

**RULE OF OUR MOST HOLY
SAVIOUR: AND THE ADDITIONS
OF THE MONASTERY OF SAINT
SAVIOUR AND ST. BRIDGET OF
SYON**

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Rule of our most holy Saviour: and the additions of the Monastery of Saint Saviour and St. Bridget of Syon by Various

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VARIOUS

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AND THE ADDITIONS

OF

THE MONASTERY OF SAINT SAVIOUR
AND ST. BRIDGET OF SYON. . . .

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THE LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND THE
LIBRARY OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, FOR THE SAME
MONASTERY OF SYON.

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NIHIL OBSTAT.

F. THOS. BERGH, O.S.B.,
Censor Deputatus.

IMPRIMATUR.

✠ JOHN, BISHOP OF PLYMOUTH.

May 25th, 1914.

We approve the issue of this Rule for Syon Abbey with two modifications : that Syon Abbey is only a House for Nuns and that its Confessors are appointed according to the common law of the Church.

✠ JOHN, BISHOP OF PLYMOUTH.

By Command of His Lordship the Bishop,

May 25th, 1914.

PATRICK BARRETT, Secretary.

CONFIRMATION.

BULL OF POPE URBAN VI., BY WHICH HE CONFIRMETH THE RULE OF
ST. SAVIOUR OF THE MONASTERY OF SAINT BRIDGET.

Urban, Servant of the Servants of God, in perpetual memory :

We willingly, and for life, give permission to effect things prudently ordered. Pope Gregory VIII., our predecessor, was asked and humbly begged in the name of Dame Catherine, his daughter, to deign of his grace to confirm and approve these said Constitutions, foundation, building and endowment. Which Gregory above-mentioned ordered certain Priests, Clerks to the Holy Apostolic See, to examine the Constitutions under-mentioned, and also to enquire into the foundation and endowment : of which information they had to make a faithful report ; but before the final information was obtained, this same Gregory VIII., by the Divine Will, passed from this to a better life, and after that, the said daughter Catherine humbly begged that it would please us to confirm and approve by our chief authority the said foundation, building and endowment. For this end we have ordered, by Letters Patent, addressed to our dear brother Elzear, Priest and Cardinal of the Title of Saint Balbino, that he should diligently examine this aforesaid Constitution, foundation, building and endowment, and in the event of his finding the said Monastery reasonably founded, finally endowed, and sufficiently built, and the under-named Constitutions true, right and reasonable, he should admit and approve this foundation, building, and endowment, and declare and manifest the Constitutions to be just and reasonable.

Following on that order, the Cardinal Elzear, having taken wise counsel, and received final information of the aforesaid things, with other Cardinals, his brethren, Rectors of the Roman Church, and other Priests, Masters and Doctors of Holy Theology, and having approved and confirmed the said building and endowment, declared the under-named Constitutions to be just and reasonable, and that there was nothing in them to hinder or contradict the final orders, as he hath declared in certain letters on this matter, sent and sealed with his Cardinal's seal, in which are contained word for word the same Constitutions, which contents we have caused to be inserted in their entirety.

Wherefore, the above-named daughter hath humbly begged us to have this approbation, confirmation and declaration, made by the Cardinal, confirmed by our knowledge and special grace through

CONFIRMATION.

Apostolic Authority: to which we, willingly inclining, have confirmed, and do confirm, establish and approve, the aforesaid approbation, confirmation and declaration made by the aforesaid Cardinal Elzear, and, in addition, all that is contained in his letters, as shown by these present letters under our power as Pope. Let not anyone then upset this writing of our confirmation, or in rash boldness go contrary to it. For, if anyone should do this, let him know that he will incur the indignation of Almighty God, and His Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul.

Given at Rome on the Fiber, the 3rd December, the first year of our Pontificate.

RULE OF OUR MOST HOLY SAVIOUR.

THE SYON ADDITIONS.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE HOLDING OF THE CHAPTER, AND HOW FAULTS SHALL BE
PROCLAIMED AND AMENDED, AND OF THE MANNER OF TAKING
PENANCE.

FORASMUCH as we all offend in many things, it is needful that in many wise we be corrected therefor. Wherefore when the ordinary Chapter is held, the President shall come so thereto, that she may correct the faults of the Lay Sisters before the Choir Sisters come, they being there before and abiding her. And this Chapter shall be held with the same observance as the Choir Sisters' Chapter, except the reading. And if any more grievous fault be proclaimed in the Chapter, it shall be judged and corrected when the Choir Sisters are come. When, therefore, they come to their seats in the Chapter House, they shall incline religiously to the Majesty, and after, they shall incline a little to those between whom they shall sit.

If the Abbess hold the Chapter, all shall rise when she cometh, and as she goeth before them they shall incline. To another President they shall arise, but not incline. After this, when the President sayeth "Benedicite," they, bowing down somewhat their heads, shall answer: "Dominus," and when the President hath said: "Loquamur de ordine nostro," all that feel themselves guilty in any open fault, little or much, shall fall down prostrate before the President. To whom the President shall say: "Quid dicitis?" ("What say ye?") And then all they so prostrate shall answer, as it were with one voice: "Mea culpa." To whom the President shall say again: "Surgite!" ("Rise up!") And then forthwith they shall rise up and stand before the President in order, the eldest in the midst, who, inclining, shall acknowledge her faults, and after her every one of them do likewise in her order, saying their faults compendiously, plainly, audibly, that they may be clearly heard of all there, and also promise amendment.