers, besides the visual pollution on our little children. And we are surprised that after watching such images our children wish to complete their indecent training or go to internet to abuse their friends? Whose fault is that? Aggressive advertisement campaigns promoting eroticism, adultery, swinging and immorality, but mammon worshippers would give this argument: as long as this forwards the economics, reduces joblessness and increases the country purse, there is nothing wrong. Civil society is not even embarrassed and few associations have complained to the administrative authorities. Overall freedom! Still, it is possible to wear a cross necklace inside clothes. Thank God, Christians are not being frisked in order to check if they wear cross in their neck, otherwise it is prejudicial to their citizen rights... A philosopher once said that nature abhors vacuum: a deleted image is replaced illico presto. Therefore, if Christ effigy, which is emblem of holiness, justice, mercy, meekness and godliness, is deleted, what can replace it?

**Suggestion 5:** one cannot be wearing a cassock with gentile effigies' necklaces. Sunday dressing shouldn't be extravagant, that is, abhorring luxury brands or gold jewelries. Only the following items should be allowed in the church premises: Watches, wedding rings, medical glasses, and small earrings for women. Piercings and loops must be prohibited. Even men are likely to become more sophisticated than women in wearing chains, earrings and piercings. Church is a place of worship and not a parade platform. A place of worship!

**Bible references:**

**John 1:29** *"the next day John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, "behold! Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."*



**Hebrews 7:26-27** *“for such a high priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.”*

**Hebrews 10:20** *“by a new and living way Which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, his flesh.”*

**1 Timothy 2-9** *“in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing.”*

**1 Corinthians 6-10** *“nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God”.*

## **6. The beginning of prayers in the Church: “Jehovah, Jesus Christ, Holy Michael”**

Prayer ritual within the framework of the Church always starts with “Jehovah, Jesus Christ, Holy Michael” and ends up with “in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord”. Does it imply that God wouldn’t answer a group that does not use this formulation? That’s not the point! But as far as loud prayers are concerned in the church, people should conform in order not to disfigure the church system. Moreover, do not add to this formulation qualifiers such as “Father” Jehovah; “redeemer” Jesus Christ; “Archangel” Michael... innovating doesn’t answer, but obedience and simplicity.

Through “Jehovah” we mean pure divinity, the divinity at the creation, made up of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Through “Christ-Jesus” we mean the glorified man, and chief creative officer. Through Holy Michael we mean the chief of angels. These three names represent the three models of God’s nature. Jehovah, Creator of the universe, Jesus Christ, God’s incarnation and men representation, and Holy Michael, from the angelic choir. Thus, God Himself and the whole creation bear witness of our sincerity.

Holy Michael is the guardian angel of the people of God, not of all

creatures; but Christians. He once watches over the people of Israel before the covenant changed and before they rejected their Lord: the messiah. He is the head of the Lord's host, in charge of securing God's children from the hatred of fallen angels.

Prayers end up with "in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord" because He is the only mediation for prayer answers. Without the blood of Christ, our righteousness is "sin" before God. We are answered neither through our "love", nor through our "goodness", nor through our abundant "alms"... but all these are preceded by the Lord's sacrifice.

### **Bible references:**

**2 Corinthians 13: 1** *"though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love. I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal."*

**Revelation 12:7** *"and war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought."*

**Joshua 5:14** *"so, he said: "No, but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to him, "what does my Lord say to His servant?"*

**1 John 2:1** *"My little children, these things I write, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."*

## **7. The significance of "Holy Michael" at the beginning of prayers**

A lot of polemics surround Holy Michael significance. From the etymology, some alleged that Michael means "God like"; others because of the formulation at the beginning of prayers "Jehovah, Jesus Christ, Holy Michael" said it's the Holy Ghost, since the trinity is thereby mentioned. This could be possible if there wasn't additive information revealed in hymns that defines Holy Michael as the fighter archangel, and that's right. Actually, two hymns reveal us that in the

formulation of “Jehovah, Jesus Christ, Holy Michael” Holy Michael is never one of God’s names but an archangel.

While praying on the knees, whenever “Jehovah” and “Jesus Christ” are being mentioned, the forehead should be on the ground; but not at the mention of Holy Michael though being on the knees. For the two first names, the palms of hands are on the ground, and for the third, they remain joined on the chest, so as to request. This singularity shows that we do not worship Holy Michael, but show respect towards him.

**Bible references:**

**Hymn: JEHOVAH, JESUS CHRIST, HOLY MICHAEL**

*1. Jehovah, Jesus Christ  
Holy Michael our captain  
Celestial is before thee  
In dread and humble spirit  
Longing for the Holy Ghost  
Beauty of Heavenly grace  
Your blessings and upliftment  
Let them be for us.*

**Hymn: LET US GIVE THANK TO THE LORD**

...  
5. Jehovah Holy Holy Holy  
Behold us with thine favour  
And be our protector in  
This holy congregation  
6. Jesus Christ the Redeemer  
Bind us with thy Salvation  
That we might be free from sin  
Sake of thy blood that floweth.  
7. Holy Michael our captain  
Defender of all the saints  
Lift thy sword in defence  
To conquer evil spirit ...

## 8. The 7 hallelujah

Used in the bible, hallelujah means "praise unto the Lord". Therefore, to greet each other, celestial Christians use "hallelujah", so as to highlight two main points: "to God be the glory for what He is" and "may your life reflect God's glory".

When a congregation is visited by another one, to give thanks to the Lord, the host people say seven "hallelujah" during announcements' time. They are also recited at the four cardinal points at the end of the service. Some people alleged that this seven "hallelujah" mean: "God is worthy of power", "God is worthy of riches", "God is worthy of wisdom", "God is worthy of might", "God is worthy of honor", "God is worthy of glory", and "God is worthy of praise".

### **Bible references:**

*Revelation 5:12* "saying with a loud voice, worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

## 9. The beginning of the blessing prayer in the Church

As far as the ritual is concerned, blessings all start by "may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit" or any equivalence. Can be added "be multiplied unto us", "be with us"...

### **Bible references:**

*2 Corinthians 13:14* "the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."

## 10. Type of prayers and position of the godly

We practice several types of prayers:

- During the service, most of the prayers are made kneeling looking the altar. This position is adopted as a mark of meekness and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ. For gender sake, man must be standing and not kneeling. Kneeling implies to freely remove a glory that is ours and show our smallness before our Lord. Remember, though being God He made Himself small by taking a human nature. One of the first signs of meekness is acknowledging that we are sinners. Even for personal prayers, this position is strongly recommended.

There is also the overall prayer, which is made in special occasions, at the end of service. For such prayers, the people may pray for a person or a family. This is the bottom of this prayer: Lord, may you find in the midst of this multitude, a favorable voice to answer. Such as:

- At the end of a thanksgivings service, predecessors assigned to pray should do it while turning their back to the altar.

- At the end of the service, the parish leader and some elders recommend the people to God. The one leading this prayer turns his back to the altar and the others surround the people who are kneeling.

- During regular prayers (deliverance, enhances, assistance...), the concerned person kneels in the midst of 3, 4 or 7 Elders. These Elders hold each a candle or just the person for whom they pray for holds a candle.

- In daytime, seven prayers are made in the temple (6 am, 9 am, 12pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, and midnight). For those who are busy out, it is recommended to take a short break for God's time. Some just recite "Our Father", when other involve in something deeper... the seven prayers are not enough for those with a job, because they are not intensive. However, every celestial Christians should personally choose the proper time to encounter his/her God. For those yearning for deliverance or delivering power, 3 am is propitious. As far as revelation is concerned, sunrise prayers are recommended. This is out of experience, not a church regulation.

Obviously, idle and contemptuous will not benefit from our Lord's salvation. Whoever is not a beggar before God before is rich, but not of God.

**Bible references:**

**Mark 1:40** *And there came a leper to Him, and kneeling down to Him, and saying unto Him, if you will, you can make me clean.*

**Luke 5:8** *When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.*

**Luke 18:13** *And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.*

**James 5:16** *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availed much.*

**Revelation 7:1** *And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.*

**Psalms 119:164** *Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments*

**Psalms 86:3** *Be merciful unto me, O Lord, for I cry unto thee dally.*

## **11. God names as revealed in the church**

The revealed names of God are "holiest", therefore shouldn't be pronounced anyhow. The mention of these names is made during the service by the leader who is cleansed and in proper conditions. Please, let's not make use of them wrongly. There are names called only during a service or special prayer time. A wrong use of them might have an effect. Do not call upon God in vain!

Therefore, there are many irregularities being noticed... irregular use of holy names. This might look like superstition or incantations. Some people, for unknown reasons, use these names as if God has become deaf when calling Him in a simple way. Here are the best ways to be

answered by God: a humble heart, a dedicated life to the Lord and true love of God. Church leaders should ensure that God's names are respected both in the congregation and at homes.

Moreover, "holy" names that are recognized neither in Celestial Church of Christ nor in the bible shouldn't be pronounced. This is strongly prohibited both during services and overall prayers. Within the church premises, people should just use the revealed one! Though incompatible to Christian faith, some esoteric books followers always like to use unknown names from their reading. We keep on saying that, meekness is better than over knowledge, which might even be fake.

#### **a. God's holy names used during services**

**AGASHADUAL – LORD OF HOSTS – KING OF BATTLES (OBA – OLESEGUN in Yoruba)**

Declaimed with Psalms 100 or 136 (Sunday, Wednesday or Friday evening services)

Declaimed with Psalms 100 (1<sup>st</sup> laying stone service for a new building)

Declaimed with Psalms 103 (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday monthly service)

These psalms are meant to celebrate God's mercy and goodness.

**ALFAJI ARA HACH – SUPREME JUDGE, GOD UPON THE THRONE**

Declaimed with psalms 90 (memorial service of death)

This psalm reveals the shortness of life.

**ELI BAMAH-YABAH – GOD BREATH OF LIFE (OLUWA- OMO EMI- MICHAEL in Yoruba)**

Declaimed with psalm 20 (Sunday morning services, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday monthly and 31<sup>st</sup> December)

Declaimed with psalm 20:1-5 (Sunday evening, Wednesday and Friday evening, Wednesday and Friday noon services)

This psalm calls for the answer to our requests.

Some Elders are using but "ELI YAHAAH" Instead of "ELI BAMAAH-YABAAH" alleging that "BAMAAH" and "YABAAH" have the same meaning; that's not true. For instance, didn't Jesus Christ say: Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthanie? Which means: my God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why didn't he say: Eli, Lama Sabachthanie? That is: My god, why have you forsaken me? Let's use the original revelation.

**ELI-YAH** – GOD CREATOR (OLUWA – ALORUN in Yoruba)

Declaimed with psalms 27, 118 or 136 (Sunday morning service)

Declaimed with psalm 118 (31<sup>st</sup> December service)

These psalms celebrate God's mercy and call for His help in times of troubles.

**ELO-HIM YAH**

Declaimed with Zechariah 6:12-15 (1<sup>st</sup> laying stone service for a new building)

These bible verses refer to God's temple built by Christ.

**EH-YIBAH** – MERCIFUL GOD (OLUWA – ALANU in Yoruba dialect)

Declaimed with psalm 51 (all services)

Declaimed with psalm 128, following psalm 51 (child birth service)

Psalm 51 is also used for sin forgiveness. Man taking note of his sinful and miserable condition before God, calls to His help and forgiveness.

**JEHOVAH JECHO-HIRAMI** (OBA- OLUBUKUN in Yoruba dialect)

Declaimed with Genesis 15:1-6 and Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (fruit of the wombs, needy and child birth services)

These verses focus both on God's promise to Abraham: Isaac and prosperity.

**JEHOVAH LASS** – GOD OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING

Declaimed with psalm 72 (Sunday morning service)

This psalm focuses on the glory of the messianic kingdom.



## **JEHOVAH RAMAH – MERCIFUL GOD**

Declaimed with psalm 24 (Sunday morning, wedding, 1<sup>st</sup> laying stone, building and parish inauguration)

This psalm talks of the entry of the king of glory in His holy temple. Some church leaders have removed this name from services, as they claim that "RAMAH" refers to weeping (Matthew 2:18 "in Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children...").wrong understanding! We shouldn't confuse the town of Rama in the bible days to the holy name attributed to our merciful God.

## **JERIMOYAMA – GOD SOURCE OF FERTILITY**

Declaimed during processions (Sunday evening, Wednesday and Friday, and Sunday morning services)

Declaimed with psalm 113 (child birth service)

This psalm celebrates the Lord's kindness towards needy.

### **b. God's holy names as revealed in hymns**

## **AJAGURAH HE - SUPREME WARRIOR**

## **AJAGURAH JAH**

## **EL BERACA**

*Dear Lord God El Beracad*

*Remember us at this very hour*

*Thou who had blessed Abraham*

*Jacob and also Joseph the only God everlasting.*

*Send down thy blessing today.*

*To us that are thy chosen ones*

*Thou benevolent God.*

***Amen!***

## **EL BERACA BERED ELI**

*El Beraca Bered Eli*

*Our Lord the king who blesses his congregation*

*Rain down the blessing of thy*

*Manna upon us this day*

*Jehovah Elyon, our Lord*

*God rich in glory Supreme*

*Magnify us with thy everlasting wealth*

*Exalt thy child during prayers offered this day*

*El Morijah our Lord the king of providence*

*Please come to provide for us all our needs*

*So that all our thoughts may be turned into joy*

*And that our woes may be turned into glory*

*Ye holy angels from heavens*

*Joins us songs of praises*

*So we might take blessing away to our homes*

*Christ ruler in heaven and earth*

*Say Amen! For us*

*Amen!, Amen!, Amen! (ter)*

**(Amen!)**

## **JAHMAN**

*Irab Jahman*

*Jaribam Irab Jahman*

*Holy Spirit*

*Heavenly dove, descend now*

**Amen!**

## **ALEJUMOH**

*Our Father (3x)*

*Holy Spirit Alejumoh*

*Alejumoh bless us all*

*Till the end, divine come near to us*

*The Trinity, the Holy Trinity*

*Alab-hi-mi -san is our victory*

**Amen!**

## **RIH YEH**

*YAGO Lolab Marriyanga rib yeh*

*Yago Lolab Marriyeh*

*Pay Homage to the King our Lord*

*We pay homage to him*

***Amen!***

## **JAH KIRAH HIHI JAH**

Jah Kirah hihi jah

Thou the victorious king

Conquer enemies for us

Yah Kirah hihi jah

Lift up high thy church

With Halleluyah.

***Amen!***

### **Bible references:**

***Deuteronomy 5:11*** "thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

***Matthew 27:46*** "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying: Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachtani? That is to say, my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

## **12. The Church and political authorities**

Celestial Church of Christ is completely apolitical and does not allow a voting call for any specific political party, regardless of the country. Any church leader who leads prayers for any specific party is deviating. Any political debate is prohibited within the Church premises; please avoid referring to political conflicts in the church. During elections, the choice of people is God's permission, even if the incumbent president adopts anti-Christian policy. Some people because of the president's mistreatments toward Christians may think that he wasn't established by God. Indeed, God gave to the men the power to manage the earth,

which which he created and to choose their leaders for their well-being as for their ill-being. Let's go back into the bible with kings of Israel cases, Jeroboam and Ahab. Moreover, gold is proofed in fire. Remember, Christians had already written pages and pages of love and tolerance right before Christianity became a state religion in Roma. Though being cursed, they were rather blessing others. Voting is not forbidden, it is even advised. Despite the fact that it is a citizen duty, the Church should not be involved in political parties' conflicts. Brethren, let's look for the kingdom of heaven!

**Suggestion 6:** During elections time, there should be a reminder process in every diocese concerning the prohibition of voting instructions in every parish. Each has to vote with the consciousness Christian as being in front of the Lord. The position of the Church is neutral. Hence, it should legally cut off with any parish that would give voting instructions. Moreover, clothes with political parties' patterns should be prohibited in parishes as well.

**Suggestion 7:** A church's leader cannot be an active member of a political party. Those involved in political parties shouldn't come closer to the pulpit. This instruction should be recalled especially during presidential elections. Further instructions would be relevant according to local conditions, but the guideline is: no politics in Celestial Church of Christ.

**Bible references:**

**Romans 13:1** *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God, the powers that be are ordained of God"*

**John 18:36** *Jesus answered; my kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom from hence.*

**1 Kings 11:29-31** *And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem,*

*that the prophet Abijah the shilonite found him in the way; And he had clad himself with a new garment, and they two were alone in the field: and Abijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces; and he said to Jeroboam, take thee ten pieces : for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, behold, I will rent the kingdom of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee.*

**Mark 12:17** *And Jesus answering said unto them, render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are Gods. And they marveled at him.*

**B. MARY, ANGELS  
AND INTERCESSION**

## **I. Mary mother of the Lord**

### **1. Significance of 1<sup>st</sup> Friday July service**

Friday 15 July, 1977 the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to the founder of the Church. A year later, she still appeared requesting that celestial Christians should seek to know her. After this, the founder declared 1<sup>st</sup> Friday July a dedicated day for the Virgin Mary. The term first Friday means the Friday following the first Thursday of the month of July. A service is organized on that very day to acknowledge God for the understanding given to the Christians of the mysteries around the Lord's mother. This service is also a respect paid to her and a commemoration of her appearance to the founder. Every celestial Christian should give reverence and respect to the Virgin Mary, but that doesn't imply that she should be venerated like God. It is just a reminder that she got a privilege that none has got or will ever have. As she was chosen by the Holy Spirit for a singular ministry, that of receiving the embodiment of God's word, our Lord Jesus Christ. If we can honor great prophets and apostles for their deeds, why not a person in whom God performed a unique and everlasting miracle.

Remember, there can never be a child resulting from the union of a spirit and a woman. This can only result from God's high power. A spirit can't reproduce or beget something physical; Even though a demon can possess man semen during a reproduction to possess the unborn child. And this would require at least the consent of one of the parents; as was the case in the book of Genesis. Thus, the Holy Spirit has this power and exercised it once for all for the incarnation of the only begotten son of God.

## 2. Place of the Lord's mother in the Church

Here is the first hymn revealed in celestial church of Christ.

### ***Hymn: O YE BRETHREN IN CHRIST***

*O ye brethren in Christ,  
Raise ye up this song,  
And ye all listen,  
To voice of Jehovah,  
Of what reward have all ye,  
In this Celestial Church?  
Of what reward have all ye,  
In this great congregation?  
That Mary our mother  
Come to accompany us.  
That the good Divine One  
Come to accompany us*

***Amen!***

Two aspects are relevant in this hymn. First of all, it is the first hymn among a series of seven hundred hymns... why this particular choice from the Lord? Moreover, it does not only teach us that she is our mother, but also that she is supposed to be on our side. This point can join that of the bible when Jesus Christ recommended Mary to John as a mother and John as a son to Mary. Done on the cross, this action doesn't concern family matters, but that of the Church. And this is not just Apostle John's concern, but of all Christians?

Secondly, people will take this recommendation lightly alleging that she is already dead. To those people, the Lord answer is back to the bible where he spoke to the Sadducees about Abraham saying that God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and that He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. By the time this utterance was made, was Abraham still alive?

Added to this, is the story of a visit of the Lord Jesus Christ and Virgin Mary paid to our founder at Makoko in Nigeria.



**Suggestion 8:** in the first week of July, let the teachings be focused on abstinence and chastity before marriage and for those who want to get married only to the Lord.

**Suggestion 9:** during that week, will be allowed to preach, lead, or pray only virgins or full married people only. If weddings are being celebrated why not virginity!

**Bible references:**

**John 19:26-27** *When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he said unto his mom, woman, behold thy son. And he said to his disciple, behold thy mother. And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.*

**Luke 1:48** *for he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.*

**Isaiah 7:14** *therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel;*

**Matthew 1:23** *behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

**Matthew 27: 25** *then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and our children.*

**1 Corinthians 7:34** *there is difference also between a wife and virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.*

**1 Corinthians 7:37** *Nevertheless he had standeth steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well.*

### 3. Interpretation of revealed hymns on her and intercession

#### **Hymn: HOLY MARY, JESUS-CHRIST, HOLY MICHAEL**

*1. Holy Mary, holy Mother,*

*Thou art our confidant.*

*Help us we pray protect us all*

*Because of thy glory*

*2. Jesus Christ, the son of God*

*Thou art our confidant*

*Help us we pray, protect us all*

*Because of thy glory.*

*3. Holy Michael, the great warrior,*

*Thou art our confidant.*

*Help us as we pray, conquer for us*

*Because of thy glory.*

***Amen!***

This hymn, inspired by the Holy Spirit teaches us how great is her glory, how we can confide in her and call upon her help and protection. Three questions may arise: does this hymn really come from God? How far her protection goes, and which power does she use? In regard to the first question, it is logical for every celestial Christian to know whether this church is from God or not. For the second question, it is obvious that it is not by her own power; because the only rational beings capable of doing things by themselves are fallen angels and men. No being beside God can do anything out of God's will. Therefore, Mary can only protect us from the devil and his agents by God's power, through her son Jesus Christ. Otherwise, she intercedes for those who call for her help. It is just a matter of intercession! Why then not talking straight to the Lord? Remember that the Lord talking to Cain said that the voice of his brother's blood has reach up to Him. If the blood of a saint can speak "justice", why not "mercy" through intercession!

We are, therefore, compel to accept that Celestial Church of Christ allows Virgin Mary's intercession and encourages its followers to call

for her help. As she pleaded at Cana's wedding, she can intercede for God's children. She can intercede due to the grace she has received from the Lord and her works on earth. For instance, having received virgin grace and preserved it, she can help someone subject to spirits of lust.

**Bible references:**

**John 2:3** *"And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, they have no wine."*

**John 19:27** *"Then saith he to the disciple, behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."*

**Genesis 4:10** *"And he said, what hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground."*

**Hebrews 12:24** *"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."*

**Revelation 8:4** *"And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand."*

**4. Eternal virginity or not? Immaculate Conception or not?**

Virgin or not, this hasn't been unveiled in Celestial Church of Christ. As well as the Immaculate Conception or not, but those who found a model on Virgin Mary, decided to be wedded to the Lord. Eternal virginity has been their model. Even in couples, this was a great incentive to live a moderated intimacy. The term "virginity" implies complete abstinence from sex. Hence, just few congregations share this view. We will find out that marriage is much more honored there. The Bible does not state clearly that she got other children. Literarily speaking, the bible is silent on this issue and what is used there can be comprehended as "kinships". Some Christian communities have deeply preached abstinence and chastity that the Church has benefited both

spiritually and socially. It is true that some people have laid their stone of contribution into Christianity by committing themselves completely to the Lord (body and spirit). It depends on personal revelation. Whatever, one should make sure to respect his or her vow, like prophets and apostles did.

The most essential thing to know is that salvation comes from faith in Christ Jesus and respect of his law. However, it is also surprisingly to notice how some people fight these principles which help other. Why fighting abstinence and chastity this way? As far as I am concerned, I believe in eternal virginity.

### **Bible references:**

***Daniel 5:23*** "but hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines..."

***Acts 1:14*** "these all continues with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

***Isaiah 7:14*** "therefore the Lord Himself shall give a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel".

## **5. Marian shrines and the chaplet place**

Please do respect recommendations of the temple; the altar and the parvis are enough. Virgin Mary's shrine is useless within the temple and unrevealed. Furthermore, Jesus picture and that of his mother are quite unnecessary within the temple, Christ's cross is enough and all eyes are directed towards it. However, these pictures can figure outside the temple. We all know that image as well as writing is for pedagogical purposes and speaks better than words. As for detractors of saints' pictures, they should rather look for better fight like that of spreading the gospel all over. If anyone is willing to hang pictures of saints in his house, let him or her do. If another one sees that this is useless, fine

and good! It depends on each and every body's choice; the most important thing is to live a godly life. With all the ungodly images that are broadcast all day long in magazines and in public, why not saints' pictures to change a bit?

As far as the rosary is concerned, this can't be called idolatry! Whosoever thinks that praying with a rosary helps to keep God's commands into practice is free to do so! Whosoever believes can make it without sacramental (candles, holy oil, holy water, miraculous bed sheets, incense...), is free to do so! Devotional acts shouldn't be a doctrine. If God has recommended someone to pray rosary, this shouldn't be generalized. It takes great faith to abandon sacramental. If we consider the fact that life seems to be a long routine on earth, between weariness, all kind of problems, misunderstandings, temptations..., that everyone takes whatever is in his power to keep the fire burning.

We also draw attention of some Christians who wear crucifixes or rosaries by fad; that is an offence to the Lord. Although rosary wasn't revealed to celestial church of Christ, it remains a sacramental used by other congregation; shouldn't be defiled therefore. This is another crook way used by the devil to disgrace the Lord.

### **Bible references:**

**Romans 14:1-4** *"him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him that eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand."*

## II. Angels in the Church

### 1. The role of angels and their demonstrations

There are three orders of angelic choirs: the upper one made of seraphim, cherubim and thrones; the intermediary made of dominions, virtues and powers; and the lower made of principalities, archangels and angels. The first hierarchy is well-placed to receive God's revelations, and transmits to the intermediary one, which also transmits to the last one. There might be rare cases when God bypasses the upper hierarchy to give a revelation to lower one. Hence, most of the revelations that we receive are from lower category's angels. There is an exceptional case in the bible's history that deserves to be pointed out; that of Apostle Paul who enlightened angels on gentiles' salvation.

When the bible talks about angels, this does not refer only to lower category called "Angels", but also to seraphim and cherubim... because the word "Angel" simply means "messenger". Angels have no sex; they are neither men nor women.

#### **Bible references:**

***Zechariah 2:3-4*** "and behold, the angel that talketh with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him. And said unto him, run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein"

***Ephesians 3:8-10*** "unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ. To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God."

***Matthew 22:30*** "for in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as angels of God in heaven".

## 2. Revealed names of angels and their functions

The names of angels revealed in the Church are Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael and Jihmata. We urge fans of esoteric books to refrain the use of unknown angels' names in the congregation.

The four first names are used in hymns of sanctification. Michael is used in hymns of sins' remission and battle; Jihmata is used in another level of sanctification, more related to people gifted with prophecy. Angels deserve respect because of their nature more excellent than ours and because they are our spiritual guides. They aren't our servants but God's. Therefore, they receive orders from their creator and work out His will. If someone receives answer out of God's will, it is from the devil. Neither God's angels nor fallen angels receive human orders; this is because the first delight in God's righteousness and the second are too proud and wicked. Man being at the bottom of all reasonable beings.

In his righteousness, God has set man on earth as inferior to angels. Even Christ was submitted to them while on earth, though being Almighty. Due to His divine nature, he could have even strengthened his human soul, but he chose to rely on angels. What a humble! Can skeptical ones understand the fact that the son of God is being baptized by a mere human? What a contrast! When some people barely have they read some bible verses and fasted a week that they give orders to angels and to God.

Jesus himself was a model of stewardship. Though fortified, he had to submit to the Father. He could have used his divine nature to strengthen his flesh, but instead relied on prayers. Some people will argue that: it is written that He had been served by angels during the temptation in the wilderness. In return, they should try to understand better this very period of 40 days of affliction in the desert. In this context, angels were serving The Father through the Son.

### **Bible references:**

**Hebrews 2:14** "*are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.*"

**Hebrews 2:7** "*thou madest him a little less than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands*"

**Matthew 20:28** "*even the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*"

**Matthew 4:11** "*then the devil leaveth him, and behold, angels came and ministered unto him*".

**Exodus 16:35** "*and the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, unto the borders of the land of Canaan.*"

### **3. Who backs the prophets up? Angels or/and Holy Ghost?**

Although they have been gifted with prophecy, prophets do operate under angels who are God's messengers. The Holy Spirit barely gives revelations by passing angels. This requires from the person a specific mission for the church not just for a congregation, a high sanctification and a very important message.

