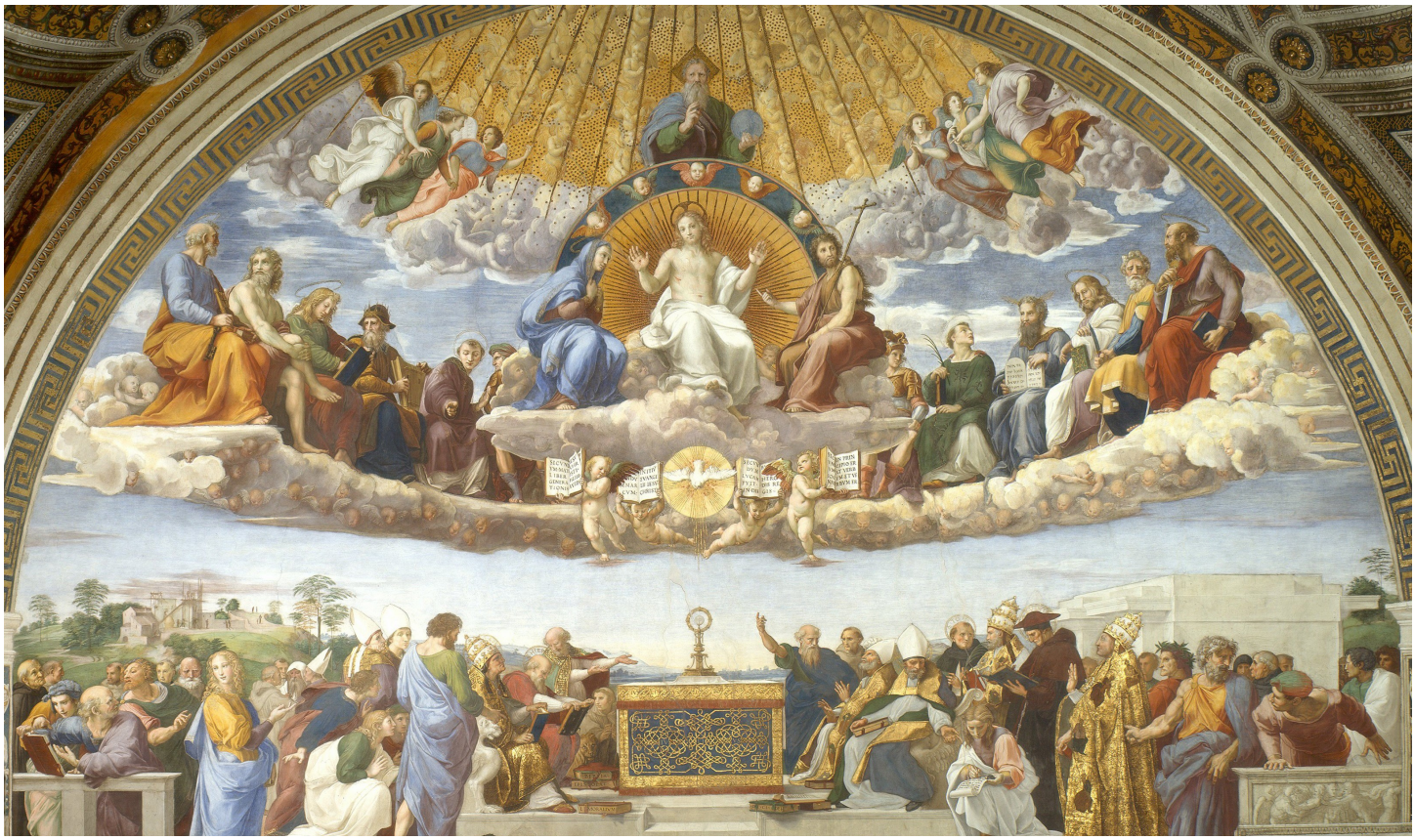

St. Joseph the Worker Homeschool Group

MEMBER HANDBOOK

Est. 2022

Board Members

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Secretary: Becky Plsek

Treasurer: Manuela Green

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www.homeschool-life.com/3711/

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About

MISSION The mission of St. Joseph the Worker Homeschool Group is to support traditional Catholic homeschooling families in the greater Tyler area through regular liturgical, educational, and social events. We aim to support and enrich each member-family's endeavor to provide a robust Catholic home education for their children through wholesome, in-person engagement and shared resources for children, parents, and families. Our homeschool community is geographically centered around Tyler, TX, with many of our members regularly attending St. Joseph the Worker Parish, an FSSP community. Regardless of each family's chosen parish, all our members are friendly to the Latin Mass and venerable Catholic traditions which shape our approach to formation, education, and catechesis.

