

The Honourable Sôgmô Gaius Soergel Publicola

To all whom receive these benedictions, *Ave!*

WHEREAS the Collegium Sacerdotum, as the first Sandum coöperative, has a venerable history in our micronation and in the cultivation both of our national philosophy and national culture,

AND WHEREAS the Collegium Sacerdotum has laid down our national philosophy's category of *Sancta* that refers to the pluralism and multiculturalism inherent in our country as a whole,

AND WHEREAS the Collegium Sacerdotum has undertaken this work for the betterment of our socialist society and for the augmentation of our collective and individual welfare,

AND WHEREAS we recognise that the definition of our national philosophy and national culture is ever changing and comprising all citizens of the State of Sandus,

AND WHEREAS we aspire to live in a liberal and tolerant country in which all may live, without specificity or discrimination of religion or culture, with the realist truth of suffering and compassion that are at the heart of our philosophy having been attested and made clear and borne by all citizens,

AND WHEREAS we aspire to perpetuate the heritage and traditions of our predecessors who are joined to us in blood or in mind,

AND WHEREAS we recognise that the world that we make is our creation and that our mind precedes all things (*Dhammapada* 1:1-2),

NOW LET IT BE KNOWN that we, the Honourable Sôgmô Gaius Soergel Publicola, declare and ordain the following pursuant to a fundamental charter of this

Collegium Sacerdotum

SECTION 1 – THE COLLEGE & ITS CHARGE:

Article 1. The collegium is the national college of culture and cultural leisure of Sandum citizens in our socialist society.

Article 2. The collegium is charged with developing Sandum culture, being the focus of Sandum religious life, and developing a philosophical understanding in our citizens. The collegium's purview is explicitly culture, religion, and philosophy.

Article 3. The collegium represents the cultural, philosophical, and religious makeup of our citizens and the country's collective vision.

Article 4. The prerogative of the collegium and its priests is to increase the quality of life of all citizens insofar as that wellbeing is related to culture, religion, and philosophy.

Article 5. *Sancta* days are the purview of the Collegium Sacerdotum and are made to be representative of the cultural, religious, and philosophical identity of our citizens.

Article 6. As the inheritor of *Sancta*, the collegium is the ultimate arbiter and vanguard of the Sandum Philosophy, its definition, and its education; the collegium undertakes this charge together with the Central People's Government as a whole.

SECTION 2 – THE ORGANISATION OF THE COLLEGE:

Article 7. The Sôgmô is *ex officio* the leader of the Collegium Sacerdotum. Under the principle of "all power to the Sôgmô," þess position manages the college, decrees collegiate by-laws, officiates major rituals, and performs ceremonial functions. This position was formerly called the *Sacer Flamen*, but will henceforth be known as the *Flamen Minervalis*, recognising Athena's special role in Sandus as our matron.

Article 8. All members of the college, also called *sacerdotes*, are eligible to vote in a collegiate convocation, the equivalent to a general assembly. The convocation should be called upon to ratify significant collegiate by-laws and for important state events that are relevant to the college's purpose. The convocations may have other powers granted to it by the *Flamen Minervalis* in subsequent collegiate by-laws.

Article 9. The college is made up of sodalities (*sodalitates*) that are charged with specific functions or for servicing certain communities.

- a) The Collegium Sacerdotum includes, at the time of ratification, two sodalities: the Church of Sandus (ἡ Ἐκκλησία τῆς Σανδῆς) and the Sandum Sangha.
- b) The Collegium Sacerdotum will establish a new sodality, the *sodalitas sacris faciundis*, to oversee important state rituals that are necessary to be carried out under the charge and

care of the college. This sodality may enact special collegiate by-laws, with the assent of the *Flamen Minervalis*, that define and modify these important state rituals.

- c) Each sodality is semiautonomous, has its own charge, keeps a list of its own members (called *sodales*), and can determine its own by-laws that are applicable only to its sodality and to its members. No sodalic by-law may conflict with collegiate by-law.
- d) A sodality may recommend *Sancta* holidays to be included on the calendar of the State of Sandus and may organise festivities associated with the holiday.
- e) Public expenses arising from the celebration of holidays or from any special or common work of the sodality will be resolved by the members of the sodality, unless with the prior approval of the *Flamen Minervalis*. *Sodales* are encouraged to contribute what they can for to resolve the public expenses of the sodality.
- f) The *Flamen Minervalis* provides oversight of every sodality and ensures the smooth and consistent activity of each sodality. They may intervene to ensure good governance, activity of the sodality, and resolution of conflicts.
- g) The *Flamen Minervalis* may appoint *flamines* to oversee individual sodalities until a time when a sodality is large enough or its *sodales* are active enough to assume democratic governance of the sodality.

SECTION 3 – MEMBERSHIP IN THE COLLEGE:

Article 10. Members, which correspond to the rank of workers in other coöperatives, are *sacerdotes*. Membership is not restricted to Sandum citizens.

