



## Fidelis Chapter Agreement

2024-2025

Parishes or other Catholic institutions “sponsor” Fidelis Chapters. Fidelis Chapters are local apostolates of a Catholic institution (usually a parish) and not a subsidiary of Fidelis, Inc., which is a publisher of content and training materials. Local leadership comes directly from the institution and is supported by Fidelis, Inc., which provides training, structure, support, and accountability. The ultimate goal of Fidelis Inc. is to ensure and encourage the fraternal bonds within the local members and to make sure Chapters are rooted in the local Church. The following constitutes an agreement between Fidelis, Inc. (hereafter referred to as “Fidelis”) and the sponsoring institution.

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**Leadership Selection.** A Fidelis representative will help the pastor identify Chapter volunteers beginning with the lead volunteer (Fidelis Lead Lady). As new volunteers are added or removed, the pastor must be made aware of each change. After selecting a Lead Lady, the Fidelis representative will communicate directly with them to continue recruitment and training of volunteers. The pastor must be made aware when there is a change in Lead Lady.

**Youth Protection and Insurance.** The institution ensures all volunteers have completed all diocesan mandated youth protection training and background checks. Since the Chapters are a ministry of the institution, it falls under all the same guidelines and structures as other ministries (insurance, policies, etc.). Fidelis is not an outside group meeting at a parish, but is a program used by members to ensure that girls are mentored into virtuous Catholic women. The program comes with proven training, administrative support and program materials, but to be a true sisterhood it must come from and point back to the parish.

**Meeting space.** The institution arranges for meeting facilities for the Chapters. This meeting place should be safe and conducive for Fidelis programming.

**Program Implementation.** Fidelis provides proven and effective training and programming for women and the young people they mentor. Because the methods and practices are tried and true, Chapters are to implement the programs as specified in the training materials and handbooks.

**Registration.** To ensure secure and effective data collection for Fidelis, INC, all chapters are required to register every participating youth or adult through the provided online registration forms. This ensures proper communication from



Fidelis, INC to participants, as well as provides a record of all participants in Fidelis, INC.

**Human Dignity:** Consistent with the Fidelis mission,

*Fidelis forms girls —heart, mind, body, and soul — into a sisterhood of mature, virtuous disciples of Christ through the witness of Catholic women*

Femininity and Catholic Virtue is at the heart of the Fidelis program, therefore gender is to be understood by the truth of each person's God-given biological sex. All Fidelis employees, volunteers and members shall conduct themselves in accord with their God-given biological sex.

**Costs. The costs of the program include:**

**Startup Training Fee.** This fee includes 1) A dedicated Fidelis Representative to personally assist in getting volunteers trained and organized. 2) Start up supplies (banners, sample and promo materials). This one-time fee is \$1,500. (If you are a returning Chapter disregard.)

**Annual Subscription and License Fee.** After the initial training, the parish pays an annual subscription and license fee of \$2,000. Volunteers also gain complete access to online training and resources. Total Fees for first year: \$3,500 plus travel expenses for training (these vary based on location).

**Individual Membership.** Fidelis publishes the Fidelis Book which follows and draws from the Sunday Lectionary to present the traditional theological and cardinal virtues. The books contain program outlines, devotions, Compline, virtue curriculum, discussion questions and challenges for each week of the year. The book is essential for fruitful participation by both Sisters and Lady Mentors. Both Sisters and Lady Mentors receive their books at registration. Membership registration includes the necessary insignia that will be utilized within each ceremony. Lady Mentors also receive a weekly content email with the video clip and material to assist in leading or discussing the Family Group material found in Fidelis Book. All Chapters are required to register every participating young woman or Lady Mentor through the provided online registration forms. This ensures proper communication from Fidelis, accurate participation records, adequate materials for program implementation, and the ability to verify safe environments with sponsoring institutions. **The membership fee for 2024-25 is \$50.00.**

**Fidelis Additional Costs that Vary:**



Excursions, Retreats, Food and Beverages. These, and all other incidental costs vary by Chapter and are paid for by the Chapter.

**Chapter Funding.** Chapters naturally incur local operating costs unrelated to this agreement. Chapters may be funded by one or more of the following funding methods:

1. Funding from the institution's budget (this is especially encouraged for the startup and annual fees)
2. Chapter dues (i.e. the Chapter collects dues from participants.) Fidelis does not collect dues for local members, and if there is the use of local dues it should be done in accordance with the local parish and with appropriate permission.
3. The Bosco Society is a service wherein Fidelis can recruit and maintain donors, using the funds for local operations, national mission advancement, and financial assistance for attending Inspire. See more below.

**Bosco Society** – The Bosco Society is the fundraising program of Fraternus, its Chapters and its sister program, Fidelis that helps Chapters with local needs, especially Ranch/Inspire scholarships. The program uses a model designed to minimize the amount of time volunteers spend on fundraising while fostering long term donors who will provide sustaining support. The program centers around an annual event and partnerships with donors through sustaining giving. People become members by donating, with an emphasis on monthly giving. Because they provide sustaining support, Bosco Society Members are a critical part of local Chapters. [Bosco Event Application](#). Starting a local Bosco Society is optional, and includes:

1. Training materials needed to organize an annual event.
2. Personal coaching by experienced staff..
3. Support in organizing and running the event, processing all gifts, sending gift acknowledgments, manages donor communication, provides comprehensive reports of funds, remits funds per the Bosco agreement, and ensures compliance with fundraising regulations and ethical standards.

**Marketing/Advertising/Fundraising.** The Fidelis logo is not to be altered, printed or duplicated in any fashion without written permission from Fidelis, Inc. with the exception of: Use in printed publications by the sponsoring institution (bulletins, newsletters, program directories, etc.). In order to insure effective donor relations



and ensure compliance with federal and state regulations and fundraising Codes of Ethics, all fundraising done using the Fidelis name, logos and not-for-profit exemption must be coordinated through the National Organization using the established Bosco Society program or another agreed upon arrangement.

**Electronic Communications.** In order to safeguard the reputation of the Sisterhood, systems of Chapter communications and social media must be shared with Fidelis, Inc.

a. **Social Media:** A designated Fraternal or Fidelis representative must be made an administrator on all social media sites.

b. **Website:** Only the provided Fidelisonline.org Chapter website may be used. Custom websites are prohibited without the approval of Fidelis, Inc.

c. **Email / Text:** A TeamSnap account is provided by Fidelis, Inc. and is encouraged to be used for all group e-mail and text messages.

Pastor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lead Lady Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Institution Address:

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