

Statutes of the Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Health

Masihgarh, Okhla, New Delhi - 110025



*Most Rev. Anil J.T. Couto
Archbishop of Delhi*



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Rev. Fr. George Manimala
Parish Priest
Shrine of Our Lady of Health
Mashigarh, Okhla
New Delhi- 110 025

Sub: Decree
**Approval of Statutes of the Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of
Health, Mashigarh, Okhla, New Delhi**

Dear Rev. Fr. George Manimala,

In response to your request which you had formally made to me through your letter dated 17 August, 2019 to **“Kindly study the statutes prepared for the shrine and approve the statutes after having made changes, if necessary”**. I am happy to communicate to you that **“The Statutes of the Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Health, Mashigarh, Okhla, Delhi”**, have been studied and reviewed under my authority and I, with this decree, in quality of competent Ordinary, happily and formally approve them and herewith decree that they shall begin to be effective from the 8th of September, 2019, the Feast of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, not with standing anything to the contrary.

I am hopeful that with these statutes which clearly outline the purpose, the authority of the rector, the liturgical requirements and observances, the ownership and administration of goods, the overall administration of the shrine will benefit from a greater degree of co-responsibility and collaboration from all the concerned councils, committees, associations and parishes of the Archdiocese of Delhi and thereby render the shrine a preferred Marian Centre of prayer and pilgrimage in the Archdiocese of Delhi.

I earnestly pray to God that with the means of sanctification and reconciliation offered to the pilgrims at the shrine, many more men and women under the maternal mantle of Mother Mary may come closer to Christ and believe in His Gospel and produce fruits of conversion in their lives through the power of the Holy Spirit and experience wholesome health in body, mind and soul.

With humble prayers and copious blessings,

I remain,

Sincerely your in Christ,



+ *Anil Couto*
(+Anil Couto)

Archbishop of Delhi

Given at Archbishop's House, 1 Ashok Place, New Delhi on the 2nd day of the month of September in the year of the Lord 2019



THE STATUTES OF ARCHDIOCESAN **SHRINE OUR LADY OF HEALTH**

Masihgarh, Okhla, New Delhi 110025

Preamble

Shrines are an integral part of the life of the Church. Canon 1230 of the Code of Canon Law states, “The term shrine means a church or other sacred place which, with the approval of the local Ordinary, is by reason of special devotion frequented by the faithful as pilgrims.”

The Code adds further that “The local ordinary is competent to approve the statutes of a diocesan shrine” (Can 1232 §1) and “The statutes of a shrine are to determine especially the purpose, the authority of the rector, and the ownership and administration of goods” (Can 1232 §2).

The primary characteristic of a shrine is being a place of pilgrimage. As such, pilgrimages/visits to shrines help us deepen our life of prayer, resolve to repentance and practice of love of neighbor. Moreover, “Pilgrimages,” as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops clearly explicates in its norms for designation of national shrines, “remind us that the journey we take to a place of special devotion designated as a shrine mirrors the journey on which we are embarked as the pilgrim people of God, for the Church on earth is a pilgrim Church (*Lumen Gentium* VII, 48-51).”¹

1 <http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/policies/norms-for-national-shrines.cfm>, accessed on 21 Aug 2019.

Saint Paul VI, favoring the cherished Catholic tradition of frequenting shrines, described pilgrimage as “the expression, the occasion, and, as it were, the synthesis of all [our penitential] practices, which have as their crown the celebration of the Eucharist.” For him, besides prayer and penance, the mark of a pilgrimage must be “the practice of love of neighbor. For that is a clear proof of love for God and it must be expressed in spiritual and corporal works of mercy towards those most in need” (*Iniziandosi ufficialmente*, 31 May 1973, AAS 65, 1973).²

Christian spirituality, thus, is distinguished by the disciple’s commitment to become conformed ever more fully to his/her Master (Rom 8:29; Phil 3:10,12), and “Since Mary is of all creatures the one most conformed to Jesus Christ, it follows that among all devotions that which most consecrates and conforms a soul to our Lord is devotion to Mary” (Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Letter “*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*”, 16 October 2002, n. 15). Pilgrimages to Marian Shrines is an eminent expression of such devotion.

I. Origin

1. The Shrine of Our Lady of Health, Masihgarh, Okhla takes its origin from the image of Our Lady of Health, enthroned in the Shrine Chapel within the parish Church. The present parish church was built during the time of Archbishop Angelo Innocent Fernandes. He had converted the old St. Joseph’s Church into the Shrine of Our Lady of Health and declared it a pilgrim centre in the Archdiocese of Delhi open to all people.
2. Ever since its dedication in 1972, the Marian Shrine at Masihgarh became a great source of healing, peace and consolation for people of all walks of life. Moreover, the Image of Our Lady of Health has, since its installation, attracted parishioners and others to seek assistance in their problems, restoration of health when sick, and the

grace to lead a renewed life through the intercession and intervention of Mother Mary. The pilgrims are also reminded that they themselves are called to be instruments of God's healing touch to others.

3. The veneration of this specific sacred image is one of the elements of an authentic form of devotion to Our Lord. An essential requirement of the devotion is the demand of the Lord for the ministry of healing to others through forgiveness, particularly through the sacraments of reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.
4. The Chapel presently housing the venerated sacred image of Our Lady of Health was liturgically blessed and solemnly inaugurated on 28th May, 2017 by His Grace Most Rev. Anil J. T. Couto, Archbishop of Delhi. That day a perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was officiated. Since then, the Shrine Chapel serves both as a place of prayer and adoration, as well as, a sacred space for offering thanksgiving to God for the many and significant graces people have received, particularly for the graces attributed to their trustful veneration of the sacred image of Our Lady of Health.