St. Joseph the Worker Homeschool Group is NOT formally affiliated with St. Joseph the Worker Parish or any other diocesan entity. It is run by parent volunteers as a religious and educational nonprofit organization.

REQUISITES FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

- Parents should read and be familiar with this Handbook.
- All members are expected to abide by SJWHG Community Standards (see pages 9-11) and all other rules and expectations for the safety and privacy of our members.
- Families must communicate appropriately with SJWHG leaders and fellow members.
- Each full membership family has the responsibility to volunteer for at least two SJWHG events per annum in order to distribute the labor involved in running this volunteer-led homeschool group.
- Annual dues (covering operating expenses) should be paid in a timely fashion.
- Parents should read and be familiar with this Handbook.

STATEMENT OF FAITH All our members must:

1) Be active members of a local Catholic parish in good standing with the universal Catholic Church
2) Affirm and profess the Catholic Act of Faith.

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that Thou art one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; I believe that Thy Divine Son became man, and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because Thou hast revealed them, who canst neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

PRESCHOOL-ONLY MEMBERSHIP **NEW**

In order to address a growing need for community support and fellowship amongst young families with pre-school age children only, we are offering a limited membership option for families whose children are all under age six. The Preschool-Only Membership includes:

- Access to informal group communication (viz. members-only GroupMe chat) for planning preschool playdates.
- Reduced annual fee per family of only $10
- Reduced volunteer requirement: host/plan at least one (1) preschool playdate yearly

We hope this will provide social support for these young families without adding undue burdens that are especially challenging to fulfill while all the children are very young. Preschool-Only families may also participate in other member-led events if desired, but they will *not* have login access to our secure Homeschool-Life website nor be eligible to participate in sponsored, members-only events (such as Enrichment Days, Mother Daughter Tea, etc.) unless / until they choose to enroll in Full Membership. Preschool-Only families are expected to abide by all SJWHG Community Standards (see pages 9-11) and all other rules and expectations for the safety and privacy of our members.

APPLICATION & FEES

Full Membership admission to SJW Homeschool Group is a three-step process:

1) Online written application
2) Payment of annual family registration fee
3) Interview with board member

The purpose of the application process is to ensure the safety and privacy of our members as well as to verify that new families align with our mission. St. Joseph the Worker Homeschool Group is organized as a religious educational nonprofit. All members must acknowledge and sign the SJWHG Family Agreement and the Waiver of Liability. Family registration fees are due with submission of the family application. These fees cover operational expenses, including our group's private, secure website hosting.

ANNUAL FULL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

- Open from July 1 to August 31
- Annual family dues deadline is August 31st; $10 late fee incurred after that date.
- Family accounts will be deactivated if membership renewal and/or annual dues and outstanding fees are not submitted by September 30, resulting in suspension of access to both the SJWHG website and members-only GroupMe chat.
- Deactivated families may choose to renew their membership at a later time, but full access will be granted only when all dues and fees have been remitted.

SCHOLARSHIPS Any family unable to afford the annual dues should contact a board member to inquire about scholarships and substituting extra volunteer hours. We do not want any family to miss out on participation in SJW Homeschool Group due to financial barriers. We also welcome donations dedicated to a scholarship fund to assist families in need.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS Each full membership family must contribute volunteer service hours for at least two (2) SJWHG events per academic year. At least one of these must be for a SJWHG sponsored event (see below). Volunteer service hours may comprise planning, running, setting up, and/or cleaning up for an event. These may be fulfilled by parents or responsible teens, depending on the nature of the task. Preschool-Only families are expected to host or plan at least one (1) preschool playdate per year.

If at the end of the school year a family has not been able to fulfill the volunteer service requirement to assist with at least two events, the family will incur a fee of $30. Membership renewal for the following year will not be activated until this fee has been paid. Please contact a board member directly if you have any questions or special circumstances to be considered.

