

**GREAT WAY – THIRD PERIOD – UNIVERSAL SALVATION
TÂY-NINH HOLY SEE**



REGULATION AND INTERNAL LAW OF LAY DIGNITARY CAODAI INTERNATIONAL

Translator: Khai Tâm Quách Minh Chương

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TEACHING

“The talent comes from learning while the virtue comes from setting the mind, practicing and self-improving under the Sage’s Doctrine. If there is the talent without the virtue, that is same to a flower without its fragrancy. That talent is not the useful one.”

His Holiness Thượng Sanh

(Quoted from the Teaching done on 8th February, 1970 Canh Tuất year-Year of Dog)



FOUNDATION REGULATION

Referring to the Holy Teaching of Pope Đức Giáo Tông] of Great Way-Third Period-Universal Salvation [Đại Đạo Tam Kỳ Phổ Độ] given on 3rd December Quý Tỵ year [year of Snake] (1953) and the Holy Teaching of His Holiness Hộ Pháp given on 9th February Ất Tỵ (1965) [year of Snake].

AMENDMENT



The Regulation was amended by the Sacerdotal Council of Divine Alliance Palace [Hội Thánh Hiệp Thiên Đài] under the Statement No. 10/VB done on 6th Jun Kỷ Dậu year [year of Chicken] (19th July 1969), approved His Holiness Hộ Pháp's Holy Teaching given at night on 4th July Kỷ Dậu year (16th August 1969).

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GREAT WAY-THIRD PERIOD-UNIVERSAL SALVATION
(40th Religious Year)
Tây Ninh Holy See

DIVINE ALLIANCE PALACE
THƯỢNG SANH'S OFFICE, NO. 01/TL

**THƯỢNG SANH
CHIEF OF DIVINE ALLIANCE PALACE**

Referring to the New Religious Code and Religious Constitutional Law of Caodaism,

Referring to the Constitution and Internal Law of Divine Alliance Palace dated on 8th January Giáp Thìn year (20th February 1964),

Referring to the Holy Teaching of Đức Lý Giáo Tông [Pope] given at night of 3rd December Quý Tỵ year (1953) about defining 04 ranks of Lay Dignitary Caodai International:

1. Gentle and Talented Dignitary [Hiền Tài]
2. Eminent Scholar of a Country [Quốc Sĩ]
3. High-Ranking Sage [Đại Phu]
4. High-Ranking Saint [Phu Tử]

We should think that the Sacerdotal Council has formed the Regulation of Lay Dignitary Caodai International approved by His Holiness Hộ Pháp via the Holy Teaching given at night of 9th February Ất Ty year (11th March 1965), therefore there are:

HOLY ORDER

First Clause: In order to seek men of great talent to help the Religion, the Sacerdotal Council has established the Lay Dignitary Caodai International with the attached Regulation, which is effective from the date of signature of this Holy Order.

Second Clause: The Lay Dignitary Caodai International is direct under the Sacerdotal Council of Divine Alliance Palace's Secular Branch.

Third Clause: The Sacerdotal Council of Nine Divine-Plane Palace and Sacerdotal Council of Charity Body issue and execute this Holy Order according to the mission.

Holy See, 28th February Ất Ty year
(30th March 1965)
Thượng Sanh
Chief of Divine Alliance Palace
(Signed)

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GREAT WAY-THIRD PERIOD-UNIVERSAL SALVATION
(40th Religious Year)

DIVINE ALLIANCE PALACE
THƯỢNG SANH'S OFFICE
NO.: 114/QCQ

**SECULAR CONSERVATOR
ACTING CHIEF OF DIVINE ALLIANCE PALACE**

Respectfully address to:

Gentle Brothers:

- Cardinal holding the Principal Archbishop of Taoism
- Acting Principal Archbishop of Confucianism
- Bishop handling the standing affair of office of the Principal Archbishop of Buddhism
- Chief of Charity Body

Gentle Sisters:

- Female Principal Archbishop, the Chief of Womankind of Nine Divine Plane Palace
- Female Archbishop, the Chief of Charity Body

Dear Gentle Brothers and Sisters,

The Sacerdotal Council of Divine Alliance Palace has established the Lay Dignitary Caodai International and the concerned Regulation approved by His Holiness Hộ Pháp from the Holy Teaching given on 9th February Ất Tỵ year (11th March 1965).

This is a policy of enlarging the “Merciful Gate” to welcome the talents, who are willing to help the Sacerdotal Council in beautifying the Great Religious Work and it is also a method of saving the Men of original soul to enter the merit school.

I would like the Sacerdotal Councils of Nine Divine Planes Palace and Charity Body to propagate this precious

documentary to Chief of Religious Province and Religious District, so that when they meet the Magnanimous Intellectuals, they should welcome those persons heartily.

Yours respectfully,
Holy See, 8th March Ất Tỵ year
(9th April 1965)
Acting Chief of Divine Alliance Palace
Secular Conservator Lê Thiện Phước
(Signed)

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GREAT WAY-THIRD PERIOD-UNIVERSAL SALVATION
(Forty Religious Year)
TÂY NINH HOLY SEE

DIVINE ALLIANCE PALACE'S OFFICE

**LAY DIGNITARY CAODAI INTERNATIONAL
REGULATION**

Referring to the spirit of the Holy Teaching of Divine Pope given on 3rd December Quý Tỵ year (1953) and referring to the guideline of Great Way-Third Period-Universal Salvation – Sacerdotal Council of Tây Ninh Holy See, the Lay Dignitary Caodai International establishment is essential to enlarge the merit school to welcome the talents, who have the ability to serve the Religion without turning the secular life down.

