

Sisters, I try living my life by this simple OPI manifesto. The original one. I'm certainly not ashamed or embarrassed by being a sister.

Love from Hell xoxoxo

The Order is a Gay Liberation group, collective in its decision making. The sisters and brothers meet regularly at informal "nuncheons". Our membership reflects the wide variety of beliefs and philosophies in the gay and lesbian community. There are radical faerie nuns, nuns who are Marxist, nuns who are Christians, atheist nuns, anarchist and philatelic, haute couture nuns, gourmet nuns and nuns who don't listen!

The good works of the Sisters/Brothers include officiating at rites of many kinds: marriages, exorcism of unwelcome demons from buildings, institutions and personages; exhibitions, openings, hospital visitations and house blessings; book launchings (for publications bearing the "imprimatur" or the Orders' "obstat"), umpiring sporting events, safe(r) sex education and fund raising for worthy causes.

PERPETUAL INDULGENCE is both a name and a way of life. Some traditional religious institutions have granted, and still grant, indulgences to their members, freeing them from the "temporal punishment due to sin". The Order of Perpetual Indulgence, in a similar way, by thought, word and deed, does the same. We claim for gay and lesbian people a perpetual indulgence which frees them from self punishment, guilt and despair. It is our earnest wish that by banishing the self indulgent scruples of the closet, we can come to work more effectively to bring about change that is good and keep our sense of humour at the same time.

THE PROMULGATION OF UNIVERSAL JOY is the mission that the Sisters/Brothers carry out personally and collectively as an antidote to the oppressive effects of gender roles and behaviour forced upon men and women by our society. The Sisters/Brothers try to exorcise the gloom of conformity and "proper" behaviour from their lives and the lives of others.

PUBLIC MANIFESTATION means that we show forth our vocation wherever people gather. We do not always wait for an invitation. The major means by which we express our public ministry is by the wearing of our habits/robes and the perpetration of our presence wherever and whenever we deem it appropriate.

STIGMATIC GUILT is the effect of centuries of systematic scapegoating of gay and lesbian people. In a way similar to that in which women, indigenous people, jews, gypsies and people with disabilities are made to feel less than human because they are who they are, gays and lesbians are made to swallow lies about themselves. The stigma attached to being gay or lesbian brings its own brand of guilt and self-oppression. The Sisters/Brothers seek to expiate this on behalf of gay/lesbian people. The Order's mission is equally to the Straight and Gay/Lesbian communities.

The Order of Perpetual Indulgence is an Order of male/nuns and female/monks dedicated to the promulgation of universal joy and the expiation of stigmatic guilt through public manifestation and habitual perpetration.