SPONSORED & MEMBER-LED EVENTS St. Joseph the Worker Homeschool Group offers regular sponsored events as well as member-led opportunities for social, educational, physical, and liturgical formation. Our sponsored events include:

- All Saints Day Party
- Annual Father-Son Outing
- Annual Mother-Daughter Tea
- Field Trips (1-2 per semester)
- Enrichment Days (monthly)

Member-led events range from preschool playdates and park days, to extra field trips, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and more. We invite you to consider how you can help to build up our homeschooling community and share your God-given talents.

COMMUNICATION Board communications are sent via email and the SJWHG website. During the school year, a Week-at-a-Glance email is sent out, generally on Mondays. For members-only community networking, we currently use a private GroupMe chat with dedicated threads for the Preschool Group, Enrichment Days, Curriculum Discussion, and more. The SJWHG GroupMe may also be utilized to share member-led events and other local opportunities of interest.

Foundational Principles

CATHOLIC & TRADITIONAL What unites our families first and foremost is our complete adherence to the Faith and Morals of the Catholic Church. *Extra ecclesiam nulla salus!* We wholeheartedly embrace the entire Deposit of Faith which Our Lord Jesus entrusted to the Apostles and their successors. We submit to the authority of the Magisterium and of Sacred Tradition. Bearing always in mind our vocation to raise our children to be worthy citizens of Heaven, we commit to forming them in the truths of our Catholic Faith and to exemplify Christian virtue through our lives. All our families must follow the Church's teachings on Marriage.

Inspired by the ancient maxim, *Lex orandi, Lex credendi, Lex vivendi*, our families are nourished by venerable Catholic traditions that shape our approach to formation, education, and catechesis. While the majority of our members attend the Traditional Latin Mass, all without exception must be friendly to traditional liturgy regardless of their chosen parish.

Code of Canon Law 226

> *§1. According to their own vocation, those who live in the marital state are bound by a special duty to work through marriage and the family to build up the people of God. §2. Since they have given life to their children, parents have a most grave obligation and possess the right to educate them. Therefore, it is for Christian parents particularly to take care of the Christian education of their children according to the doctrine handed on by the Church.*

THE ROLE & RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT Parents are responsible first and foremost for the education of their own children, a God-given and sacred duty. SJWHG exists to support and assist parents' primary work of forming their children in Christian virtue. Parents should inspire and encourage character development and virtue formation in their children and other group members through their own good example, including especially fidelity to all the teachings of the Church regarding the Sacrament of Matrimony. To fail in this regard would be to go against our parental vocation at its primary source. Faithful adherence to perennial Catholic moral principles in all aspects of life is expected of all of our members.

> "Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators. This role in education is so important that only with difficulty can it be supplied where it is lacking. Parents are the ones who must create a family atmosphere animated by love and respect for God and man, in which the well-rounded personal and social education of children is fostered. Hence the family is the first school of the social virtues that every society needs. It is particularly in the Christian family, enriched by the grace and office of the sacrament of matrimony, that children should be taught from their early years to have a knowledge of God according to the faith received in Baptism, to worship Him, and to love their neighbor. Here, too, they find their first experience of a wholesome human society and of the Church. Finally, it is through the family that they are gradually led to a companionship with their fellowmen and with the people of God. Let parents, then, recognize the inestimable importance a truly Christian family has for the life and progress of God's own people."
>
> ~ Pope St. Paul VI, *Gravissimum Educationis*, 3 (28 October 1965)

NOURISHING THE WHOLE PERSON & THE WHOLE FAMILY Our Homeschool Group is built upon a Catholic anthropology which recognizes that the human person is both body and soul, with physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs. Since grace builds upon and elevates nature, as St. Thomas Aquinas teaches, we aim to nourish each person on the natural level in such a way as to be fertile ground for the seeds of divine grace. Moreover, man was created to live in community and no person can flourish in isolation. Hence, SJW Homeschool Group endeavors to enrich the whole family, not only the children, through social engagement, educational opportunities, and liturgical celebrations.

