

**Fourth Session Fourth Parliament Republic of Trinidad
and Tobago**



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Act No. 16 of 1995

[L.S.]

**AN ACT for the Incorporation of The Opus Dei Prelature
(Trinidad and Tobago) and matters connected
therewith.**

[Assented to 7th August, 1995]

WHEREAS prior to and more particularly since 1982 Preamble
activities of a formative and apostolic nature have been
promoted in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago by the
Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei—sometimes
called Prelature of Opus Dei—(hereinafter referred to

as “the Prelature”), a jurisdictional institution of the Roman Catholic Church erected by the Holy See by virtue of the Apostolic Constitution *Ut sit* dated 28th November, 1982 which also approved the Statutes or Code of particular law that governs the Prelature:

And whereas it is expedient that the said activities should be carried on by a body incorporated in Trinidad and Tobago for the purposes of exercising the powers hereinafter set forth and that the apostolic tasks undertaken be perfectly known by all:

Enactment	ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as follows:—
Short title	1. This Act may be cited as The Opus Dei Prelature (Trinidad and Tobago) (Incorporation) Act, 1995.
Incorporation	2. The Opus Dei Prelature (Trinidad and Tobago) (hereinafter referred to as “Opus Dei”) is hereby created a body corporate.
Aims and means	3. Opus Dei shall, in accordance with the Statutes of the Prelature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) represent the Prelature in Trinidad and Tobago; (b) promote the foundational aims of the Prelature which are exclusively spiritual, and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) fostering spiritual and apostolic development of its members, who are men and women of all social conditions and races, and of other interested persons: this aim is achieved through continuing training, spiritual guidance and support, which helps them to sanctify their ordinary work filling with Christian meaning their lives and the activities

which they undertake in the midst of society and in fulfilling this aim, the Prelature does not impose or recommend a specific cultural, philosophical or theological school but respects the legitimate pluralism of the members in their human activities;

- (ii) helping Christians to live their faith seriously and helps them to put that faith into practice freely and responsibly, with an upright conscience, and with full fidelity to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church;
- (iii) encouraging the members of the Prelature to employ the following means in order to attain their spiritual end:
 - A. an interior life of prayer and sacrifice according to Christian asceticism;
 - B. striving to sanctify ordinary work by performing tasks and duties of state with utmost rectitude;
- (iv) providing spiritual assistance and doctrinal orientation, in accordance with the official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, in some activities, promoted by members of the Prelature; these activities, in a direct and immediate way, constitute a Christian service, an

apostolate; on their own or in co-operation with other Catholic and non-Catholics, members of the Prelature carry out these activities within the framework of the laws of the country where they live; these apostolic undertakings never have a profit-making objective; they are works of education and social welfare.

Powers of the institution

4. Opus Dei may—

- (a) receive the contributions of its members and donations and alms given by persons who are not members but who desire to help Opus Dei to achieve its aims and objects, which contributions, donations and alms shall be the only income of Opus Dei; and
- (b) acquire real and personal property and dispose of property in conformity with the aims of the Prelature.

Application of income and property

5. The income and property of Opus Dei whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its aims and objects and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit, to its members, save that nothing herein shall prevent the disbursement of the funds received by Opus Dei for the studies, formation and living allowance of the priests of Opus Dei.

Mode of execution of documents

6. All documents requiring the seal of Opus Dei shall be sealed with its common seal in the presence of the Regional Vicar and any other member of his Council or such other persons as from time to time the Regional

Vicar may appoint for that purpose, who shall both sign every such document and such signing shall be *prima facie* evidence that the said seal was duly affixed and that it is the lawful seal of Opus Dei.

7. (1) Opus Dei shall at all times have a fixed address Service of documents in Trinidad and Tobago for the service of documents on it and that address and any change thereof shall be registered with the Registrar General within twenty-eight days of the date of the incorporation or the change of address as the case may be.

(2) Every document to be served on Opus Dei may be served by leaving the same at or by sending the same by registered post to the registered address of Opus Dei.

(3) Failure to register the address and any change thereof is a summary offence and renders Opus Dei liable to a fine of one hundred and twenty dollars and a further fine of ten dollars for each day during which the offence continues after conviction therefor.

8. Nothing in this Act shall affect or be deemed to Saving of State or other rights affect the rights of the State or of any bodies politic or corporate or of any person except such as are mentioned or referred to in this Act and those claiming by, through, from or under them.

Passed in the House of Representatives this 30th day of June, 1995.

J. SAMPSON
Clerk of the House

Passed in the Senate this 18th day of July, 1995.

N. COX
Clerk of the Senate