Two questions for those who are still skeptical about the constant help of angels in current time of grace: who fortified the Lord during his agony? Who was Saint Paul's companion in great revelations? Was it the Holy Ghost or angels? For those who would like to deepen, they should know that human nature is below angelic nature and God established a subsidiary principle to involve all his creation in his salvation plan. In short, God avoids doing what is of an angel's competence; as well as angels do not do what a man of God could do. This is why the preaching ministry is proper to man, not angels. Angel Jihmata is in charge of prophets' sanctification. This sanctification is special, because many visions come from fallen angels and this influences the soul. We must not overlook angels' help here on earth. They appeared to Virgin Mary, Joseph, Philip, Paul, and Cornelius... it



was very common at the beginning of Christianity. Except for the work, each and everyone has an angel commonly known as "guardian angel".

At a time when the world is becoming more and more incredulous, talking about angels makes us look naive. This is a proof that there are Sadducees' heirs in the midst of Christians. Because of the desire to streamline faith through their knowledge, many have gone astray and do no longer understand that Christianity is a spiritual lifestyle with angels. They still find it strange to see people being delivered from demonic powers through exorcism. Their religion is only theoretical and philosophical. To come across their fake doctrines, let's just ask them why both Jesus and the apostles delivered men from evil spirits?

### **Hymn: GOOD BEHAVIOUR**

*1. Good behaviour for thee all I pray*

*Ye all my entire Prophets*

*Eschew all bitterness and envy*

*And move nearer to Lord Jesus.*

*2. Holy Jihmata gives this message*

*That we all rejoice and rejoice*

*Clear your minds from all the sinful deed*

*And move nearer to Christ Jesus.*

***Amen!***

### **Bible references:**

**Acts 7:8** "*this is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him on mount Sinai, and who with our fathers. The one who received the living oracles to give to us*"

**Exodus 19:18** "*now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.*"

**Luke 22:43** "*then an angel appeared to him from heaven, strengthening him.*"

**Acts 27:23** "*an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood by me this*

night."

**Matthew 2:19** "now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt"

**Matthew 18:10** "take heed that you do not despise one of those little ones. For, I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven".

**Acts 12:15-16** "so they said: it is his angel. Now Peter continued knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished."

**Luke 6:18** "as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits, and they were healed"

**Acts 23:8** "for Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and no angel or spirit but the Pharisees confess both".

**Acts 16:16-18** "it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us... and this she did for many days. But Paul greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her'. And he came out that very moment."

#### 4. Angels' main demands – specific days related to some angels

Talking about angels' requirements requests first of all classifying them into two (02) categories: guardian angels and working angels. The first ones always walk beside us while the second ones work in the ministry. Among those working in the ministry, there are some who come only whenever there is a service related to their functions. Hence, the working angel of Wednesday service is different from Friday's. Each angel has its own day. That is why it is unnecessary to have a service out of the appointed day, except it is specially recommended by the holy seat. Unfortunately, some leaders used to set the sanctification service out of Friday in order to get more power. Those people should know that if not because of their service, they are just wasting their time. It is not the service that contains power but respect of God's will during services. Moreover, what matters the most here is sanctification (not of the body only), peace of heart and uprightness.

There are also some angels who assist us when ministering out of the temple; during crusades for example. In addition, we shouldn't take for granted the fact that there is an angel appointed for each church and who works according to spiritual activities undertaken there. This also depends on churches. For angels, working with celestial Christians put emphasis on the body sanctification, prohibition of black and red dressing, feeding habits such as prohibition of pork meat and others. This topic shall be seen under the section reserved to church orders and prescriptions, in which angels are more concerned than God. Remember that God does not involve where an angel is supposed to intervene, that is why celestial Christians should respect the church prescriptions in order not to weaken or sin against God. Unlike the Lord, angels aren't omnipresent. Ubiquity is unnatural to them.

### **Hymn: O YE ANGELS IN CELESTIAL CHURCH**

*O ye angels in Celestial Church*

*We are expecting thee In Celestial*

*He that we look forward to behold*

*The last man Emmanuel...*

***Amen!***

### **5. Angels' battle and activity**

Angels' fight parallels that of men. If men's weapons are being made of iron, bombs, and others, that of angels are based on God's words. Thus, by a spoken word to the glory of God, we harm the devil. Angels speak accurate words; if they proclaim that God is great, the whole of their being is turned to God's greatness and if they say God is meek, their entire being is turned towards God's meekness. Hence, we should resemble them to overcome the works of the devil. Therefore, we encourage celestial Christians to examine their ways and turn to their maker. God is Holy and he that acknowledges this fact and still lives a

sinful life glorifies the devil. Because the devil is always obliged to acknowledge God's holiness, though not living it. Woe to celestial Christians not to be surprised at the end!

Demonic possessions are numerous and they take different forms such as: blasphemy in evil spirit case, mistakes or spiritual ignorance, depression, despair or psychological disorders for darkness spirits case, immorality in the case of lust spirit ... The degree of their reaction depends on the person's family background or life. Therefore, the person graduates from masturbation to immorality, from immorality to adultery, from adultery to other sexual practices more abominable in the eyes of God like incest. These steps can happen in the soul and be transmitted from generation to generation. The current system encourages such practices through sexual depravation through media, adverts posters of naked people viewed by everybody, including children. Hence, children are being incited to such things by this onslaught. It is important that parish leaders be involved in sensitizing their parishioners to forsake such a life. To prevent this, education and deliverance prayers are necessary. Deliverance can be effective only if the person abandons his /her depraved life, denounces the devil boundary and surrenders his/her life to Christ. Unfortunately, people choose to be in great stress, constant weeping, paranoia life, depression... for the sake of little money, honor or pleasure, hoping to get happiness in their fall. To get deliverance prayers, one only needs to be asking for, since they are some trained people within the congregation to perform this. We encourage parish leaders to raise a movable delivering group made of preachers and seers endowed with power of deliverance.

Such words as "fire", "sword", "power of Christ", in "Jesus' name" are mostly used in time of deliverance, better still some positions of three or four are required, and others. These are codes unveiled by the Lord to easy the deliverance process. For Christians who do not believe in the issue, how do they explain what our Lord Jesus and some prophets practiced in the bible? One can claim being intellectual or "noble Christian", but let not unbelievers be involved in discussions

they know nothing about except they want to be enlighten. For others, their own disabilities lead them in teaching things, which differ from the scriptures. It is very easy to forsake when we are unable to succeed in a deliverance case, isn't it?

It is not advisable to deliver someone without personal confession of sins. That is why a delivering process should always be preceded by a foundation school. In case this procedure is not undertaken, this may become dangerous for both the possessed and the exorcist. If there is no change of attitude after deliverance, other wicked demons more virulent take possession of the person, and his condition is worse than the previous. Exorcists might fall into this carelessness trap according to the provision of their hearts. Deliverance is performed by the power of the Lord through angels.

**Suggestion 10:** mobile deliverance units should be set up in dioceses to help the population, preceded by a team of preachers who will make sure that the concerned persons have received the Lord Jesus Christ first – regardless of the Christian community.

### **Hymn: OUR LORD STANDBY AND IS WATCHING**

*Our Lord standby and is watching*

*To save you from all evil doers*

*Holy Michael lifts his sword high*

*To conquer for you - Jah (3x)*

*Just raise your bear to Jesus Christ*

*And have your faith in Him*

**Amen!**

### **Bible References:**

**Jude 1:9** “yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said: the Lord rebuke you!”

**Acts 16:16-18** "it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us... and this she did for many days. But Paul greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her'. And he came out that very moment."

**Luke 6:18** "as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits, and they were healed"

**Matthew 10:1** "and when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease".

## **C. SACRAMENTS**

## **1. Revealed sacraments**

The four proven sacraments are: baptism, communion, marriage and anointing.

### **a. Baptism**

Baptism is a newcomer's commitment to forsake the works of the devil and accept Christ. It urges the new celestial Christian to observe the rules and regulations as revealed in the Church. Even Christians from other Christian communities, who have been already been baptized, must still be baptized in order to be acknowledged as celestial Christian. Though many baptisms, in line with the Lord's prescriptions, are known as giving the status of child of God, thence they do not give access to celestial Church of Christ covenant. This is explained by the fact that, though sharing the same faith in the Lord Jesus Christ with other Christian communities, the Church has its singularity. We can compare this to army, that is, although all are in the same body and citizens of the same country, hierarchy and organization differ, while all of them are under the ministry of defense. If lack of constant exercises is possible in some bodies, in others it is suicide and disobedience. Whosoever desires to be baptized must be trained for about one year; this is to make sure that the Christian foundation and the Church knowledge are being built. It is also necessary that the newcomer be aware of the life offered to him/her by the Church. No need to hurry! During that period the person won't be wearing cassock.

Little children can be baptized also, based on their parents' choice and faith. Remember that children's state of innocence is parallel to grace state where sin is being removed. Every child is born with the original sin, which is taken away by baptism. Therefore, child baptism should be promoted in parishes.

Actually, only Evangelists are mandated to baptize. Parish leaders



exceptionally can as well. Remember that to be in charge of a parish one should at least has the grade of Leader. Thus, an Evangelist needs a Leader's cover and authorization to proceed into a baptism process. A baptism made by an Evangelist who is not attached to a parish is null. After each baptism or anointing some data are being transmitted by the parish leaders to the diocese in charge which will thereafter forward them to the Headquarters. If there is any difficulty related to the baptism demand, you may contact the diocese leader who can make some exceptions according to his authority.

Ritual description:

Baptism takes place in a flowing stream. With a candle, hands lifted up, the candidates are asked to say thrice 'I denounce the devil's works and follow Jesus Christ.' Then a prayer is made for them at water border. After that, the hymn "Jesus I adore you" is sung by the audience till last prayer. The parish leader brings the person into water baptism and baptizes him/her in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit by three immersions. Then a cross sign is made on his forehead. The newly baptized comes out of water baptism and wears his/her cassock. The parish leader makes a final for him/her. The candle will be exhibited at home.

**b. Communion**

Communion is taken four times per year. At Easter, at Christmas and the two others are left to the parish leader's choice provided that it is once a quarter. The baptized are called to take it at the altar side, especially at the line separating the altar to the rest of the temple, from the highest rank to common brethren. There are three specific groups: Evangelists, men and predecessor women and brethren. Remember that "Celestial Mother", "Superior Mother"... are new grades. Presently, those having grades higher than "Venerable/ Senior/ Mother" go along with Evangelists. A baptized who is not yet wearing

his/her cassock cannot partake to communion, since this will demand entering the temple and come near the altar, which is forbidden. Please, let's avoid allowing non baptized children and sympathizers to partake in communion. It is contradictory to the scriptures.

According to Church ritual, Communion is also taken during a marriage ceremony; but it does not interfere in the four annual processes.

### **c. Anointing**

Anointing can be taken in life inasmuch as a celestial Christian desires and according to his/her spiritual progress. It is represented by anointing oil poured upon a celestial Christian's head, followed by a grade change. Spiritually speaking, it empowers for God's work. Obviously, a person with a wrong morality should avoid certain grades. Though some parish leaders may incite or propose some people into anointing, it is important to know that it remains a matter of personal choice. Each and everyone knows the kind of life he lives that pleases God or not. Moreover, grades aren't "ascending social categories" nor a way to satisfy personal ego.

#### Ritual description:

The candidate kneels down; the pastor takes anointing oil in a vessel and pours it upon his/her head. The anointing oil should touch the crown of the hair of both men and women. It is highly advisable to be in one-week convent before taking anointing and spend the night in church before the D-day. Furthermore, it is forbidden to wash the head for three days after taking anointing, as well as having sexual intercourse.

#### **d. Wedding**

Marriage is the symbolism of union in between Christ and his spouse, and it is till death sets apart the wedded persons. It is unbelievable that people from Leader rank have not yet performed the church wedding. Remember, it is not compulsory to take anointing if you cannot respect rules and regulations attached to that. It is impossible to lead if you are not a model. It is true that to err is human, but how can someone shepherd people if he is unable to go through marriage sacrament?

#### **2. Is church marriage possible with several women?**

This sacrament intends to restore back man into his original covenant with God. Through its ministration, it expresses Christ's work and manifestations on us such as, justification and glorification. What does Christ say concerning relationships between man and woman? "in the beginning it wasn't so". When God created Adam and Eve, did he give Adam opportunity to be polygamous? No! That's not the only reason that the Lord gives to curb the evil tendencies of man's heart. Therefore, what is marriage according to Christ? Isn't it the bridegroom and the church his spouse? Does Christ have several churches? Some people want to further their foolishness by saying that because of the varieties of denominations, Christ then has various spouses. Having many members or cells does not imply many bodies. Didn't John the Baptist talk of a single spouse? As well as Saint John in the book of Revelation? As for the foolish, isn't the church the Lord's body? Does he have many bodies? One of the benefits of writing is that, the comments should be able to face the gospel truth. Remember that, celestial church of Christ has not yet received a revelation concerning the ministration of marriage sacrament with several women which is a complete contradiction with the scriptures.

## **Few points to clarify:**

### **a. Polygamy**

The Church accepts in its midst polygamous and monogamous, as long as it goes with the law of the state. Accepting polygamy doesn't mean agreeing with it. The church cannot ask to a polygamous newcomer to divorce his wife and stay with just one of them. Which one will be the best? He may stay with the youngest and forsake the others with their children. We could rather teach him to be a God fearing person, than giving him the marriage sacrament with all his wives. Remember that, sacrament is meant to restore man back into his original condition before sin. Likewise, it is forbidden to a celestial Christian being married to one wife to wed another one. The church does not accept polygamy. And someone who is already polygamous before entering the church, he cannot take another wife.

### **b. Church wedding**

Church marriage was established by the Lord and has a revealed ritual. Some people misunderstand this commitment thinking that once it is not taken, there is no commitment before God. It is commonly said that, if someone cannot be faithful to his wife let him not take wedding sacrament. If he engages himself into it, he is therefore engaged to God: and if he doesn't enter into it, God can forgive him. This is confusing! There are those who would like to serve the lord as Leader or even as venerable and cannot refrain their bodies! Little question, isn't it during baptism that one forsakes immorality? As said before, the anointing is not a call to holiness but a responsibility given that must be given to a holy person. How can anointing be given to a renowned immoral person? Or how can anointing be given to a wrestler? This is confusing! It is already a wrong thing to be a Leader and unable to control his lust; but can an Evangelist live in disarray? Justifying our words biblically is a waste of time. It is better to leave it

at the level of man's consciousness.

Marriage sacrament cannot be given to a man with several women. Here it is a matter of one man, one woman! For the future generations, whenever this sacrament is given to people of the same gender, know that it is not confusion but blasphemy against the Lord Jesus Christ! For those belonging to that congregation, stop going there because they are antichrist prophets.

Polygamy is another point to highlight in civil marriage! We have already seen that, marriage sacrament cannot be given in case of polygamy. However, is polygamy from God? We may be looking back at the church beginning, in 1947, to justify this. Hence, let's ask these questions: what is the bible saying about this issue? What is Christ saying about this? What is Saint Paul saying under the Holy Ghost inspiration? Let those who have greater references than those of Christ and St Paul present them. Is this what says the verse: therefore a man shall leave his father and mother, and be joined to his wives, and the three or four or a hundred according to man's strength shall become one flesh, or a hundred fleshes? Please let's be serious when it comes to holy things! Polygamy is not from God. Polygamy which was at the beginning of everything was much more tolerated by God than from his will.

While explaining grace, Saint Paul showed Abraham's shortcomings. The Lord himself has presented several times his great servants' shortcomings. Let's be like Jacob who stole his brother's blessing; or Like David who killed Urie to take his wife; or like Solomon and his several concubines; or like Samson and Delilah! Can someone pretend to be as honest as Jacob, as humble as David, as wise as Solomon, as strong as Samson? How did God react about all this? Though highly considered in his eyes, He himself punished his servants severely and revealed it in the bible for us to avoid doing such things. What did Jacob say to pharaoh about his life? What happened to David's children? The one who preceded Solomon? To Amnon, to Absalom and sister Tamar; and to Adonija? What happened to Solomon at the end of his kingship? What about Samson who was locked up for long

in philistine's prisons with boasted eyes? Christ alone has been perfect in his deeds. As for great prophets and apostles, they have shown their limits.

### **c. Homosexual church marriage**

The gospel truth is strongly opposed to religious gay wedding. The fact that gays are found within the congregation doesn't imply that they should be wedded. Remember, a person that claims to be "homosexual" and who "practice it" deserves excommunication. No one is compelled to become a celestial Christian! Hence, one can't be gay and Christian at the same time. Being baptized symbolizes to "accept the Lord" and "denounce the devil's works"; therefore, one of his main ways to irritate the Lord is through homosexuality. This aspect shall be developed below. Instead, heaven is in great joy when a person switches from homosexuality to God's light.

### **d. Cohabitation is marriage**

God doesn't agree the fact cohabitation persons with children separate. Cohabitation with sexual intercourses is a factual marriage. That is why we encourage people to be more demanding and not to hurry in sexual relationships, because it is a life commitment.

## **3. Divorce in a Christian couple**

*(Matthew 19:3-6 the Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto his, is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female. And said, for this cause shall a man leave father and*

*mother, and shall cleave to his wife and the two shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more two but one flesh. What therefore God has put together, let no man put asunder.)*

God's will is that divorce shouldn't be pronounced for irrelevant reasons. It is even prohibited for Christian couples! For those who meditate on the bridegroom wedding: Christ understands this with His bride the Church and in their hardships, they shall put aside their pains and pride.

**Are there some exceptions?** As far as God's will is concerned, there is no exception here. Those who divorce put God in second in their lives. This shows that they have not yet reach the perfect love; because perfect love demands total abnegation and complete submission to God's will. How can they expect great rewards in heaven? It is true that in God's mind everything is forgivable; but there is also a permissible will of God. (*Matthew 5:32 but I say to you that whoever divorces his wife, except for cause of fornication, causeth adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.*)

There are two main points to be taken into consideration here: **(1)** whoever divorces and **(2)** whoever divorces because of infidelity.

**(1) Whoever divorces causeth adultery.** This implies that since it is the Lord who has joined them, nothing can separate them. So even if they don't want each other again, they commit adultery by taking another partner. Reasons for divorcing can be other than adultery: incompatibility, quarrels, disdain... but the Lord warns people already in couple not to separate less the other one falls into adultery. Hence, it is God's gift to remain single; Apostle Paul did it (**1 Corinthians 7:7** *I wish that all men were like me, but each has from God a particular gift, one in one way, the other another*). They are many who asked this gift from God and got it (**Matthew 19:12** *For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb; and there are some eunuchs which were made eunuchs of men; and there be eunuchs which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.*) Whoever has been

abandoned by his/her spouse and would like to live according to God's will, ask for this precious gift in order to live for Him alone. We do get everything by prayers right? Then some people will claim that if we get everything by prayer, one can pray for his/her spouse to be back. If this may be possible, then we can transfer that faith into the eunuch principle of life. We can also read (**Mark 10:11-12** *he said: whoever divorces his wife and marry another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.*)

Therefore, it is out of ignorance and a bitter zeal that a Christian abandons his/her spouse, and it pushes the other one to commit sin. There is zeal without knowledge. As well as we are going to talk elsewhere of zeal without knowledge in God's work.

**(2) Whoever divorces because of unfaithfulness.** He who has an affair or plans to have an affair out of matrimonial home should think very well and ask for God's forgiveness (**Hebrews 13:4** *Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled; but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*). This sin because of its recurrence among men, astray many Christians. They can be proud and deaf on earth, or be filled with vain hopes, but on the last day, they shall understand that God is never in the great multitude. Moreover, if many practice this in the congregation, there still have "hidden Christians" who deeply love their Lord who can rather die than offending Him by committing adultery or fornication. For the betrayed partner, God's will is to forgive and live together if he/she desires. This seems to be a sign of weakness before the guilty partner, he/she is doomed if doesn't repent from his/her wrong ways.

**However, if one of the partners persists in unfaithfulness and doesn't abandon it,** thus says the Lord: (**Matthew 18:15-17** *if your brother sins go and reprove him between thee and him alone if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witness every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church. But if he neglects to*



hear the church, let him unto thee an heathen man and publican). **This should be scheduled in a long period of time so as to pray for the concerned partner and allow him/her to think about his/her deed. Obviously, this is in terms of years.**

**What does that imply? (1 Corinthians 7:10-11** *And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, let not the wife depart from her husband. But if she departs, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband; and let not the husband put away his wife*). This involves both men and women. Once again we see that God's perfect is that couples stay together; and he/she that goes against it, take on God's wrath.

As we go through God's word and the Holy Ghost help, we see God's permissible will as far as the forsaken partner is concerned. **He/she may get married again after a long period, but with a great disadvantage, that of the large loss of property in heaven in case he/she is saved.**

## Relevant cases

### a. A divorcee

It is forbidden to wed a divorced woman because she remains tied to her husband. This would result to a large loss of property in heaven in case the person is saved. (**Luke 16:18** *whoever divorces his wife and marry another commits adultery; and whoever marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery*). This involves both men and women into God's perfect will. For a man who has not been married yet and desires to please the Lord, let him not marry a divorced woman or a single mother. He still has the opportunity to stay on a rock which has not been visited by many. As far as relationships between married persons are concerned, remember that the apostles themselves were astonished at the Lord's response to that.

## b. Spouse`s death

In case of a spouse`s death, the other one is free to re-marry. (**1 Corinthians 7:39** *a wife is bound as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband dies, she is free to marry whom she will; only in the Lord*). It is never a sin, though it is better to live a praising life in total freedom. Such a commitment should be well-thought, because God is faithful to accomplish His children`s desire. (**1 Timothy 5:5-7** *Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. And these things in charge, that they may be blameless*).

## c. Marry or remain single

Staying single implies neither having sex nor masturbating. It is better to get married than to masturbate. For masturbation is an abomination unto the Lord as it deteriorates His temple. Thus says the Lord through Saint Paul about this issue (**1 Corinthians 7:9** *but if they cannot contain, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn*). He still advises us (**1 Corinthians 7:8** *To those who are unmarried or widows I say that it is their right to remain like me*). As said above, a Christian can ask for “eunuch gift”. Furthermore, for the end of time sake, the Lord still advises Christians; (**1 Corinthians 7: 29** *this I say, brethren, is that time is short; that from now on those who have wives be as though they have not*). For those who have come out of a marriage, it is better to be entirely devoted to God than to please men. Otherwise, if a man (woman) wants to remarry, he/she should fulfill the duties attached to that status. Marriage doesn`t parallel spirituality; in other words, one can be married and spiritual. It is just a matter of principles. Actually, there is no difference between a virgin and a single widow and a married woman. Obviously, because of her devotion to the Lord, the virgin is more rewarded in heaven.

#### **d. Opportunistic marriage**

Some people think that God will always grant those husbands and wives at any periods of their life. A husband to open doors; another to expand, yet another to restore us and then another to keep us in abundance. All this to satisfy their lust. There are neither two Adam for Eve nor two Eve for Adam. Getting married many times without the spouse death is called “fornication”.

#### **Conclusion**

In the bible, there are two kinds of adulteries: one that deprives somebody from kingdom of heaven’s wealth and another that blocks the kingdom of heaven entrance in case of no genuine repentance. This is either by marrying an already married person or a betrayed spouse. Hence, it is better to think twice before starting a relationship. (***Matthew 19:10-11** His disciples say unto him, if the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. But he said unto them, all men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given).*

#### **4. Is church wedding still possible after divorcing?**

If it is forbidden to a man to have a church wedding sacrament with several women, how would it be possible to remarry in church after divorce? Furthermore, can a person who did not respect his/her previous vow before the Lord take another one towards a different partner? All this will lead to confusion everywhere. However, it can be possible in case of the spouse’s death.

It is also essential to know that, leaving his/her spouse for “no reason” may cause excommunication within Celestial Church of God.

## 5. The power of the union prayer in celestial church of God

It seems as if the union prayer hasn't been revealed to the Church, since its liturgy appears nowhere in the code of service. It is a kind of engagement when the relationship is made public so as to discourage courtiers. This engagement can be broken in case the concerned haven't known each other sexually. It is a type of blessing granted to the couple so that the Lord enlightens them and shows them the right way.

### **Bible references:**

**1 Timothy 3:8-10** *Deacons ... and let these also first be proved, then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.*

**Romans 8:30** *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called, and whom he called, them he also justified, and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

**Mathew 19:8** *He answered: it is because of your hardness of heart that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives; at the beginning it was not so.*

**John 3:29** *He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the voice of the bridegroom: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.*

**Revelation 19:7** *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

**Romans 12:5** *So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members of another.*

**Genesis 47:9** *And Jacob said unto pharaoh, the days of the years of pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years; few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.*

**2 Samuel 12:6** *And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.*

**Mathew 19:5** *And said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.*

*1 Timothy 3:12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.*

**Suggestion 11:** Seminars should be launched so as to strengthen spouses. They might be organized within couples, family or gender. Children should also be considered in this issue since they can help their parents in keeping in the practice of integrity.

## **D. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN**

As far as worshipping The Lord is concerned, there is no difference between men and women. They both have a reason and a will to submit to the Lord's will. This concerns all social classes or races. It is obvious that everybody can be zealous for God. The Lord's sacrifice is a call to His love and it is accompanied by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Nevertheless, his is completely different in The Church, as far as functions are being addressed. Remember that the twelve patriarchs of the Old Testament, that is, the sons of Israel, were all men. Likewise, the twelve apostles of the new covenant were all men. Does this mean that they were loved the most? Quite not! It is just a matter of God's choice. Remember that God chose Virgin Mary as mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, hence making the women God's most perfect creation. As God's chosen maiden she could have been proud, but the truth is that she wasn't called an apostle. Therefore, the different roles should be understood and integrated, since this comes from God. The same way a man cannot put to birth, so a woman neither can lead a parish or a service, nor be an Evangelist or turn her back to the altar while praying. All these features are explained in another part.

## 1. Initiation of a parish by a woman

In case a woman initiates a parish, let her train a man and hand it over to him. A parish management is not all about intellectualism, but it is men's assignment. A woman can never lead a service, sit at the altar or give the final blessing. It is essential that both men and women comply with God's requirements for The Church progress. In fact what matters the most is not the seat, but the worship rendered to the Lord. The Father seeks true worshippers that will worship Him in spirit and in truth and not seekers of posts in The Church. This shall be seen in the part reserved to anointing.

### **Bible references:**

*Matthew 10:2-4 these are the names of the twelve: the first, Simon called peter, and Andrew his brother; James, son of Zebedee and john his brother; Philip, and Bartholomen; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, son of Alpheus, and Thaddeus; Simon the zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.*

## 2. Difference between intellectual abilities and spiritual abilities

Stop confusing gift of intellectualism and spiritual responsibilities! As well as, being righteous and having responsibilities in The Church. There is absolutely no link between them! God is the one establishing each and everyone in His house. He establishes as authority whom He likes. Being intelligent does not imply ability to spiritual responsibilities. That a woman is being filled of God's gift of righteousness or that of performing miracles like Jesus Christ, will never give her any responsibility of her choice in The Church. Please, let's not involve where we have not been called. Paradoxically, men would like to become women and vice-versa. It is obvious that it is a malaise being expressed here through this permanent dissatisfaction, but the truth is that God is able to fill us.