FORMATION OF MOTHERS From the inception of St. Joseph the Worker Homeschool Group, the founding members recognized the profound need to provide greater support and formation for mothers, upon whom so much falls and so much depends in family life. From this was born our monthly Mothers' Meetings which provided spiritual and social support, as well as instruction and inspiration relating to any and all aspects of our vocation as women and mothers. With the establishment of the **Confraternity of Christian Mothers** at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, SJW Homeschool Group entrusted these monthly Mothers' Meetings to the new CCM chapter which continues to nourish women in their God-given vocation to be tabernacles of Christ and spiritual mothers like Our Blessed Mother Mary. We strongly encourage all mothers in SJW Homeschool Group to enroll in the Confraternity of Christian Mothers in order to share in its powerful spiritual benefits which includes a share in all the prayers and Masses offered for the members and access to special plenary and partial indulgences available to Christian Mothers.

The Confraternity of Christian Mothers is a pious association intended for mothers, which has for its special object the promotion of the good Christian and Catholic education of their children. The members join their hearts in love with the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of Sorrows, and unite under her patronage in mutual prayer and solicitude for the welfare of their children and families. To learn more, see: www.christianmothers.org.

THE CHRISTIAN MOTHER'S DAILY PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN

O Mary, Immaculate Virgin and Sorrowful Mother, commend our beloved children
to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Who refuses nothing to His Mother.

Response: pray for them.
Holy Guardian Angels,
St. Joseph, powerful patron,
St. John, much-beloved precursor of our Lord,
St. John, adopted son of the Sorrowful Mother,
St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St. Anthony,
St. Augustine,
St. Aloysius,
St. Elizabeth,
St. Monica,
St. Rose of Lima,

All you holy fathers and mothers, pray for them and for us.
All you holy children, pray for them and for us. Amen.

IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT & DIGITAL MINIMALISM In this era of ubiquitous technology, incessant social media usage, and proportionately increasing social isolation, SJWHG purposely seeks to carve out time and space for human relationships to flourish in natural, in-person contexts without the distractions of cell phones or other digital devices. During SJWHG events, children are never allowed to use cellphones or other digital devices while parents are expected respectfully to limit their use of these lest our times of fellowship be interrupted needlessly. Our families are also strongly encouraged to sign the Postman Pledge (see below) in order to foster a community of families who prioritize the same human and Christian values.

THE POSTMAN PLEDGE

Written by Dr. Jeanne Schindler, a Catholic homeschooling mother, author, and Fellow of the John Paul II Institute, the Postman Pledge is, in her words, "a statement of intention (inspired by the insights of media critic and educator Neil Postman) signed by parents who aspire to create a lower-tech environment for their families and who recognize that to change the ethos of a community requires a common effort—hence the mutual pledge." (2023 Interview with M. Stewart)

> "As Christian parents, we recognize that everything God created is good and that we have the great privilege of teaching our children to know, love, and serve Him in the good world He created. We also recognize that technological developments in the culture undermine our capacity to inhabit the world and engage in social life as richly or fully as we ought.
>
> Therefore, we pledge for the next year not to allow our children to have smartphones or use social media. We also pledge to conscientiously limit our family's use of electronic technologies in general and to cultivate the habits of attention and presence that allow us to grow in love of one another and of God. Knowing that we were created for deep bonds of community, we pledge, finally, to foster friendships among our families in the natural, traditional ways human cultures have always done."

N.B. By "children" we (SJWHG) refer to minors under the age of 18. We do not consider "smartphone" to include Gabb phones, light phones, or similar low-sensory and limited connectivity devices utilized for safety and voice communication. By social media we mean Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, SnapChat, and similar apps used to post publicly and indiscriminately consume content. We do not consider online private messaging via email and texting apps with known persons where in-person communication is not practical to be "social media".

> ***"The truly liberating answer to the problem of children's immersion in technology is not just a more responsible use of technology; it is to give them something better to love."***
>
> ***~ from "Humanizing Technology" by St. Jerome Academy (Hyattsville, MD)***

Community Standards

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN SJWHG does not allow children (minors under age 18) to be dropped off at any SJWHG sponsored event unless the event explicitly states that drop-offs are allowed. In serious circumstances, a parent may choose another adult as a designated guardian for their children during an SJWHG event. This can be a family member over the age of 18 or a friend willing to take responsibility for the health, safety, and well-being of the children during the event.

When at an activity, the parent is the ultimate authority over his own child; however, both parent and child(ren) are expected to respect and obey those in charge of the particular event. The guidelines established for each activity must be followed. If in doubt, ask a board member or the coordinator of the event.

