

Statutes of the **BROTHER RUFIN.COM** Association

(Developed in accordance with the requirements of the Extraordinary General
Assembly of 14 June 2012)

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A private association governed by the French Law of July 1, 1901 is founded between the members in the present statutes, which are the following :

TITLE I – NAME – OBJECTIVE – SPIRIT – MEANS OF ACTION

Article 1 : Name

The name of the association is: “BROTHER RUFIN.COM Association”, or “BROTHER RUFIN.COM” for short

Article 2 : Headquarters

Its headquarters are in Caen, France, (14000), 64, Eustache Restout Street.

Article 3 : Duration

The association’s duration is unlimited.

Article 4 : Objective

Recalling beforehand :

- That the Very Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God, speaks to humanity in these terms: "Do whatever he tells you",
- That the Sower of the Gospel who goes out to sow, may spread the grain in profusion,
- He is blessed the servant who gives tribute to the Lord of all his goods,

the association’s goal is to make the Very Holy Trinity known and loved, that is to say God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, in the immediate vicinity of the association members and « to the ends of the earth », through the intercession of the Very Holy Virgin Mary, mediator of all graces.

Article 5 : Animating spirit which must inspire all action

All the means implemented to reach the aforementioned objective must deliver on both these imperatives :

- To be faithful to the Gospel of Christ.
- To conform to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

Finally, missionary activity as well as relationships between association members must be driven by the virtues dear to the heart of Saint Francis of Assisi: Peace and Joy.

Article 6 : Means of action

The association’s principle means of action represent the response to the often repeated exhortation of Pope Saint John-Paul II, that is to say that Christians must invest in

modern means of communication in order to announce the Gospel. The Brother Rufin.com association will thus encourage the use of these means of communication, without the need here to make a comprehensive list, given the continual evolution of technology.

Aware that the means of social communication alone are not sufficient to create true human relationships, the association members, whatever their degree of membership and responsibility, will have at heart to inspire an authentic human brotherhood wherever they carry the message of the Gospel.

TITLE II – ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Article 7 : Nationality and spiritual affiliation

Although the association is subject to French Law on the civil side, any natural person at least eighteen years of age can join the association, whatever the nationality and country of residence.

We understand, given the name of the association, that it refers to Franciscan spirituality in all its dimensions and components; indeed, Brother Rufin is one of the first of Saint Francis of Assisi's companions. However, it is not necessary to belong to one of the branches of the Franciscan family to belong to the present association.

Article 8 : Levels of membership

The association is made up of members who, having adhered to the present statutes, choose explicitly to adhere to one or several of the three following levels, while clarifying that the choice of the second or third level implies the simultaneous commitment to the preceding level(s):

1) First level members commit to :

- In your own words, pray daily and fervently that the Very Holy Trinity be known and loved worldwide, or pray in the following way: "Oh very holy Virgin Mary, intercede for us and ask your divine Son for the conversion of the world to his Sacred-Heart. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who appeal to you."
- Love God and your neighbor, in the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2) Second level members commit to :

- Spread the Gospel through actions, "exuding the perfume of Christ" (acts of charity, organized social action...).

- At least once a year, participate in training or continuing education in one of the foundations of the Christian faith and/or on a text of the Pope or the Magisterium of the Church (Encyclicals, Apostolic Exhortations, ...)

3) Third level members commit to :

- Make God the Trinity known and loved throughout the entire world, using in particular modern means of communication.
- Create a meeting and understanding between people through study groups on faith, or by creating a Franciscan Community, or by any other action respectful of the free will of everyone...

Article 9 : Enrollment Procedures

The membership application may take the following forms:

- A written application corresponding to the model present on the association's site, and sent by mail to the association headquarters.
- Online enrollment available on the association's site.

Article 10 : Dues

All members of the association are required to pay annual dues. The amount is equal to the smallest unit (other than cents) of the member's currency (for example: 1€, \$1...).