The Lay Dignitary Caodai International is an organ belonging to the Secular side appearing from the Religion to be a medium

to join the Religion and Secularity, in order to set up a peaceful life for the humankind at the time of Third Transition of world.

CHAPTER I

MISSION AND HIERARCHY

The Dignitaries in the Lay Dignitary Caodai International have the mission to save the Secularity and support the Religion and work with the Nine Divine Planes Palace directly about speciality aspects in the Society. They are under the Divine Alliance Palace's Secular Branch about the True Doctrine and Religious Law.

The Lay Dignitary Caodai International includes 04 ranks:

Gentle and Talented Dignitary [Hiền Tài]
Eminent Scholar of a Country [Quốc Sĩ]
High-Ranking Sage [Đại Phu]
High-Ranking Saint [Phu Tử]

The persons, who want to be appointed in the Lay Dignitary Caodai International, must be recommended by 02 Dignitaries and must do the initiation. When the Sacerdotal Council approves, their rank relies on their Secular position.

I- HIỀN TÀI [Gentle and Talented Dignitary]: are intellectuals selected among Disciples having the Junior High School diploma or Primary Certificate [previous stage], or acting/retired Civil Services, Private Services of Secondary diploma, who are Male or Female over 40 years old. They may be the Intellectuals having the high-school diploma from 21 years old and over, or Officers from Captaincy and over.

Besides, the intellectuals who obtain the good learning capacity and have the ability of develop the economy, of building up the fortune such as Property Owner, Landowner, Building Constructor who helped the Religion with clear evidence will be also appointed into this rank.

The persons over 40 years old, who are appointed for this rank must have merit achievement to the Religion and perfect conduct.

The persons of Religious line, who want to join the Lay Dignitary Caodai International, will not need to present the Certificate of Initiation (progeny of forebear Dignitaries having the services to the Religious establishment at the beginning time)

Two Dignitaries of recommendation get the blame to the Sacerdotal Council for conduct aspect of recommended persons to the Lay Dignitary Caodai International.

II. QUỐC SĨ [Eminent Scholar of a country]: The celebrities who want to be the candidates of QUỐC SĨ, must meet the following conditions:

1/ The Gentle Talented Dignitaries deserved well of Religion and world with evidence that people applauded.

2/ The Personalities have great service to the Nation and Race with clear evidence wining the popularity.

3/ The Ministers, Ambassadors, Commanders and Doctors, persons having Master's Degree helped the Religion and supported the World with the masterstroke.

III. ĐẠI PHU [High-Ranking Sage]: The celebrities are considered as this rank:

1/ The Eminent Scholar of a country has worthy conduct, deserves well of Religion about propagating the Religious Dogma and helping the World about winning the popularity.

2/ The persons have the noble position such as State Head, President or Prime Minister and benefactors who have supported the Religion and helped the World.

IV. PHU TỬ [High-Ranking Saint]: The celebrities listed in this rank are:

1/ Đại Phu with worthy conduct has the great merit of helping and pacifying the World.

2/ Great man endures the misery in propagating the True Doctrine for a country or many countries.

*** Method of selection and appointment:**

a) The rank of Hiền Tài is selected and ordained by the Sacerdotal Council of Divine Alliance Palace (1).

b) The ranks of Quốc Sĩ, Đại Phu and Phu Tử are selected to offer to the Divine power for decision.

CHAPTER II

SYSTEM

The Central Office of Lay Dignitary Caodai International is at Tây Ninh. There are the Local Offices in the Religious Provinces and Religious Districts.

The Central Office's activity is under the power of Sacerdotal Council of Divine Alliance Palace's Secular Branch.

For local area, the Local Administration or Representative Local Administration contacts directly with the Central Administration and contacts with the Dignitaries of Nine Divine Planes Palace at the local area about the Religious aspect.

CHAPTER III

VESTMENT

Vestment of Hiền Tài: wear the white dress, black turban on the head, Archaic religious insignia of Pope with two words in Vietnamese “Hiền Tài” at the chest. In the service, the stand position is higher than the rank of Student Priest and lower than rank of the Priest.

Vestment of Quốc Sĩ: Same to the Hiền Tài's dress. The Archaic religious insignia of Pope has two words “Quốc Sĩ”. In the service, the stand position is higher than the rank of Priest and lower than rank of Bishop.

Vestment of Đại Phu: Same to Quốc Sĩ's dress. However, the head wears the back turban with nine folds of the of word “人”. The Archaic religious insignia of Pope has two words “Đại Phu”. In the service, the stand position is higher than the rank of Bishop and lower than the rank of Archbishop.

Vestment of Phu Tũr: Same to Đại Phu’s dress. The Archaic religious insignia of Pope has two words “Phu Tũr”. In the service, the stand position is higher than the rank of Principal Archbishop and lower than the rank of Cardinal.

The Female Dress is same to the dress of Male. However, the head wears nothing.

For Secular dress, it is free. They are allowed to wear the Insignia in rank at the left chest.

When receiving the special mission of Sacerdotal Council of Divine Alliance Palace with the approval of Divine Alliance Palace’s Sacerdotal Council, the Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International are allowed to wear the long dress with six buttons like the small vestment of Divine Alliance Palace’s Dignitaries during the mission execution.

CHAPTER IV

PROMOTION TO RANK OF SAINT

The Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International, who want to be nominated to the rank of Dignitaries of Divine Alliance Palace or Nine Divine Planes Palace, must file a petition including:

- 1/ The current certificate of rank issued by the Secular Branch.
- 2/ The engagement letter of laying down the life for Caodaism.

3/ The curriculum vitae declaration.

4/ The Engagement of fast keeping according to the law of Great Way.