CODE OF CONDUCT Parents are responsible for themselves and for monitoring their children's behavior. All interactions by parents/designated guardians must be courteous, considerate, cooperative, and respectful. It is especially important for older children to provide a good Catholic example to those who are younger, by treating everyone with respect and kindness. Our intention is to encourage virtue in our families in a way that is reasonable according to age, stage, and ability of each. The following behaviors are impermissible and should be addressed by parents immediately:

- Profanity or offensive language
- Negative humor, gossip, or uncharitable remarks
- Bullying or teasing
- Alcohol or smoking
- Violence

All members must respect all property, including parish facilities, event venues, family homes, and personal belongings. We aim to leave all spaces as clean as — or cleaner than — we found them.

Children have the opportunity to participate in various activities through SJWHG. During activities that require silence and stillness, we ask that parents assess their children's ability to participate courteously. Members of the SJWHG are representatives of the homeschool group especially when in public settings. Thus, it is essential that behavior be consistent with Catholic virtue at all times.

VIRTUOUS CONVERSATION In SJWHG, we are committed to cultivating a community built on virtue, wisdom, and Christlike character. Gossip, backbiting, detraction, and slander have no place among us, as they undermine trust, sow division, and hinder the spirit of fellowship we seek to foster. Sacred Scripture warns us against such behavior, as Proverbs 16:28 states, "A perverse man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends," and Ephesians 4:29 instructs, "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear." In keeping with these biblical principles, we expect all concerns and questions to be addressed with humility and brought directly to the board in a spirit of unity and resolution. By upholding this standard, we ensure that SJWHG remains a place of encouragement, integrity, and mutual edification. Gross failure to abide by this standard may be grounds for removal from SJWHG.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION Please uphold the Matthew 18 principle for resolving all conflict: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses." If there is a conflict, first bring the issue directly to the other person. If the issue remains unresolved, then bring a St. Joseph the Worker Homeschool Group leader into the conversation. If the issue still remains unresolved, we will seek the assistance of our parish priests. It is important to remember that we are all sinners, and as a result there will be times of conflict and unintentional hurt feelings. As Sacred Scripture teaches, it is important to believe the best of each person involved, to speak graciously, and to listen attentively.

TEEN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS Understanding the influence older students have on those younger than themselves, we expect our young men and ladies to treat each other with respect and refrain from any flirtatious behaviors. Although each family has the right and responsibility to address dating according to their own convictions, in order to safeguard the dignity of each person as a temple of the Holy Ghost, we do not allow any public display of affection between unrelated teens at any SJWHG functions.

CHILD PROTECTION Although parents will nearly always be present at homeschool group events with their children, there may be times when smaller groups or classes are organized in which children are supervised by adults other than their parents. In such situations, e.g. during Enrichment Days, at least two unrelated adults should be present with each group of children at all times. No child should be alone with an adult who is not their parent/guardian. Any allegations of child abuse will be thoroughly investigated and, if substantiated, reported to the proper authorities.

DRESS CODE Recognizing the inherent dignity of each human person created in the image of God and called to be a temple of the Holy Ghost, SJWHG stresses modesty in action, dress, and appearance. Parents are instrumental in helping students look their best and be considerate in how their behavior and appearance affect others and honor Christ. Therefore, at all of our events, regardless of location, SJWHG adheres to the following, modeled after the Vatican Dress Code, *for parents as well as children*:

- All attire should be clean and neat according to one's means, appropriate to the activity, and modest.
- No tight or transparent attire. Pants should never be form-fitting. Leggings are considered undergarments and must be worn with loose fitting garments for modesty.
- T-shirts must not display inappropriate or offensive wording or graphics.
- Necklines must be modest (no low cut, plunging, or deep-scoop).
- Shoulders must be covered by at least ¼ length sleeves (for both sexes, no sleeveless tops or tank tops).
- When wearing dresses or skirts the knees must be covered, even when seated, with no slits above the knee.
- For sporting activities, boys' and girls' shorts are to be no shorter than just above the knee, even if leggings are underneath.