II. The Purpose of the Shrine is:

1. To help the Church profess, proclaim and promote the glory and honour of God, who is rich in His mercy and healing power and find His favour of healing through the intercession of Blessed Mary;
2. To be a sign, and therefore an invitation, to the Faithful to meditate on and accept the eternal message of Christian salvation, as it springs from the reconciliation and holistic health by the grace of God;
3. To remind everyone of the need to promote spiritual health along with physical wellbeing by the symbolic sacred image venerated of Our Lady of Health, as also

by its inviting beauty, and by the spiritual, pastoral, and formative activity promoted therein;

4. To assist parishioners, pilgrims and visitors, in their striving for Christian perfection and holiness, by inspiring and encouraging the exercise of unbounded trust in God's healing power and Blessed Virgin Mary's intercession;
5. To profess and proclaim conversion to God which always consists in discovering or rediscovering His love, forgiveness and mercy, particularly through the ministry of the Word and the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist;
6. To be a special place where the Church will daily exercise its right and duty to appeal to the God of forgiveness, reconciliation and healing amid the many forms of evil which weigh upon humanity and threaten it, remembering especially the sick and the dying of the Archdiocese of Delhi and the neighbouring parishes of other dioceses, and those in the hospitals located within and around the parish.

III. Authority of the Rector

1. The Rector of the Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Health is the Parish Priest of the Church of Our Lady of Health, Masihgarh, Okhla, appointed by the Archbishop of Delhi. However, for the good of the Shrine and pilgrims, someone other than the parish priest may be appointed as Rector, in which case the competence of the Rector and that of the Parish Priest over the use of the Shrine premises and funds for the Shrine activities shall be outlined by the Archbishop of Delhi.
2. The Rector is to ensure that:
 - a. The Most Holy Eucharist and other spiritual and religious events are celebrated with dignity in the

Shrine in accordance with liturgical norms and the prescriptions of Canon Law;

- b. All obligations, such as celebration of masses, are faithfully fulfilled;
- c. Temporal goods are carefully and responsibly administered in cooperation with the Finance Committee of the Parish and the Management Committee of the Shrine appointed by the Archbishop of Delhi;
- d. Due care and step is taken towards the maintenance and good appearance of furnishings and building, as and when the need arises;
- e. Nothing whatever is done which, in any way, is out of harmony with or extraneous to the sanctity of the place and the reverence due to a house of God;
- f. Key liturgical events related to Marian devotion are observed, and in particular, the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary as the annual Day of commemoration is celebrated;
- g. Pilgrimages to the Shrine, as well as, renewal programmes at the Shrine are arranged in collaboration with the various associations and parishes of the Archdiocese.

IV. Ownership and Administration of Goods

1. The Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Health is the sole property of the Archdiocese of Delhi and the Archbishop of Delhi in quality of competent Ordinary is its ex-officio president. It is governed by the universal law of the Church and the statutes approved by the Archbishop of Delhi. In addition, provisions of Civil Law shall be observed in all those matters which are specified in the light of canon 22 of the Code of Canon Law.
2. The Shrine shall have a Rector, appointed by the Archbishop of Delhi: He shall (i) represent the Shrine

in all juridical matters; (ii) see to the maintenance of the Shrine; and (iii) supervise the pilgrimages to the Shrine and the functions of the Shrine.

3. Offerings given by the faithful to the Shrine for a definite purpose will be used only for that purpose. Donations given for the fulfillment of Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy will be distributed to the appropriate charity. Donations given for furnishings and Shrine maintenance will be used for that purpose only. All other offerings will be used for the general needs of the Shrine.
4. The Rector of the Shrine shall maintain a special book for Mass offerings, and shall accurately list the number of Holy Masses to be celebrated, the intentions, and the amount of the offering given. It is incumbent on the Rector to see to it that all Holy Mass obligations have been fulfilled.
5. An annual report, in keeping with canon 1287, on pastoral and financial activities shall be made by the Rector and submitted to the Archbishop of Delhi.

V. Liturgical Requirements³

1. The Shrine shall be a center for worthy and exemplary celebrations of the liturgy, especially celebrations of the Eucharist and penance (Can. 1234).
2. The sacrament of reconciliation should be available to the pilgrims all the time or at least some hours during the day at the Shrine. To this end, there must be enough confessionals in the premises of the Shrine.
3. The Rector and those who collaborate with him in administering the shrine are encouraged to develop and utilize some form of common prayer, such as the liturgy of

³ Adapted from the norms for designation of national shrines issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

the hours and celebrations of the Word of God (SC 35,4).

4. Liturgical and devotional celebrations should faithfully observe their respective norms and promote the active participation of the Christian faithful, with due consideration for associations that have been approved by the Church.
5. The various elements required for liturgical celebrations (altar, ambo, presidential chair) should be situated according to the requirements of the reformed liturgy (cf. GIRM, 295-318).
6. Great care must be given to the observance of the principal celebrations of the liturgical year and to the ministry of preaching, both in liturgical homilies and in connection with popular devotions.
7. A sufficient number of liturgical ministers should be available to provide adequate pastoral care of pilgrims, especially for various language groups.
8. To enhance active participation of the entire assembly of the faithful, liturgical worship should be accompanied by sacred music which “adds delight to prayer, fosters unity of minds, or confers greater solemnity upon the sacred rites” (SC 112).

VI. Privileges

“Certain privileges can be granted to shrines whenever local circumstances, the large number of pilgrims, and especially the good of the faithful would seem to make this advisable” (Can. 1233). The Archbishop of Delhi may grant such privileges like absolution of censures and special indulgences to the individuals and groups who visit and pray at the shrine; they may, however, derive spiritual good and benefit from such privileges only after fulfilling certain conditions and prescribed obligations.



SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF HEALTH

Mashigarh, Okhla, New Delhi- 110 025

September 8, 2019