The nomination authority for the rank of Dignitary of Supreme Being's Holy Body [Thánh Thể] on the world is due to the Divine Alliance Palace's Sacerdotal Council's recommendation submitted to the Divine Power for decision.

According to the Holy Order's spirit of His Holiness Hộ Pháp No. 49 issued on 1st June Tân Mão year (4th July 1951) about setting the Hiền Tài up after five years (05) of religious merit investigated by the Justice Department, the Hiền Tài will be nominated to the Dignitary rank of Divine Alliance Palace or Nine Divine Planes Palace due to the Divine Power's decision.

The ranks of Quốc Sĩ, Đại Phu and Phu Tử are same that they will be nominated due to the decision of Divine Power.

When they get the nomination in rank of Saint, they will have no mission in the Lay Dignitary Caodai International. They must obey the New Religious Code and Religious Constitution completely.

In the future, this regulation may be supplemented or amended due to the evolution demand of the human beings.

This Regulation has been amended by the Sacerdotal Council of Divine Alliance Palace due to the report No. 10/VB dated on 6th July Kỷ Dậu year (19th July 1969) and approved by His Holiness Hộ Pháp via the Divine Teaching given at night of 4th July Kỷ Dậu year (16th August 1969).

(1) EXPLANATION: about acceding petition document to the Lay Dignitary Caodai International:

1) The application for Hiền Tài of Lay Dignitary Caodai International written by the person in question with handwriting to engage to obey the Regulation and Internal Law of Lay Dignitary Caodai International and make merit due to the ability and rank.

2) The curriculum resume pointing out the personal satellite, relation in family etc...education certificates, foreign language certificates, current job, secular activities, Religious merits and current reside (About the achievements declaration of secular activity or Religious merit achievements, the exact documents must be attached for the evidence. If there is no evidence, the declaration will be ineffective).

3) The copy of Certificate of Initiation certified by the Religious power.

4) The Civil Servant, Private Employee, Officer and Student must apply the Certificate copies, Decree and concerned documents due to the Regulation and Internal Law stipulated (the copies must be certified by the Government of District and over). The copy documents must be also certified the Government.

5) The recommendation letter of 02 acting administration Dignitaries who are lowest of Priest or Investigator/Clerk of Court (01 Student Priest holding the Chief of Religious Province or Hiền Tài who has been holding the rank for one

year, can attend to recommend with the mentioned Dignitaries of Sacerdotal Council).

The recommendation letter requires to point out the behavior and engage to take the blame for behavior of the person in question. If afterwards, the Sacerdotal Council investigates the incorrect recommendation, two Dignitaries of recommendation will take blame for responsibility from the Religious Law by the judgment.

As the Dignitaries of Charity Body are not responsible for administration mission, they must not attend the recommendation. The Hiền Tài who does not undertake the Religious mission, must not attend the recommendation.

6) For applicants of Hiền Tài regardless of any background, the mandatory condition requires them to apply the documents (original documents) to prove their Religious achievements issued by the Religious organ. However, it is allowed for learning students, but they must apply the effective certificate issued by the university to prove that they are learning.

In the recruitment with the Applicants who want to apply for Hiền Tài rank, the Sacerdotal Council of Divine Alliance Palace will not re-consider the missing documents which are not correct to this regulation explained above.

INTERNAL LAW

GREAT WAY-THIRD PERIOD-UNIVERSAL SALVATION
(Fortieth Religious Year)

DIVINE ALLIANCE PALACE

LAY DIGNITARY CAODAI INTERNATIONAL

INTERNAL LAW

OPENING CHAPTER

“There is strength if the Religion has the World’s support. There is no power if the World has no the Religion’s support”. The Lay Dignitary Caodai International places the basic foundation and orients for activities relied on that thoughts. The Religion takes care of the soul of the human beings to save the human beings after paying the secular debts in order to return the Divine World to Eternal Life. Concurrently, the Religion also attaches special importance to the body aspect of human, society improvement on this earth.

Many excellent intellectuals are very religious, humane to want to serve the Great Way, but they are in ties of family obligation, of country and society obligation not to lay their life down to the Religious path. The Lay Dignitary Caodai International is an organ using the gentle human, making the opportunity for religious persons to execute the good wishes.

That is the meaning of setting the Lay Dignitary Caodai International up that this meaning is specified in the Regulation. The Lay Dignitary Caodai International is an organ belonging to the Secular aspect coming from the Religion, to connect the Religion and the World together in concord, in order to construct a peaceful world for the humankind at the period of world transition.

Consequently, the Lay Dignitary Caodai International’s mission is to obey the Religion’s Secular Law, to take the merit

and doctrine to guide the human beings how to lead them to return the Way, to daily beautify the Great Way to become resplendent.

In order to obtain that purpose, the Sacerdotal Council enlarges the door of Lay Dignitary Caodai International to welcome the intellectuals, strong-willed scholars, who have got the religious achievements and other achievements in society.

This Internal Law is written to deigned and organize the mission, to manage the Lay Dignitary Caodai International according to the following Chapters and Clauses:

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION

First Clause: The Lay Dignitary Caodai International is set up due to the Holy Order No. 01/TL issued 28th February Ất Tỵ year (30th March December 1965) of His Holiness Thượng Sanh according to the Divine Pope's Divine Teaching given on 3rd December Quý Tỵ year (7th January 1954). This committee belongs to the Divine Alliance Palace managed by one Zodiacal Dignitary of Secular Branch of Divine Alliance Palace confided by the Sacerdotal Council.

Second Clause: In order to run the common affair of Lay Dignitary Caodai International, the Sacerdotal Council recommends an Advisor Committee including members: the Dignitaries from the rank of General Inspector [Giám Đạo], Bishop [Giáo Sư] and Saint [Chơn Nhơn] and over.