However, because the association is open to members of all nationalities, it may be that the financial cost inherent to the eventual exchange of the membership dues to the French currency, as well as the cost of getting those dues to the association headquarters, exceed the amount of the annual contribution itself. It is then possible for any member to pay his dues, on his honor, to a charity of his choice, in which case, he is required to inform the association.

Article 11 : Loss of membership

Membership is lost through resignation, death, violation of the association's objectives and nonpayment of annual dues (or because of nonpayment according to the dispositions mentioned in the preceding article).

TITLE III – ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 12 : Election procedures, number and eligibility of members of the governing council

The association is administered by a council composed of at least three members and a maximum of twenty-four, elected by secret ballot by the General Assembly, among the second and third level members as defined in article 9 of the present statutes.

All new candidates in the election must submit a written request to the governing council at least one month before the General Assembly which must then proceed with the aforementioned election. In order to apply for a position on the governing council, he/she must, in addition, belong to one of the two levels required in the present statutes.

In the event of a vacancy, the governing council provides a provisional replacement of its members. The definitive replacement is decided at the next General Assembly. The power of the members thus elected end with the expiration of the term of office of the original elected member.

The renewal of the council takes place every two years.

The outgoing members are eligible for re-election.

The governing council appoints from among its members an Executive Board, composed of at minimum a president, secretary and treasurer.

The governing council must elect the members of the Executive Board in the two weeks which follow the election of the governing council by the General Assembly.

Article 13 : Council meeting

The governing council meets at least once a year. The meeting is convened by the president or if a quarter of its members make the request. It can be held by videoconference or by any other means of communication permitting all the members to meet without having to go to the same place. In this case, the means used must permit each person to have their say and to indicate their vote on the resolutions which are on the agenda.

At least a third of the governing council members must be present for the validity of the deliberations.

The minutes of the meetings will be written and then signed by the president and the secretary ; they will be listed in the official register under a registration number and initialed by the association's president.

Decisions are taken by the majority of votes of the members present voting in their own name and/or as a representative of an absent member. Only members present in person are taken into account for the calculation of the quorum of presence.

In case of a tie, the president's vote decides the outcome.

Article 14 : Volunteer only members

The association members may not receive any remuneration for the functions they are called on to do.

They may, however, obtain reimbursement for expenses incurred for the needs of the association, on presentation of supporting documents, and within the limits of the financial capacity of the association.

Article 15 : The Powers of the council

The governing council is invested with all the powers necessary to authorize acts which are not limited to the General Assembly; such as – and this list is not exhaustive - :

- It controls the management of its Executive Board, which if required, must account for its actions. In particular, it shall ensure that the association's objectives and spirit which animate it are respected and concretely implemented by the Executive Board.
- It can designate one or several delegates, with all the necessary powers, to settle a specific question and in a limited lapse of time. It can in particular establish, or have the Executive Board establish, *ad hoc* committees permitting it to ensure that the different messages diffused by the third level members through the means of social communication, are indeed in accordance with the purpose and spirit of the association (cf. art. 4 and 5 of the present statutes).
- It authorizes purchases, transfers or renting, borrowing and lending necessary to the operation of the association, with or without mortgage.
- It can, in exceptional circumstances of infringement of the association's objectives and/or disregard of its animating spirit by a member, remove the aforesaid member from the association.

Article 16 : Role of the Executive Board members

The role of the Executive Board members is first of all to lead the association according to its purpose, with the spirit which animates it. To do this, it implements the decisions of the governing council. The Executive Board, with at its head the president, is accountable to the competent ecclesiastical authority for every action of the association.

President : The president convenes the General Assembly and the meetings of the governing council. He represents the association in all its activities in civilian life and is invested with all the powers to this effect. He is in particular authorized to be a party to legal proceedings in the name of the association as defendant and as applicant, even when he delegates his powers. In case of absence or sickness, he is replaced by the vice-president, and in case of his absence, by the longest standing member, or by any other administrator specially designated by the council.

