

Defenders of the Faith, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between an Evangelist Member and an Active Member?

Each applicant will be Evangelist Member, however if you, or your organization, wish to submit articles for publication and/or be a voting member of the Defenders of the Faith, Inc. you must complete additional information to become and Active Member. You must also be approved by the officers of the corporation.

Where do I start to become a member?

To become an Evangelist Member you need only to complete an Application for Membership. To become an Active Member you must complete Application for Membership plus sign and date the Membership Agreement. In addition, you must supply us with your publications, if any, (i.e., letters to the editor, website addresses, and articles) and information that might help us better understand you and/or your organization. Please include a check for your membership dues. Once we have all of the information, our membership committee will quickly process your application.

How much does it cost?

The annual individual membership dues are \$24. The annual organization membership dues are \$36 for the first two members and \$12 for each additional member. Dues are prorated. If you join in March you would not pay for the first three months -- dues for the individual would be \$18 and dues for the organization would be \$27. Lifetime Membership will be provided for any person or group donating \$1,000 or more to Defenders of the Faith, Inc.

Can a husband and wife join as an organization?

Yes, and they would have two votes – the same as an organization.

Where do I send my application?

Attn: Membership Committee
Defenders of The Faith, Inc.
P.O. Box 1000
Berkeley Springs WV 25411

How long will it take?

Once we have all of the information and your dues, a typical request for membership takes approximately two weeks to process.

How will I find out if I have been accepted?

Our membership Committee will send you a welcome letter letting you know you have been accepted.

What if my application has been rejected?

If your application should be rejected, your check for your dues will be sent back promptly.

What if I have additional questions?

Call Jim Fritz at 304-258-9189, or email Jim at jamesfritz@aol.com

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH, INC.
P.O. Box 1000, Berkeley Springs WV 25411
304.258.9189

Name: (Mr. Mrs. Ms.) _____ Date: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home Fax: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Parish: _____

Diocese: _____ Bishop: _____

Website (if applicable): _____

Please state how you learned about DOTF, i.e., Radio Station, Newsletter, Website, Other:

Please provide names and addresses of others that you believe would like to receive our publication or indicate number of copies of *The Defender* you would like for distribution:

For those applying for Active Membership, please list talents and interests; main Catholic activities and organizations of which you are a member; and, include examples of publications.

All members will receive a subscription to our newsletter. Suggested annual donation, per family, is \$24; greater donations are appreciated and will go to assist in furthering DOTF's evangelization efforts. DOTF is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Part or all of your contribution may be tax-deductible. Consult your tax advisor for further information.

Each member of the DOTF should understand that the organization is fully committed to the orthodox teachings of the Catholic Church, as proclaimed by the Magisterium. It is expected that all DOTF members accept the Magisterium as the authoritative teacher of the Catholic Faith, and assent to all it teaches.

All applicants for Active Membership of the DOTF must also sign the Membership Agreement.

If you agree with the DOTF above membership statement please sign and date on the bottom of this Application Form and mail with a check to the above address.

Signature

Date

DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH, INC.

Membership Agreement

1. *Membership*: Membership of organizations and writers in the Defenders of The Faith, Inc. will be contingent on their agreement to the Defenders of The Faith's Principles, *Code of Conduct* and *Mission Statement* (see below) and upon acceptance of their application.
2. *Membership Principles*:
 - We respect and accept all Catholic Rites approved by the Church.
 - We welcome all practicing Catholic members who are loyal to the Magisterium.
3. *Code of Conduct*: Each organization is asked to read and agree to a moral framework appropriate for media before being accepted into the Defenders of The Faith. The *Code of Conduct* states:
 - **“Communication must always be truthful.”*** As a communicator, I and the organization I represent are committed to telling the truth as accurately as possible – not merely what I *believe* to be true, but what I have meticulously substantiated as the truth. We are also prepared and willing to provide the substantiating evidence of our assertions to responsible parties.
 - **Media in service to the Church “should be committed to communicating the fullness of the truth about the meaning of human life and history, especially as it is contained in God’s revealed word and expressed in the teaching of the Magisterium.”*** I, and the organization I represent, are committed to defending Church Teaching – not as we wish it to be, but as it has always been: written, verifiable, and consistent in Her authentic and approved documents, including Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, together constituting the Deposit of Faith. [Lumen gentium #3]. We emphatically reject private or personal interpretation of these teachings.
 - **“The right of expression must be exercised with deference to revealed truth and the Church’s teaching, and with respect for others’ ecclesial rights.” *** I, and the organization I represent, are committed to charity in all of our acts. Charity demands that:
 - Serious wrongdoing is always confronted.
 - Serious wrongdoing is exposed when necessary. Biblical principles of first speaking privately with the offender, then bringing in a witness, and **only as a last resort** bringing the issue before the Church (either by contacting superiors within the hierarchy or by carrying the information into the public domain) will be followed whenever it is feasible.
 - Consideration will always be given to the conversion of the offender (Can an avenue of “dialogue” be opened between us? Will he accept information?)

- All temptations to sensationalize scandal or to magnify error for its own sake (or to sell copy, etc.) will be scrupulously avoided. Likewise, actions that are designed to generate hostility or conflict for their own sake must be rejected.
- All effort to depersonalize issues will be made, wherever possible. (e.g. It is preferable to describe and contend with a person's words and actions rather than to impute motives.)
- Immoral methods of acquiring information will be eschewed.
- Blanket generalizations and stereotypes are avoided (e.g. *all* bishops think...or, *the* bishops do...)
- Calumny, slander, *ad hominem* attacks, and detraction must be avoided.

** Members of DOTF are encouraged to read the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, "Ethics in Communication," June 4, 2000. Quotations in the above Code of Ethics have been taken from this document.*

4. *Mission Statement:* To report truthfully about the Catholic Church and to defend, foster, and spread authentic Catholic faith and culture.
5. *Dues:* Individual Membership in DOTF is \$24 per calendar year. Organizational Membership in DOTF is \$36 per calendar year. Members joining after the first month will pay a pro-rate fee.
6. *Payment:* Please make out your check to Defenders of The Faith, Inc.
7. *Benefits:* The benefits of membership in DOTF include:
 - a. Evangelizing through both print and radio media
 - b. The ability to give local exposure to pertinent Catholic issues
 - c. The ability to give national exposure to pertinent local issues
 - d. The opportunity to work with fellow Catholics
 - e. Automatic membership in the national Catholic Media Coalition
 - f. Access to a clearinghouse of information and resources through the Catholic Media Coalition

Signature _____ Date _____

If applying as an organization:

Printed Name of Organization _____

Printed Name of Additional Members _____

<p>Office Only</p> <p>Dues Paid <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Group</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p>I Individual _____</p>