Third Clause: Under the management of Lay Dignitary Caodai International, one Central Administration Committee is set up to run the affair of Lay Dignitary Caodai International with the following members:

- 01 General Controller
- 01 First Deputy General Controller
- 01 Second Deputy General Controller
- 01 Cashier
- 01 Head of Doctrine Team
- 01 Head of Culture Team
- 01 Head of Society Team
- 01 Head of National Politics Team
- 01 Head of Organization and Plan Team
- 01 Head of Economics and Finance Team
- 01 Head of External Affair Team
- 01 Head of Inspection Team

The Central Administration Committee is voted by all Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International under the uninominal, secret method of relative majority. The vote is controlled by the chairman authority of Chief of Lay Dignitary Caodai International or the Divine Alliance Palace's Dignitary in charge of Lay Dignitary Caodai International if the Chief is busy. In that case, the Assistance Team is set up by the Great Assembly with:

- 01 Assistant for Chairman
- 02 Secretaries
- 02 Inspectors

The Administration Committee's voted members include 01 General Controller and 02 Deputy General Controllers. After election win, those three Controllers decide to select the Heads of Central Administration Committee to submit the register the

Chief for approval, so that the Sacerdotal Council approves. If the Great Assembly of first time does not reach 2/3 of Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International, the second assembly must be convened within one month. For that time, it will become regular in spite of any ratio.

About calculating the quorum of Great Assembly, one member attending just has the authority to receive one commission letter of one absent Dignitary of Lay Dignitary Caodai International. However, when voting and electing, the attending member just casts one ballot for himself.

One Dignitary of Lay Dignitary Caodai International has the authority to be a candidate for General Controller, First General Controller or Second General Controller.

The Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International who has the higher than the General Controller won in election will become the Advisor of Administration Committee. However, the positions of General Controller, First General Controller and Second General Controller are very important that their action and behavior concern the prestige and honor of Lay Dignitary Caodai International. Consequently, the recommendation and vote of Great Assembly must rely on 03 conditions:

1. Not convicted in Religious and Secular verdict.
2. Not tied because of Secular position as the public servant, serviceman in active duty or other main position.
3. Must manage the Administration Committee continuously.

When 02 candidates with the same ballots, whoever is older will win the election. The younger candidate may win the election when the older candidate accepts to cede the position.

Standby Clause: In the case, it is impossible in election for the General Controller, the Great Assembly requests the Sacerdotal Council of Divine Alliance Palace to appoint a Dignitary of Divine Alliance Palace's Sacerdotal Council to undertake the General Controller position within one year. This Dignitary undertakes the mission of re-organizing the election for the position of General Controller. If the election does not bring an achievement, the Great Assembly requests the Divine Alliance Palace's Sacerdotal Council to appoint another Dignitary to undertake the General Controller position or to appoint the incumbent Dignitary to assume his duty again.

In the case of a reason, the General Controller cannot continue his duty, the Head of Lay Dignitary Caodai International must arrange the Great Assembly for the election to seek the New General Controller within 6 months to undertake the continuous work to finish that tenure. However, this election is only executed when this tenure remains the minimum of 18 months.

If the tenure remains lower than 18 months, the First Deputy General Controller will be confided to undertake the authority of General Controller until the end of tenure.

Fourth Clause: The General Controller of Central Administration Committee has the authority to require some agents. Those agents are Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International, appointed by the Head. Besides, every

Head of every Team has the authority to nominate one or more Assistants for Head concerned. These persons will be regularized by the nomination Decree issued by the Chief.

Fifth Clause: The members of Local and Foreign Administration Committee are organized as the Central Committee. However, the members can be lower due to each specific demand. The Local and Foreign Administration Committees must obey the instructions of the Central Administration Committee about all aspects. The Local Administration Committees are elected by the First Deputy General Controller chairman. If any Local has not got enough 20 Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International, that local only has the authority to assign one Representative and one Representative's Assistant to execute the instruction of Central Administration Committee directly.

Sixth Clause: The tenure of Administration Committee of Lay Dignitary Caodai International is 03 years and it can be re-elected yearly due to the Chief's decision. However, the re-election cannot be over two times.

According to the suggestion of the Chief with a legitimate reason, the Divine Alliance Palace's Sacerdotal Council can disperse the incumbent Administration Committee fully. In this case, the Chief with the support of Advisor group will undertake the activity of Lay Dignitary Caodai International. The maximum time for setting the new Administration Committee is six months.

CHAPTER II

ACCEDENCE, MISSION, OPERATION

Seventh Clause: When being selected in the Lay Dignitary Caodai International, according to the merit, talent and conduct, the new Dignitary of Lay Dignitary Caodai International is nominated in one of four ranks from lowest rank to the final rank: Hiền Tài, Quốc Sĩ, Đại Phu, Phu Tử.

Eighth Clause: To be the Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International, the person in the question must make a set of nomination document due to the Regulation stipulated and submitted to the Chief. The person in question is recommended by 02 incumbent Dignitaries of lowest rank of Priest working at the Holy See. The recommended persons must have achievements of merit to the Religion with their quite conduct.

The Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International ordained after one ordained year do not break the discipline has the authority to cooperate with another Dignitary of Sacerdotal Council in recommending the intellectuals to join the Lay Dignitary Caodai International.

Ninth Clause: The mission of Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International about the Religious Politics aspect:

- Propagate the doctrine of Great Way.
- Protect and help Disciples of Great Way for all situations.
- Suggest ideas for local Religious Administration Dignitaries.
- Suggest ideas to the Central Administration Committee to submit to the Chief in order to petition the Sacerdotal

Council to adjust or supplement the local Religious method to be more according and effective.