## **II. PASTORSHIP AND PRIESTLY CLOTHES**

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**A. CELESTIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST'S  
PASTORS**

## **1. Characteristic of a “Pastor”**

The notion of pastorship in celestial church of Christ is uncommon to that portrayed in the bible. The bible talks of five (05) ministries hereby presented in this order: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and doctors. The one used in The Church comes from an angelic language ‘EPASTORAL’; it is equivalent to that of the high priest of the Old Testament or Apostle Peter’s role in the New covenant. In other words, he is the principal Christ’s representative on earth. That does not mean that he is the mediator between Christ and His children. It is a responsibility entrusted by the Lord to lead The Church on earth. Remember that being pastor does not imply that he is the most righteous. For instance, Caiaphas and Anne who crucified Christ, were established as high priests by God. This is the highest function in celestial church of Christ and that is supposed to be occupied by only one person, but since the death of the first pastor misnomer called “founder pastor” (for God is the only founder of His church), there exist two (02) main seats: one at Imeko (Nigeria) and another at Porto-Novo (Benin). By the word “principal” we mean places where the first pastor set up, the number of people associated to this seat and the renown in front of country’s authorities. However, there are about 20 other local seats.

### **a. Imeko seat, Nigeria**

Pastors who have ministered at Imeko seat after the first pastor’s death are:

Alexander Abiodun Adeboye Bada, born in 1930 (September 1985 – September 2000)

Philip Hunsu Ajose, born in 1932 (February 2001 – March 2001)

Emmanuel Mobiyina Oshoffa, born in 1948 (since February 2003)

## **b. Porto-Novo seat, Benin**

Pastors who ministered at Porto – Novo after the first pastor's death are:

Benoît Agbaossi (October 1987 – April 2010)

Benoît Bennett Akande Adeogun, born in 1940 (since September 2010)

## **c. Pastor with more legitimacy**

Many celestial Christians would like to know who among these pastors was legitimate before GOD! Being not in God's heart, we can just follow history to answer:

- Induction by a pre-existing structure

Pastors who are out of those of Imeko and Porto-Novo are self-proclaimed pastors; they were never inducted by a structure. This creates a lot of problems, because in the bible, though being anointed king by Samuel, David waited till Saul's death to exercise his kinship. He couldn't have done otherwise. Hence, even if one of the pastors of the two main seats was to be rejected by God, we should expect his death to induct another through the divine revelation. No one can bear witness on his own unless that judgement is biased.

- Self-proclamation after being in one of the two seats

Most of the self-appointed pastors had first been baptized and anointed in one of the two (02) seats. Even if they did not receive these sacraments directly from the seats; nevertheless, it might have been from someone who cut off from those structures. What does that mean? They initially acknowledged the structures, but for one or another reason cut off from them and proclaimed themselves pastors. To conclude, it is obvious that a legitimate pastor cannot have another seat than that of Imeko or Porto-Novo.

- History

History will underline that after the first pastor's death, Imeko had leadership before Porto-Novo. How did it happen? The very first time anointing was processed happened in Benin; the representative of Imeko proceeded to the ministration assisted by Porto-Novo's. Porto-Novo's representative was holding the oil jar while Imeko's was ministering the anointing. If Porto-Novo had been more legitimate than Imeko, it would have been otherwise. This fact makes the whole thing significant.

- The most ranked after the pastor's death

After the death of the first pastor, the most ranked in The Church was a Supreme and he was single in that grade. Everybody considered him – be it in Imeko or Porto-Novo – as the assistant to the pastor; while the representative of Porto-Novo was graded Superior. For protocol sake, Porto-Novo couldn't take precedence over Imeko. Full authority was granted to him while waiting for the revelation of a successor.

- The seat location

The first pastor had served for 29 years at Porto-Novo (1947—1976) and then at Imeko for 9 years till his death (1976 – 1985). So it is legitimate for his successors to serve at Imeko where he last served before his death.

Though beliefs differ, it is always good to seek for the truth. Christ himself is the truth; so let's seek for the truth in order to leave in peace. As we said from the beginning, we are not in God's heart to support that Imeko's representative is the most legitimate, but researches have shown that all the pastors who served at Imeko were legitimate.



## 2. Multi-pastoral consequences

May God hear our pain and remember our cry. The world is surrounded with chaos; violence everywhere, injustice, greed, lies, promotion of satanic works. Even pedophilia is tolerated since nothing is being done against it. Shall we also allow this in the body of Christ? Remember that Christ is “meekness”. Abraham said to Lot (**Genesis 13:8-9** *Abraham said unto Lot let it be, let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen, for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray, from me; if thou wilt take left hand, then I will go right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left*). In other words: “although it is my right as your uncle and father to choose before you, for God sake I allow you to choose first; and my God shall provide all my needs”. Just to name one among the numerous instances of meekness quoted in the bible. If only one of the pastors could kneel before the other one saying: “the unity of the church of God is premium to my life, rule over your seat and mine, and let me served like one of your assistants”. Such an attitude would have blessed the people and contributed to a great manifestation of God’s presence, followed by signs and wonders in the early church of Christ, but before that happens, these immediate consequences of this division:

- Lack of plausibility before the authorities of countries in which the church is being located
- Defames against pagans and other congregations
- Inability to carry out projects requiring great resources
- Reduction of pastors’ authority
- High level of customization
- Proliferation of self-appointed pastors, who also found others
- Disagreement between parishes which do not belong to the same group
- Overall boycott of others’ activities,
- Tendency to rebellion and self-appointing pastorship
- Chaos within church system

- Spiritual disruption at the level of the anointing system (to the extent of receiving anointing from several pastors)
- Existence of parishes that do not originate from any seat
- Inability to carry out an effective evangelism
- Discredit while preaching moral values
- Dilution of the truth because nobody seems legitimate
- Christians' discouragement
- Permanent crucifixion of Christ and dismemberment of his body

Let's say this is just a part of the iceberg that this division may show us. Even in countries like France where there are less than 1 000 celestial Christian (including children) who regularly go to church on Sundays, yet it is impossible to gather because there are just four dioceses to cover up the whole country. Hence, there are four representatives from various pastors. How will it be possible to create four evangelistic units and fund them properly? Having four secretariats? Four media (TV, Radio...)? This division, which is a waste of time and strength causes us to undertake same things; it is a destroying weapon. This issue concerns everyone. If we look worldwide, we understand why small countries couldn't reach globalization; in this process even the great seek for external help. The Church can no longer base only on the strength of few, but need to be united for more impact.

**Suggestion 1:** let all the “great” pastors gather together and humble themselves under one; either that of Porto-Novo or that of Imeko.

**Suggestion 2:** failing to merge, Imeko and Porto-Novo could at least choose a representative per country that will be the only head of diocese. From our understanding of current trends, the church unity must not automatically pass through unity of pastor, just as those of Imeko and Porto-Novo united. This is because they are the only ones to be recorded in the history as legitimate.

History questions and shakes all that the previous generations left untouchable because of emotions or else. Obviously, every celestial

Christian that could like to go back into the history of The Church, will come out with these same results. At worst, division will endure and weaken Porto-Novo seat worldwide, with a profusion of small local pastors round the world. The fact is that the merge of Imeko and Porto-Novo seats will reduce this profusion of self-appointing pastors. Indeed, they justify their position by highlighting the division existing at the level of historical seats.

### **3. The choice of the anointed**

#### **a. A Pastor is God's chosen**

Before going through the notion of hierarchy, let's remind what happened to the people who rejected God's new and genuine covenant. The high priest was from Aaron lineage no matter his deeds. In other words, this means that Aaron successor might be a sinner, yet appointed by God. Besides, the bible history recorded that Aaron had shown less concern toward God than Joshua and Caleb, as well as Phineas. This fact is also seen in royal lineage; readers will be surprised by God's choice towards Jeroboam to rule over Israel. As soon as he rose upon the throne, he did not only blaspheme against God who appointed him, but also pushed the people to do so. As far as idolatry is concerned, initiated by kings, he is number one in Israel as Ahab is that of Judah. However, God is the one who appointed them and extended their reigns. Therefore, it is good for each and everyone to understand that the choice of a pastor is God's.

#### **b. Grade of function and that of gift**

Note that things can be done in some parishes out of the will of God. That is why we shall notice two (02) kinds of grades: that of function and that of gift. He that has received from God the gift of Evangelist will perform it regardless of his seniority or function's

grade. He does it not because someone recommended him, but because he feels it from inside. That inward drive is nothing but the Holy Ghost. And the more he will dive into a personal relationship with God, the more he will be flamed with the fire of the gospel. Still, a person with just the grade of Evangelist or function of Evangelist can never perform the works of a called Evangelist even if he desires. If we transfer this to everyday life, it will be like appointing a bird as the advocator of the house, or to give a basket to a pit-bull near a TV set, or to cage a cat. Therefore, thinking that they are correct, the bird will seek for the dog's strength, the dog will seek for the cat's caresses and the cat for the bird's grains. God's system can only work if it is undertaken as God desires! The earth was created by God, but how is its pollution can be the God's fault? If we were to ask God a question, we would cry loudly this: Lord, why did you give commends to someone who does not follow your sweet advices? Such a person is like someone inside a labyrinth without a map.

To sum up, we shall say that by "grade of function" we mean a person who has received anointing without having a divine call. To be in God's will, we should clearly identify in the congregation those with a special gift; then pray for a confirmation before submitting them to the pastor for anointing.

### **c. Grades' criteria**

"Disobedient labor" is an expression related to some people's lives. As many as they are to be zealous in a work that they think is theirs. How can a businessman with numerous companies be watchful to the flock? Unfortunately, wealthy people chase the function of parish leader as if the only assignment of a parish leader is limited to the rent. How can a chorister be an Evangelist, knowing very well that he will spend all his time singing or playing music instruments? Can a bachelor be graded Leader as he still struggles to manage his own life? Or a teenager being Dehoto, that is, the person leading prayer time, as he

spends all his time in childish? The Lord said to Nicodemus: “If you do not believe when I tell you earthly things, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?” From this we may wonder how a man who is strongly attached to things of the flesh, aspire to high responsibilities in the church of God! Spirituality is all about the spirit and the body. For instance, if an immoral man is graded Venerable, it is an example for other to be and do so! This is not from God! Let’s ask the right questions. On which criteria are grades given? Everybody is a victim here; from the one who is giver to the receiver. And we are facing a dichotomy here: Evangelists’ training! How can a man who is unable to evangelize and has just superficial bases of the Gospel be trained Evangelist? What will he understand? And even if he understands something, we shouldn’t talk here of “Evangelist training” but of “foundation school”. It is first of all God calling acknowledged by men and then confirmed by the anointing.

God is not one of our employees to whom we impose decisions. At first, it can be seen as human weakness and God of compassion tolerates it as long as it does not become a habit; because God is the one regulating His system. And anybody who does not follow God’s rules goes astray. This is how some Evangelists of function went astray for one reason or another; in such a way that they do not know how to handle their homes, but on Sabbath day their hurry to serve at the table just to be useful. As far as women are concerned, an aspect shall be highlighted here. How can an elderly woman who has not yet finished with make-up, with transforming her countenance to attract attention, talkative, and who subscribes to people magazines, lead other women? This can’t be from God! After the presentation of grades, a suggestion shall be made concerning them; however, every church leader is free to choose whatever. Nevertheless, the current system has shown its weaknesses, especially in Europe and USA.

We won’t stress it enough, no one is better than the others. We are all sinners and were all satan’s sons before diving into water baptism in Christ. We had all been once fed by bitter waters of the world and its vanities, lies and disorder. Now we are brethren in Christ, regardless of

our social categories and races; let's try to humble ourselves for the sake of God's work. Let Venerable graded be scarce and Evangelists more scarce. Let the parish leaders be satisfied with the Leader's anointing under which they work.

**d. Grades as revealed to the 1<sup>st</sup> pastor**

- Order of women

Dehoto – Assistant Mom – Mom – Senior Mom – senior Venerable Mom

- Order of Allagba

Dehoto – Assistant Allagba – Allagba – Senior Allagba – Senior Venerable Allagba

- Order of Seers

Woli – Assistant Wolidja – Wolidja – Senior Wolidja – Senior Venerable Wolidja

Woli – Assistant Wolileader – Wolileader – Senior Wolileader – Senior Venerable Wolileader

- Order of Leaders

Dehoto – Assistant Leader – Leader – Senior Leader – Senior Venerable Leader

- Order of Evangelists

Honorable Assistant Evangelist – Honorable Evangelist – Honorable Senior Evangelist

Assistant Evangelist – Evangelist – Senior Evangelist – Senior Venerable Evangelist – Most Senior Evangelist – Superior Most Senior Evangelist – Supreme Evangelist

**Suggestion 3:** before taking the anointing, predecessors should know their duties towards God and the church. They should undergo different levels of selection: first at the level of congregation, secondly at the level of the church leader and church committee that will erect some criteria to choose those who are found worthy to receive anointing; debates and teachings should be undertaken so as to enlighten everyone on the way they are about to engage. The third level is the diocese and the last one the pastor's collaborators and the pastor himself. Actually, it is very essential not only to understand it is not only about Christian duty towards God, but also that of those who desire spiritual responsibilities.

Why should the first selection be at the level of the people? Simply because he who serves at the head should be at the service of the people and the crowd knows very well where its interest lies. Both qualified and unqualified shall be made known by the people. More often, many qualified Elders are being blocked by parish leaders because they advertise a word of truth that differs from theirs. Therefore, the people choice not to be taken lightly; apart from the advantages pointed out above, this choice may temper sectarianism of some parish leaders. Almighty parish leaders who decide alone, is a time bomb. The truth resides in God's revelation and shared ideas. Furthermore, anointing should be given according to the church needs; no need for a multitude of grades, and aspirants should be of good morality. Remember that in celestial church of Christ sinners are always exposed with sin in the whole assembly.

A number must be set up among the elected persons by the people, the parish leader and committee. This church committee should have among it a person elected by the people, with a limited mandate. Leaders graded are unique; they are involved in God's work and with time their sense of discernment increases. Remember that the parish leader is appointed by God and the fact that some people are being chosen to back up God's work does not reduce his leadership but strengthens him.

The third selection is at the regional or national level – diocese. It

aims to test Elders' bible knowledge and identify their different potentials to expand The Church. At this level, the number of celestial Christians in the region should be taken into consideration in order to keep a balance between Elders and the people; if the number of predecessors is higher, some of them should be withheld. Hence, the grade of Leader should be more selective. One cannot be a graded Leader if he has not shown his capacity to organize and lead the church spiritually. Furthermore, a training should be given to candidates so as to evaluate them and show them their role in The Church of Christ. Note that being a Leader graded demands more consecration and availability in church activities.

The fourth selection is the Pastor's board; since the pastor is always moving with an entourage. Being closer to the people as a shepherd, the pastor is well-placed to know how to deal with the people. So he must interact with his parishioners of other countries so as to get in touch with their lacks. It is motivating that the Pastor or one of his closest collaborators strengthens with words the anointing candidates. Through prayers, this selection aims to refrain opportunistic, idles, and people with less knowledge of the bible.

**Suggestion 4:** God will be pleased if the pastor and entourage interact with Christians whenever they move in a country; for counseling and listening to the people's preoccupations. Unfortunately, people will only see the Pastor during religious feasts, which is not the right moment to interact with God's people.

**Suggestion 5:** there are some people who have many projects that can forward The Church, but are not considered by their direct leader. Interviews should be set up between the diocese and such people. And this should be taking place during Pastor's moves in different countries.



### **Bible references:**

**1 Timothy 4:12** *let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

**1 Timothy 5:1** *Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren.*

**Luke 11:43** *Woe unto you, Pharisees! For ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the market.*

**1 Timothy 3:1-6** *This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work... Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into condemnation of the devil.*

**Philippians 2:3** *Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

4. **Legitimacy of anointing ministered by a pastor other than the “assigned”**
  - a. **New grades of Imeko and Porto-Novo seats**

There is nothing to be prove concerning the legitimacy of Imeko and Porto-Novo’s anointing, there is no doubt about their anointing. That is not the case of others. Actually, it is written in the book entitled “Blue Constitution” that: Article 199. In the early days of Celestial Church of Christ, the founder prophet-pastor addressed a prayer (received and fulfilled) that, let everyone that will be anointed by him receive a portion of the Holy Spirit in him that will empower to continue the work of the Lord after him...

This can therefore be assimilated with the relationship which bound Moses and Joshua or Elijah and Elisha, except that it is no longer represented by a mantel or a mere laying of hands, but by anointing oil and a strap. Therefore, grades are a symbol for God to remember the work given to the first Pastor for spiritual empowerment of men. So, as far as grades legitimacy is concerned, they had to exist during the first pastor’s lifetime; this aspect is only applicable to Imeko and Porto-

Novo branches. It is therefore obvious that each new anointing represents a remembrance of God's covenant with the first pastor. So the "power" of the anointing resides in the spiritual charisma of the Pastor who ministers it, but note that it might go beyond this statement, if we consider the case of Elisha who received a double portion from Elijah. Original anointing draw their strength not only from the pastor's anointing, and from God's covenant; whereas the new ones draw theirs from the motivation and strength of the pastor who initiated it (motivation matters the most). Considering all this, one might ask what matters the most! Especially with the search for recognition that pushes people to desire to be top graded.

### **b. Other seats grades**

As far as other pastors are concerned, they either have got their anointing from Imeko or Porto-Novo, or self-appointed themselves pastors after their first anointing. In the first two cases there indubitably had been a case of rebellion with the attached seat. What matters here is not who gave the anointing, but which of the seats did it? For the faithful who have received their anointing knowing nothing about multi-pastoral problems, their grades and anointing are considered; but those knowing about their pastor's rebellion against his seat and who keep on for anointing under him, are just going astray.

As for self-appointed, let's just say they are confusing themselves. We may go further saying that they are not even at the level of grades' beginning in celestial church of Christ. Please do not confuse great charisma with God requirements related to a call. It is neither by being upright nor prayerful that God appoints a man Pastor. Neither is a gift that one can obtain by pleasing God; but it remains God's choice without any help from anyone.

The statements above were about the existing grades during and after the first pastor's time. Those of self-appointed pastors do not even have any legitimacy.

### c. Legitimacy by reconciliation

The final decision lies in the hands of the holy seats, either validate or not the anointing received out of their framework. In this case, predecessors ordained by self-appointed pastors could not be considered as such in parishes. All this should be reconsidered at the level of reconciling the two seats of Imeko and Porto-Novo. These issues are only related to the anointing sacrament, which can only be ministered by a pastor. As far as other sacraments are concerned, there isn't too much controversy about.

#### **Bible references:**

**Deuteronomy 34: 9** *And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him. And the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses.*

**1 Kings 19:16** *And Jehu the son of Nimsbi shall thou anoint to be king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shall thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.*

**1 Kings 19:19** *So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of shaphat; who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantel upon him.*

**John 3:27** *John answered and said: a man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.*

### 5. Motivation for new grades' creation

The different reasons that push people to create new grades are various. Good or wrong? It depends on the person in charge.

It might be just a desire to pass on freely what we have received from God or a revelation; but this is not quite sure. For what would be the need for a new grade which is not innovating a new order in Celestial

Church of Christ, “Celestial Monks” for instance? Financial quest can also be one of the motivation; no one can escape from this quest, including pastors. However, if it serves God’s interests through investment in the church and in social issues, it is always something good. Remember that, even though this financial quest is being denied by church leaders, it remains a pertinent point, since being rich is the aspiration of each and everyone including Pastors. Just a glance on their lifestyle will set up the truth.

Furthermore, demagogic reasons can also be pointed out. In a pastor transitional system, some top graded people in the congregation might baffle the new pastor’s leadership. Therefore, to make some allied he is obliged to create new grades for them so as to please them. Remember that those who are not great Predecessors long after one desire, that of being at the top peak of grades. At this rate, no wonder that the number of grades increases significantly.

As we said earlier, man’s heart is in God’s hands. There can be different motivations for a single action. Therefore, a new anointing can be driven by good or wrong motivations. The only thing to be pretty sure of is that, this new grades have not brought any improvement in the Church.

### **Bible references:**

**Numbers 11:29** *And Moses said unto him, are you jealous of me? Would God that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would pu his spirit upon them!*

**1 Kings 12:8** *But Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him.*

**Acts 8:18-19** *And when Simon saw that through laying on of the Apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offred them money. Saying, give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.*

## 6. Grades deletion by the pastor

Though it might cause frustrations, it is possible for a new pastor to remove grades initiated by former ones, except those revealed to the first Pastor. It is even possible to downgrade people who are wrongly placed on a rank, though this will tackle the most valued thing of a man: his ego. The pastor should be conducted by the Holy Spirit in such an action; otherwise it will be taken wrongly despite the fact that it is beneficial for the church. Everybody thinks he/she deserves a grade, either by seniority or by financial gifts, or by commitment, or integrity. Unfortunately, pride has taken premium over meekness. Some complain not being grade recognized, meanwhile they should be complaining about their sins.

### **Bible references:**

***Lamentations 3:39*** *Why should a living man complains, a man for the punishment of his sin?*

## 7. Downgrading a Predecessor

There are some who after committing a breach or for any other reason, they “undress” willingly for a determined period. Note that it is not right to “unclothe” if you did not clothe by yourself. God’s service demands meekness and obedience. If there is any breach committed, allow the authorities upon you to decide about the whereabouts of the issue.

If someone can be excommunicated, it means he/she can be downgraded as well. However, this must be under the decision of the parish board, the national board and/or the holy seat.

## **8. The will of a parish leader to change pastor**

We may present the question this way: does God allow us to choose our pastor? Considering the way parish leaders are free nowadays, we wonder why would one desire to withdraw from the two main seats in order to submit to a different pastor! This same freedom leads many of them sects driven as not wanting to comply with any regulations. Many other reasons can push them to do so, such as: ignorance, money, misunderstandings, covetousness, self-recognition; in short, pride. This sense of deserving grades shows the wrong state of man. The spiritual aspect is being put aside here. Reaching out people through evangelism, is almost nonexistent; they become idle and that's why they go through grades hunting. All sorts of claims are available: seniority, good services to leadership, belonging to celestial background. This is just a proof that the whole thing has become carnal and personal relationship with God has fallen into oubliette. Can the holy seat prevent a parish's growth? Or can the holy seat manage all the assets of a parish? It is quite unfortunate that most of the parishes are self-financing; the holy seat does not have a hand on that because they threat to leave. All this is not from God, and the ego of some church leaders does not allow them to accept their failures.

## **9. Legitimacy of pastor's authority**

God is a God of truth. He reveals himself to those who seek for it. But it is quite unfortunate that many do not seek for that truth. How can a self-appointed pastor give anointing? People are no longer being led by God's will; but personal interest has taken premium to God kingdom's interests. Can a divided people prone unity? The truth is that every seat apart from Imeko and Porto-Novo, is known as illegitimate. Therefore, whosoever partakes with any seat out of the original ones, divides God's Church. The fear of God in a man is better than signs

and wonders. Sense of nationalism has even push some to quit historical seats, as if God is interested with tribal stuffs; whether a parish is being headed by a native or not. Each and everyone is free to choose which side to follow as far as holy seats are concerned. But remember that God is against any form of rebellion. Let's take the case study of Celestial Church of Christ in Togo in the 1970s, when leaders decided to be independent when they saw the growth of the church in that area. In 1978, dissidents of that country witnessed the prohibition of the church after having shouted "7 hallelujah".

The truth is that time and history have always tested the foundation of something. And that of self-appointed pastor is not upon the Lord; therefore there might be a lot of damages falling on those under him.

## **10. Pastor of function under a Pastor**

Being only in Porto-Novo seat, "Pastor of function" is the highest grade after of Pastor. The first question that rises is to know whether the pastor could create grades for his direct collaborators. Besides, these new grades are much more a source of chaos in the church than a blessing. But it has been also proved that he has authority before God, so the function pastor can create new grades for his direct collaborators.

It would have been easier to give another name rather than "function pastor"; but this name was used in Celestial Church of Christ by angels, to represent the overseer of the church. For instance, someone is being asked to name his child John and he chooses to name John the Baptist, saying it is the same thing and knowing not that the meaning of John the Baptist is quite different from that of John. As far as "function pastor" is concerned, would it not be simpler to use another word? Since the revealed word "EPASTORAL" might have a different meaning than that of the bible! Nevertheless, it is up to the holy seat who initiated this name. But, a different calling would be advisable.

## **11. Pastor's derogation from sanctification rules**

### **a. Access to the temple**

As a parish leader, a Pastor may exceptionally depart from the rules of sanctification "24 hours" before entering the temple. However, some conditions must be respected:

- His presence must be really unnecessary
- He must not go to the altar
- This can only be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; because the other days he is supposed to respect the 72 hours as any Elder during a Sabbath service.

### **b. Ordinary wearing of his cassock**

As every "barefoot", Pastor has special cassocks that he wears when he derogates the rules of sanctification. For instance, the ones used to receiving visitors at home or moving around the town, cannot in any case be brought to the temple. What matters here is not the design, but the cassock itself.

## **12. Amendment of the liturgy revealed by a Pastor**

Pastor is the keeper of the church's liturgy as given at the beginning. Remember that sons and liturgy were God's revelations. Was God wrong about these revelations or did He release some and keep others? We all know that God is never wrong! The first pastor's role was to lay foundation for liturgy; just as that of Christ was to only be crucified, though He first evangelized. And the role of workers chosen in the church is to gain souls through evangelism.

From the above, we may conclude that if there must be change or new revelations, they should contradict the early church. Pastor may



allow some derogation, but make sure that they come from divine revelation.

We cannot go through this topic without addressing some details here that are really essential. Indeed, for the sake of growth in parishes, some leaders question the rules of personal sanctification which are seen then as too rigorous. Such people should know that it is not enough to be a church leader, or being appointed or approved by God! The question is: how can untrained persons evangelize? Even if they are trained are they evangelizing? And if they even evangelize, are they models? Let's not deceive ourselves! God does not dwell in sin; and in a filthy parish He shows his unhappiness. What matters here are not rules, but teaching people to live according to God's principles.

### **13. Anointing given by a woman**

This fact should be made clear for everyone that anointing can never be ministered by a woman. Remember that it has been already said that a woman can never become a pastor in Celestial Church of Christ, except it comes from the devil. As well as it is impossible for the pastor's wife to ministered anointing in the place of her husband! It should be clear that the pastor's wife is not pastoring; as well as wives of church leaders. They do not carry their husband offices because of marriage ties, whereas a man with the grade of Predecessor can replace a pastor to minister anointing. Please, do remain in the bible and church vision. A woman can neither give anointing nor lay hands.

### **14. Color constraints on the pastor's cassocks**

It seems as if pastor has no color restrictions as far as his cassocks are concerned; except the two restricted colors: black and red. Nevertheless, the fabric and patterns must be the same on the entire garment.

## 15. Pastor's resignation

Can a father renounce his fatherhood? Being a pastor is more than a function! It is an identity given by the Lord and that cannot be removed. It is an irrevocable call that cannot be resigned. Even if he is put in jail, or he is vomited by God like Saul, or loses "common sense" like Nebuchadnezzar, or denies Christ publicly, or is baptized in another congregation, will still carry that function. No one is allowed to seat on pastor's chair before his death. For those who do not understand the uniqueness of this function, question God who appointed rulers over his people Jeroboam an idol worshipper and Ahab a devilish agent!

But there are some church "main" decisions which cannot be taken by the pastor without the Trustee approval. Neither can he change at will the members of the Trustee! Actually this function should be for life in order to refrain pastor's "enthusiasm".