CELL PHONE AND SCREENS POLICY Students and children are not to use cell phones at any SJWHG event. Adults may never show or share any screen with a child of another member without express permission of that child's parent or designated guardian. During Enrichment Days or other lessons, teachers may not show videos or screens to any students. *Please see "Digital Minimalism" and "The Postman Pledge" sections above for additional guidance.*

PICTURE POLICY Photos of children at SJWHG events are NOT to be shared on public social media platforms without the express permission of the parents of all children pictured. Parental permission is presumed for photos taken at SJWHG events to be included in annual yearbooks, uploaded to our secure SJW Homeschool Group Website, and/or shared on our private SJWHG GroupMe chat.

CLEAN UP Each family in our community shares the responsibilities associated with gathering as a group. Everyone is expected to clean up after him/herself and to participate in event clean-up tasks at the end unless there is a designated clean-up crew. Recognizing the use of any space to be a privilege, we must treat it with the utmost respect and good stewardship, whether it be private or public property.

Family Agreement (Part 1)

HANDBOOK My spouse and I have read the entire SJWHG Handbook and will discuss it with our children (as age appropriate) to ensure they also understand the expectations. We will willingly abide by all policies and rules.

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN We understand and agree that at least one parent (or designated adult guardian) must remain on the premises the entire time and be responsible for our children (all minors under age 18) regardless of their age whenever they are participating in SJWHG events or activities. I understand that if anyone in my family (including myself) violates the rules, it will jeopardize our participation in the homeschool group and that SJWHG reserves the right to deny participation to any student or family.

STATEMENT OF FAITH We have read, understand, and agree with the Statement of Faith (see page 3). Our family lives according to all the moral teachings of the Catholic Church.

CONDUCT We have read, understand, and agree to uphold the Community Standards and Code of Conduct (see pages 9-11). We will refrain from any gossip, backbiting, detraction, slander, or unwholesome behavior both during and outside of SJWHG events and activities.

SERVICE HOURS We understand and agree to fulfill our responsibilities of volunteering for at least two SJWHG events per year. If I am unable to attend a specific event, I will find a replacement for that assignment, and I will contact the board and all those affected either by email or text as soon as possible.

THE GOVERNING BOARD We will remember that parents on the governing board are volunteers like ourselves and are not being compensated for their time. We commit to honor their sacrifice of time and effort by striving to provide as much advance notice as possible for any necessary changes, and always to communicate courteously and charitably with the SJWHG board.

We understand that the decisions of the board are for the health and longevity of SJWHG as a whole, in support of its mission, and are prayerfully considered. We understand that SJWHG is a homeschool support organization, not a traditional school, and we as parents remain fully responsible for the education of our child(ren).

THE POSTMAN PLEDGE (voluntary) We as a family _____ DO / _____ DO NOT commit to the Postman Pledge (see page 7 for text) for the coming academic year.

NB To be signed electronically by each family at time of application and annual membership renewal.

Family Agreement (Part 2)

UNFULFILLED RESPONSIBILITIES We acknowledge and agree that our participation in SJWHG is contingent upon our compliance with all policies, commitments, and responsibilities outlined in this agreement. In the event of unfulfilled parent responsibilities, the following responses shall apply:

1. Non-Payment of Fees: Failure to pay fees by the agreed-upon due date(s) may result in suspension from access to the SJWHG website, groups, and events until payment is received. Late payments may be subject to a late fee of $10. SJWHG reserves the right to deny participation in classes, activities, and events until all outstanding fees are paid in full. Families with demonstrable financial need may request a scholarship to help cover annual dues. This will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

2. Violation of SJWHG Policies, Community Standards, or Code of Conduct:

- First offense: Written warning from the SJWHG governing board.
- Second offense: Formal meeting with the governing board and a written behavioral agreement.
- Third offense: Expulsion from SJWHG, with no refund of fees.

3. Dispute Resolution: Any disputes related to this agreement shall first be addressed through mediation with the governing board. If a resolution cannot be reached, SJWHG reserves the right to make the final decision regarding participation, without obligation to refund fees.

RESTITUTION We agree to pay for any item that our child(ren) or we damage or break at host locations, or in connection with any visiting speaker, guest, event, field trip or other SJWHG activity.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK We understand and agree that the SJWHG Board, members, and/or the host locations will at no time be responsible or liable for mishaps, injuries, or accidents that may occur during the year while participating in any SJWHG activity or event.