Secretary: The secretary is responsible for everything concerning correspondence and archives. He drafts the minutes of the proceedings and ensures their recording in the registers.

He keeps the special register, prescribed by law, and ensures the fulfillment of the stipulated formalities. He keeps the attendance register during the meeting of the assembly and guarantees the perfect conformity of the votes, including those sent by correspondence, online or by any other means. In this case, the secretary is assisted by two scrutineers elected at the beginning of the General Assembly.

Treasurer: The treasurer is in charge of the asset management of the association. He makes all payments and collects all takings under the president's supervision. He regularly maintains the accounting records, from day to day, of all the operations, and reports to the annual General Assembly, which decides on the management.

Article 17 : Tenure of office of the Executive Board members

The members of the Executive Board are elected for one year, i.e. the lapse of time between two ordinary annual General Assemblies, even if the aforesaid year does not contain exactly three hundred and sixty-five days. The Executive Board members are eligible to be re-elected, with no limit on the number of terms of office.

TITLE IV – ASSEMBLIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 18 : Provisions common to every type of assembly : agenda, convocations, member voters

The agenda is decided by the governing council.

Notice of meetings is sent out by all methods at least fifteen days before the meeting ; they must indicate the agenda as well as the draft resolutions. The new memberships received between the date of convocation and the date of the earliest General Assembly cannot be taken into account until the day following the General Assembly.

The General Assembly of the association includes active members belonging to any level, each member having one vote.

Each member may be duly represented at the General Assembly by his spouse or another member, provided they have written authorization; the so-called proxy member must be present in person at the assembly. The meeting can be held by videoconference or by any other means of communication permitting all the members to meet without having to go to the same place. In this case, the means used must permit each person to have their say and to indicate their vote on the resolutions which are on the agenda in a way which ensures the confidentiality of the aforementioned vote.

Article 19 : Ordinary General Assembly

It meets at least once a year ; it is convened by the president or at the request of at least a quarter of the members of the governing council.

It hears the activity report of the governing council and the treasurer's report. It approves the annual accounts, votes on the budget for the following year, where appropriate, and decides, if necessary, on the renewal of the members of the Executive Board.

It confers on the Executive Board or on certain members of the board, all the necessary authorizations to carry out acts corresponding to the association's objectives not provided for by the present statutes.

No quorum is required for the validity of the deliberations of the ordinary assembly.

All the annual General Assembly's deliberations shall be adopted by a show of hands and/or by correspondence and/or by online voting, by an absolute majority of the members present or duly represented.

In case of a tie, the president of the Executive Board has the deciding vote. An attendance register must be provided and signed by all members present; it will then be certified by the members of the Executive Board.

Article 20 : Extraordinary Assembly

The Extraordinary General Assembly shall rule on any changes to the statutes. It can also decide the dissolution of the association, the allocation of its assets, and a merger with any association having the same objectives.

Such an Assembly must have a quorum of a third of the active members at the time of the first meeting, and in the case where there is no quorum, a tenth of the active members at a second meeting.

One has the duty to rule when there is a majority of three-fourths of the votes of members present or duly represented.

An attendance register must be kept and signed by the members present ; it is then certified by the Executive Board members.

Notice of meeting must be sent by mail or email, requiring acknowledgement of receipt.

Article 21 : The minutes

The minutes of the association's deliberations will be transcribed by the secretary into a register, and signed by the president and a member of the Executive Board who is present.

Article 22 : Dissolution

The dissolution of the association can only be made by the General Assembly, convened especially to that effect and ruling on the conditions of the quorum and the majority stipulated for the Extraordinary Assemblies.

The General Assembly will designate one or several commissioners to be entrusted with the liquidation of the association's assets of which it will remain responsible.

It will award the net asset to any association of its choice, having similar objectives.

Article 23 : Formalities

The president, in the name of the governing council, is responsible for fulfilling or having fulfilled all the formalities of declaration and publication required by the legislation that applies. Exclusive power is given to the bearer of the present formalities for their application.

In Caen, June 14, 2012