Article 11. *Flamines* are *sacerdotes* who oversee a *sodalitas* or who have been elevated to the position by the Sôgmô.

- a) Each *flamen* receives a distinct title depending on their worship and tradition, such as the Sôgmô (who is known as the *Flamen Minervalis*) or the leader of the church.
- b) A *flamen* who does not oversee a *sodalitas* has a certain charge which they oversee. For example, if a religious community is not large enough in Sandus to justify a *sodalitas*, a *flamen* may still be appointed to represent a religious tradition.

Article 12. *Flamines* are divided into *flamines maiores*, who are leaders of sodalities and Officers of State who are also made *flamines* by special by-law, and *flamines minores*, who have a certain charge to represent a particular religious, cultural, or philosophical tradition but who do not oversee a sodality.

Article 13. *Flamines maiores* are restricted to Sandum citizens, while *flamines minores* are not.

Article 14. The *Flamen Minervalis*, with the ratification of the collegiate convocation, may levy a requirement for activity in the college.

SECTION 4 – RECORDS AND HOLIDAYS UNDER THE COLLEGE’S CHARGE:

Article 15. The Collegium Sacerdotum maintains records of the following:

- a) Members, necessary characteristics of their identity (for census purposes), their membership in sodalities, their contributions or attendance in the college’s events; and any major life events celebrated ceremonially in Sandus;
- b) Sodalities, their members, their leadership and governance, their appropriate charge, a schedule of their future or ongoing events, and a list of their past events;
- c) Holidays particular to the college, known as “*Sancta* holidays,” that are religious, philosophical, or cultural in nature;
- d) Sacred spaces, altars, and sanctuaries dedicated or consecrated by and significant to Sandum citizens, members of the college, or recognised by a special by-law of the college;
- e) Any and all offerings, donations, or votives given by members of the college or Sandum citizens for or in the name of the college, its members, a Sandum citizen, or the State of Sandus;
- f) Any and all sacrificial or ritual acts made by members of the college or Sandum citizens as declared by the same;
- g) Any and all texts, religious items, or special rituals or ritual acts requested to be kept, documented, or archived by Sandum citizens, members of the college, or recognised by a special by-law of the college.

Article 16. Members of the college are encouraged to record their offerings, donations, votives, or sacrificial or ritual acts in the college’s records, but no penalty exists for failure to do so.

Article 17. The college maintains a blog, known as *Sacerdotium*, to publicise and to disseminate information related to the college’s records, events, and business. All members who are Sandum citizens should be granted permission to write on the blog, and members who are not Sandum citizens may also be granted permission. The college may decide how to govern and edit the blog.

Article 18. The college should maintain a list of significant *Sancta* holidays significant to the State of Sandus, its members, and Sandum citizens. The college, through its members, should organise and hold festivities on those holidays, as well as significant State holidays and Days of Recognition. The college may maintain a separate list of significant State holidays and Days of Recognition, though this is not directly under the college’s charge. The importance of holidays not being constant, the members or the *Flamen Minervalis* may decide to add or remove holidays from these lists as necessary.

The college and its members should encourage cultural leisure whenever and wherever possible.

SECTION 5 – CEREMONIES, RITUALS, RITES, AND SACRA:

Article 19. This charter envisions Sandum citizens enjoying a robust cultural, religious, and philosophic life in Sandus that is based on tradition and self-determination. To this end, this charter envisions and claims as important Sandum patrimony certain special rituals and ritual acts that can be defined and modified by by-laws.

Article 20. The college, through its sodalities with the appropriate charge, will undertake defining and creating secular, religious, and spiritual ceremonies that are appropriate for the State of Sandus according to collegiate and sodalic by-laws.

- a) A rite (from *ritus*), for the purpose of this charter, is a prescribed custom that relates to religious and/or spiritual tradition, or (rarely) a secular tradition inspired and motivated by philosophic or metaphysical intent.
A ritual is a singular iterative event that reflects a rite.
- b) Ceremonies, despite also being iterative, may not be representative of a rite or a larger tradition and are equally religious, spiritual, philosophical, and secular.
- c) A *sacrum*, or *sacra* in the plural, are rituals that pertain to *Sancta* culture in the State of Sandus and are defined by the *sodalitas sacris faciundis*.

Article 21. Recognising the existing honours of a *commendatio* and an *ovatio* as they currently exist in the Sandum system of honours, this charter envisions the college, through the *sodalitas sacris faciundis*, working with the Sôgmô in planning, drafting, and bestowing *commendationes* and *ovationes* insofar as is necessary or proper for the college to be involved.

WHEREBY we, the Honourable Sôgmô Gaius Soergel Publicola, have so made these letters patent on 8 February 2021 in the ninth year of our government at Ann Arbour in Quercus Candida in order that the Sandum people and our state may benefit from the activity of the COLLEGIUM SACERDOTUM for another ten years or in perpetuity, alterable only by my hand or that of my successor as established by law.



C. J. Soergel Publicola