WAIVER Our family waives the right to pursue legal action against SJWHG, its board members, members, or host locations related to the terms of this agreement or any decisions made in accordance with it. By signing below, we acknowledge that we have read, understand, and agree to the terms outlined in this Family Agreement.

NB To be signed electronically by each family at time of application and annual membership renewal.

Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risks, and Indemnity Agreement

Preamble: *The following waiver is required for the primary purpose of protecting our Homeschool Group and its members from third party civil lawsuits acting in their own interests: e.g. health insurance companies suing a family who hosts a HG event at which a member injures himself. This waiver does NOT protect any board member, volunteer, or parent/child member of the St. Joseph the Worker Homeschool Group from prosecution for any criminal activity, including but not limited to sexual abuse of any kind, destruction of property, criminal negligence, or bodily harm to others. This waiver was written with the assistance of trusted legal council. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a board member for clarification.*

Waiver: In consideration of my child, ward, spouse, or myself being permitted to participate in any way in any and all activities of St. Joseph the Worker Homeschool Group ("Group") at the residence of any member or at any and all locations where such Group activities take place (collectively, the "Activities"), I, for myself, my spouse, my child and/or ward, and my heirs, personal representatives, or assigns, hereby covenant not to sue and release, waive, and discharge the Group, its directors, officers, staff members, volunteers, advisors, property owners, and/or agents from liability and from any and all claims, including the negligence or default of the Group, its directors, officers, members, volunteers, advisors, property owners, and/or agents, resulting in personal injury, accidents, or illnesses (including death) and property loss arising from, but not limited to, participation in the Activities.

Assumption of Risks: Participation in the activities involves inherent risks that cannot be eliminated, regardless of the precautions taken to prevent injuries. The specific risks vary from one activity to another but generally include (1) communicable diseases; (2) minor injuries such as scratches, bruises, and sprains; (3) exposure to allergens or activities that may negatively impact medical conditions; (4) major injuries such as eye injuries or loss of sight, joint or back injuries, broken bones or teeth, asthma attacks or heart attacks, and concussions; and (5) catastrophic injuries, including paralysis and death.

I have read the previous paragraphs, and I understand and appreciate the inherent risks involved in activities that may include, without limitation, parties, picnics, BBQs, hiking, swimming, camping, field days, field trips, museums, plays, parks, recitals, practices, or other such activities. I hereby assert that my participation and/or that of my spouse, children, or wards is voluntary, and that I knowingly assume and accept all risks. I also understand that I may engage in activities not sponsored or supported by the Group, but rather as private activities of members, and I assume all risks associated with these private activities ("Non-Group Activities").

Indemnification and Hold Harmless: I also agree to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD the Group, its directors, officers, members, volunteers, advisors, property owners, and/or agents, HARMLESS from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages, and liabilities, including attorneys' fees, arising from my involvement in the Activities or Non-Group Activities or both, and/or the involvement of my spouse, a minor child, or ward of mine in the Activities or Non-Group Activities or both, in any location where Activities or Non-Group Activities or both are conducted, as well as from all claims that may develop or accrue to them in the future on account of injury, loss, or damage sustained by said minor or any property, due to any matter, thing, or condition, negligence, or default whatsoever, and to reimburse them for any such expenses incurred.

Severability: This Waiver shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. Any legal actions or proceedings arising hereunder shall be brought exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction located in Texas. The undersigned further expressly agrees that the foregoing waiver, assumption of risks, indemnification, and hold harmless agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the law of the State of Texas.

If any portion is found invalid, it is agreed that the remainder shall, nevertheless, continue in full legal force and effect.

Acknowledgment and Understanding: I have read this Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risks, and Indemnity Agreement, fully understand its terms, and recognize that I am relinquishing substantial rights, including my right to sue. I acknowledge that I am signing this agreement freely and voluntarily, and I intend by my signature to provide a complete and unconditional release of all liability permitted by law.

I further agree to accompany or have another adult accompany my minor child at all times while they are involved in any activities on the premises of any member, or at any other location, and acknowledge that I am fully responsible for the above child at all times while he or she is participating in any activities organized by the Group, at the homes of members of the Group, or at any other location.

I further agree that by checking the box "Yes, I/We understand and agree" below, I am stating that I/we have read, understand, and agree to this Waiver of Liability for myself, my spouse, and my children named on this form.

NB To be signed electronically by each family at time of application and annual membership renewal.