Tenth Clause: The mission of Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International about the Secular Politics aspect:

1. *Establish school:* The Lay Dignitary Caodai International undertakes the mission of executing the Secular Politics of Religion. Therefore, the politics school of Lay Dignitary International must be scheduled by the Sacerdotal Council or suggested by the Lay Dignitary Caodai International with the Sacerdotal Council's approval. The Lay Dignitary Caodai International is not a politics party. The Lay Dignitary Caodai International's Dignitaries do not have the authority to declare any politics policy of Lay Dignitary Caodai International, which is not corresponding to the general standpoint of Sacerdotal Council. Whoever breaks this discipline, it means that he breaks the discipline of Lay Dignitary Caodai International and he will be judged referred to the 18th Clause of this Internal Law.

2. *With status of a Dignitary:* If the Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International want to take part in politics as a status of Dignitary, they must be suggested by the Chief and must be approved by the Divine Alliance Palace's Sacerdotal Council.

3. *With status of individual:* The Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International may join the activities to bring the benefits to the human beings about all fields of nation, society providing that those are not contrary to the Sacerdotal Council's standpoint. However, he must submit to the Central Administration Committee and to the Chief.

Especially, the elective position, when the Lay Dignitary Caodai International lays the recommendation down at the local, this requires to pass an internal election organized by the Central Administration Committee with the Chief's approval.

Eleventh Clause: The Central Administration Committee's mission:

- Execute the instructions of Chief and Sacerdotal Council.
- Develop and operate the Lay Dignitary Caodai International.
- Execute programs approved by the Chief.
- Vote on suggested plans.

Twelfth Clause: The mission of positions in the Central Administration Committee is stipulated as the following:

1. General Controller:

- * Operate the Lay Dignitary Caodai International accordingly to the Regulation and Internal Law of the Lay Dignitary Caodai International.
- * Get the blame over the Chief.
- * Operate the administration and finance of Lay Dignitary Caodai International.
- * Control the Local Administration Committees or the Representative of Central Administration Committee at the local.
- * Can suggest the maximum expenditure of 20.000\$. If the expenditure is over, it must be approved by the Central Administration Committee.
- * The Cashier is direct under the command of General Administration Controller.

2. First Deputy General Controller:

- * Assist the General Controller.
- * Operate the jobs of 04 Heads: Plan Team, Organization Team, National Politics Team, Politics and Finance Team, Foreign Affair Team.
- * The chairman elects the Local Administration Committee or Representative.
- * Be on behalf of General Administration Controller to operate the everyday matters when he is absent.

3. Second Deputy General Administration Controller:

- * Assist the General Administration Controller.
- * Operate the jobs of 04 Heads of: Doctrine Team, Culture Team, Society Team and Inspection Team.
- * Be on behalf of General Administration Controller to operate everyday matters when he and First Deputy General Administration Controller are absent.

4. Cashier:

- * Make and keep the receipts and expenses register of Lay Dignitary Caodai International.
- * The maximum amount that he can keep is 50,000\$ (Fifty thousand Vietnam dong). If the amount is over, it must be deposited in the Financial Institute or Exchequer.
- * The receipt and voucher of income and expenditure require the signature of General Administration Controller.
- * All financial registers require the monthly inspecting signature of Head of Inspection Team.
- * Get blame for accounting and finance of Lay Dignitary Caodai International and face on the inspection of Finance Inspection Team of Sacerdotal Council.

5. Head of Doctrine Team:

* Draft the doctrine program for Primary, Secondary and High Schools to submit to the Sacerdotal Council for consideration.

* Establish the library to store documents concerned to the University education.

* Develop and propagate the Great Way's doctrine for human beings.

* Research and publish the doctrine and philosophy books of Great Way.

* Make the monthly internal news to generalize to Administration Committees and Religious Organs.

6. *Head of Culture Team:*

* Establish the Archaeological Institute, compose and translate the Religious books.

* Organize the newspaper, journal, weekly newspaper, special issue, monthly review.

* Develop and collect the Historical documents of Religion.

* Research to establish the resident houses and Professional schools for Caodaism students.

* Make plan of subsidizing scholarship for excellent and poor Caodaism students learning in Vietnam or foreign countries.

7. *Head of Society Team:*

* Take care of affairs of congratulation, marriage, funeral, ceremony.

* Organize the aid affair.

* Organize the health.

8. *Head of National Politics Team:*

* Express the ideas about the influence of politics situation to the Religion and Country.

* Research and discuss about the politics standpoint of Religion to submit to the Sacerdotal Council for approval.

9. *Head of Plan and Organization Team:*

* Organize the ritual, festival of Lay Dignitary Caodai International.

* Draft the general plan of Administration Committee.

10. *Head of Economics and Finance Team:*

* Organize the economics for Lay Dignitary Caodai International: Agriculture, Industry, Commerce, and Profession.

* Operate the finance for Lay Dignitary Caodai International.

* Control the real estate and property for Lay Dignitary Caodai International.

11. *Head of Foreign Affair Team:*

* Contact with the Local and Foreign Administration Committees to know and help them.

* Contact with the local and central government when there is the commission given by the Chief of Lay Dignitary Caodai International.

* Contact with other organizations and Religions for the friendly mutual appreciation.

* Contact with the Diplomacy service when it is necessary with the Sacerdotal Council's commission.

12. *Head of Inspection Team:*

* Inspect and speech up the Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International to execute the Internal Law.

* Inspect and speech up the Local Administration Committees or the Representatives of Central Administration Committee at the local.

* Inspect and encourage the Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International to comply with the Religious law.