### **Bible references:**

**1 King 14:7** *Go tell Jeroboam, thus says the Lord God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel,*

**1 Samuel 13:8-9** *and he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed; but Samuel came not to Gilgal, and the people were scattered from him. And Saul said, bring a hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.*

**John 18:14** *Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.*

**Ephesians 4:11** *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.*

**Mark 16:20** *And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.*

## **16. Changes since the first pastor. New revelations or misinterpretations?**

Many amendments occurred in the church since first pastor's death. This is partly due to a lack of rigor, the desire to innovate and a great desire to follow personal will, as well as to please the people. Among these abuses, we can mention the following:

- The use of holy names during the service. For instance, some use "ELI YABAH" instead of "ELI BAMAH YABAH" arguing that it means the same.
- Some have even deleted "RAMAH" in "JEHOVAH RAMAH" arguing that it refers to mourning, relate to "...in Ramah ... Rachel is weeping for her children..."
- The exit procession is now in hurry to go back early. Instead of changing the ritual, let's reduce the length of endless sermons, teachings on tithe, or praise.
- Every day gives birth to new fundraises, as if this will increase the level of finances.
- A new preaching is being done by the parish leader at the end of the service so as to highlight some points left untouched by the preacher. A single bible verse is full of revelations; so how can someone say everything in just 30 minutes of preaching.
- The tithe time is being done now every Sunday, due to the fact that salaries might not be paid at the same time during the month.
- Predecessors are being "clothed" by their parish leaders before receiving the anointing.
- Some people are being imposed hands without taking anointing. It is

understandable in case of a predecessor's absence in the service; but should not remain like that.

- Some brothers are anointed predecessors without having verbally renounced the consumption of pork and alcohol.

- Communion is no longer partaken four times per year. Some excesses are being noticed at the level of parish leaders as far as the two times left to them are concerned.

- Adding new capes for choristers (apart from those of ordinary choristers, general superintendent or choirmaster)

- Many abuses are noticeable on cassock sewing, such as zip on the side and designed patterns on the cloth.

- Some high predecessors sit on the altar without their trappings. Others even put their straps on a chair instead of wearing them as recommended once within the church premises.

- Some high predecessors who sit with the people, breaking thus the protocol. It is as if in the civil society, ministers will just isolate the President to sit in the crowd. God dwells in his holy temple, hence things must be in order.

- Non-baptized people climb up to the choir altar; or on the altar properly being called by either the parish leader or a predecessor, or by themselves. The choir abuses will be discussed in further documents.

- Veils are placed on the altar for reasons other than that of the bible. While that of Jerusalem was torn to released God's glory everywhere; and here are reinstoring it with justifications. A veil on the altar questions our Lord's work on the cross. People will want to know why then, if God's glory is available to all, some ungraded cannot reach the

altar? Well, it is just to test the endurance of people and to set the authority before women.

**Bible references:**

**Mark 15:38** *The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom*

**John 15:15** *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing; but have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I learnt from my father.*

**1 Corinthians 11:3** *But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man; that man is the head of the wife and God is the head of Christ.*

**Suggestion 1:** we suggest a prayer program of at least 3 days per month so as to be reinforced. Problems can cause us to withdraw from God's presence. Remember that Christian life is first of all a personal relationship with God, then fellowship. It will be a time to be alone with God in order to receive instructions and revelations for the church functioning.

**Suggestion 2:** At times, money put aside some ordinary life and spiritual life realities. The pastor should try to appoint people to handle the Church finances and avoid managing everything alone.

## **B. PRIESTLY CLOTHES AND ANOINTING**

## **I. Grades added after the death of the Founder-Pastor**

### **1. New grades**

#### **a. Men**

- All the grades of Seers beyond Venerable/Senior/Wolileader (Wolijah)
- Honorable Senior Evangelist
- Most Evangelist
- Most Special Evangelist
- Supreme Evangelist, which was held by only one person, is more likened to the “function” of Assistant to the Pastor, or replacer in case of the pastor’s death. Nowadays, “Supreme” is a grade and more than 100 people have it.
- Pastor of function

#### **b. Women**

- All grades above Venerable/ Senior/ Mother
- Celestial Mother

The blue extras did not exist at the first pastor’s time. Remember that the women who had worn “yellow extras” as Venerable/ Senior/ Mother, it was at the installation of Nigeria pastor in 1976, after 25 years of ministry. These women were in the early 1947, involved in crusades with their husbands. Hence, they were tested and found worthy.

## 2. Consequences for the current Church

The impact of these grades' distribution is not to be taken lightly. What about those who were given former grades and show no evidence of it? Let's see some consequences here:

### - Disrespect for the authorities

When money and flattery to some parish leaders avail grades, disrespect is widespread. Having no training in ministerial ethics, here are denoting behaviors with cassocks:

- Kisses as greeting
- Taps on the shoulders to Predecessors
- Unrestrained dancing
- Tomfoolery words

It is good to know that once at the grade of Leader people must refrain their tongue. Leading a group demands a bunch of reserve. As well as it is a total non-sense to find an Evangelist joking with members of the parish. Physical contact should be avoided in the temple, especially between different genders. Kisses as greetings are prohibited; genuflection with head bowed is recommended to greet a superior graded. Women are not exempted as well. For instance, an Assistant Leader must also genuflect while greeting a Mom. Graded should be models. An atmosphere of respect must be all around, just like it is the case in our families, where elders are respected by younger regardless of whether he is worthy or not. So, a predecessor deserves respect no matter of his lacks because he is God's authority. However, respect function within a restraint frame; that is suicide to give grades above Mom and Leader to many.

### - Encouragement to laziness

These grades are no longer meant to encourage those who have been faithful to God's work or strengthen those who cannot make difference between god's love and the love of the world. Gold is valuable because



it is rare and not because it shines. So, if a mere stone was to be scarce and gold like the sand of the sea, then the stone is more expensive than gold. Just to say as long as a man is not dead from inside, he will still rejoice over earthly things; anointing included. Therefore, anointing symbolizes the rewards that someone will receive in heaven after a great service to the Lord on earth. It is not just a matter of attending few services. A lazy person will not value this anointing, since he does not know what it costs. If it is true that God works with whosoever has received anointing, He also looks unto the righteous and faithful to reward them. That is why we still say that it a suicide to attribute grades above Mom and Leader to many.

- Total disorder

Higher grades are meant to organize and increase the church. There must be proportionality between the number of “high predecessors” and the “others” to avoid leadership fight. But we notice that there 40 high predecessors and 60 “others”; in other words 40 generals to lead 60 persons. A good balance here will appoint 10 Evangelists for 1000 persons; and they are assisted by Leaders. That is why we reaffirm that giving grades above that of Mom and Leader to many, is a suicide.

- Manners depravity

Grades are attributed without taking into consideration the candidates' moral lives or deeds. This is a wrong example for the new comers who mostly imitate predecessors. How many Evangelists are found into cohabitation, divorce, adultery, remarriage? Even some other filthy things which cannot be said publicly! But they are seen as models in the congregation; they hold all functions, always have the floor, decide upon what is good or not, define strategies for evangelism, infuse their lifestyle in the church. The principle of sowing and harvest started from the beginning of the earth; it is what you sow that you reap, never otherwise. And we wonder why parishes are not forwarding! Especially in Europe. When someone is graded, all eyes are upon him or her. Therefore, to grade a person who has not been tested is like

putting a hunter behind a prey. Consequences are clear: broken homes by predecessors, swindled money, wrong pieces of advice ... that is why we can still say with sadness that giving grades higher than Mom and Leader is equivalent to suicide.

- Wrong testimony in the society

What else can we expect from the society than despise, when presenting leaders whose lives are not examples to be taken? We are afraid of disgrace whenever a predecessor tries to defend the church doctrine due to his empty words. Even when they refer to God's word, so many bible verses quoted out of context. Shall we be considered as martyrs when people direct their insults towards us? Quite no! These insults are justified. Being considered as martyrs will be insulting the memory of the pioneers of Christianity and especially those of celestial church of Christ. Dignitaries cannot even interact in vernacular languages; how will they then preach to local people? Some will say that the Holy Ghost shall take control! How? If they have driven away the Holy Ghost by their immoral lives? Spiritual death is awaiting them. Let's say once again that it is a suicide giving anointing above Mom and Leader to many!

- Promotion of anti-Christian values

Most of those who receive grades are little grounded on God's word and church. We could have said that they are stranded in some areas because the church understanding is too complex; but it is often complete ignorance. What they do most of the time is to copy wrongly from others. Unfortunately, this causes a deep lack of meekness. Training should be the basis of every anointing. Otherwise, how will untrained high predecessors train new ones? Their lack of church knowledge or bible will give birth to pride, jealousy and gossiping. And how can God's work grow in such an atmosphere? An atmosphere where, humility is replaced by pride, fun has replaced abstinence, honour has replaced discretion. God servants are being served rather than serving the people; best places, best food... Pioneers of Celestial

church of Christ must be upset in heaven seeing these climbers destroying their work.

Actually, Church is a school. Let's just take for instance the university system. Can a student be graduated without training? Can a medical doctor degree be given to someone without skills in that specialization or who lack love for the sick? Presently, we have Evangelists who never evangelize but put on that rank. The worst is that some Evangelists are less than 30 years, with little life experience. This is why we only say with sadness that it is a suicide giving grades beyond Mom and Leaders to many.

No need to mention the various negative consequences, because an entire book should be attributed to that. To summarize, let's just say: please, stop suicide! God wants to do wonders with celestial Christians. Let the humble and father hearted be lifted up; those who care first about their children before themselves and who are servant rather than being served.

### **3. Adding grades by pastoral authority or divine revelation**

It might be possible that all these new grades be the result of pastor's will than revelation. This is just an assumption, since we do not have the revelation of man's heart. This was motivated by the fact that some great predecessors complained of having too many "new" with the same grade as them. The solution would have been to restrict the source rather than adding new grades. The medication was worse than the disease!

#### **4. Legitimacy of these new grades**

All these new grades are linked to those who minister them; there is nothing wrong if the new pastor remove them because they do not belong to the first pastor time. As a result of this phenomenon of adding grades whenever there is a new pastor, we will end up to a hundred in few generations. Let's just observe the increase since 1985, year of the first pastor's death, till 2010. In only 15 years' time!

#### **5. Proposed solutions**

##### **a. For new grades**

Was the reconciliation work of our Lord a joke? Happy is the pastor who will refuse fame for the church sake. He will be mightily lifted by God!

- 1<sup>st</sup> solution: restraint all the grades created after the first pastor and wait until they disappear with time. Though this is not the panacea!

- 2<sup>nd</sup> solution: stop giving those new grades and downgrade or upgrade those having new grades according to the table of grades left by the first pastor. Someone will say: what about grades higher than those left by the first pastor? The answer is quite simple, those who cannot be upgraded should be downgraded. Another will say: where to find money for new cassocks? The answer is, if you could find money for current garments, you can still find! Another will still say: there are people who will upgrade for nothing! That's why the best solution is to downgrade everybody. Another question will be: shall we downgrade Venerable/ Senior/ Mom women? The answer remains the same for the sake of the church. Receiving anointing should be considered as a gift of God, and not a gift of money.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> solution: bind anointing by an irrevocable decree so that future

pastors could not add anything. In this case, we can either “keep new and former grades, or continue to minister them” or “put them aside and allow them to disappear with time”. However, it is preferable to delete them.

**b. For this plethora of “great predecessors”**

- 1<sup>st</sup> solution: stop giving grades higher than that of Leader and allow the number to decrease with time.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> solution: greatly restrict the grade of Evangelist – those who are barefoot and honorary ones of the diocese. So as to get to the following proportion: 1 Leader for 100 persons; 1 Venerable/ Senior/ Leader for 1000 persons. The following numbers are just indicators. Evangelists (honorary ones) should no longer be associated to a parish but to the diocese which will use him everywhere. If it happens that an Evangelist be placed in a parish, he should be under the church leader, but will take down all the dysfunctions; then will transfer a copy to the diocese which will hand it over to the parish leader after reading.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> solution: Downgrading non-barefoot to Venerable/ Senior/ Leader or transferring them to the existing honorary grades. The honorary grades do not mean that they are the ones in charge of financing the church; this will be an offence to the Church and to God if there are being graded because of their money. This branch is related to people, whom because of great spiritual potentials, wisdom and other abilities, can help in decisions making for the Church growth both globally and regionally. They are there for the church functioning as a whole and not just for a parish.

What you should remember of these solutions is this: the choice of the candidates to the anointing should no longer depend only on the parish leader because once given, the anointed can circulate throughout the diocese and even all over the world.

## **II. Rules and meaning of priestly outfits**

### **1. Switching from Woli branch to Leader branch and vice versa**

Normally everybody should stay in his branch. But for people with capabilities and truly desire to change, after submitting to the will of God by prayers and if approved, they must go back to the grade of Assistant / Leader regardless of the rank they had in the branch of Woli. They are not obliged to return to the rank of "dehoto" because their ability of prayer is supposed to be valid. It is the same for those who want to switch from Leaders branch to that of Woli, they must go to the rank of Woli regardless of their rank in the branch of the Leaders.

### **2. To wear a lower strap**

A predecessor should never wear a strap which does not correspond to his rank. That each remains in its place. He should also know that the strap as well as the cassock is personal; which implies that, we should avoid borrowing cassocks or straps. However, a parish leader may have straps that could be punctually and exceptionally lent to predecessors who have forgotten theirs at home.

### **3. Meaning of the different outfit colors**

**White:** Purity - morality (run away from sin and sanctification)

**Yellow:** Divine light (great knowledge associated with love of the truth)

**Dark blue:** spiritual force (delivering power and virtue)

**Light blue:** spiritual uplift (separation from the world and great consideration of the heavenly things)

**Rose:** Passion (love for the Lord)

**Brown:** Austerity (high separation from this world and sobriety)

**Purple:** humility

**Green:** Hope (expectation of the Kingdom of heaven).

#### **4. Meaning of the "stairs" on Evangelists' straps**

"Stairs" represent the crucifixion of the Lord and the two thieves on the Mount Golgotha ("place of the skull"). Here is being manifested the most, God's love for his people through a willing sacrifice. This implies that Evangelists willingly dedicate their entire lives for God's work. That's also why they should be barefoot. The Church does not oblige anyone to take this grade, but whoever engages in it must entirely dedicate himself in spreading the gospel everywhere and contribution to church development through announcing the reward of both the wicked and the righteous; and this through a total self-dedication. The spiritual level must be higher than that of a mere follower. This is no longer time to fight with a past of sinner but it is a way for improvement.

#### **5. Significance of the Leaders' round collar**

The round collar is upon all cassocks except that of Seers. It symbolizes perfection and God's eternity, God's sense of endlessness.

## **6. Significance of the Seers' square collar**

Seers' square collars symbolize the lord's fight against Satan in the corners of the earth. This branch is supposed to be more active in warfare prayers.

## **7. Outfits during services**

Outfits are compulsory on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday service of the month, on Sunday morning and feasts' days such as: Virgin Mary dedicated day; the day of the creation of the Church; the 29 September; Christmas service and the end of the year.

## **8. The three-cornered and quadric-cornered hats**

Hats are part of the outfits that must be brought into the services mentioned above. They are:

White for the Woli/Leader (WoliJah), Senior/Woli/Leader (Senior/WoliJah), Leaders and the Senior/WoliLeader.

Blues for the Venerable/Senior/WoliLeader (WoliJah)

Yellow for the Venerable/Senior/Leader.

Further colors are being listed out in "Lumière sur le christianisme céleste".



### **III. Others**

#### **1. Cleaning and respect of his cassock**

Cassocks and dedicated clothing should not be washed with other clothes. It's worshipper's clothe to access the temple. We don't mix the sacred with profane. In addition, there are some clothes exclusively intended to wear with cassock - what is strongly recommended – however, mixture is possible.

Here are some rules to be followed while wearing a cassock:

- Clean on Sunday morning for the service
- Don't keep hands in pockets whenever you're wearing the cassock
- Don't put fruit, bread or any food into the pockets of the cassock
- Don't sew cassock with patterned fabrics
- Don't roll the sleeves of his cassock while in the temple
- Men should always put their buttons at the neck
- Do not put any clothes that would exceed at the level of the neck.

White t-shirt are recommended

- Women must always put something at the bottom of the cassock to not leave show through their Bras
- It is strongly recommended to women in long shorts underneath in case they are being touched by the Holy Spirit or else
- The fabric used to sew his cassock should not be transparent
- The pants need to be folded so that they are not visible under the cassock. Normally, the cassock reaches the ankles.
- Once at home, keep very well your cassock only with others "consecrated clothes"
- Don't go to and fro with your cassock (out to the restaurant, cinema, walk in the city...)

## **2. Entering in the toilet or in the bathroom with its strap**

The only objection is to enter a toilet with a strap (and even a cassock) is for hygiene sake. Avoid any contact of the strap with the bathroom floor or the edge of the toilet. Some parishes arranged spaces at the entrance or inside the toilet in order to ensure that they don't get dirty. Indeed, because of their lengths, it is very easy that they get dirty.

## **3. Loss of vision by a Seer**

A gift from God does not get lost permanently except in a very exceptional case. Even when it seems to have disappeared it can re-emerge by sincere repentance, prayers of the Assembly and by personal prayers. Severe perseverance is required here.

## **4. Miraculous clothes**

Miraculous clothes are used mainly for three situations: the exhibitions of Wednesday service – revealed exhibitions followed by prayers and to cover a sympathizer when they make Thanksgiving. They can be white, blue, or yellow and have three or seven cross.

### **III. STATUTES & ORDER**

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**A. CEREMONIES & RITUAL  
PRACTICES**

## **I. THE SERVICE**

### **1. Items for 10 am Wednesday and 12 noon Friday services**

Items to bring during the service of mercy on Wednesday 10 am are: three kinds of fruit and a candle.

The sanctification service of Friday 12 am requires: a bottle of water and a candle.

In some countries such France, the holy seat has permitted 10 pm service of sanctification due to the unavailability of many. The common name is "cash up service". The service is thus celebrated twice within the revealed ritual; the second does not cancel the first. Who said that permission means it has been requested by a parish leader through his diocese and validated by the Holy Seat? In such cases, a confirmation must be required from the Holy Seat. A parish officer has no authority to have a service at a different hour than the revealed. Concerning the elements of the service, they were revealed and must be respected. The fulfillment of prayers is not a matter of the number of items added. In other words, it is not bringing more elements than required that brings more fulfillment. A parallel is noted in the bible. Many mistakenly think that Samson's strength came from his hair; meanwhile it was just a sign of the Covenant contracted with God. Hair do not give spiritual strength, it comes only from God. He uses a visible sign to renew the memory of his promise and as a token of the covenant.

Thus revealed elements have no virtue in themselves but, used at the time of the worship like the revelation requires it, are effective in obtaining the fulfillment. This of course requires a minimum of godliness. Anything else should be used as a punctual property and not systematic. Please understand that what is being specifically asked within a service will not systematically work in other services. That is why it is unnecessary to make books with items to be added in order to be heard.



**Suggestion 1:** there should be people in charge to verify that Christians' items are the revealed. Otherwise, the person should show his/her vision sheet signed by an officer.

## **2. Service led by a parish leader**

The parish leader leads and preaches during the sanctification services of Friday, the first Thursday of the month during the pre-first Sunday of the month's service (also called "reunion service"), without using the big altar - for it is said of this service that it is led by the Lord himself and exceptional services such as first Friday of July in honor of the Virgin Mary, Sunday Easter, 24 and 31 December... He may delegate a predecessor for that.

## **3. A parish leader's place during procession**

The procession to enter the temple is done by grade and not function. So a parish leader should position himself according to his grade. Considering the rank factor, a seer is considered "less senior" during the procession. For instance, a "WoliLeader" will be in front of a 'Leader' and a 'WoliMother' will be before a 'Mommy'.

## **4. A parish leader's place during the service process**

Whenever a parish leader leads a service, as well as a regular predecessor, he must be at the head of the procession.

## **5. Candles' kindling at Sabbath service**

The candles kindling process starts at the high candle, then the lower left and then the lower right. Then we go up gradually levels ranging from the left to the right. Note that this implies that the candlestick is triangular. All the stems of the candle should not be at the same level but on four levels (2-2-2-1). In addition, there is no need to make the sign of the cross with the candle before lighting candles as is currently done in some parishes.

## **6. Prayer for people who lead offering time**

The service driver is the one who prays for these people. There must not be an intermediary between the predecessor who makes the quest and predecessors sitting at the altar. It could happen that a brother leads the quest and that Evangelists just like predecessors, exceptionally, if there is no Sacristan, one of them will lead the quest at the level of the altar and then give it to the brother. At the end, the quest done with a Pajaspá (basket), is being given to the driver. Not only the driver prays for the people who participated to the quest but also, he also commits the quest to God. In addition, there is only a single quest during the service. Any other quest or solicitation (welfare, construction, harvest party...) should not be done during the service. If necessary, this must be done at the end of the service in order to free those who wish to return. Not only does this extend the length of the service, but it is also a modification to the ritual.

### **Important:**

The only 'required' solicitations are tithes, offerings and the service denier. This means that they are the part of the revealed requests without so far being involved in the verification of the amount as well as the number of partakers. God does not pressurize his people! For

others, they are not revealed although it is important for the life of a parish. In this case, no need to require a specific amount to Christians and to display a list of those who contribute. For those who would like to contribute and have forgotten if they are up to date in their contributions, they could go and see the appointed unit. For instance, as far as the harvest feast is concerned, a specific amount can be set up that could be communicated during the service by the secretary. If at the end, the amount is "inadequate", let's do why the cash that is already there. **It is more essential for people to freely give, than being constraint;** for God is not pleased when something is being done by constraint.

### **Bible references:**

*2 Corinthians 9.7 Every man according as he purposed in his heart, so let him give; not grundgingly, or of necessity: for God love a cheerful giver.*

## **7. Preaching out of the pulpit**

This is strongly prohibited. The Lord has reserved precise locations for preaching during a service. The preaching pulpit is used for Sunday service, the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, and the Christmas and that of women side for other services.

## **8. People who receive Thanksgiving items**

Thanksgivings are being received by the Parish leader and the whole body of Evangelists. When they are numerous, he selects two or six; more often the most grade and senior predecessors. The service leader stays on the altar, though he is no longer in the holiest place. But if the parish leader leads the service, he can still be among those who receive thanksgivings.

## **9. Final blessing when the parish leader is not the highest-ranking**

The final blessing is more related to the function than the rank, so it is made by the Parish leader. It is the same for the last prayer which is made by ' Parish mother '. Remember that the term 'Parish mother' is used to refer to a woman chosen by the head of the parish and the parish Committee. She is considered to be the women leader and also their representatives within the parish Committee. There is no obligation at grade level and she is not required to be the wife of the parish responsible. However, she must be a Predecessor.

## **10. Final blessing**

It can never be undertaken by a woman without the presence of a man other than the service driver. However, out of the service it is possible; for example, when a woman handles a vision section or prays for somebody.

## **11. The rotational meaning of the "7 Hallelujah"**

At the end of services, participants are asked to say "7 Hallelujah" at the four corners to give glory to God. The temple is supposed to be oriented towards the East which implies the meaning the temple entrance to the altar. Here is the significance of "7 Hallelujah". The first time, is in front of the altar, then giving back to the altar, then on the left side and at the end of the right side. The sense is contrary to the clock sticks. From right to left except when at the last moment we must bow down and put the forehead three times on the ground.

## II. THE CASSOCK OR GARMENT

### 1. Travel with cassock

You should know that the cassock is a sacred garment that can be used to gild the Lord in His temple. Except for those who are devoted, we can't wear it outside the walls of the temple. Remember that even for a celestial Christian, he must meet certain conditions before touching his cassock; be in a state of body sanctification for more than twenty-four hours and not be in menstrual period for women. The cassock is the symbol of the glory expected in heaven; of incorruptible and immortal flesh. How can we then be sure to cover these conditions in transit and on the street?

In addition, it is a sign of belonging to the Celestial Church of Christ, so those who wear it outside represent the church and whatever they do engages reputation of the Church. Thence, whosoever wears a cassock and quarrells with any citizen of the country, or who would defraud in common transport or do anything against the law, tarnishes the image of the Church. It is already wrong to take actions that would object to the law or to courtesy, although this is often understandable because every man is weak, but doing it in a cassock cannot be tolerated. That is why, knowing these weaknesses, do not wear the cassock in public places except when there is the permission of the diocese.

One of the worst things is that of Christians with garment on unchristian' social networks; Service pictures are being mixed photos of worldly celebrations. Some even push further to be taken in a picture with their cassock, violating Christian modesty; lips put forward and many other things that are not to be mentioned here.

**Suggestion 2:** provisional suspension for anyone who would have a photo in a cassock on an unchristian social network and who does not respect the rules of modesty.

### **Bible references:**

*1 Corinthians 15.53-54 for this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written. Death is swallowed up in victory.*

## **2. A new-born baby garment**

All newborn must bear an ordinary cassock. Exceptionally and by revelation of a seer, a newborn can wear a cassock with square neck and this up to aged three. After that, the child must wear an ordinary cassock. The square neck is for the agitated and visionaries. What many don't know is that wearing a square-neck without revelation is not beneficial to the child. This isn't a 'charm' that would protect people against dark forces but it is the sacred cloth that is intended for a certain class of people, and which can be worn exceptionally and for a certain time by others. Make sure that it comes from God, because every revelation does not necessarily come from God, discernment is needed. Unfortunately, it has become common to find many children in parishes with "square neck" garments.

## **3. Strap clothing**

You must wear the strap whenever you wear a cassock.

## **4. Shoes prohibition with cassock**

Shoes represent the love of the world. The cassock is the symbol of our glory and heavenly state when will be with our Lord. We cannot put the cassock while wearing shoes. However, socks are permitted; because of the cold in Europe, the dedicated use some plastic sock associated with wool socks.

## 5. Access to the temple without a cassock

Baptized cannot enter the temple without cassocks, as well as a predecessor cannot enter without his strap. The strap must not be put inside the temple but before entering. We don't get dressed before God; we do before entering his presence. It is misleading to think that a baptized could enter the temple without wearing a garment or without his strap outside the service hours. The temple remains sacred both during service or not. The temple and parvis are spaces totally devoted to God. All conversations must be for the glory of God. As for other spaces, topics must be selected.

### **Bible references:**

*Matthew 12.11-14* (the English version of this verse does not correspond to that of French which was here. Please check which verse you wanted to put here)

*Matthew 12.36* but I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment.

### III. THE TEMPLE

#### 1. The laying on of hands to a brother

This practice is permitted but should be used in very exceptional cases and in new parishes. It is used to compensate the lack of predecessors in a new parish. It should not be done only in special occasions. There should be rules that define a leeway to those who received the laying on of hands. This act has no value in other parishes and should be limited in time. A brother who leads the service must become 'dehoto', anointed by the pastor during his next trip to that region. Remember that it is not right that one under 21 years becomes 'dehoto'. It is a spiritual commitment, a vow to God, a sacred for anyone order for whoever takes the anointing.

**Suggestion 3:** Each responsible should be reporting to his diocese every instance of laying on of hands that he did and the length of the act.

#### 2. Prayer of many people

When several people are praying for a faithful, there are rules to be applied:

- For a baptized group of one man and several women, it is the man who will lead the prayer even if it is a simple brother and that women are graded.
- The person who leads prayer gives back to the altar and others are alongside the person who is being prayed upon. One side will be occupied by the women and the other men. At the four ends, there must be more graded people.
- A baptized man can lead prayer even in the presence of a more graded than him but this may not be the case for a woman.
- A woman leads prayer when she is just being assisted by women.



Normally it is the highest-ranking who runs prayer but is not compulsory.

- Even for kneeling prayers, a woman cannot be in front of the prayers band, not talking of ringing the Bell or standing in the middle of the temple.
- Women cannot partake in prayers of four persons.

### **3. Greetings**

The greeting is done by genuflecting in the parish. The inferior makes the genuflecting before the superior in rank or age. Remember that the parish leader by function is the highest authority of the parish; so everyone should greet him by genuflecting. This is also the case for his assistant if any, and the president of the Committee.

