

# Ministry Description of the Episcopal Visitor of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

June 2025



The Episcopal Visitor of [the Brotherhood of the Saint Gregory](#) is nominated by a member of the Brotherhood and elected by the Brotherhood's Council to, according to the [community's constitution](#)<sup>1</sup>, serve as "the guardian of the Constitution of the community, and is the guarantor to the church at large of the community's sound administration, stability, and right to confidence, and is also the final court of appeal for the maintenance of its discipline."

The Episcopal Visitor serves so long as they and the Council agree.

In fulfilment of this ministry, the Episcopal Visitor:

- Remembers the community regularly in prayer.
- Builds and sustains familiarity with [the community's evolving Rule and governing documents](#).<sup>2</sup>
- Is available to the Minister General, Council, and other community leaders for consultation and reporting on the work and life of the community.
- Advocates for the community's life and witness within the life of the broader Church by:
  - Serving as a liaison between the Brotherhood and the House of Bishops.
  - Recommending the community to suitable potential applicants discerning a call to religious life.
- Meets all responsibilities enumerated in the canonical responsibilities of The Episcopal Church<sup>3</sup> and any expectations established by the House of Bishops Standing Commission on Religious Communities.
- Offers a ministry of pastoral presence with the BSG community, especially during annual convocations held each summer. (These convocations are scheduled multiple years in advance and do not overlap with the meetings of the General Convention.<sup>4</sup>) During annual convocations, the Episcopal Visitor:
  - Participates in the life and retreat activities of convocation.
  - Meets confidentially and individually with members of the community to offer pastoral support and monitor the overall well-being of the community, completing an individual conversation with every member of the community at least once every three years; and reports any findings regarding the community's pastoral well-being to Council and Chapter as appropriate.
  - Serves as confessor, offering the sacrament of reconciliation when requested.
  - Attends and occasionally addresses the annual Chapter meeting of the community held during convocation.

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<sup>1</sup> "Article V: Of the Visitor" in the Constitution of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory as amended through July 2023.

<sup>2</sup> The complete governing documents of the Brotherhood include the Rule, Constitution, Customary, and Standing Resolutions of Chapter and Council.

<sup>3</sup> [Canon III.14.2.c-d](#)

<sup>4</sup> Annual Convocation 2026 is scheduled for July 20-25;  
in 2027, Annual Convocation is scheduled for August 2-7.

- Shares any concerns about the community's governance with Council and Chapter as appropriate.
- Serves as a final arbiter for any appeal of disciplinary actions taken by Council.
- Is invited to preach at each annual convocation.
- Offers blessings by request of officiants at the Daily Office and during mass.
- Presides at solemn liturgical events of the convocation, particularly those masses that include the rites of profession.
- Is present to preside at the rite of institution of the newly elected Minister General of the Brotherhood.<sup>5</sup>

**The Brotherhood provides the following support for the Episcopal Visitor:**

- Regular prayer for the Episcopal Visitor in their ministries as bishop.
- Pastoral care as requested.
- Gregorian presence at Church functions that include the Episcopal Visitor whenever possible.
- Opportunity for spiritual retreat and refreshment during convocations and retreats of the community.
- Coverage for all expenses incurred for transportation, room, and board for the Episcopal Visitor's attendance at convocation and other community events and the carrying out of their ministry with the Brotherhood.

**Additional Resources for Potential Nominees for Episcopal Visitor to get better acquainted with the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory and the ministry of the Episcopal Visitor:**

- The current Episcopal Visitor, [the Rt. Rev. Rodney R. Michel](#), is available to talk with potential nominees about this ministry.
- Report forms previously used for Episcopal Visitor reports to the HoB Standing Commission on Religious Life (see the following page).
- [In Love and Service Bound](#) - a history of the first forty years of the Brotherhood.
- Additional resources on the Gregorian website providing insight into the life of the community:
  - [Financial and legal records of the community](#).
  - [Videos on the BSG vows](#). (Also available on the [media pages of the community website](#).)
- Additional questions may be addressed to the Brotherhood's Council % the Minister General, [Br. Ciarán Anthony DellaFera BSG](#).

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<sup>5</sup> The Minister General is elected every five years. The current Minister General was elected in 2024.

**SAMPLE reporting form to the House of Bishops  
Standing Commission on Religious Communities**

BISHOP VISITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006 To be filed with the HOB Standing Commission on Religious Communities by MARCH 15, 2007

Name of Religious Order/Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Order/Community's house: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Community size: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Visitors and Guests from other Provinces, resident: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of Superior or other Community leadership: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact's name and telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Community members: \_\_\_\_\_

Bishop Visitor or Bishop Protector: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ The Order/Community is fiscally solvent. Yes No

Are all Order/Community members Episcopalian/Anglican? Yes No

Are background checks done on new members? Yes No

Are Sexual Harassment/Child Abuse Prevention workshops required? Yes No

The Order/Community follows sound business practices. Yes No

The Order/Community is faithful to its rule and ethos. Yes No

The Order/Community is in compliance with the requirements  
of The Standing Commission on Religious Communities of the HOB. Yes No

Should the Order/Community continue to be recognized  
by the Standing Commission on Religious Communities of the HOB? Yes No

The date of the last formal Visitation was? \_\_\_\_\_

If the Order/Community is located at more than one address, please give other locations on the back of this page.

Please answer the questions using Form C.

Send completed form to: ...

Form C

[as of 2006-7]

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY BISHOP VISITOR AS PART OF THE ANNUAL REPORT  
To be filed with the HOB Standing Commission on Religious Communities

1. What is the form and role of leadership in this Community?
2. What is the Community life like?
3. How well do they observe their Rule
4. Briefly describe their worship and liturgical life?
5. What are the primary ministries of the Community?
6. How well do they communicate – both within and outside the Community?
7. How about the ministry of hospitality? How are guests welcomed?
8. Describe what you know of their records management, finances, audits and archives?
9. What about buildings, property, housekeeping and repair?
10. Any other information, concerns or comments?