* Control the finance and property of Lay Dignitary Caodai International.

Thirteen Clause: The office of Central Administration Committee locates at Tây Ninh and runs due to the timetable of Sacerdotal Council. The offices of other Administration Committees should be located at the Local Religious Administration Organs with the Chief of Religious Province's approval. However, the location can be changed due to specific condition.

Fourteen Clause: The Dignitary Great Assembly of Lay Dignitary Caodai International is held yearly due to the Chief's arrangement at the first ten days of December of lunar calendar. The Administration Committee organizes the assembly one time in a month under the General Controller's arrangement at the last Sunday of month of lunar calendar. In the special case, the Chief can hold the Great Assembly unusually.

CHAPTER III

PROMOTION, REWARD AND DISCIPLINE

Fifteen Clause: For special credit, the Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International will be rewarded according to the suggestion of Central Administration Committee and Chief.

Sixteen Clause: The Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International who want to be nominated in the Supreme Being's Holy Body need to have five (05) constant years of merit inspected with evidence due to the Religious Law by the Justice Department.

The record includes:

- Nomination application.
- Current certificate issued by the Secular Branch.
- Engagement of laying down whole life to Caodaism.
- Curriculum vitae declaration, merit certificate, conduct confirmation confirmed and by the General Administration Controller and Chief.
- Engagement of fasting due to the Caodaism law.

The nomination authority belonging the Supreme Being's Holy Body is done by the recommendation of the Divine Alliance Palace's Sacerdotal Council and it is submitted to the Divine Power for decision.

If the nomination is done to the Holy Body, the following principle is applied:

The Hiền Tài is nominated to the Priest.
Quốc Sĩ is nominated to the Bishop.
Đại Phu is nominated to the Archbishop.
Phu Tử is nominated to the Cardinal.

Eighteen Clause: The Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International who want to be nominated due to their rank,

are required for all conditions in 16th Clause except the declaration of laying down whole life to the Religion.

The promotion or nomination into rank of Quốc Sĩ and higher ranks must be decided by the Divine Power.

Eighteen Clause: Discipline Council

The Lay Dignitary Caodai International has a Discipline Council to judge the punishment for Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International, who break Religious Law such as: New Religious Code, Regulation, Internal Law of Lay Dignitary Caodai International.

The members of Discipline Council include:

- 01 Chairman: selected among Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International, who has the higher rank compared with the offender. In the case of having no Dignitary with higher rank, the Chairman is a Dignitary of Divine Alliance Palace with the higher rank selected and appointed by the Chief.
- 02 verdict Considerers: these Dignitaries have the same rank compared with the offender.
- 01 Secretary recording the judgment: this person can be the Dignitary of Lay Dignitary Caodai International or the Secretary of General Controller.

Two verdict Considerers and Secretary are also appointed by the Chief.

The verdict order of Discipline Council is the final judgment, but it requires the approval of the Chief for enforcement.

The Discipline Council only judges the Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International when they make minor errors such as:

- Politics declaration is wrong to the Sacerdotal Council's standpoint.
- Depend on the status of Dignitary of Lay Dignitary Caodai International to attend the conference of organizations, religions or politics groups without the remittance of Chief of Lay Dignitary Caodai International.
- Impolite to the superiors.
- Neglect the mission or not obey the order of Central Administration Committee.

For mentioned cases, the General Administration Controller undertakes the inspection mission and submits the record to the Chief, so that the case can be passed via the Discipline Council.

It relies on every case, the offender may be ceased rank from 01 year to 02 years.

The Discipline Council is held due to the decision of Chief of Lay Dignitary Caodai International.

Nineteen Clause: When the Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International break the law seriously or repeat an offence, the Chief reports the case the Divine Alliance

Palace's Sacerdotal Council to pass the matter to the Divine Alliance Palace's Court to rely on the Ten Punishments of Divine Pope for judgment under the inspection and suggestion of Justice Department.

CHAPTER IV

FINANCE

Twenty Clause: The Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International monthly devote by an amount which is decided by the Central Administration Committee to operate the Lay Dignitary Caodai International.

For the Local, the Administration Committee has the authority of spending 60% amount for operation, 40% in helping the Central Administration Committee.

Twenty First Clause: The budget of Lay Dignitary Caodai International will be spent on the mutual assistance, ritual, funeral, operation, facility development of Lay Dignitary Caodai International.

Twenty Second Clause: The Lay Dignitary Caodai International may receive the aid of benefactors without the discrimination of Secular or Religious background, including the cash, aid in kind, property and real estate.

Twenty Third Clause: Obviously, the Lay Dignitary Caodai International's property is the property of Sacerdotal Council of Great Way-Third Period-Universal Salvation Tây Ninh Holy See.

CHAPTER V

INTERNAL LAW AMENDMENT

Twenty Fourth Clause: To adapt to the situation progress, when it is necessary, the Sacerdotal Council may amend a part of this Internal Law or whole Internal Law. Besides, 2/3 Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International attending the Great Yearly Assembly or Great Unusual Assembly may submit the suggestion or idea to the Sacerdotal Council for amending the Internal Law.

Besides, other Clauses are unchanged.

The Internal Law of Lay Dignitary Caodai International is inspected by the Divine Alliance Palace's Sacerdotal Council according to the assembly held on 22nd November Đinh Mùi year (23rd December 1967), report No. 03/VB.

The Internal Law was amended due to the report No. 07/VB under the assembly of Divine Alliance Palace's Sacerdotal Council held at the Pope House on 30th February Mậu Thân (28th March 1968) under the chairman power of His Holiness Thượng Sanh.