Age is important for predecessors of the same rank; though it is not the main criterion for greeting elders with a genuflection. The main criterion is grade and one of the two functions mentioned above. For all other functions (master of choir, the seers' leader...) it is the grade that premium because they are functions related to small groups.

We must beware of kisses within the parish premises and especially when we are dressed with a cassock.

### **4. Calling in the temple**

We call the parishioners prefixing their first name by the grade. Brother X, predecessor X, sister Y, predecessor Y. It is also common to hear calling 'Mommy' or 'Daddy' for senior predecessors or because of their age. This is a mark of respect. However, names such as “my darling, my heart...”, even between spouses it is prohibited within the confines of the parish. A maxim says "too much dating creates non-

consideration. This also goes towards God; spending time in the parish premises makes people to take it lightly. As a pedagogic, that is why everyone didn't have access to the service of God and to all places in order to maintain the sacredness of the place. God's temple is a holy.

## **5. Prohibition to sit on Friday service**

It is forbidden to sit on a Chair on Friday in the temple and this is regardless of the grade. It is in commemoration of the Lord's crucifixion which was held on a Friday. Outside the temple, this is allowed; be it within the cloakroom, Holy Court... For the same reason, fasting is being also recommended to the faithful on this day. Though not mandatory, this fasting remains to be strongly recommended.

### **Bible references:**

*Mark 15.37-42 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost ... and now when the evening was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath,*

## **6. Shoes prohibition in the holy courtyard**

It is forbidden to wear shoes inside the parish that is why it must be clearly delineated. No sock must cross this delineation. So holding the shoe by hand or put it in a bag is also prohibited. This Act symbolizes the separation with the topsides of the flesh. This comes from the fact that the shoes were made of leather of dead animals. It does not mean that, within the parish compound, one could wear shoes that are not made of leather or that it is forbidden to wear leather. It is a way to be aware of a thing that regulates the Church just as all the symbols of the

Church. They are meaningful only because they come from the revelation of the Church. Whenever a celestial Christian enters in a parish, he first remembers that he must move away from dead works. However, if a celestial Christian has to go in another Christian congregation, he does not have to remove shoes. Wearing shoes in the parish is never a sin, but it becomes one in a celestial parish since it is a transgression to God's precept revealed and set up in the Church.

**Bible references:**

**Exodus 3.5** *And God said, draw not nigh hither; put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.*

**Joshua 5.15** *And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, loose thy shoe from off thy foot, for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.*

**Galatians 5.19-21** *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, seditions, heresies, envying, murders, drunkenness, reveling, and such like: of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

## **7. M/F Separation in the enclosure of the parish**

A man is not a woman and a woman is not a man. Outside the temple and the courtyard, this separation is no longer respected. In prayer groups in the temple, there can be a row for women and that of men. This provision is convenient for small groups.

In case of a transsexual conversion, he will have to sit according to his sex before surgery. The Church welcomes all who wish to give up their old life in order to comply with the will of the Lord.

## IV. OTHERS

### 1. Red and black clothing only for professional purpose

It is very important that this requirement is being understood by the Celestial Christian. The red color in the Church is considered as symbol of "pleasure, sensuality, and lust" and black to "iniquity, evil, and wickedness." If for a Christian who is not celestial it makes no sense; for a Celestial Christian, it is an abomination to the angels of the church if he fails to respect this. It is disobedience to the Lord and transgression. In general, failing to respect a negative precept "You won't do this" is more serious than not respecting a positive precept. The first is based on contempt while the second is based on negligence. Why contempt? If an authority puts delineation on the ground and forbids crossing it, anyone who knows and crosses the line, not only once, but dozens of times has no respect for the given utterance. Thus, whenever we wear red or black, though being recalled on Sunday service, it is a transgression. Transgression is grounded on contempt.

Although every celestial Christian is free to follow the laws of the Lord or not, it is forbidden to enter the enclosure of the parish with red or black clothing. The temple of the Lord is holy and should be the first place for the application of laws. The same with people who dress indecently, leaders should watch over it. We must understand that God's temple is "Holy"; that it is a place dedicated to the Lord.

Wearing red and black at the celestial Christian is a sin that deserves to be focused on. It is a result of human weakness (as a man who cedes finding himself alone with a woman), or coercion (as a man who denies Christ for fear of retaliation), or lack of knowledge (as a man who ignores a command). Indeed, when shopping there is time to select suitable clothes that won't defile God's temple, but some willingly decide to disobey. This gets us back to the sin of Adam and Eve, who among the great number of fruits in the garden preferred the one which was forbidden. Everyone presents his or her own reasons: it is my relationship with God - I'm not hurting anybody - my faith is not

based on that - it's a gift from a parent - I am not a Pharisee... If someone could find excuses in respecting simple rules, how would he find power to apply God's commands? What is strange is that, some of these people are able to make extended fasting or better still, to pray all night; but would try not wearing red and black clothes ... Where is simplicity? Why carrying heavy loads, when the Lord has light ones for us.

The worst thing is to see some people wearing black coats or black clothes with the cassocks. Not only are they transgressing, but they associate it with sacred garment. The Lord has represented the world by codes and would like us to follow them so as to enlighten us. It is therefore sad to see that this aspect is taken lightly by celestial Christians. These rules are not trivial but a spiritual leeway to the manifestation of divine life in us.

It's not too late to go back on righteous paths for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, who wrote his name in Celestial Church of Christ.

**Suggestion 4:** We strongly encourage parish leaders to create a commission that would be in charge of "correct clothing" to access the temple and the management of new people (women in a state uncleanness...).

## **2. Pig and beer consumption**

Pork meat is being prohibited with all its derivative - even the candy with pork gelatin, and drinking any alcoholic beverage. A little amount of alcohol in a drink makes it undrinkable. The symbolism is also very strong as remoteness of "disruption" and "lack of discernment" are well served. These precepts do not concern only those that would go to the temple but all Celestial Christians and every time. Remember that it is not mandatory to be a celestial Christian and salvation is also for other Christians.

How are we going to have a radiant church filled with God's glory if we deny simple rules? The Lord has chosen to glorify himself through men, how will it be possible if we find all sorts of excuses to respect rules? Remember that some non-Christian Congregations rules are more stringent than ours. But none of them provides life even if they were to be the same because they are not from the word the Lord.

**Bible references:**

*Leviticus 10.9-11 Do not drink wine nor strong, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die. It shall be a statute for ever throughout your generation; and that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean.*

**3. Cigarettes, tobacco and drugs**

They react in two ways: they defile our body which is the temple of God, and they put us in bondage. Apart from being against church rules, it is obvious that God hates such things. For those addicted to these items, let them come closer to their parish leaders who may help them either by prayers or by directing them to medical centers for addicted persons. Because, if for persons the solution lies on prayers, others need medical care.

**4. New comers and sympathizers**

Any newcomer or any person without cassock should be sanctified by a predecessor the first time he/she wants to access the parish premises. This sanctification will process through prayers and holy water. If that person wishes to remain in the congregation, a predecessor should make a prayer using a new bucket, water, some perfume and a lighted

candle. The hymn "**Look unto him, Jesus is calling**" or another hymn of sanctification should be sung during the prayer. However, none of these people can yet use the garment since it is exclusively reserved for the baptized.

## 5. Tithe and service denier

### - Tithing

Tithe payment is mandatory for all celestial Christians. This corresponds to tenth of monthly incomes - a loan is not considered as income. It serves to improve church infrastructure, to pay "the committed" of the Church, help the less privileged of the church, to finance crusades, to support the other parishes... It is a way for every celestial Christian to show gratitude to God. The tithe also has a less known and yet very important meaning. Paying it is a way of saying to the Lord "forgive me whenever I didn't come in help to the needy, whenever I ate more than needed when my brother was hungry, all these clothes that I bought while my brother is naked. Forgive me please because I wouldn't like to participate in selfishness and greed of this world ". It is the teaching given by the Holy Spirit through John the Baptist that makes the payment of tithe mandatory.

The management of the church revenue must be completely transparent and traceable by any parishioner, at least once a year. If we have nothing to be hiding, why then hiding this money from the people! Not only must the total amount of the tithe be known by the people, but also its management must be transparent. It doesn't mean that it is the people who manage tithe or that every single details must be given concerning church projects. All the accounts should be published before each quarter of the year. If it is compulsory, its payment should not be on personal envelopes and no harassment must be exercised on the parishioners. Being the main source of income of parishes, some parish leaders still chock the people to face the other charges. It's even

worse for those who see it as a way to enrichment. The advice that we can give to them is the following: God cares for his work as long as he recognizes it as his own. It is better to close the parish than to harass the people. Someone who opens a parish does so as God's messenger and this for the good of his people. If neither God (who even takes care of the animals), nor the people finance, so then just close the doors.

- The service denier

It is a small amount that is requested for each of the baptized faithful. Parents should also pay for all their baptized children. For the less privileged, the given amount is symbolic. It must be paid before the first communion of the year which is during Easter week. We don't know if it comes from the revealed or it is the fact that it was a common practice in early Churches. Nevertheless, being established, it becomes mandatory by the church authority.

### **Bible references:**

**1 Corinthians 9.7** *Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charge? Who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? Or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?*

**1 Corinthians 9.11** *If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?*

**Luke 3.11** *He answereth and saith unto them, he that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none. And he that hath meat, let him do likewise.*

**Matthew 6.26** *Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not better than they?*

## **6. Nocturnal emissions**

After a wet dream, a cleansing washing should be done before going to the temple. The great restriction is at the level of great predecessors



and the service leader. You can't process a service or climb to the high altar after a wet dream. Those who must go up to the altar are more exposed because they are more oppressed by unclean spirits. It is true to eat before sleeping or non-channeled thoughts give access to nocturnal emissions; it is not exempted even in a strict fasting and all care about the Kingdom of heaven.

## **7. Altar at home**

It is forbidden to make an altar with 7 candles' candlestick at home. However, three candles is possible for parish managers and one for men. Drawing up a home altar requires some a certain time of sanctification and it must be in a room cut off from other parts of the House.

A woman cannot build an altar even of candles. However, she may have a reserved place for prayer where she could expose herself if wished.

## **8. Decency**

It is forbidden to hold the hand of a person of opposite sex in the Church, even between spouses. This is also true for people of the same sex. Except children, how come that people of the same sex hold hands? Hugs and kisses are also prohibited even between spouses. Interactions of two opposed genders, as well as decent clothing must be restricted within the church premises. Skirts or dresses must exceed the knees. The tops are obligatorily with sleeves that exceed the elbow. Both men and women should not wear clothes that show their breasts. Dressing in the parish enclosure must reflect modesty.

## 9. Liberal fasting

A single period of fasting is revealed in the Church; during Easter week. It starts at midnight Palm Sunday and ends at 6: 00 pm Easter Saturday. It occurred from midnight to 6: 00 pm. Easter Sunday is said to be 'given' that's why the official fasting ends up on Saturday at 6 pm. But it is not forbidden to finish on Sunday at 6 pm. In terms of food, nothing is prescribed by the Church. Some do it with fruits, vegetables or fish... Nothing is mandatory. We must keep in mind that it is the week during which the Lord gave his life through his crucifixion, to redeem us from eternal curse. A little recognition by this small personal sacrifice is required for all, though everyone is free to make its own choices. Remember that order or precept is a recommendation of God and each one is free to obey or not. There are some exceptions kinked to sickness, young or old age. No control is made on respect for the young, it is a personal choice. However, as far as wearing red or black is concerned, some measures should be taken within the confines of the parish, so that whoever does not respect these rules should be warned or forbidden to access the temple.

Except this given period, celestial Christians tend to fast for 1, 3, 7 or 21 days. These are numbers that are matter the most in the Church. But nothing prevents a number of fasting different from those days. There are two spiritual principles to follow when fasting: **(1)** set a number of days or a specific food must be done with an inner conviction and **(2)** do not stop what you set at the beginning. If the normal fasting is from midnight to 6: 00 pm, nothing compels newcomers to finish earlier. But the end time must have been set before, not because of hunger. For those who do not fast, they are strongly encouraged to do so and for "big fasters", they should not forget that this is not an end.

### **Bible references:**

**John 15.13** *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends*

**Matthew 10.42** *And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*

## **10. Bath of sanctification**

There are several types of baths of sanctification: those revealed by a specific ceremony and those initiated by every Christian. In the first category, refers to women bathing during their menstruation and those revealed by Seers. And these revelations must be proved, since many of them overestimate things. Revelation is not always true.

The classic bath is done with Holy Michael perfume or another cologne water, incense and holy oil. It is not uncommon to see people use salt to symbolize deliverance from demonic powers.

At the initiative of a celestial Christian, this bath can be done at any time using mainly of Holy Michael perfume or cologne water. Multiplying elements does not render the bath more efficient.

Here is a celestial Christian sharing his weekly habits of sanctification bathing:

1 - Prayer of sanctification upon a bucket filled with water and perfume with a candle followed by exposure to total consumption.

2 - At the end of a normal shower, pour the remaining water on the body while reciting the following prayers:

Hands: may the Lord render my hands blameless

At the level of the head: Lord free me from every darkness

At the level of the face: Lord let your face shine upon your servant

At the level of the ears: Lord unblock my ears

At the level of the back of the neck: Lord, set me free from a stiff neck

At the level of the back: Lord, set me free from the yoke of sin

At the level of the armpit: may the Lord set me free from the stinky odor of sin

At the level of arms: may the Lord grant success to my work  
At the level of the heart: let my heart be pure before you  
At the level of the belly - navel: let me not be selfish and subject to overeating  
At the level of the lower abdomen: away from me immorality and unnatural works  
At the level of the left behind: may the Lord make me sit upon the seat of mercy  
At the level of the back-right: may the Lord make me sit upon the seat of justice  
At the level of the left thigh: I walk in integrity  
At the level of the right thigh: I walk in truth  
At the level of the left thigh up to the soil of the foot: may I never walk towards evil  
At the level of the right thigh up to the soil of the foot: may I always run well  
3 - Then pour the rest of the water on the head so that it may descend on the body saying: by the grace of God, I am filled with the Holy Spirit in the name of our Lord Jesus-Christ.

Thereof, a bath of sanctification is not a church revelation and still less an "angelic" formula. It is a prayer like any other to beg for the Lord's assistance. For it to be granted, it must be desired and not recited.

**Bible references:**

**Job 1.5** *And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctify them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, it may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.*

**Job 29.3** *When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walk through darkness.*

**Acts 7.51** *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in hearts and ears, ye do always resist the holy*

*ghost: as your father did, so ye do.*

**Psalms 119.135** *Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; an teach me thy statutes.*

**Isaiah 9.4** *for thou have broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of midian.*

**Matthew 11.30** *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

## 11. Sanctification of home, car, food, and other items

Many things are being sanctified during the services: candles, water, toilet objects and others. This takes place mainly during the first Thursday of the month service. It is about consecrating objects to God so that using them, celestial Christians be embedded with divine influences. A symbolic example is the body soap which is for hygienic use. In sanctifying it, Christians ask God to grant it also a spiritual function to cleanse both the body and the soul. Another less obvious role which is to consider God acting in all areas of life and that makes always have eyes towards him. Thinking about God is a type of sanctification and thus associates with soap; it reminds us of his person. Everything is good to remember that God is the God of creation. There is still another reason which will be enlightened by this example: for a perfume named 'Asmodee odor', can we consider the choice of the name as anodic? Whether consciously or not; it is a dedication to Amodee. When the Lord called Simon, "Peter", he gave him that name in accordance with his new identity and to confer him some power. By so naming a perfume, gives it a lust character. We cannot ignore the devil's objects since men are under his influence; the only thing to do in such a case is to rededicate them. This fragrance, is not the devil's since he can create nothing.

Out of services, the most frequent sanctification are those of food, buildings and cars. For food, it is done by a simple prayer so as to transform it into the body and blood of Christ and become life for him who consumes. Even if this is not in a ceremonial setting, the Lord

answers his children's prayers although it does not have as much power as that of the sacrament. Food sanctification must also be able to, by the prayer of faith, remove poisonous elements. Despite this power granted by the Lord, do not have zeal without intelligence and try the Lord by taking poison. Sanctification of cars and House are based on precise rituals.

Houses have a very long past... It is said of the temple of Salomon that at the calling of God's name, He made manifest. All types of invocations made must be reminded of: animism; esotericism; satanism; demonic possessions, construction on old cemeteries... But these are not the only origin of unclean spirits; there are also types of uncleanness. We don't want anyone to live in an old House of prostitution because as God appropriates places so the fallen Angels also do. They remain as long as they are not dislodged. This disrupts not only the children who are more sensitive to the spirits, but also adults as fallen angels have only one goal: to harm humans. From experience, we know that the house of prayerful persons receives certain enlightenment; what about those who are both prayerless and with heavy past? Darkness! The purpose of this sanctification is hunting unclean spirits residing therein, and establishing God's presence. But after this ritual, some Conditions are to be respected concerning not only sin but also, and this may surprise; the smell of cigarette, alcohol consumption, videos that you watch, what we really want... For those who are skeptical to the smell of cigarettes, we will ask them what is the role of incense if they think it has no influence on angels. The material is an extension of the spiritual. Furthermore, we should know that God's angels are too rigorous when it comes of places like nightclubs and prostitution houses where the spiritual smell is being infected. Spiritual world has its realities that interact with those of the material world.

### **Bible references:**

*John 1.42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said him, thou*

*art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, a Stone.*

**Mark 16.18** *They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them, they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover*

**Leviticus 14.44** *And the priest shall take some of the blod of the trespass offering, and the priest shall put it upon the tip of the right ear of him that is cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot.*

**1 Corinthians 10.19-21** *What say I then? That the idol is anything, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to evils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils; ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.*

**1 Corinthians 10.25-26** *Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof.*

## 12. Mourning

The death of a Christian cannot be considered to be that of a pagan. Celestial Christians believing in the kingdom of heaven, even though sad to see one of their brothers, are all the same delighted to see that the deceased has ended up the race in the fear of God. The goal of every Christian is to be in communion with their Lord, then why grieving when he asks that this full communion is being done through separation. Everything God does is good, be it life or death. God is all love. Sadness of separation should not lead us to the state when we don't see deceased being in God's glory. That's why everyone must be activated to spread the faith in Christ to those who are around him.

The Church plays a vital role in the funeral of its members. There must be many vigils of prayer; on the day before the burial and on the third, fifth, seventh and fortieth day after the funeral. Usually, the first two evenings are at the domicile of the deceased. The eighth day, there is a mass of requiem in the parish.

A celestial Christian is buried with a special cassock with a slit on the

back because of the stiffness of the body. He must also wear gloves and white socks. This is provided by the congregation. At the bottom of the coffin, we put his old cassocks and other sacred belongings such as the miraculous sheets of ornaments. This serves as a support for the body.

Although the baptism and especially the anointing within the Church means to be buried according to the ritual of celestial church of Christ, to avoid conflicts with the family, it is better for a celestial Christian to write testament that will specify that he wants to be buried according to the ritual of the Church and not that of his or her parents' tradition. But parish leaders should not forget that this person still has a family. There must be agreement. Considering a celestial Christian Cemetery may be an option for dioceses which can afford it.

Whoever has attended a burial ceremony should observe 24 hours of sanctification before going to the parish. Sacramental (cross, holy water, incense,...) having served during the funeral must be purified before being returned to their place after 24 hours. A predecessor who went to the Cemetery will have to purify them with holy water and make a prayer with Psalm 24.

### **Bible references:**

**Job 1.21** *And said, naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.*

**John 6.47** *Verily verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*

## **13. Contact with a dead**

After the direct contact with a dead body, 24 hours of sanctification before entering the temple and 72 hours to have access to the altar must be performed. There are exceptions for parish managers when their presence in the temple is indispensable, but they won't have access to the altar.



## 14. Language of angels

There are many expressions used in hymns and services which are considered to be angelic language. We can't prove it or contradict it; it is part of the revelations related to the origins of the Church. At this level, there are more questions than answers. What is the language used only by angels? As spirits, so they do not have a specific spoken language, why do we then call these expressions language of angels? What is certain is that these words are not used by people living on Earth and have, according to the revelation, meaning. If not talking of 'angels' language', you could talk of 'mysterious words spoken by angels'.

## 15. Origin of incense

God revealed to Moses the composition of oil that was to be in front of his face. Each of these items is measured. As well as the composition of the incense it was revealed to the first pastor of the Church. The problem prevailing now is the traceability. We do not know the origin of the incense used in parishes. Smells are different according to the country and parishes. An official communication should be settled on this point.

### **Bible references:**

***Exodus 30:23** Take thou unto thee principal spices, of pure myrrh five hundred shekels, and of sweet cinnamon half so much, even two hundred and fifty shekels, and of sweet calamus two hundred and fifty shekels.*

***Exodus 30:25** And thou shall make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil.*

## **B. RULES SPECIFIC TO WOMEN**

## 1. Women preaching

Women can't preach - standing or on the Chair in the temple even outside of a service. If they want to teach in the temple, they will be seated, not giving back to the altar and not at the level of the line that divides the temple and leads to the Holy of Holies. However, there is no problem that a woman does it in another room of the parish. To teach, she could use a pulpit if necessary. But in no case in the temple even because of lack of infrastructure. If a woman can preach in a simple room, why not in a temple! It's a matter of authority, spiritual authority and not of knowledge. The sacred character of the temple is contrary to the authority that a woman could take on men by preaching. It has nothing to do with integrity or knowledge. It's a problem of spiritual authority that a woman cannot have. Even when a woman gives a testimony in the temple, she cannot give turn her back to the altar.

On the other hand, women may teach publicly during the Evangelistic campaigns. Some critics of the Church, after having denied God, Christian spirituality, or its foundations see the prohibition for women to preach in the temple as a kind of discrimination. This is the question: between preaching in the temple and preaching in a crusade - what is greater? Are they not thousands of people there? So why only desiring what contradicts the Lord's revelation! Women can organize evangelistic campaigns, nothing prevents it. In the bible, Priscilla did it. One of the major problems with this generation is that, no one wants to be restricted by anyone or whatever. Everything must be allowed and done. It doesn't want any more spiritual authority, rules, judgment of things, it wants nothing. Nobody cares if he is in God's will and envies others. For this generation, no one should be lifted by God anymore; they have caught the syndrome of Korah.

At the request of the preacher, everyone - men, women and non-baptized, can be allowed to read during the preaching. To read, the

person will start with 'Hallelujah', will give the bible verse then will start reading.

### **Bible references:**

**1 Timothy 2.12** *But i suffer not a woman to teach, nor to ursup authority over the man, but to be in silence.*

**Acts 18.24-26** *And a certain Jew named Appolos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue; whom when Aquila and Pricilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.*

**Numbers 16.1-3** *Now Korah, the so of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and on, the son of Peleth ... And they gathered themselves against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them; wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord?*

## **2. Women make-up**

Makeup is not allowed in the temple. This prohibition is being applied only to women in the enclosure of the parish or even outside, if they wear the cassock. But when they are in civilian clothes, it is allowed if the husband wishes. Permission to wear make-up comes from the fact that a married Christian is also trying to appeal to her husband and to God alone. The body of the woman belongs to her husband and the husband's body belongs to the woman. In a temple, everything is turned to God; as husband as wife, and all are brothers and sisters. A woman can't wear make-up for two main reasons; the holiness of the temple and incompatibility with the cassock that can be attached to vanity. We ask women to beware of make-up. There are also other

things that are prohibited even outside the temple: tattoos, piercings, multiple holes in ears, chains at feet. It is forbidden, but everyone is free to transgress or not this rule. It is also requested not to wear sun glasses in the temple unless it is for medical reasons. It is obvious that if these things are forbidden for women, as well as for men. Remember that, the temple is not a simple prayer hall and the cassock is more than a piece of clothing.

**Bible references:**

*Leviticus 19:28* *Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the death, nor print any marks upon you: I am the Lord.*

**3. A woman presence at the altar**

Women approach the altar four times to take communion. Apart from that, this is strictly forbidden. In addition, a woman cannot lead a service.

Certain requirements regarding the difference between women and men are not temporary. It is a serious mistake to think this is due to the fact that the Church comes from African countries based on the patriarchal model. This isn't because of peculiarities of any mindset that it was thus revealed. We pray to celestial Christians to be very careful with a 'teaching' wishing that nothing more be differentiated and that everything is available. There are two sexes, man and woman and each has a specific role in the work of God according to his appeal.

**4. Women in menstrual period**

Women are considered "unclean" for 7 days, which corresponds to their menstrual periods. They are being sanctified to the earlier eighth

day before access the temple again. If their workflow was to last for more than seven days, they will have to wait for two days after the last flow to access the holy place. The sanctification will take place in the temple with a candle, water and perfume in a bucket of water. The person, the brother or the predecessor, who prays, turns his back to the altar. They are asked to avoid touching, as much as possible the Holy objects such as of the cassocks, miraculous clothes, the candles... The bible is not affected by this restriction.

## **5. New mothers**

They are also considered unclean for a period of 40 days after childbirth. At the end of this period, they will also have to take a bath of sanctification in the temple regardless of the sex of the child. This prevents them to be in the Temple during the release of their newborn children. Back in the parish, they will make a thanksgiving action to the Lord.

## **6. Sanctification of women**

A woman cannot sanctify herself after her period of menstrual impurity. This must be done at least by a baptized man and within the temple. After putting the fragrance, which was first sanctified to the small altar, in a bucket of water, the brother or predecessor will make a prayer to ask the Lord to admit her back in his temple.

The prayer begins with three hymns.

Prayer:

1 - The predecessor will put perfume in the bucket and light the candle he held during prayer

- 2 - The sister is prostrate
- 3 - Glory be to the father, the son and the Holy Spirit
- 4 - 3 hymns of sanctification
- 5 - Prayer of sanctification
- 6 - Our Father
- 7 - Gloria
- 8 - The blessing
- 9 - Make a sign of the cross with the candle in the bucket then leave it inside
- 10 - The predecessor turns to the temple and made the 7 Hallelujah with the sister who stay down
- 11 - She prostrates three times then signs and can stand up.

## **7. Absence of a newborn at children release**

When a newborn is unable to be present at the output of children, the service will be made with a candle. We put the candle on a miraculous cloth folded and placed on a platter.

## **C. CHARLATANISM**



### **1. The prayers at the beach**

There aren't only beach prayers celestial church of Christ. Every Christian is free to pray anywhere as long as it's addressed to the Lord Jesus, but saying that it's a revelation from the Holy Spirit is a lie. It comes from the old fetish practices of some members of the Church, which later came on spread greatly. This does not mean that praying at the beach is basically bad, but what is wrong is to declare that the effectiveness of a prayer of deliverance depends on proximity with the beach - to send back the "marine spirits" to their dwelling place.

### **2. Prayers at crossroads**

Revelations seeking to pray in crossroads or break gourds are not of the Church. As well as bathing in the sea or in the mountains. When these practices do not come from a fetish culture, they are used by some to mystify the weak.

### **3. The use of twigs during prayers**

It is forbidden to use twigs for so-called "delivering" from unclean spirits by using them on Christians. Twigs are used to replace absent predecessors during the prayers of 3 or 7 people. Some people use a bible to complete the number. Twigs (cross made with a twig), as well as the bible are also used for exposures, in case of lack of candles. The trend is more to use a bible than a twig as in the former habit; the revelation at this level is not confirmed.

#### **4. The use of strap for prayers**

Some predecessors apply their straps on people for which they pray and after make the movements as to "cast the uncleanness of their straps. This is useless.

#### **5. The use of water from different sources**

Some predecessors prescribe different types of water (spring water, rock water, rain water...) we don't know what problems to solve. This is unnecessary and can be likened to quackery or mystification.

#### **6. Systematic prayer with psalms**

The use of Psalms is not systematic for prayers and is not necessarily more effective. At a certain point, it can be likened to superstition.

