



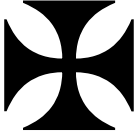
The Basilica of Saint Longinus the Centurion
Mother Church of the Holy Catholic Church of the Gospels
THE OFFICE OF THE LEGATUS EPISCOPUS MAXIMUS

Bull of Institution

The Feast of the Holy Raptor – March 22nd
A Feast of Sacred Laughter and Holy Absurdity

Issued from the Basilica of Saint Longinus the Centurion
Anno Domini 2026

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



BRANDON, LEGATUS EPISCOPUS MAXIMUS,
Legate of the Holy Catholic Church of the Gospels,
Bishop Ecclesiae of the Basilica of Saint Longinus the Centurion,
Apostolus per Vocationem Dei,

To all the faithful, clergy and laity alike, grace, mercy, peace, and the liberty of holy laughter in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let it be known to all whom these presents shall reach that the life of the Church is not given only to mourning, rebuke, endurance, and tears, though in every age these have had their proper place among the burdens of the faithful. For the Lord who wept also rejoiced. The God who judges also restores. The Christ who bore the Cross also broke the tyranny of despair. Therefore it is neither foreign to the Gospel, nor beneath the dignity of the Church, to acknowledge that laughter may heal, levity may restore, and a certain manner of harmless absurdity may become, in its due order, a grace unto the weary.

In these latter days, when many hearts have been made heavy by cruelty, fear, exhaustion, scandal, and the endless procession of bad tidings, there arose among the faithful, and even among those beyond the visible household of faith, a strange and joyful fellowship through a common jest, namely that concerning the Most Holy Raptor, the Clever Girl, the Clawed One, The Holy Typo, the Prophet of Costco, and other such ceremonial absurdities as sprang forth with no small delight. What appeared at first to be mere nonsense did, by its fruits, reveal a truth not unworthy of blessing: that people burdened by sorrow are often restored by shared laughter, communal silliness, and the recovery of breath.

And we, having observed the joy of the people, the relief of the burdened, the warmth of fellowship thereby kindled, and the wholesome mirth that proceeded from this wholly improbable devotion to holy absurdity, judged that such a thing ought not be despised merely because it is ridiculous. For there are absurdities that are cruel, and these are sin. There are absurdities that humiliate, and these are unworthy. There are absurdities that wound, mock the lowly, or profane holy things, and these are condemned. Yet there are also absurdities that humble pride, break tension, restore laughter to the exhausted, gather the lonely into fellowship, and remind the faithful that joy too belongs to God. These latter things, when ordered by charity and bounded by reverence, may rightly be received as salutary and good.

Therefore, by the authority entrusted unto us in the governance of this Church, and for the strengthening of the faithful, the relief of weary hearts, and the sanctification of sacred laughter, we do hereby institute and establish within the calendar of the Holy Catholic Church of the Gospels the annual observance to be known as:

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY RAPTOR,
A FEAST OF SACRED LAUGHTER AND HOLY ABSURDITY

This feast shall be kept each year on the Twenty-Second Day of March.

On this day, clergy and faithful are encouraged to set aside despair where they may, to embrace harmless mirth, to foster lighthearted fellowship, to share laughter, stories, food, jokes, playful customs, and such ceremonially absurd acts as may gladden the heart and strengthen the bonds of charity. The faithful may, without reproach, wear joyful or ridiculous attire, including garb of dinosaurian, raptorian, raptorfarian, or otherwise delightfully nonsensical character, provided always that such things be done in good humor, without cruelty, without mockery of the weak, and without contempt for God or neighbor.

Likewise, let it be understood and declared that this feast does not establish the worship of any creature, beast, or invented thing, nor does it confuse jest with doctrine, or absurdity with divine revelation. Rather, the figure of the Most Holy Raptor is herein received as a playful emblem and ceremonial sign under which the Church, for one appointed day, blesses laughter as medicine, fellowship, and holy absurdity. Laughter, I believe, pleases God. I also believe that, as God has a sense of humor, so too should Christians.

On this feast, the faithful may gather for meals, especially in a spirit of convivial abundance and cheerful exaggeration. Green Jell-O, rotisserie chicken, broth, and other foods of now customary association may be received in festive good humor. Mock blessings, comic readings, ridiculous invocations, and the exchange of peace in silliness may be permitted, so long as charity remains intact and reverence for the true worship of Almighty God is nowhere diminished. For sacred laughter is not lawlessness, and holy absurdity is not irreverence, but rather the temporary loosening of the soul from the iron grip of gloom. We remember that the Lord says that we are to be like children, and this day shall hopefully elicit child-like humor, jokes, and good-natured frivolity.

We especially commend this observance to the clergy and church workers who have long borne the strain of grief, outrage, scandal, pastoral exhaustion, public cruelty, and daily weariness. Let none say that a servant of Christ must be forever stern in order to be faithful. Let none imagine that holiness requires the permanent banishment of delight. Let none despise the smile, the joke, the ridiculous costume, the unexpected laugh, or the absurd and harmless thing that, for a moment, gives rest to a bruised spirit. If God in His mercy grants relief by means so improbable as this, then blessed be God who is not limited by our preferred forms of seriousness.

Accordingly, we decree that the Feast of the Most Holy Raptor shall be entered among the holy feasts of this Church, and that each year on its appointed day the faithful may celebrate the same with freedom, festivity, and communal joy. Pastors, ministers, and leaders are encouraged to preserve the feast as one ordered toward healing, delight, fellowship, and the easing of heavy hearts. Teaching the faithful that holy absurdity and sacred laughter are different than mockery and ridicule.

Basilica of Saint Longinus the Centurion

Title— A.D. 2026

And because every feast should bear within itself some word of exhortation, let this also be remembered: a Church that cannot laugh will eventually forget how to be joyful, and a people forbidden joy will find themselves too weak to endure sorrow when it comes. Therefore, let laughter be restored to the weary, levity to the overburdened, fellowship to the isolated, and delight to those whose spirits' light has grown dim.

Thus do we institute this feast, and thus do we commend it to the faithful, trusting that what began in jest has disclosed a truth, namely that even holy absurdity may become an instrument of mercy.

Preys be, Rawrmen, and Chicken-Allelu-Kings to the Clawed One, for she is truly a most Clever Girl!

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Basilica of Saint Longinus this the 23rd day of March, in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



His Holiness, the Legate

Chief Legate-Bishop of the Holy Catholic Church of the Gospels

Bishop Ecclesiae of the Basilica of Saint Longinus the Centurion

Apostolus per Vocationem Dei