Nowadays, referring to the report of Divine Alliance Palace's Sacerdotal Council No. 02/VB dated on 27th November Mậu Thân year (15th January 1969) under the chairman power of His Holiness Thượng Sanh, the Internal Law is amended second and promulgated to the Lay Dignitary Caodai International for execution.

**CHAIRMAN
HIS HOLINESS THƯỢNG SANH**

**TEACHING OF HIS HOLINESS CAO THƯỢNG SANH
CHIEF OF DIVINE ALLIANCE PALACE FOR NEW
ORDAINED HIỀN TÀI**

INNATE CONSCIENCE AND MORALITY

TEACHING OF HIS HOLINESS THƯỢNG SANH

On occasion of Ordaining ceremony for Hiền Tài at Holy See On 8th February Canh Tuất (15th March 1970)

Dear the Sacerdotal Council of Divine Alliance Palace, Nine Divine Planes Palace and Body Charity,
Dear Guests,
Dear Dignitaries and Male Female Disciples,
Dear Gentle and Talented Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International,

Firstly, on behalf on the status of Chief of Divine Alliance Palace, I would like to salute to Guests and all Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International. Among them, there are new nominated Hiền Tài [Gentle and Talented Dignitary] in

the course of Kỷ Dậu year. Today is the Ordaining Ceremony and it is also the chance that you come forward to the Sacerdotal Council to receive the Hiền Tài rank.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Confucianism has a verse “Lập thân hành đạo dương danh ư hậu thế dĩ hiển phụ mẫu, hiếu chi chung dã”, it means that “establish the position to serve the Religion to leave the high renown for next generation, in order to make the good reputation brilliant for parents. That is to complete the filial piety”.

Two words of “practice Way” express the human duty including the obligations over the family, society, country.

Being born on the earth, the learned persons in worth of studies always want to squeeze into the competition to obtain the roll of honor, in order to establish the glorious achievement to make parents proud.

The Gentle and Talented Dignitaries got the will mentioned above. Most of you gain the worthy position of world, listed in the intellectual of society.

However, fulfilling the human duty called as the Way of human is not an easy matter that everybody can do easily.

Under the modern material civilization progress, foremost danger of the extremist atheistic, in spite of the intellectuals, they are easily attracted into the excessively dissolute situation or into the circle of evil-minded fame as a slave of

money strength by disregarding their conscience not to care the humanity and reality.

The materialism has been spreading all over the country and poisoning 90% Vietnamese. The traditional morality was broken. People are throwing away all basic morals and reaching up in the gloomy long night because of that their life misses the balance between the material and spirit. It means that it lacks of harmony electricity, of knowledge of their spirit or the light leading to the intuition.

Although you are learned and born in a moral family of purity, but you do not cultivate yourself, restrain your character in your difficult path, you will be impossible to avoid traps coming from the seven feelings and six desires, which are always at your legs.

The Confucianism teaches that “Tự thiên tử dĩ chí ư thứ dân, nhứt thị giai dĩ tu thân vi bản”, which means that “The human life’s purpose is to cultivate oneself due to the call of conscience to reach the perfection to join with the God and to teach other people to be perfect like us. Consequently, emperor and commoners always consider the self-cultivation as the basic”.

If the human does not execute this law, the human will be a human of material, who is very commonplace and easy to cause confusion for family and society.

What is the self-cultivation? The self-cultivation is to arrange the order in the body uprightly from the variance, is to regulate issues of evil, is to change falsity into the reality.

In order to do those things, the Confucius advises to completely execute things in order: Good will, Sincerity, Self-cultivation, Household Management, Nation Control, World Pacifying.

You have the good destiny of being born in the country with the Great Way-Third Period-Universal Salvation opened by the Supreme Being with the guideline of universal amnesty for all living beings to save 9,200,000 banished men of original soul to help them exit the miserable ocean.

In order to enlarge the merit school to welcome the talents, the Sacerdotal Council just hopes that you can imbrue the morality, set your mind on self-cultivation, fulfill the human duty daily and continue to display the talent in helping the World and supporting the Religion depending on ever specific situation and position.

A Gentle and Talented Dignitary [Hiền Tài] is a figure having a special dignity, complete righteousness and generosity and real talent.

The talent comes from learning while the virtue comes from setting the mind, practicing and self-improving under the Sage's Doctrine. If there is the talent without the virtue, that is same to a flower without its fragrancy. That talent is not the useful one. In ancient time, the Confucianism considered the Wise Persons as the honorable men, it means that they are persons having the venerated conduct, who attach much importance to uprightness and love other persons.

The Sages are respected by the world because they have sublime thoughts, outstanding actions. They always do good uprightly that it is not because of benefit things to damage the

moral code. The richness is impossible to make them changed over their will. The power and force cannot yield their will [*Phú quý bất năng dâm, bần tiện bất năng di, uy vũ bất năng khuất*]. The Sages never deceive themselves and people; therefore, they never feel ashamed of the God when heading up, they never feel shy to other people when bending down. They lose the humanity in spite of living in misery. They never leave the Way although they are honored [*Ngũông bất quý ư Thiên, phủ bất tạo ư nhân; cùng bất thất nghĩa, đạt bất ly đạo*]

When there is a clear-sighted king who invites them to help country, they will spread the favor everywhere to make the country peaceful. If they do not gain the lucky destiny, they will accept oblivion to lead a seclude life, to enjoy the pleasure of forest and stream, to be friends of wind and moon to overcome the time, not to care of evil fame and wealth.

Consequently, we may enjoy the ancient immortal verses such as:

*Deep cave and servant leave sage's trace,
Sage likes rivulet of unoccupied sight.*

Or:

*Croon and enjoy the pleasure of deserted location,
Apricot blossom is old friend, crane is connection.*

The ancient Sages had those moral integrity because they could differentiate the dignity gifted by the God and the dignity of human.