#### **7. Colors of candles**

Only white candles are used in the Church.

#### **8. Prohibition to rub with eggs or break at the crossroads**

Rub eggs at people and break them. These types of practices have been inherited from the animistic culture of some celestial Christians. It's a real challenge for celestial Christians of Africa to separate from a culture that is the animist basis and not Christian.

## 9. Prohibition to adhere to esoteric circles

Everyone wants to know hidden things, discover mysteries, feel an intellectual and spiritual elite, have barely understandable words by ordinary people, agree to call 'great mystic... at the expense of simplicity of the Lord, the Gospel and life that he proposes. He that holds all the mysteries of the world simply talked to people, he wanted see saved. We want to know so-called mysteries that can reveal to us non-Christians... Battle of humility is being lost, the battles against our bad habits and our low desire is lost, the fight against sin being lost and especially the great desire of "glory and honor", pushes us in many drift. Books of great men of God abound, the assiduous reading of the word of God and the Holy Spirit are present to remind us of the Lord's teachings.

It is not permitted to a Christian and especially a celestial Christian to join an esoteric circle. But everyone is free to follow the path they want; let's see to the judgment.

### **Bible references:**

*Acts 19:19 Many of them also who used curious arts brought their books together, and burnt them before all men; and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.*

## **IV - TEMPLE & ORGANIZATION**

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## **A. SYMBOLISM IN THE TEMPLE**



## 1. Logo of the CCC

The logo of Celestial church of Christ is a composed rainbow of seven colors: Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and purple. Translations in French, English and Goun (in Benin) and in Yoruba (in Nigeria) were kept. However, it is possible to set only the official language of the country provided that it is a translation of 'celestial Church of Christ'. It is a component of the sign revealed by the Lord to mark his covenant with the faithful of the Church.

Under the Rainbow, there is an eye that symbolizes the omnipresent eye of God on his creature and his deepen knowledge of all things.

Below the eye, there is a Crown that symbolizes the everlasting kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then at the bottom of the Crown, there is a cross with the effigy of our crucified Lord Jesus.

From the bottom, this means the dead (the sacrifice of love), which every Christian should go through before getting the Crown. This implies the Bliss or even the vision of God in his essence.

### **Bible references:**

**Genesis 9.13** *I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.*

**Psalms 139.7** *Whither shall i go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?*

**Psalms 139.12** *Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee, but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*

**Psalms 7:9** *Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God tried the hearts and reins.*

## **2. The small altar**

### **a. Moment of implementation**

It seems that it has been introduced because the constraint of three days of body sanctification was considered difficult during the week. Many would have been punished by God and a settlement was found.

### **b. Disposition**

It is placed right in front of the high altar in the Middle temple. It consists of a rectangular table, with a miraculous fabric and a candlestick of three rods.

## **3. The high altar**

Apart from the sacristan, parish Manager, and those to whom he gives permission, no one should go to the altar outside the service hours. To avoid problems, permissions should be official. The altar is the holiest place of the parish, the place that is the symbol God's dwelling place. Please understand that grade does not give access to the altar outside the service hours, but the authorization of the parish manager. Note the following point: for the establishment of a parish, the Lord calls one of his servants or, if possible, a servant asks to the Lord to establish a prayer place for him. The symbol of this covenant initiated either by God or by man, is the altar. Those who are attentive, they will notice a certain relationship between the parish leader and God's presence in that place. The forces and weaknesses of a parish do not come from God but from the parish Manager and the respect or not of his Covenant with God. That's why the person who needs the most teachings and listens to the truth is the first parish head.

All those who approach the altar must be prepared. A parish where movements to the altar are not regulated enough is desecrated. Those

who commit mistakes such as name-calling, immorality, disrespect to the authorities and others in public, should be punished and be denied access to the altar during a certain period. Let the parish charge don't forget that it is connecting to his covenant with God all the predecessors that he allows to sit on the altar. If there are aspects to minimize and allow; certainly not concerning access to the altar.

Some principles are respected by all the predecessors beyond the grade of Assistant-Leader (A/L) once on the altar. They will start the service on time and finish it necessarily, take all their provisions to avoid going out during the service. If predecessors cannot take it, let them just depict like A/L. The lack of consideration for the sacred is one of the major scourges that undermine the Church. The excuse is: "we aren't Pharisees". Are the soldiers who must have correct outfits and scrupulously respect the Protocol to their generals, Pharisees? It is by faith that they say "God is alive" and that they behave as having him always before them. It is also lack of faith or a childishness that we can honor the authorities that we see and neglect to stand before God and in His temple. If the pillars are being affected, then all the building will be affected. Respect for the symbols is one of the pillars of the Church.

### **Bible references:**

**Genesis 33.18-20** *And Jacob came to shalem, a city of shechem, which is in the land of canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city. And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money. And erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe – Israel;*

#### **a. Access at the high altar**

All predecessors from the rank of Dehoto and the brothers to whom the parish charge imposed hands can go to the high altar. They have access as sacristans, services leaders. Nevertheless, we must not forget that only predecessors from the rank of Leader can sit during worship.

### **b. Chairs arrangement**

The chairs are arranged on both sides of the high altar. As a representation of the twenty-four elders, their number must be the same on each side.

### **c. Delineation**

There are two delineations of the altar: the first is at the level of “objects to be sanctified”. We can track it from the end of the pulpit. It's a line that can only cross the predecessors. From there, we can consider that we are at the altar. Being not drawn, many people cross it without knowing. It should be whether well marked so that those who are not allowed do not cross. The second is just before the tree to the high altar. It is usually a pole where lye Assistant/Leaders during the service. It is on this same pole that lye those taking communion. Dehotos sit in the first row of chairs deserved to brothers.

### **d. Objects to be sanctified**

There is a space in front of the first row of chairs of the altar, on the left side. A candle is being lightened there and replaced whenever it is completely consumed. But during services and worships, it should be turned off. You put objects such as holy water, crucifixes,... and all that is required during visions.

### **e. Flower boxes**

At the altar entrance, there are two flower boxes that symbolize the law and prophecy whose holders are Elijah and Moses.

### **Bible references:**

**Revelation 4:4** *And round about the throne were four and twenty seats; and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothe in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.*

**Zechariah 4.11** *Then answered I, and said unto him, what are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?*

**Mark 9.4** *And there appeared unto them, Elijah and Moses ; and they were talking with Jesus.*

**Revelation 11.3** *And i will give power to my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.*

**Romans 3.21** *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and prophets*

**Malachi 4.4** *Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded onto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.*

**Malachi 4.5** *Behold, I will send you Elijah before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.*

**John 5.45** *Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father; there is one that accused you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.*

## **4. The Holy of Holies**

It is separated from the rest of the high altar by a barrier (or bars) with an entry in the middle. This entry is a continuation of the line separating men and women. In addition, the Holy of Holies is facing East.

### **a. The Candlestick**

It is a seven rods candlestick with a triangle shape. The top takes only one candle, and the three other levels take two rods. The more we go down the candlestick the broader it is. The seven rods represent the

seven spirits of GOD. The Holy Spirit enlightens man for him to be perfect. Hence we talk of the spirit of wisdom, knowledge, counsel, strength, understanding, mercy and fear of God. Some people say God cannot be limiting himself only on these seven gifts. That's true! But let's master these gifts first so as to get a basis. Pay everyone considers what is being put into his heart. The essential is the love for God.

### **b. The Pastor's chair and that of the parish leader**

There are two chairs in the high altar. Whenever facing the altar, basically the parish leader occupies the Chair on the left side and the right side is for the pastor during his visits.

There also used to put a picture of the first pastor on the Chair which was meant for him. This is no longer topical and is likened to idolatry. The Lord has worked with one of his servants and now He works with others.

### **c. Table**

A rectangular shaped table, on which the candlestick is placed, was called Mattah by angels at the revelation. Upon it are placed: a miraculous sheet, the candlestick, and the cross of Christ. You should know that whenever we speak of cross of Christ it implies with his effigy.

### **Bible references:**

*Isaiah 11:2* And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and light, the spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord.

## **B. CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE**

## 1. Security Norms

Faith and reason put together, some aspects should not be neglected during the temple building. It seems obvious that safety standards must be met for every place that welcomes people. A safety exit must be provided in case of fire or major incidents; as well as a fire alarm compatible with incense or that will operate according to specific rules. For buildings with stairs, protections for children or strict warnings to parents about their monitoring must be provided. These rules are numerous and must be a subject of reflection.

**Suggestion 1:** Being all engaged, poles of 'standard security' experts must be created at the international level in order to put all the parishes in good standing. It must be the part of criteria of award-distribution not only to recognize a place of prayers as "Parish", but to determine the level of the "label". We must be able to distinguish between a gathering of ten, fifty people with an inadequate local and 100 people with a suitable local infrastructure respecting all safety standards.

## 2. East Orientation

A built parish should be facing East. This means that the line that goes from the entrance of the temple to the altar should face the Sun. It is difficult to say that this indication comes from revelation or the influence of other religious congregations during the Church creation. It may even come from a revelation that seems to resemble other religious congregation on some aspects.



### **3. Stoups and sanctified water**

There are many locations for stoup parishes:

- At the main entrance of the parish; where shoes are being taken off. It is preferable that the stoups be inside, because the spray is made with a prayer. From "glory be to the Father..." until prostration after the '7 Hallelujahs.
- At the entrance of the temple, at the level of the two gates.
- At the entrance of the parvis, at the level of the single entry.

It is necessary that the parish and parvis stoups be 'outside' so as to sanctify ourselves before entering. We must spray a little water upon the head and prostrate at the entry.

### **4. Coatrooms**

There are neither bedrooms nor a space of stocking quilts or other personal effects. Even during a convent, quilts must be stored in an appropriate place. The cloakroom allows to change and must keep this role. The clothes that are placed on the coat hanger must be those of the people. A distinction must be made for the sacerdotal clothes and civilian clothes. They should not be on the same clothing rack. They are neither a place to eat. At Least, due to the lack of places, certain foods such as bread or cookies may be permitted. But sauces or other strong odor foods, which break down quickly and are very messy, cannot be accepted. Clothes and food don't mix, especially when these clothes are not ordinary. During service days, those who have completed to change must go out to make room for others. These small principles provide a significant welfare to the parish. Candles are used a lot. So you have to build them so all these elements do not butcher them. There are also thoughts about an aeration system and a space to ask his clothes and put his cassock without get it dirty. Do not neglect the construction of showers or make them too small. Both showers and toilets must be cleaned enough frequently to avoid diseases.

## **5. Showers**

There are several criteria which must be taken into account before making showers in a parish. Not that it is part of revelation but for convenience and hygiene sake. We do not come into a parish to have diseases due to the insalubrities of places. Apart from the normal use for those who make the convent or for those who could not go home before coming to the parish, they also serve for sanctification baths. It is not uncommon to see people take their baths with lemon or incense.

Candles are used a lot. So they must be built considering that fact. An aeration system and a space to hang clothes and put cassocks without getting them dirty. Do not neglect the construction of showers or make them too small. Both showers and toilets must be cleaned frequently to avoid diseases.

## **6. Other halls**

For parish leaders who can afford it, they should not hesitate to build classrooms for Bible studies. They are more practical than the temple. Children's hall, meeting hall, and even sports halls are necessary for the parishioners comfort.

## **C. DISPOSITION OF THE TEMPLE**

## **1. Women`s places**

As far as women are concerned, those who sit looking at the altar are the "Venerable/Senior/Mom", then the "Senior/Mom" and so on, up to the non-baptized sisters. Above the rank of "Venerable/Senior/Mom ", they sit looking at the side of the men facing the "Allagbas".

## **2. Men`s places**

"Dehotos" men sit at the first rows among men. "Dehotos" women sit behind the "Assitant / Mom" and in front of the baptized. These baptized are being placed before the non-baptized. The "Allagbas" sit between the choir and the altar.

'Assistant/ Leaders ' must sit at the bottom of the altar while leaning on the bar which gives access. Like the other predecessors, they must respect the "72 hours" of sanctification. These hours are counted after the shower which follows spouses' intercourses. It means that the shower must be taken latest on Thursday before 10 a.m, considering the arrival to temple on Sunday. For those who are not in requested conditions, they do not have to attend the service.

At the end of the service, they can participate in different activities if they respect the «compulsory 24 hours» for all calling who cross the surrounding wall of the parish. You should not forget that once the service ends, no predecessor has access to the altar except the master of altar, the charged and those to whom he has given this permission officially.

### **3. The choir place**

Choir is located on the men side, between brothers and the altar. "Allagbas" are located between the choir and the altar themselves. Therefore the first row of brothers is being occupied by Dehotos, then the choir, Allagbas and finally the altar.

### **4. Altar's place and that of the pulpit**

At the reading time, the desk is located on the left hand side of the service leader, facing up people. It is close to the altar of the choir. The preaching pulpit is fixed and located on the right hand side of the driver. During ordinary services of 6pm, the preacher preaches on the announcements and reading desk by moving it on the right hand side.

It is important to respect the place by avoiding applauds during preaching. If the preacher preached well, the Lord will reward him for his work. Some people by-pass this silence by saying that by saying that they applaud for Christ. They do not applaud in a temple. As well as untimely "amen" and interventions which are closer to an acquiescence during a theatrical representation than to religious Amen. It is necessary to understand that there is a certain behaviour to have in a temple. Remember that, the temple is not a simple place of prayers. Words, laughs, facts and gestures, displacements, everything must be done with great discretion.

## **D. PARVIS**

## **1. Parvis**

The parvis is an open air place covered with sand. The altar is being raised there and it is not uncommon to find some trees there. The place must be natural as much as possible, except the altar. It is exclusively reserved to the calling and wearing a cassock is compulsory there. They make normally the sanctification service of Friday midday and free prayers there. The access to the parvis is made by an entrance in a door.

## **2. The parvis' water**

It has a large water tank located near the altar of the parvis. This water can be consumed or used for bathing. Be careful, it should first of all be drinkable. Thus kept outside water should not be consumed if it is not drinkable.

## **3. Parvis' altar**

In the parvis, there is a square shape taken space where an altar is being built. Access to the altar is through a small fence. The altar itself is not necessarily made up of a table as in the temple. Some make a high space with cement and tiles. Above, a candlestick is put with seven candles.

#### **4. Holy Michael stone**

This stone is not located in the parvis. It must be in the open air and in a little spot. At this point, you put a cross and a stone where some candles used for spiritual warfare prayers are consumed. This place is for delivering prayers from unclean spirit, that is why it is being placed in an uncommon space. The two main reasons are these: there may be some times transfers of demonic spirits during the deliverance process, hence to be done with a minimum of people when possible. The second reason is more for the sake of discretion. This is part of the intimacy of the faithful who do not necessarily want us to see a manifestation of the unclean spirit in them at their time of issue.



## **E. PARISH ORGANISATION**

## 1. Numerous commissions

There are too many commissions and "responsible for something" in parishes and most of them are ineffective. Some grow even the boldness to create as many commissions as there are people; in some parishes with less than 30 faithful, there may be more than ten commissions. Some people belong to several commissions without assuming a single correctly. The motto becomes "everyone must be responsible in order not to frustrate anyone". The ambitious will always be frustrated because since he doesn't seek for efficiency, but the fulfillment of his own desire. Each and everyone must take a responsibility and that of a head of parish is to go to the most effective respecting all.

**Suggestion 1:** Delete the plethora of those useless and numerous commissions in parishes and dioceses. Everything must be put in order! It is not enough to create a commission in order to solve a problem or to well organize a congregation!

## 2. Head of a parish

A head influences many people through his position. So don't assign responsibilities to depraved people. They will promote this evil in the cells they manage or by a great complacency, either by combining each discussion about this lightly or for the more adventurous, by announcing a God that closes eyes on everything. A cell responsible should transmit the message of the Lord and of the parish leader. Christ is not the source of depravity. We would agree that if the first head of the parish himself is a debauchee, it is quite normal that it favors the debauchery in all the people. This Board is more for managers who are not debauched and could receive pressure from the people to choose one and establish a debauchee as a Commission

leader.

We must also avoid promoting the young convert because they could fall into pride of inexperience and thus fall under the yoke of the devil. It's more to keep them from the devil than from damage that they could cause. The first three years in the Church are very important for a Christian. It was during this time that he traces the great lines of his spiritual life. A young convert needs to learn to shut up even when he's right, not to give his point of view unless he is asked and even less to impose his point of view. He must learn to listen. The main qualities asked to them are: silence, listening and observation. So in all what is being taught to him, the furrow of humility must be the paramount.

### **Bible references:**

**Galatians 2:17** *But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.*

**1 Timothy 3:6** *Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

### **3. Evangelists committee**

Contrary to popular thought, the evangelists' branch is the one that poses the most problems in the Church, being supposed to be the one who organizes the Church, establishes teaching and makes it grow by some outreaches. When it does not assume its role, disorder starts. It is the first branch, which is supposed to guarantee the enforcement of the will of Christ. What do we see in parishes? When the Council of the evangelists miraculously exists, it is under a lethargy that has nothing to envy to the last sloths. Meetings virtually non-existent, lack of annual training plans, scarcity of reports and written documents... Not only this Council should be created but also must completely fill its task of evangelizing populations, teaching and organizing the people of God.

**Suggestion 2:** Each month, this Council must discuss about all those who have climbed or are set out in the preacher to clarify points such as: preaching time, doctrine, respect of the readings... Do not let mistakes get spread. Everything needs to be clarified. The points that will directly go against the doctrine of salvation, the announcer should contradict it publicly. For instance, if someone should say such a thing as "any sinner will go to paradise", "let's vote this political party",... the same shall go back on these words at the end of the next service. The principle is simple; public mistake, public correction.

**Suggestion 3:** The Council of the evangelists must find his place and his strength in parishes. It must train everybody: the people, the visionaries and the singers.

#### 4. Women council

Many of the faithful spend a lot of time in the Church, so they must be helped as much as possible. How many young couples break up for lack of advice? How many girls are deceived by men? How many women leave to go and take various courses in institutions? Most of the predecessors like teaching and not listening to; predecessor's women should prevent this by listening to the parishioners and helping them in their daily lives. Most people like to talk to women because they have a more sympathetic ear. The Church of the Lord can also take advantage of these skills for its good functioning. The Council of women must be strong! Women know the difficulties they face in life and they will be able to overcome this by getting united behind the one chosen by the parish Manager.

**Suggestion 4:** women of the parish Committee should have a representative in the parish Committee in order to participate in the management of the parish.

**Suggestion 5:** at the end of the year, each Committee of the parish must take stock of the year's activities and establish an agenda for the next year. This program must be provided with dates, so that the evolution of the work can attest of all.

## 5. Community meals

Community meals are good things when they are well managed. This would require a team (or teams) in charge of the supply of the food no matter the person who offers it. This team will have to be part of the 'social service '. Why should this be a special team and not the one offering it? First to avoid destabilizing of the parish Organization, so that there is no favoritism in the distribution and because there is a part of this food reserved for the less privileged. You don't need for those offering the food to know about these families. The social service should number these families and will have to prepare bowls so they can go with some food. If possible, there should be people in the 'social service', who will be responsible for transporting food to the homes of these families. The names of these families must not be known as much as possible. Those who offer the meal can be assigned to the distribution as waiters and not as coordinators. The distribution follows certain principles:

- No need to gather the whole parish to start the community meal. That is why there must be an assigned predecessor, who will lead the prayers.
- The person who offers the meal and his family will get on their knees and will be surrounded by the attendants for prayer. This should be announced in advance during services.
- By order of priority, we will respectively be serving children, pregnant women, older people, sympathizers, brothers, great predecessors (evangelists) including the parish leader, then predecessors.
- The food is distributed to the people and nobody can come and claim

anything. There may be requests to the servers, but no one can stand.  
-There should also be food for those who are doing the prayers.

It should be very clear to everyone; community meal is not intended to satisfy people. Whoever is hungry must wait to get home to eat at his convenience. In addition, this isn't as well a place of overeating. If there is any abundance of drink or food, it goes to less privileged families unit and in the stock of those who remain in convent.

After the meal, the room must be left clean. It is obvious that those who organized the community meal are the ones to care of cleanliness. They can be helped by their brothers in Christ and the 'social service' unit in charge of community meals.

## **F. THE CONVENT**

## 1. Types of convent

The convent or spiritual retreat is a time when we come to the parish, in order to deepen our relationship with the Lord, or to ask of any grace. It's a period basically consecrated to prayer, meditation, and silence or other spiritual activities. It may be recommended by a revelation or be done on its own. This break with daily activities should be optimized to grow spiritually strong. There are two types:

- The closed convent: during its period, we do not move from the parish premises to our house or work place. The only activities in which we participate are those of the parish. In its strictest form, even going to convenience stores are not allowed. One who does it deals with either a relative or a willing person.

- The standard convent: it is a retreat without real restrictions except those imposed for the respect of places.

Be it closed or not, obtaining the divine graces will depend on the seriousness that you put in your convent.

## 2. Convent's length

The duration of the revelations are often one, three, seven or twenty-one days. It is not advisable to do more because abundance degrades the value of a property. From experience, we find that those who make more than seven days have a sag worse than if they were at home. They begin to search for distraction and become initiators of profane discussions. They disturb those who are still in the contemplation phase.

To respect the length, which is measured in terms of nights, one must enter before 10 pm Wednesday to leave on Sunday for three days of convent or enter before 10 pm Sunday out Sunday after worship on the Sabbath for seven days.



### 3. Crucial points

- The rules of the convent must be respected: do not watch television or have mobile phone at anytime in the pocket or still have various occupations likely to entertain us. If someone thinks that he or she can not deprive of his newscast, he is free to stay at home to do what he thinks is good. That is the problem that is often encountered with people who come for convents and want to impose their way of life. They urged even their brothers on the merits of TV news and thus shake the faith of the weak. What they do not understand is that even a lawful thing can become unlawful if it is applied in the wrong place. For mobile phones, with their multitude of applications that distract us at every moment, they must be used at a specific hour. In case of emergency, use the parish phone.

- Get there on time at the first day. 10 pm seems appropriate because it will be possible to attend the last worship. The last day, do Thanksgiving to the parish as a sign of thanksgiving to the Lord.

- To imperatively make: Any convent begins with one day of repentance if the convent is more than one day. For the new faithful ones, a predecessor must make them a prayer of entry to the convent. It is necessary to request on a candle while asking God to forgive us all our trespasses. This candle is lit thereafter by a predecessor with the Holy Michael stone. The first day is the most important one, because it touches the point which breaks the alliance of the Lord with his children: sin. Sincerely speaking, repentance is the fundamental step towards the fulfilment.

- It is necessary to fast during this period; 00:00 to 6:00 AM for those which can bear, to eat a little during the period of the convent. It is necessary to avoid too rigorous fasting because it is not the end. To have more effort to take part in the prayers or to help the others is worse only to have the belly filled. A rob with the three elements of

fasting, prayer and the meditation of the word is essential for those who want to have good provisions.

- To witness all the worships; they are being made every 3 hours as from 6:00 am for those who stay in the temple.

- To take part in possible prayers or common exhortations. There are moments to be isolated and others to socialize with groups. But if the group is carried to distraction, it is thus necessary to move away some. Perhaps the others are during their time of rest after having requested much or received the confirmation of their prayers answer. If it is their case, it is not automatically ours, it is necessary to persevere in prayer.

- It is necessary to avoid sleep, that's not the place. Some would be also attempt to complain of others because of noise or other disturbances. It would not have to be forgotten that the temple is used for prayer and that one will not privilege the sleep of certain people to the prayer of the others. That which wants to have its usual sleeping hours without being disturbed can always remain at home. Usually the prayers are being made in the temple until midnight service then those who want to request go to the parvis or to the holy court. But it is wrong to tell people within the temple to lower their voices if they are praying or are exhorting one another. May be for the sake of neighborhood yes! But not for those which are in the temple; the house of God is a house of prayers.

- Search calm, peace and silence. Avoid laughter and grouping distractions. The Lord's voice is a whispering voice in this ocean of useless words. It is necessary to know how to isolate yourself in order not to be diverted from your goal.

- Hygiene is also very important not only for oneself but also not to disgust others. It is necessary to take a bath every day, to brush teeth even when one fasts. As well as washing your cassock if possible every

three days or to put another one, not to use the convent cassock during the Sabbath.

- Bed sheets or duvets used in the house should not be brought to the temple. It is necessary to take white bed sheets or duvets when the floor allows it. Certain parishes dispose of some kinds of desk-chair mattress for those in convent; this is very practical.

- It is also important to share food with those who do not have, to comfort those who need to be comforted... in short, remain Christian. Remember to give in order to support the parish charges, even if they do not ask for it. Try also to help cleaning the parish. To allow others cleaning the parish while devoting yourself only to the prayers is not a good posture in before the Lord.

**Suggestion 1:** A register held by the convent responsible, must contain names of those who are in convent and their duration. All the people who intent to do more than one day must be registered. Moreover, no minor must be accepted without parents or legal guardians' authorization.

## **G. WELCOMING NEW COMERS**

## **1. Vision**

It is a gift through which God reveals hidden things. He can do it directly or through angels. If the grade is allotted by the person in charge of the parish with the assistance of the person in charge of the Seers, it is therefore not a gift.

## **2. Exorcism**

The word more used for exorcism celestial church of Christ is “deliverance”. Deliverance from demonic powers are very frequent in parishes. This aspect makes the pride of celestial Christians; the ability to cast out unclean spirits which disturb men. Most deliveries happen within the parishes because it is risky to perform them at individuals’ houses. It just takes to go in a parish and submit your case to the leaders in order to be delivered. After having exhorted the person “to regulate” his or her life according to God, the prayers will be able to begin if the person wishes to be given to the Lord. Do not deceive yourself; deliverance fails mostly because the concerned do not receive Jesus Christ first in their hearts. Demonic possession is closely related to sin, it would be even useless and non-productive to intent to deliver or deliver a person who does not wish to regulate his or her ways; the future condition of such a person would even be worse than that before the delivery.

Here are some advices for those which wish to dive into deliverance ministry besides the teaching of the word:

- Adopt fasting as a lifestyle besides being moderated in its meals
- Avoid the bravado during deliverance
- Avoid having sexual intercourses 24 hours before and after

deliverance.

- pray a lot, especially at nights.
- take a sanctification bath after prayer
- If possible sleep within the parish after deliverance.

A deliverance process is not extemporized, otherwise it brings negative effects. It is a fight against evil spirits which often attack prayerful persons when they find an open door caused by sin. Adulterers and immoral persons, let them not venture in deliverance because their cases will be worsened. For those of the Christians who think that deliverance ceased after the Lord Jesus, we can only bring them back to saint Paul and saint Peter's era. Please, let them stop leading the people astray by such teachings if they are not able to cast out a single demon. It is to everybody to practice exorcism since it requires a certain spiritual force.

Another erroneous teaching consists in saying that any person is delivered as soon as he/she receives baptism. Let's just ask to baptized how they are being spiritually abused by spirits such as Asmodee and others. Those who want to be "rational" qualify it of the "weak ones" beliefs; we can only answer that, ignoring the existence of God, demon, and angels because they do not see them, that is totally their choice. We can still encourage people to remain unhappy and depressive with teachings that deny two thousand years of written and oral testimonies.

**Suggestion 1:** During the first year that follows baptism, the faithful ones must go through "repentance" and "delivery" boxes. The first three months must be intensive with prayers and regular baths of sanctification. A team of predecessors must take care of the follow-up so that the faithful are relieved of many evils linked to the Devil wickedness and their own negligence.