They are humane, faithful and pleased to do the good without tireless efforts. That is the dignity of the God, which is called

as the Divine dignity. The eminent mandarin comes from the world, which is called as the Human dignity.

The ancient people cared to mend the Divine dignity, so the Human dignity sticks behind steadfastly. Nowadays people only display the Divine dignity to seek for Human dignity and when they gain the Human dignity, they will discard the Divine dignity. By that way, it is very superficial because they lose them all at last. They cannot maintain the Human dignity for long time.

Dear Gentlemen,

By enlarging the gate of Lay Dignitary Caodai International, the Divine Alliance Palace's Sacerdotal Council due to the good intention of His Holiness Hộ Pháp ordains the Gentle and Talented Dignitary [Hiền Tài] for learned people in order to encourage the intellectuals to join to the merit school in order to have the chance of developing their conduct and self-cultivation according to their specific aim.

Although you are stuck at secular roles or students are learning at the University, you have your spirit and morality readily and have the aspiration to become the Gentle and Talented Dignitary to bring your ability to serve the True Religion.

At this time, your aspiration is satisfied. The Sacerdotal Council certainly keeps the duty to guide and help you to fulfill your mission over the Religion when you need the help.

Actually, your Religious help is obliged. The Sacerdotal Council lets you manage freely due to your chance or lucky condition for execution.

The necessary thing is that from this time, you become the Dignitary formally of Lay Dignitary Caodai International of Tây Ninh Holy See.

You should concentrate to study the Tao, to cultivate the conduct, practice disposition in order to make a typical real value of Gentle and Talented Dignitary, so that when you face on unexpected events, you will be lucid to face on all situations. Especially, you can keep your nobility perfectly.

As being the Dignitary of Divine Alliance Palace, we need so many intellectuals as the comrades helping us in awaking the human beings to return the Innate Conscience and Morality.

You are just those comrades, the connection to make the Religion and World concord, to create the advantage conditions for Religious Administration Dignitaries in order to praise the flag of saving the misery on over the country.

If you are successful, you will have gained the precious spirit achievement, which may bring you to reach a worthy position in the gate of Great Way-Third Period-Universal Salvation.

That is the wish of Sacerdotal Council.

On occasion of Ordaining Ceremony, on behalf of Divine Alliance Palace's Sacerdotal Council, I would like to say congratulation to New Gentle and Talented Dignitaries and

pray that all Male Female Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International receive blessing from the Supreme Being and Holy Mother.

NAM MÔ CAO ĐÀI TIÊN ÔNG ĐẠI BỒ TÁT MA HA
TÁT

Holy See, 8th August Canh Tuất year
(15th March 1970)

**THƯỢNG SANH
CHIEF OF DIVINE ALLIANCE PALACE**

**EXPLAINING THE MEANING OF INSIGNIA OF
HIỀN TÀI**

GREAT WAY-THIRD PERIOD-UNIVERSAL
SALVATION (Forty Religious Year) TÂY NINH HOLY
SEE

**DIVINE ALLIANCE PALACE
THƯỢNG SANH'S OFFICE
NO. 01/TL**

**BẢO THỂ [SECULAR CONSERVATOR]
BY ORDER OF THƯỢNG SANH**

Address to: Gentle and Talented Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International,

Dear Gentle and Talented Dignitaries,

When you become the Gentle and Talented Dignitaries of Lay Dignitary Caodai International, you have received the insignia wearing on your dress to offer the service to the Supreme Being and for your life. I like to explain the meaning of insignia more about its Divine use and worldly use, so that you understand it thoroughly.

As the Dignitaries nominated by the God belonging the Nine Divine Planes Palace take the mission directly over the World to guide the World to the Religion. Consequently, the necessary thing is that we need 03 Archaic religious insignias of Pope to support you in all your actions.

You still take charge of a part of secular mission, therefore you must obey the Secular Branch of Divine Alliance Palace. As you obey the Religions with a part of mission, you are next to the Nine Divine Planes Palace's Sacerdotal Council. It means that you have to wear the Archaic religious insignias of Pope.

One day, you gain enough conditions to lay your life down to the Religion completely, you will petition to join the Nine Divine Planes Palace's Sacerdotal Council. In that case, you will keep the Insignia to protect you for both of invisible aspect and visible aspect.

Three Archaic religious insignias of Pope are: *Dust Brush* [Phất Trần], *Male-Female Sword* [Thư Hùng Kiếm], *Fan of Exteriorization* [Long Tu Phiến].

The *Dust Brush* denotes to brush dirt of earthly heart.

The *Male and Female Sword* is the spiritual sword of wisdom exterminating the cunning and devil.

The *Fan of Exteriorization* transmits the capacity to unlock the karma in order to take the soul to re-join the examination compound of Buddha and Immortal.

For aspect of Divine use, three Archaic religious insignias combined are the mystery to aid the Divine order of God because this mystery is sharp for blade and its back. Consequently, the insignia is not a jewelry but a mystery to exterminate the dark to go back light and hold the Dharma.

For the worldly use, it is the Insignia containing the mystery to induce that the World brings to the Religion a religious close spirit. It also helps that the Religions brings to the World the whole service spirit.

When you understand the super mysterious meaning of Insignia, you will query if you wear it. It will bring you many lucky destinies in your future achievement over Secular and Religious aspects.

Yours sincerely,

Holy, 2nd November Bính Ngọ year
(15th December 1966)

BẢO THỂ [SECULAR CONSERVATOR]
BY ORDER OF THƯỢNG SANH
(Signed)
LÊ THIÊN PHƯỚC