### **Bible references:**

**Matthew 10.8** *Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely ye have received, freely give.*

**Matthew 17.21** *Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.*

**Acts 16.16-18** *And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, these men are the servants of the Most High God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this she did many days. But Paul being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.*

**Acts 19.12** *So that from his body were brought unto sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and evil spirits went out of them.*

### **3. Prayers**

- Closed eyes during prayer

Prayer is being addressed to God and requires a special concentration. Anyone who goes to an authority of this world, does it all the respect due to that authority, what about God the supreme authority! It is already difficult to concentrate when you are alone and this difficulty is multiplied in group prayers. Closing eyes helps to focus and it is essential because of our look which can be diverted from the supreme focus.

- Types of prayers

Without going through prayer teaching, we should know that the Church makes a difference between certain types of prayer and this is related to revealed hymns and liturgy used during service. There are prayers of repentance and sanctification, of worship, of thanksgiving and praise, of the Holy Spirit empowerment and progress of the work, of protection and deliverance from unclean spirits, of blessing and breakthrough.

All prayer must begin with repentance before anything else and each prayer of spiritual warfare must be followed by a prayer of empowerment.

#### 4. Teaching

Education must be a priority in the Church and this for many reasons. Knowledge of the bible is essential to any Christian, especially God's rules and that of the church, since everyone is called to be predecessor. If vision and choir are very useful for Christian's spiritual set up, they should not be given priority to biblical teaching. We will not dwell on this because it comes down to simple common sense. If in a family, a father neglects his children's education, it means that he does not wish to ensure their success.

To think that one learns once on the field or the Holy Spirit teaches, are principles used by those who do not want to give their best. All officials want to send their children to school so that they succeed socially but many fail to create structures in their parishes for bible teaching. Let's look for the mistake. Remember that the five ministries quoted in the bible are all linked to teaching.

#### **Bible references:**

***Deuteronomy 6:7*** *And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

***Ephesians 4:11*** *And he gave some apostles; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.*

***Matthew 28:19-20*** *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the holy ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you: and, lo, am I with you always, even unto the end of the world.*



## 5. Silence

The first three years of a newly baptized must be summed up to "silent, listening, and analysis". Quickly engage in church activities or give them the chance to give their point of view can be considered as the constitution of a time bomb. If they do not learn to be silent in their early, it will be still harder later. Spirituality has humility as beginning and end, which works through silence. Most of the current disorders, which exist in parishes come from bad habits of the beginning. All these new faithful are some future predecessors and, unfortunately, a few really understand it.

## **H. OTHERS**

## **1. Respecting the neighborhood**

It is God's will that parishes to be at peace with the neighborhood as much as possible. For any parishioner who disturbs the neighborhood, the fault falls upon the parish. That is why church officials must ensure the respect of neighborhood. The two most troublesome points are the noise and discussions outside the parish. For noise, the instruments must be played softly and the hymns and words must be mitigated during the procession. To close discussions near people's houses and out of the parish, this must be banned from a distance of their neighbors. The processions must not wake the neighbors and prayer vigils should not prevent them from sleep.

## **2. Parish or sanctuary**

Here it is all about places that can serve as parish, such as apartments or other closed spaces. Some people dedicate a room in their house and call it a parish. This is to be avoided. Yes if it is considered a sanctuary where we could invite few brothers for bible studies or prayers, but not a parish.

## **3. Labels for parishes**

The Global Headquarters as a human, although coming from God institution, doesn't have the ability to know everything that happens in parishes. Caution is therefore asked to confirm that a congregation complies with the requirements of the Church. If the opening of a parish is permitted to any predecessor of celestial church of Christ

from the grade of Dehoto, nothing shows that he is of good morality. As a man, he might be a thief, a violent man or of other characters that are incompatible with the management of a parish. For this, we offer an implementation of labels to distinguish them. A public report should be taken at the diocese level so that everyone knows the forces and weaknesses of each parish. Transparency is wished-for everyone.

**a. Label 0**

In this category, there should be all the parishes that are in a 'suitable building' and which have less than three years of existence. By "suitable building", we exclude shrines, parts of apartment and premises accommodating less than fifty people. The room must be at least a large room and meet the standards of the country's security. Safety standards can be at the level of building materials, the type of construction, emergency exits, etc. All parishes in this category are in observation period and this for at least three years. They cannot be truly regarded as purgation while respecting perfectly Sunday services. No opening ceremony must be done by the diocese within this period of observation in agreement with the Holy See. If there is no opening, it can either be even juvenile harvest party. The head of this future Parish will be able to attend certain meetings of the diocese according to the order of the day.

**b. Labels 1 to 4**

This category contains parishes of more than three years and who have at least 20 people. Points to 'record' are:

- Respect for Sunday services, first Thursdays of the month, Wednesday service of mercy and Friday service sanctification.
- Respect for 7pm services
- Services led by an "anointed" and not by people on whom you laid hands - a choirmaster, a Chairman of the Committee and a leader vision being named for more than six months. This is a mark of

stability.

- The moral values of the head
- Respect for the country's security standards
- The port of the trappings by great predecessors on Sabbath days and compulsory use of straps at any time inside the parish premises.
- Be up to date in building rent and if possible have three months prepaid.
- Have basic infrastructures: toilets, shower, and coatrooms.
- Have a parvis and a stone St. Michael outside
- Make a quarterly report to parishioners on the State of the parish finances (input - output). This is not to detail all the items of expenditure or to bring the bills, but to give an overview of the financial management of the parish.
- Compliance with the requirements of the Church (gatekeepers during the service, respect of the Liturgy, revealed hymns...)
- Respect of the neighborhood and lack of noise
- Safety of the premises
- Diocesan and pastoral absolution

All of these conditions that are not a big requirement must meet all of these criteria to have the "label 4". According to the judgment of the rating Committee members, a mark will be given. However, you can't refuse "Label 1" to a parish which is having more than three years of continuous existence and respecting minimum conditions. From this label, parishes may already have harvest parties and a representative to the diocese apart from the parish leader.

There is a point which requires special attention; it is the criminal record of a parish leader. If it happened before the exercise of his responsibility, it can be considered as part of his past life. However, decisions must be taken if it is during the exercise of his responsibility that he perpetrated actions against the law. No need to cover an evil deed of a church dignitary. Some have tried and it had inspired movies to very large audiences. If some can be in the Church confines, others have to deal with public domain and especially in law. The point needs to be addressed at least at the diocese level so as to determine the

responsibility of the accused and the best decisions to be taken for the good of the entire Christian family. Remember that a conviction at the level the country jurisdiction does not necessarily imply a penalty at the level of the Church.

### **c. Labels 5 to 7**

First order conditions having been met, the label of excellence must be attributed to parishes that have national or international far-reaching. That is focused on training and helping others to expand the Church. It is no longer in this category that compliance with requirements of the Church must be a problem.

We highly wish that these parishes be built so that they become a part of the Church patrimony at the death of its initiator. Or they might be held equally between the chosen successor, the Church and a Council of parishioners elected for a period of time, with a constraint against the sale. There must be a counter-power to every power. The Holy See is the federal and keeper of the church doctrine, of the harmonization of services and the good works of the Church. Pastor gives anointing and appoints the dignitaries in the world. The spiritual side is up to the Holy See and a large part of the organizational side. It seems obvious that a person will not deploy all his zeal to build a big building, converting thousands of people and expanding his work, and see a "great flatterer" being chosen as parish leader in his place. If it happens like that, many will become flatterers and not workers. We are men... It is a certain freedom that generates to good initiatives and helps to the expansion of the Church. The Holy See must "fit" good and bad will. However, if by his own funds a parish was to be erected, it is quite normal that his manager is appointed by the Holy See.

They can be evaluated on criteria such as:

- Bible studies and trainings for predecessors and followers
- A training framed of instrumentalists and choir
- Detailed Charts of all the cells in the parish

- Archiving of data on the various parish activities (expenditures and revenues of harvest festivals, appointment of various officials of cells...)
- Financial transparency, a clear accounting: reporting all income to the authorities of the country.
- Facilities and infrastructures adapted to globalization (offices, Conference rooms, a temple, technology...)
- Great support to the other parishes, especially training and financially.
- Evangelism and the local, national and international coverage

A parish with this label must be able to help the establishment of other parishes by sending predecessors (evangelists, singers, seers...) to support them. It must also be able to affect some competent predecessors to open parishes in other regions and if possible internationally. Openness to the world is crucial. Through its maturity, the increase in number of parishioners becomes secondary. The priority lies on training and expansion.

These labels do not assess parishes where the manifestation of God is greater or its members' integrity. They are "organization" oriented. It might happen that there are label 2 parishes where God resides fully and others of label 7 where the love of God means nothing. Too many scandals are born of disorder. Everyone speaks anyhow, a processor visiting another Parish teaches without referring to the officials of the place, or even goes to the altar outside the service hours without notifying the parish leader... This is of man and not God's. God has left the Organization to man. A man may be very spiritual while being very undisciplined. Apart from management parishes require serious organizations.

**Suggestion 1:** parishioners must have a say in financial managing and parish organization. This is significantly true in the purchase or construction of property, if money had participated. For example, to purchase a parish; one third of this may go to the parish leader, another

one third to the Holy See and the last one third to parishioners. This gives the last views of the management of the parish and an important decision on the confirmation of a successor to their parish responsible at the death of the latter. It may be one of his relatives who are pointed as beneficiary and that he is not found worthy. In this case, parishioners will help the Holy See to point another while leaving some decision-making power to the representative. This point should be well-discussed because it can cause a lot of problems. However, the parish leader with his wife help, sacrificing their lives to put the building in place – it is thus normal that his family should not be excluded in the man's death. It is also the contributions of the parishioners who must have a guarantee that their investment was essentially for the Lord. Then it is the Holy See who can play the role of referee looking for the right balance and can exercise a double power; as much spiritual as temporal by the possession of a third party.

#### **4. Positions during the procession**

For predecessors of the same grade, the older "aligns" the other, that is to say, he gets behind him. Although the spiritual function is winning, do not forget to honor the elderly. The notion of respect must be mutual and taught to all and should especially be shown towards older people. Nevertheless, we must not forget that in the Church, the premium grade because of the authority is no longer natural but from God. Care must be taken not to entrust important responsibilities to people who have an advanced age or a high rank while they are obviously carnal. Carnal can be understood in two ways at that level: first as the passions of the body such as anger, theft, debauchery or others; the chatter and lack of modesty. What is good with spirituality and integrity, even when people who are not appreciated, they are recognized as such. This must be scrupulously respected in order not to create disorder. It is not uncommon to see people, whom for the



sake of glory and honor require only first places; they are sons of Pharisees. They like to be honored by men for God makes their testimony in their own hearts that they are not in his will. Not wanting to turn away from their crooked ways, they want to stifle the voice that leads to repentance by the praise of men. This category of people is extremely dangerous for the advancement of God's work; as long as they are not rented as they wish, they will do anything to challenge the decisions taken for the good of the community.

## **V - CHOIR**

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## **A. GENERAL**

The purpose of these writings is to provide a roadmap for the entire choir of Celestial Church of Christ. The challenge identified is large and almost impossible for one who has no faith. The goal is to maintain spiritual hymns throughout the worship, not to pro-ask the people a fleeting joy but the union with the Lord through worship. This is not easy because of our modern influences but it is achievable for good wishes. We do not aim for quantity but we are looking for quality. Although be the only parish where the hymns, which tend to spiritual elevation are sung, it assumes and expects a special blessing. Everything must be implemented so that no one is deprived of his grace. Today, the search for spirituality is scarce as virtue. Find the excitement experienced by the church to goal of Christianity and remain in the "high" spiritual. No choir is obliged to follow the example of one of his sisters if it is not good. The work is common but you have to keep this feature to sing only the revealed or compound hymns. Celestial church of Christ hymn inventory is well-furnished that must not be looking outside. If courses to learn are necessary, this must be implemented so that we do not stay in the permissive will of God but in the perfect one that attracts most of blessings. What is the interest of the Lord to reveal as many hymns if they are not considered at fair value by his children? Our glory is not to have the best singers or instrumentalists but to have a choir with the sole glory of God and praising according to divine inspiration. Please brethren, we beseech you, let's conform to the will of the Lord. Through our origins, our social status, our interests, we are different and it is Christ alone who unites us. Depart from his will would weaken his body.

The choir of God must not forget his role in a parish. Many think it is just singing and celebrating people but it has no place in the message of Christ. One Spirit, one body and various ministries and works for the building up of the body of Christ. It is important to remember that the last words of our Lord before he left was aim to go announce his message and teach his people. So every activity within God's work is

meant to expand the body of Christ and to teach his people. The purpose of the choir is, first, to sing to the glory of God alone; secondly, to instruct his people by easy words to remember as set melody, and thirdly, of comfort while waiting for the Second Coming. This is summed up in the love of God (vertical) and the love of neighbor and friendship with his brothers (horizontal). The welfare of a choir depends greatly on the management set up by the choirmaster. Either he is lax in his work or lacks rigor, then indiscipline takes place. If he is conscientious, soft and firm in the Lord, then order and peace will reign. He must have enough authority in the Lord and the parish leader should do his best to maintain the integrity and order within the sheep entrusted to him. It is also very important, that parents entrust the care of their children. It is true that his role is very important in a parish considering the number of singers but take care not to create a kingdom in the kingdom of God. The structure around him is not to overwhelm him with work and not to set rules contrary to those of his leaders. The choice of the choirmaster is by the will and permission of God. But this does not guarantee his integrity; the proof is that it is the lord who chose Jeroboam the idolater to be the king over Israel. Revealed hymns and ritual services are our main riches graciously granted by the Lord. Let us keep them in the church and receive the grace that follows. Unfortunately, the race is on for innovations which alters our church revealed character. We advise choirmasters like Heman, Asaph and Jeduthun to avoid listening to hymns that oppose the message of Christ. Those mentioning pleasure, sensuality, money, crime, sex and other pagans joys. They encourage singers to follow their example. We urge celestial Christian artists not to use hymns for commercial purposes. All requests should be made at the level of the head see, stating the desired hymns. A parish leader does not have authority to grant such a request.

### **Bible references:**

**1 Corinthians 14.26** *How is it then, brethren? When ye come together every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.*

**Ephesians 4.12** *for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

**Matthew 28.19-20** *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the holy ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world*

**1 Chronicles 25.1** *Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was.*

## **1. The Seraphim and Cherubim**

Upon the nine angels' choirs, the Seraphim and Cherubim are those that are closest to God. There are specially combined with praise and worship unto the Lord. Seraphim means "Burning" and Cherub means "fullness of knowledge." This assumes that the singers or those who want to make this work in the house of God must have in their hearts the burning love for the Lord i.e. respect his commandments. They must also have a good knowledge of God, which of course involves meditation of Scripture. There's one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A single God in three persons. These three persons are of the same glory, the same power and eternity. They are consubstantial. The Son is the "Logos" or "Word" of God and the Holy Spirit is "love" of the Father to the Son and vice versa. Hence the fact that these angels reflect the divine attributes. They also have a high fighting capability. One who does not imitate them cannot be a worshiper of God, all he would do would shadow the reality.



## 2. Origin of the C.C.C choir

The first choir in the CCC was established in 1950 in TreichVille in Ivory Coast by predecessor Yansunnu Nathaniel. In 1947 it was revealed by the Holy Spirit that only revealed hymns must be sung during services. At the beginning of the Church, no instrument was used and it was only later on, by the insistence of the predecessor that the Founder Prophet allowed them. This authorization was not made by a revelation from the Holy Spirit but by his own authority. In 1985, before his death, he took back on his decision because of the "distraction" that was occasioned, but the damage was already deeply rooted. His successor at Imeko, Predecessor Alexander Abiodun Bada also tried to solve this choir problem to no avail until his death.

### **Bible references:**

**John 14.21** *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

**John 1.1** *In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God.*

## 3. Relationship between hymns and prayers

It is commonly said that "singing is praying seven times." In its literal meaning, it is likened to a fairy tale! In no place in the Bible it is said, and it grows in such a way that immature people will even neglect prayer. Prayer and praise go together and to go further, praise is a type of prayer. There are thanksgivings prayers that contain praise, request prayer ... Whoever thinks loving praise without loving prayer is far from spiritual. There is no servant of God who had not loved prayer in its plurality. King David himself was a great man of prayer. God is being

pleased with praise and we urge Christians as well as singers to always praise God at all times. But they should not neglect other weapons that the Lord has entrusted to us. Let us be balanced! Let each one examine carefully and he will see that if man is not constantly prostrated before God, it is laziness or negligence. To this, we add this point: can we genuinely raise praises to the king while doing another activity? There is a reward for this because it is better to sing hymns being distracted than singing worldly hymns, full grace descends when we internally visualize the one to whom we address. Many unfortunately fall into this trap. They do what is right, singing to God but neglect a very important aspect, taking time to bow down and focus solely on God. The scriptures always talk of Christ being in prayer. During the holy communion he sang the "Hallel". Other times, it is his prayers that are reported to us. Arrange your minds with praise, give glory to God through your hymns and humble yourself before him deeply by your prayers and supplications.

**Bible references:**

*Matthew 6.6* But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret, will reward you.

**4. Specific hymns**

We cannot sing a battle hymn with thanksgivings prayers. The service agenda teaches us that each prayer should go with a type of prayers. Let's try to be consistent in our prayers even at home. Every chorister should be empowered to distinguish different types of hymns; repentance, battle...

## 5. Revealed hymns

Three aspects will be addressed: spiritual hymns or hymns of the world, universality of God's message and hymns of other religious congregations.

It is essential that the hymns sung in service should have a spiritual dimension. Any hymn where God's name is mentioned is not necessarily spiritual. The typical example is that of local customs melodies. We cannot be meditating and follow exciting rhythm which is more linked to sweat than anything else. God's kingdom is spiritual, the body as the movement is that of the spirit, not the flesh. Whoever dances in the flesh for himself and not for God does it because he loves to dance. True worshipers are those who do so in spirit and in truth. Spirit seeks for elevation and truth to avoid blend. A singer of God does not bring solace to men nostalgic of worldly music but to those who want to unload their burdens in repentance and hope of "a better world". A hymn of worship is not an animated singing performance. Avoid as possible all local rhythms and aim for the universal character of true worshipers. It was asked to Christians not to "Judaize", for all nations shall run to the holy mountain of the Lord. How then a community could consider God as a native and amateur of music and local trends? Whenever culture is being put before individuals' different background, there is always division. Even if those who apply have the right to good will, there will always be nepotism and sidelining of minorities. Is this God's will?

Hymns before preaching should be chosen only by those that were revealed. Then the choice lies on the choirmaster whether to continue in this path or to add compounds hymns. It is forbidden to use during a service hymns from other Christian Congregations although they are our sisters in Christ. Uniqueness is not uniformity in worship. We worship the same God but with a different approach. If the background is the same, the shape is different because it is revealed in the Celestial Church of Christ.

### **Bible references:**

**Ephesians 5.19** *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual hymns, singing melody in your heart to the Lord.*

**Colossians 3.16** *Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual hymns, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord*

**John 6.63** *It is the spirit that quickened; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

**Matthew 4.17** *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

**Galatians 2.14** *But when i saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, if thou, being a jem, livest after the manner of gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compallest thou the gentiles to live as do the Jews?*

**Romans 15.11** *And again, praise the Lord, all ye gentiles, and laud him, all ye people.*

## **6. Compound hymns**

Two issues will be addressed; personal composition of hymns and its free availability or at reduced prices.

It is important to develop & spirit of praise and worship in the choir by this exercise. Some should be chosen to write "new hymns" to God. Every week, new people should write hymns that come from the spirit. These will be listed in the computer of the parish so that one day they can serve for future generations. Names and dates must be given for each new hymn. Subsequently, these hymns will be available on the parish website so that global heavenly community can read or listen. It also can detect Davidic gifts. It must still be ensured that these hymns are not in contradiction with the Bible.

Please, for those who have inspirations, there is no obligation for it to be marketed. And if this has been done, avoid making an instrument to enrich by offering them at affordable prices for the multitude because it is a gift of God. King David did not sell his psalms but had them written for our consolation.

## **7. Choir location in the temple**

When one is at the parish entrance, the choir is located at the right side; at men's side. It is between the chairs of dehôto and the altar. Men Choristers are in the first places and closer to the altar and women are behind them. This gives the impression to form two blocks to be distinguish regardless of the vote.

## **8. Choir salubrity**

The choir should always be clean. Choir members should not abandon their belongings such as notebooks, booklets and other hymns in the temple. There should only find instruments there. Even their outfits or bibles should not be found there. They should always keep in mind that choir is God's altar. God loves cleanliness and order. Give him this tribute and collect the fruits in our lives.

## **9. Fornication**

Two issues will be addressed; the strong awareness against debauchery and failure to provide a spouse to a chorister. The choirmaster must ensure that a smell of filth and debauchery does not spill as perfume in front of the throne of God. It is the scent of Asmodeus. It's not to him or anyone to nominate or even provide a spouse to a chorister. And no one should hide his true intentions behind the small implied words. If one of these acts is found, a board member should report at meetings and if this continues, at the parish committee. It is bad to play with the fragility and sensibility of people. Everyone should be aware that there is no seduction games in the choir. This does not mean that two choristers cannot marry. It just ensures

that everything is official. Someone in the congregation should be ensured if his or her spouse is in the choir team. This might not be the case if a fornication atmosphere reigns there. A choirmaster who lacks firmness towards this type of practice is an accomplice with Jezebel spirit.

**Bible references:**

*Revelation 2.20* Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

**10. Solidarity between singers**

It is important to ensure that no one is prejudiced or favored. Treatment should be the same for all. The loss of a family member close to a choir leader is to be regarded in the same way as that of another chorister. If contributions are made, they are anonymous. It is not important to know who has paid and who did not. This is divisive and unnecessary problems. Moreover, the contribution is not mandatory but it appeals to the heart and capacity. Those who give money are not necessarily those who fear God. There are rich who give and have no fear of God and the poor who do not give but dearly love the Lord. It can happen that some people are harmed because to err is human. The injured person is not frustrated because Christ did not send us to be helped, but to be given. It is not a right for a Christian to be helped but it is a duty for him to help others.

## **B. ORGANIZATION**

## **1. Choirmaster and his assistants**

It does not only take a beautiful voice to be choirmaster. Like any responsibility, it requires a certain capacity to work and a good sense of organization. The workload is very heavy. You must: - give the service's schedules - follow up the progress of choristers - plan concerts and other events - follow its representative to the committee or be there - establish order and discipline in the choir - give followed Bible teachings - ensuring training to take over - develop turns for presence in services - ensure the welfare of every chorister.

And many other areas, such as managing internal conflicts! All this takes time and energy. This is why the choirmaster must be assisted by people also desiring the progress God work. In the choice of his assistants, he must choose regular people in the choir.

## **2. Choirmaster's choice**

The choirmaster is appointed by the head of the parish after consultation with the parish council or the council of elders. It reports to them in meetings of the parish committee. It is necessary to have a choir representative in the parish committee. Those who have named him can remove him after written justification. This is only important to leave a record for future generations.

A woman can be a choir mistress. This possibility has neither been revealed nor been denied by the Prophet-Founder when it was suggested to her by some predecessors. But she must still respect some rules such as not turning her back to the altar and not to lead singers into prayers while standing unless there are only women. If a revelation demands that the "choirmaster" makes a prayer for the entire choir, she will delegate it to a man chorister.



### **3. Selecting the executive**

There is a part of the executive that must be voted. Theocracy does not exclude democracy to prevent clans. Each nomination must be linked to a need because naming several officials creates disorder.

### **4. Half-yearly exchange between choirmasters and choristers**

The choirmaster and his advisers must meet at least once every six months each choir member to ensure good cohesion and a steady increase in the choir. Therefore, everyone can make proposals to change the work. They will give advice to singers so that they grow spiritually. The conclusions of its trade must be kept without personal points. The points to note are the areas to improve and the lack of singers. It is important to focus on the personal relationship of each one with the Lord. The outline should be recorded for more effective monitoring. It is not enough to be a hardworking person to be a good chorister. A good chorister is a first good Christian and there is no good backup singer who is not a good Christian. Appreciation of singers also depends on their leaders. This will take the form of anonymous questionnaire and all will be transferred to the parish committee. It will be discussed with the choir leaders without showing them the collected questionnaires. This quiz is not used to change the choirmaster but help him to progress. A person who does not give account to anybody opens the door to the devil.

### **5. Entry criteria to the choir**

To be the part of the choir, one must be a celestial Christian; e.i., baptized. Everyone must first integrate the choir and make a minimum of one year. This is justified by the fact that most activities begin with

singing the revealed hymns. A sympathizer can attend rehearsals without being considered as singer. After at least three months of preparation, the choirmaster and officers deem the admission of the faithful to the choir according to his or her motivation. Then, a document is being presented to the concerned to be signed so as to finalize the accession. For minors, this document must be signed by parents or legal guardians. Be careful to respect it because it can lead to legal problems if not respected. A minor cannot take such a decision without the consent of his or her parents.

After over a month of unjustified absence, any chorister must observe a period to be up to the altar of the choir. Regardless of their qualities or their seniority, there should not be any favoritism. Similarly, for a chorister from another parish, if he changes his parish must be at least a month of recycling. It is not the choirmaster's attributions to know the reason for his departure to another parish. It is up to the parish committee to deal with and resolve everything concerning the admission or refusal of other celestial Christians in the parish.

## **6. Children in the choir**

What is concerned there is choir prohibition to non-baptized. It is not allowed of non-baptized to climb on the choir. Same for a non-chorister accept the sacristan and the head of the parish. This is a special altar of God for singers! If a brother cannot go to the great altar, how can we justify that a non-baptized goes up to the choir altar? Can a sympathizer climb upon the choir altar? A baby who has not been baptized despite being in a state of innocence still has his original sin. It can normally go up to the choir but an exemption is given up to three years to facilitate working mothers. The "child output" does not give the status of child of God that comes only from the baptism. So you have to baptize the child as soon as possible. On service days, no one should go up to the choir except for the place maintenance. Is it

allowed that a celestial Christian preacher preaches outside the pulpit during Sunday worship? Why would it be allowed to an instrumentalist or a singer to sing out of the choir altar? All the same, it is forbidden to invite worldly musicians to go up to the choir or to play or sing near the choir. There may be exceptions for non-baptized little children who cannot get away from their chorister parents. They can stay close to the choir and without wearing the singers bare except through revelation. If they are so desperate to have their children with them, let them be baptized. For the harvest festivals, it is also forbidden to bring in musicians from the world. If the choirmaster is in lack of instrumentalists and that it is so necessary for him, he will seek the help of other celestial choirs. In case the other choirs cannot help, he must do with his singers. God is with him and that is enough.

## **7. Computerization of data**

It is important that the choir data be stored for future generations. If the choirmaster has a duty before God, he also has before men and his successors. As important data, there are:

- Achievements (CDs, videos, written documents, created sites ...)
- Choristers data (name, gender, areas for improvement ...)
- Purchases or donations of instruments
- Convents, outings, evenings organized prayer
- Undertaken training for instrumentalists
- Service programs and their compliance with the singers
- The average budget per chorister for the preparation of harvest festivals
- Choristers punishment
- Spending equipment (batteries, tripod ...)
- Delays, absences and singers exemptions

## **C. DISCIPLINE AND TRAINING**

## **1. The duration of rehearsals**

Rehearsals' duration must be determined in advance. Everyone needs to know at what time it starts and at what time it ends. Let the officials be careful not to spill over the duration set for rehearsals. This includes bible and hymns studies. Among the singers, there are married women, minors who are accountable to their parents, children's fathers. It is important and essential that punctuality be applied. This showcases a well-organized choir. Discipline must prevail during rehearsals.

## **2. The study of Hymns**

In the choice of service hymns, a minimum of hymns must necessarily be known. At least one hymn per week must be perfectly known. Do not ask a large number of hymns because of the extra spiritual activities of each and everyone. However, on this fixed number, be adamant that who does know it must not climb on Sunday. This will allow those who want to forward to have a minimum in order to flourish personally. Rigor for hymns' knowledge should be imposed in order to remove those who want to take choir for a group of merry lazy singers.

## **3. Bible study**

Choir includes most of the new converts and the youth of the church. It is essential that the fear of God be instilled through the knowledge of the word of God. The exhortations should focus on Bible verses in relation with sung hymns. It is wrong to believe that it

is not the choir's role. Giving a lot of time and energy to the choir, if the word of God is not taught to them, many will be defenseless. This is also a bitter observation; many singers sleep during the sermons. The choirmaster must be very vigilant in watching over the sheep that the Lord has entrusted to him.

Not everyone should teach. Two or three people who know the Bible and morality that will take to bring education to the choir are being selected for that. This choice will be made by democratic and anonymous vote in the presence of more than two thirds of the total number of singers and validated by the chair committee. Each choir will present three names on a sheet in the order of preference. These doctors will hold office for one year renewable. Through a vote, so did the Lord, choose without favor those who must speak of him, as it was the case with Matthias. The teaching will last 30 minutes at the start of rehearsals. It must be prepared in advance. Those who do not attend it are not allowed to participate in hymns rehearsals. This also applies to latecomers. We are a church of God and not in a holiday camp where everyone comes when it fits him. It is useless to have a beautiful voice and do not fear God. The importance is to respect the rules of the choirmaster in relation to the parish committee and not a charisma that belongs also to the Gentiles. Of course, it is better for a chorister to fear God and sing than to fear God and not sing well.

#### **4. Instrumentalists training**

Not everyone is an apostle. Not everyone is a prophet. However, everyone can help. Succession should be major worry shareholdings of any choirmaster. The absence of a person should not block the progress of many, and each instrumentalist form at least one person to take over. It is preferable that this be done out of the rehearsal period of the choir. He chooses motivated people. The most used instrument is the synthesizer; special attention must be paid upon it. Obviously,

this is to be done voluntarily. Charity is a Christian characteristic and nobody comes to enrich materially to church with her or his gift. Everyone has faith that God is the one who rewards those who help their brethren in all charity.

Perhaps there is nobody available to train instrumentalists. In this case, the Lord does not prevent those who can go to train in approved centers. For those who have money, they can afford singing lessons, composition or learning instruments outside the church. All this is for the glory of God. Just that it cannot get to church.

## **5. Sanctions**

Feelings or personal assessments should not arise in sanction. Are authorized to sanction a choirmaster and his deputy, the parish committee and the head of the parish after hearing them. Not only the head of the parish or the chairman of one committee, but the parish committee. As well as the choirmaster can punish his deputy only after consulting the parish committee.

For any other chorister, the choir executive will establish the sanctions. In cases of permanent or temporary exclusion of more than a month, the parish committee must give its consent after hearing all the parties. For other sanctions, this can be done without the committee. If the backup singer feels wounded by a decision, he may request the intervention of the parish committee through an appointed person from the choir executive. Fornicators should be punished by suspension or expulsion. We pray to avoid terms like "darling" in the choir as well as between brothers and sisters in Christ. Imagine St. Peter calling Mary Magdalene "darling." Besides, it is very inappropriate to call the wife of another by any of these terms. Let's not ignore the effect of these flattering words for a person with home problems. Fornication is most at risk to the choir than in other departments because of the proximity between men and women. This is the only

place in the parish where there's mix. In addition, some use their charisma to erect featured wishing to have an audience of admirers. They are easily recognized by their way of holding the microphone, their body language and other behavioral attitudes borrowed from worldly entertainment. These are people who have always sought to have the glory and like to get ovations. The head of the choir must adjust such cases of fornication. After warnings and a certain period of observation, fornicators must be excluded from the choir if they do not repent. This decision will be made with the consent of the parish committee. For those who repent, that the case is even more touched because God is merciful. However, the rebels, they know that God and his servants resist the proud. God himself will execute the rest of the sentence except for the exclusion made by the representatives of God to this function. That each of us has in mind that forgiveness of an offense does not result to non-enforcement of the sentence. God forgave David's adultery but he was severely punished for his sin.



## **D. COURSE OF WORSHIP**

## 1. The choir's role during worship

The choir is responsible for arranging the heart of parishioners to worship. It is not its role to console nightclubs nostalgic or those of the countries of origin. The choir sings the glory of God for the edification of his people. No praise for church officials. Only the name of Christ and that of God must be pronounced. No allusion to the so-called "mighty men of God," God will reward them for their work. The choir must render no public testimony to a man of God. Christ himself did not accept that there were the good deals yet there is personified goodness. Even when Christ enabled, it was for the scriptures to be fulfilled, and to testify that he is really the Christ of God, Son of David. Even when he wanted to honor his mother, he did not want it as men on earth do. It is already much and certainly enough to give glory to God alone. What God asks to his children is to be obedient to the authorities and not to sing their glory. During every service and even during the thanksgiving, it is preferable that the singers turn to the altar when they sing. Praise is directed to God and not to the people. When preaching, they turn to the preaching pulpit to listen better.

### **Bible references:**

**Roman 2.29** *But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

**Mark 10.18** *And Jesus said unto him, why called thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God.*

**Matthew 21.16** *And said unto him, hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, yea, have ye never read, out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou have perfected praise?*

**Luke 11.27-28** *And it come to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps that thou have sucked. But he said, yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.*

## **2. Sanctification of the choir**

The number of days for body sanctification is 72 hours. During these 72 hours, if someone is not in the standards, he can still attend worship being within the people, remembering that sanctification requested within the people is 24 hours. However, he does not climb to the choir after the service. It's not a sin to fail a few times but to tempt God when one is aware of his situation is an offense to his dignity. This sanctification is respected whenever someone will ascend to the choir. Be it during rehearsals as well as the service. Besides everything must be done so that rehearsals take place out of the altar. Whoever climbs at the choir's altar, must be 72 hours sanctified.

In case of nocturnal pollution within 72 hours, a chorister must take a sanctification bath with water and perfume in order to ascend to the choir. This is not true for other cases and a chorister shall either not come to the temple if he is in the 24 hours or come to the temple and attend worship like any other faithful.

## **3. Singers' prayers**

Singers must say a prayer before the service and at the end of the service, after the congregational prayer. For the first, if it is being done in the temple, it will be before the prayer of sanctification that comes before service. It is classic: - hymn - simple prayer - Gloria - a man blessing - the 7 hallelujah. For the prayer's content, it is appropriate to ask beautiful voices, but it should not become an obsession. Although this falls under bible teaching, we must not forget that nice praise for God is a pure heart.

#### **4. The organization for the attendance in the services**

It is necessary that a minimum number of choir members attend all services. Three are enough. The program is made by the choirmaster. Those present will only have to follow it. The singers may attend in turn. There must be a balance, encouraging them to attend at least a week per month, which seems appropriate.

#### **5. Monthly program of service**

It is a program, which includes all the services, the weekly ones as well as those from Sunday. This will allow each chorister to learn and memorize hymns. Thus during the week, even in the absence of the choirmaster, the choir will present a program.

#### **6. The length of service**

The service lasts for three hours; all stakeholders should be limited to the strict minimum. Let singers do not lengthen the hymns with solos or other improvisations. We must aim for efficiency. Short hymns are taken three times and long hymns several couplets are sung once. The time of celebration does not last more than ten minutes. A praise night is different from a normal service. The more the choir's performance takes time, the less visionaries and doctors will have the strength to perform their works thereafter.

## **7. Stop depending on the driver hymns**

During offering time, when the service leader drops them on the altar, the choir has to stop singing hymns and say "Amen." Choir should not delay the service leader in his prostration. A specific number of hymns must be interpreted according to the time of worship. Please, it must be respected. When a hymn is requested, sing one and when more are requested, respect this number. When we speak of revelation and harmonization, this implies that improvisation is extremely limited and only applies in the undisclosed party. Let's not be a source of disorder in the temple of the Lord. Everyone is free to live his life as he wishes; to allow his house at his pleasure, but the temple and the revelation must be respected.

## **8. The language**

Hymns are sung in the official language of the country. Let's consider someone who prophesies in an incomprehensible dialect to a francophone, is it reasonable? How could it be built? It is essential to understand the words of the hymn; otherwise, it is a waste of time. For a parish established in a country, let hymns be translated into the official language as a church located in a country aims to expand in this country, and even in countries with several ethnic groups, the dominant ethnic group sings in the official language and not in its dialect. We must not exclude minorities. Avoid communalism and distribution of parishes by country. An exception for a hymn sung in a dialect would be to translate it immediately; or by allowing a person to translate the words aloud whether the verse is repeated in the official language.

For celestial Christians settling in a new country, they must strive to translate the hymns booklet into the official language of this country. Then they will be sent to Headquarters that will make a provisional validation that they may be sung during worship. The final

confirmation will be made only if the language is mastered by those of the Headquarters or after the people will become fluently bilingual. This prevents erroneous translations.

## 9. Dance

Celebration should not take place in the Church, not that it is bad, but on the contrary, it is a matter of priority. While preaching and teaching the faithful are in decline, the compensation proposed by some is rejoicing at every turn. Even the sin of remission hymns are often interpreted on a dancing air. This celebration is not spiritual because it is not based on any virtue. It does not derive from faith in Christ; it is not the hope of a future world, much less an act of charity. Not all joy comes from God. Rejoicing in God is not the same as that gives the nightclub atmosphere. After very catchy worldly rhythms, artists, which performance in search of glory, the whole is crowned by dances that come mostly from the current fashion. Fashion is the influence of this century. If this is not the strange fire brought by Nadab and Abihu, then how can we call this phenomenon, which wounds our communities? They have blended what they learned in Egypt and worship the holy God. Many give excuses arguing that David danced before the Lord, and Michal, daughter of Saul, despised him. Thus, they even erect a martyr of the Lord. Why do they not continue to do as David who was naked before the tabernacle? That's where we see the usefulness of understanding the scriptures. Not everyone should teach because reading is one thing and another thing is meditation. If reading is good, it is superficial and stops at the letter while meditation plumbs the depths as appeal to the grace of the Holy Spirit, but can a natural man understand the spiritual? The Lord teaches his people and let the people understand his Lord. Everything was rude in the Old Testament because it was only a shadow of things to come. Weapons have changed; David`s word became the Lord's Word. Wars

against the Philistines became prayers against evil spirits. Polygamy became monogamy. Thus, the dance of David (king born by the will of God) is the symbol of worship and Michal (daughter of King and outcome of the will of the flesh) is the symbol of pagans who despise Christians because they see no God before them. His nakedness is a symbol of humility. God is a teacher so he is good for those who read not to ignore the historical and spiritual context.

All the same, we must ensure that the rhythms are not catchy or "furious". They must be of a kind calling for spiritual elevation and not for the pleasure of the flesh. The fashion of the moment and of the century and poisonous ancestral traditions are not found in the Church of Lord. He must dissociate praise during worship to that of a prayer vigil or a concert. The Lord doesn't forbid to dance but it must be done without exciting sweat by slight rates. Please do not dance as pagans, that we see, do it in their movies. Please, we the "Salome, daughter of Herodias" with their sensual and provocative dance to refrain it in the holy place. In addition, in hot seasons, sweaty body odors are very unpleasant. Let us rejoice fully and sing for joy because this pleases the Lord.

## **10. Sound volume**

We request the choirmaster to be very vigilant with the volume. Consider the size of the temple and the speakers that could be placed. High volume favors deafness and is troublesome not only for those with sharp ears, especially young children, but also for the neighbors. Let's avoid confusing a concert to singing hymns during God worship.

We also pray instrumentalists to avoid overbidding by increasing the volume of their instruments. The instruments are made to accompany the voice and not the opposite. As part of worship, not only the microphones of the singers should not bother the audience because they ate too loud, but also the instruments should be at a lower level than the microphones.

The position of the speakers is of great importance. If only the speaker being among the people or the choir hampers one person, the choirmaster must take the necessary decisions. Everything must be used to build up the People of God. Which edification will get the person who is close to a speaker that emits vibrations or sound too high. For speakers that are located on the floor, do not forget that they are most troublesome for small children because of their size. It is the same for the battery. Due to the noise it emits, this instrument although loved by many people, is not recommended during worship. For those who find it necessary, they must take measures for others' health.

### **11. The use of instruments during the service**

For parishes that have a synthesizer, till offering time, it must be the only instrument used except during the "Gloria", which must be sung without instruments. No other instrument should be used before preaching. Let it be strictly enforced. For those that do not have, they are free to act according to their means. It is a pity that this rule is known but not applied. What therefore means obedience to anyone responsible of a choir? A choirmaster who obeys the decisions of his superiors is a blessing for the choristers. Let other musicians be not frustrated because their priority is to attend worship rather than playing an instrument, but let one who plays the synthesizer does not glorify himself because although it is very useful, it is not essential. Besides, humility and love are the most precious gifts to inherit the kingdom of heaven. Pride and vainglory are for those who are called to perdition. Our place in the kingdom of heaven is not determined on the ability to play an instrument.

No instrument is played at weekly services (Wednesday and Friday). It is highly recommended to limit the number of instruments in the choir.



## 12. Fundraising

It is pitiful for a backup singer to make money out of God worship. The God's choir is not a job to supplement your income. Allow this curse the greedy and hope unto God who will ever provide for his children. If it is said "the worker deserves a wage", this concerns the "committed". Neither teacher nor any of choir choristers should get money from parishioners or parish except in exceptional cases. A champion of God is not a cabaret singer. Likewise, the movement of parishioners giving money to choristers is not Christianly. This is a worldly behavior being introduced in the Church of God. This is part of the strange fire brought to the altar of the Lord. If someone wants to help the choir, let him see the choirmaster or chair.

Some people like to put money in the forehead or head. First, it is forbidden to give money to a champion of God while he is praising and second, these places are symbolic. The anointing oil is poured on the head to establish the priests and kings. This symbolized the crown and the future descent of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, the High Priest wore a tiara where it was written: Holiness to the Lord. This entry was in the forehead. When we look at the New Testament we see the crown on Christ's head put on by soldiers who thought they were humiliating him, but instead they glorified him and allowed the fulfillment of scriptures. This represents our evil thoughts, which are expiated by suffering inflicted by the thorns on his head. So carefully considering these acts of parishioners, we see the brand of Caesar, which represents the spirit of the world, of Mammon, therefore the devil. Thus, some instead of good do evil. We find the same situation in the laying on of hands where some willing but ignorant lay hands on the faithful and communicate with their evil spirits. It is not all predecessors who are supposed to lay hands. The Lord requires from us that we meditated his word, understand it and apply it. Disobedience and rebellion are not good at all. Apply what the Lord teaches and expect blessing from him. Therefore render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. The charitable man exercises charity in God and not the wrong way.

Financial solutions can be found to important issues by the choirmaster or his representatives in the Parish Committee. The choir does not own funds; everything goes through the parish committee. Hence the importance of having a representative within the parish committee! For now, we do not see any problem with choir treasurers because donations are not huge, but in the future with the growth of the church and the wealth increase, there may be strong conflicts because of the money influx to the choir. We could end up with choir budgets larger than those managed by the parish's committee. This is not God's will. Some will understand this immediately because it was given to them, others later and some will never understand because not seeking God, he will deliver them to their own inclinations.

### **Bible references:**

**Leviticus 8.12** *Il répandit de l'huile d'onction sur la tête d'Aaron, et l'oignit, afin de la sanctifier.*

**1 Samuel 10.1** *Then Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?*

**Leviticus 21.12** *Neither shall he go out of the sanctuary, nor profane the sanctuary of his God; for the crown of the anointing oil of his God is upon him; I am the Lord.*

**Luke 20.24** *Shew me a penny. Whose image and superinscription hath it? They answered and said, caesar's.*

**Psalms 81.12** *So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust; and they walked in their own counsels.*

## **13. Discipline**

Singers must join hands processions. We pray the singers not to delay the processions entering and outing the temple. As starters, they must bow to give glory to God and go to the choir. Some voluntarily linger

and thereby not only delay the exit or entry but also put on a show in front of the congregation. Do not confuse between worship of God and a group of friends. For the procession of the end, the singers turn towards the imaginary centerline delineating the temple to get back in front of the altar. When distributing fruits and candies, it is best to leave the "best" to sympathizers, children, elderly and respect to the elders of the church.

A chorister (instrumentalist or other) cannot enter into the temple during prayers and equipment must be installed before the service. The service is not the time to settle a guitar or any instrument and especially not during prayers. Settings, which are not essential for the service success, should be avoided. A service takes place every Sunday; a guitar is more or less not alarming during a worship.

May the Lord give his glory to those who want to put order in his Church even if they are being persecuted by their own brothers. Whispers and other chatters are prohibited. Let even the Bible be hardly asked to a neighbor because everyone must have his own. Choir location is exposed to all the faithful as well as those on the high altar. The choir must be a model in all things. It is allowed to boast in the Lord. It is very difficult for a choir to keep a certain silence, that's why it can boast about the way the Lord works with them by putting an ironclad discipline. Mobile phones must be turned off during the service. Processions must be done according to a military rigor associated with angelic rhythm. For outings, it is one person at once if any urge. However, there is no restriction for pregnant women, people with incontinence and other exceptions. Note however that the driver cannot leave the service at the end because is prepared on that. From primary school, children are taught to avoid going to the bathroom out of breaks, so it is abnormal that every Sunday, singers go out because they did not want to make arrangements before. Too heavy breakfasts do not help. Since it is forbidden to drink water in the temple during the service, nothing prevents going to the toilet if we are prepared.

During worship, everyone should bow down. This mainly concerns instrumentalists because it is easy for humans to let go. The singers

must not use their notebooks or booklets during worship; it is a lack of seriousness and commitment. If the choirmaster esteems during rehearsals that his singers do not know the hymn, it makes sense not to propose it during worship. The program is planned in advance, everyone should take his or her own responsibility.

For hymns' reminders, only the choirmaster or authorized persons can. Except during thanksgiving, do not add words to the hymns as do some congregations.

## **E. OPENING & PRIESTLY OUTFITS**

## 1. Priestly outfits

Everything must be uniformed. T-shirts must be white and clean if they are seen out of cassocks. If some singers wear socks, they must be white and clean. The offense to God is to wear a black dress inside the cassock. Let's not take curses for so little. May singers be careful and not wear transparent cassocks. They must also avoid wearing only underwear. They must combine top shirt and pants or down skirts. They must also ensure that the pants or other clothes do not overflow. All buttons should be closed and let no predecessor forget his strap. For the strap, no "anointed" chorister can attend rehearsals without strap. Wearing the strap is mandatory when wearing his cassock. Of course, a visionary cannot wear a strap from another class and vice versa. The choirmaster and his advisers must ensure that women do not go up with make-up. People with foot chains, sunglasses or fantasies, piercings and others should not go up. The earrings must be sober and reflected outside a Christian who worships. Similarly, men with earrings or extravagant hairstyles do not go up. Tattoos are not allowed by God but cannot be removed, the people who have them cannot be forbidden to climb to the choir. It is important not to exercise favoritism or disregard of rank or age. If anyone wants to be honored, let him comply with the regulation. God is not attracted by a well-disguised and sophisticated woman but with a purified heart by faith. Therefore, a backup singer may have his wedding ring, his watch, his medical glasses, small earrings for women and necklaces with crucifixes. Other jewelry should be removed before mounting the choir.

It is asked to choir members to hold their microphones "correctly". Unfortunately, many mimic world artists in holding their microphones. Do not add words to the hymns as do some other Christian congregations. If this is done, it must be only in praise time that such freedom is allowed, but even in this freedom let personal names be not

pronounced as to honor them or encourage them to do certain things. Please, let's not add too much in the voice intonations. A hymn just sung by a beautiful voice pleases God and men. Some like to add "leavening" in their voices as to seduce men. Another important point is not to sing in male-female duet followed by other singers. This kind of duet is not a fit for God's choir. Let everyone remain in the dress code during worship to the glory of God.

During the harvest festival, which is a spiritual feast, announcing the accounts we will be giving to the Lord, women should not wear makeup. Similarly outfits for men and women must be correct; clean, hiding the whole chest, with sleeves for the ups and below the knees for women. We need to understand the message of Christ. At the end of the world, men will not take women and rejoicing will be spiritual. Do not denature the church from the revelation we have received by transforming spiritual festivals in worldly entertainment. However, some because of their power walk after their own will. Some like to compare their gifts. Please, let choirs not compare themselves. Everybody sings to the glory of God the best he or she can. Let us not forget that a choir is a group of God's worshipers. So would compare to wonder who loves best, which would be impossible for who can know what there's in the heart of man? Of course, a choir competition is not welcome in a spiritual because God is the only judge. It is normal to prefer a choir to another but choirs do not rent as part of a competition between them.

**Bible references:**

*Titus 2.3* The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things.

*1 Timothy 2.9* In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety, not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

*1 Peter 3.3* Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

## 2. Chorister's dressing code

The chorister's dressing code consists of: - A large white surplice lined with blue sleeve at the elbow for the choirmaster. If the choirmaster has an assistant, he will have no special outfit. – a great blue surplice lined with yellow sleeve at the elbow to the discipline master. This function is unique, in other words there may be many people with this outfit. - A yellow bounded blue cape for other singers. Do not add to these outfits' rhinestones, glitter, sequins or other decorative elements. Some consider that these outfits in addition are good for spiritual celebrations. Carefully consider the will of God, we are a revealed church. They are neither good for all celebrations days nor for ordinary days. Everybody should be aware of that, in case someone would like to offer a gift, let him do so in respect of the Lord's will. Can a celestial Christian wear red because it was offered? Should the Pasteur wear shoes just because they were offered by a volunteer? God prohibits and provides exceptions apart from these when they are people, there is no possibility. The chorister's surplice should only be worn during Sabbath day, the first Thursday of the month, worship in commemoration of Virgin Mary visitation to the Prophet-Founder and Christmas services and New Year.

By the end of the service, the choir must take off their clothes and give them to the proper authorities. It should be cleaned every week after use. There is the person who takes care of ensuring that it is always sanctified when it enters in contact with them and that they are kept in a suitable place. If washed in a washing machine, they are not mixed with other clothes.

For predecessors with a surplice, they should not wear them when they are in the choir. If in service, a choir member is being asked to preach, to read or to lead offering time, he must do it with his surplice. It is important for choristers to be requested for other tasks such as reading, leading and offering time, so they do not "cut" of from others. If a chorister must lead worship, he must do it without his chorister's outfits and dress according to his grade. The choirmaster must be



informed of this before, in order to provide a replacement if necessary.

Besides the outfits mentioned above, there are others that are used in some parishes but have not been revealed in the time of the founding pastor. Were there new revelations or is it human intelligence? In addition, it is possible that future generations make other additions. It would not be surprising to have in a century lace capes or colors like green. We will mention some new outfits for singers:

- White cape bounded blue
- White with yellow surplice

### **3. Recording concerts & other**

Spreading God message uses all means to reach men. Concerts or performances must be periodically recorded and put on the Internet to bring people to consider God's greatness. It is advisable to do it at least once every three months. The choirmaster and his assistants, in collaboration with the Committee President will undertake to organize concerts to "bring life" in the parish and to unveil the beauty of our hymns to sympathizers. This is an opportunity to invite other congregations. Of course, with some exhortations ... Never neglect this aspect.

### **4. Moving the choir**

This option is still considered by singers. Within a month, they should be able to do a concert of two hours or lead a prayer vigil or an evangelistic campaign. Of course, any departure of the choir is in agreement with the parish committee.

For any other outing of the choir or in a public place or in a chorister's house, it is requested to remain within the framework of

building up the body of Christ. Otherwise, it is not a choir outing but a friends meeting, though initiated by the choirmaster. Animations of weddings, funerals, traditional or other celebrations in houses, streets and theaters are prohibited except with the permission of the head of the parish after consulting the chief diocese and chairman of the NDC. The first will take care to see compliance with the revelation of the Lord and the second with administrative or political authorities of the place or country. In some countries, requests should be made for gatherings in the streets; considering also the noise that this may cause. Complaints are filed against the church and not against an individual, so take this recommendation seriously. Celestial church of Christ does not need to be known of the State authorities by such acts. Any financing purchase must be seen with the parish committee.

## **5. The monthly praise**

Once a month, singers will record hymns for 1h30 or 2 hours after service. Let it be a moment of intense praise and not of worldly celebrations. This will be done in an annex room and announced by the secretary to the parishioners who are interested. Praise will be recorded and put online to encourage pagans to join us worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ who owns equally with the Father and the Holy Spirit, praise, glory and adoration.

## **ANNEX: Easter Sample Program**

### **Monday: The 3 seasons of Jehovah**

(1) Easter (2) Pentecost (3) Harvest Festival. (1) New birth into the kingdom of the Lord - The Passover meal (2) Life of the Spirit and Faith, (3) Parousia and entrance into eternal glory. The three main and highly spiritual festivals in Celestial Church of Christ.

#### **Hosanna**

### **Tuesday: Three powerful arrows of Satan against man**

(1) Lucifer: Pride, search for power, vainglory and human desire for recognition (positions' race, titles without works, ostentatious jewelry, makeup) - A cure in the CCC: the kneeling prayer, cassock`s uniformity, cassock`s simplicity and recognition of the social authority but not theocratic.

(2) Astarte: Sexual sin, fornication, adultery - A remedy in the CCC: sanctification service and sanctification of body requirement to curb lust.

(3) Mammon: love of money, possession, thirst for material goods - A remedy in CCC: tithes, offerings and community meals.

#### **Hosanna**

### **Wednesday: The crucifixion of the Lamb of God for mankind**

Original sin (Adam and Eve), individual sin, cross implication (God's altar), implication of the body of Christ (Lamb of God), Importance of the blood of the lamb (No forgiveness without bloodshed), Failure statutes and ordinances revealed by the Lord in the CCC (wearing red and black, consumption of pork, alcohol, ...).

#### **Hosanna**

### **Thursday: The gift of God, the Incarnate Word**

Human composition: body, soul and spirit.

Body gift through bread; Blood Donation (soul) through the cup; gift of the soul (and spirit) through the Holy Spirit. True love, separation

from the earth and the entire sacrifice for those who hate us.

Commemoration of Easter feast and Pentecost in CCC.

## **Hosanna**

### **Friday: strength against the power of the enemy**

Needed Strength to face hell (Friday to Saturday), power of deliverance, Body and worship sanctification (24h, 72h, uncleanness, red, black, pork) and spiritual (the consciousness of the heart) - A remedy in CCC: worship of strength and sanctification, prayer vigils, frequent bathing of sanctification.

## **Hallelujah**

### **Saturday: endurance in spiritual warfare**

Violent in God (boldness in the faith), life sacrifice (fasting, prayers), the choice of a life of rigour (away from distraction and comfort), commitment in God's work (preaching, vision, praise), remove shoes (bad attachments), gird the strap (building strength in the body of Christ and destruction of satan's kingdom), offensive weapons (for salvation and evangelism) and defensive weapons (against witchcraft and others) - A remedy in the CCC: the convent and numerous services.

## **Hallelujah**

### **Sunday: The kingdom of heaven**

The 3 rests of the Lord (the rest of 7th day of creation, the rest of the Promised Land with Joshua, the rest of the 8th day Sabbath of the Lord or symbol of eternal life) - The kingdom entry or symbolism of child's output (circumcision of heart and rest of God) in the CCC; the importance of respecting trappings clothing of the Sabbath (reflection of heavenly glory). Example with Moses (3 phases of his life: 0-40 years or pagan life, from 40 to 80 years or sanctification through hardness of life, 80 to 120 or the entrance into the kingdom, the struggles in the kingdom, the fullness acquired on earth.

## **Hallelujah**

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