Charter Establishing the Christopher Morgan Scholarship

## Preamble

In the spirit of Christian vocation and in steadfast remembrance of the exemplary life of the Late Christopher Morgan—former Cardinal of the Ancient Catholic Church and Archbishop Primus of the United Kingdom—we do hereby establish the Christopher Morgan Scholarship. This Scholarship is dedicated to supporting a candidate for priestly formation at St Thomas Aquinas Seminary and ensuring that his enduring legacy of love, service, and transformative ministry is transmitted across generations.

## Article I – Declaration of Intent

1. **Purpose:**
The Christopher Morgan Scholarship is instituted to provide financial support and spiritual mentorship to one deserving candidate each year, whose vocation to the priesthood reflects the compassionate service and dedication exemplified by Cardinal Morgan.
2. **Inspiration:**
Drawing inspiration from Cardinal Morgan’s extensive ministry—from his early years as a Lay Reader and advancing through numerous pastoral roles, to his leadership as Archbishop—this Scholarship is also a celebration of his deep-rooted connection to the Benedictine tradition. As a long-time oblate of the Order of St Benedict, his life was a testament to the values of humility, community, and steadfast service.

## Article II – In Memoriam of Cardinal Christopher Morgan

1. **Biographical Tribute:**
	* **Ministry and Service:**
	Beginning his journey in 1992 as a Licensed Lay Reader, Christopher Morgan’s vocation expanded with his ordination as Deacon (4th July 2004) and subsequently as Priest (5th July 2005). His ministry included serving as a chaplain in diverse settings, ultimately evolving into a leadership role that embraced both pastoral care and community outreach.
	* **Academic and Ministerial Formation:**
	His comprehensive formation included studies at The Duke of York’s Royal Military School, advanced diplomas from Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford, The Open College, and culminating in further qualifications that enriched his pastoral ministry. Notably, in 2017 he was conferred an Honourary Doctor of Divinity by the Ancient Catholic Church.
	* **Leadership and Legacy:**
	Elevated as Bishop of Norfolk and later consecrated as Archbishop of Great Britain, his example of service continues to inspire an approach to ministry grounded in both tradition and an expansive, non-denominational commitment to all communities.
2. **Personal Reflections:**
His heartfelt reflections—emphasizing the balance between family and vocation—serve as a guiding beacon for all who are called to walk the path of priesthood.

## Article III – Scholarship Objectives and Eligibility

1. **Objectives:**
	* To provide targeted financial assistance, mentorship, and spiritual guidance to one candidate annually, thus fostering a formation environment that reflects Cardinal Morgan’s passion for pastoral excellence.
	* To perpetuate the legacy of Cardinal Morgan by nurturing a vocation rooted in rich ministerial experience, academic rigor, and a commitment to community service.
2. **Eligibility Criteria:**
	* **Annual Award:** The scholarship shall be granted to one student each year, underscoring both the exclusivity and the profound commitment of this initiative.
	* **Low-Income Background:** In order to enhance access to priestly formation, candidates must come from a low-income background, supported by verifiable evidence of financial need.
	* **Benedictine Connection:** Candidates must provide documentation proving a connection to the Order of St Benedict. This requirement honours Cardinal Morgan’s lifelong dedication to the Order—he being a respected oblate—and aims to cultivate future ministers whose lives echo Benedictine values of humility, community, and service.
	* **Spiritual and Academic Commitment:** In addition to the above, candidates must demonstrate academic promise, pastoral sensitivity, and a heartfelt commitment to both spiritual formation and community outreach.

## Article IV – Administration and Governance

1. **Oversight Committee:**
An Oversight Committee comprising senior members of the Seminary’s formation faculty, representatives from the Ancient Catholic Church, and community members shall administer the scholarship. Their responsibilities will include the transparent selection of candidates, the disbursement of scholarship funds, and the provision of continued spiritual mentorship in alignment with the values inherited from Cardinal Morgan’s ministry.
2. **Selection Process:**
	* The candidate review process will be conducted annually with careful consideration of the stated criteria, ensuring that only those who meet or exceed these standards receive the award.
	* Applications must include documented evidence of financial need and a demonstrated connection to the Order of St Benedict, alongside academic and pastoral references.
3. **Review and Reporting:**
The Committee shall issue an annual report, evaluating the impact of the scholarship on the candidate’s formation and ministry, thereby ensuring that the vision of Cardinal Morgan’s enduring legacy is realized in practical terms.

## Article V – Final Provisions

1. **Legacy of Renewal:**
The establishment of this Scholarship is not merely a memorial, but a vibrant, ongoing testament to the call for renewal in our Church. Emulating Cardinal Morgan’s integration of traditional faith and community service, this Scholarship promotes the nurturing of vocations that bring transformative ministry to diverse and often underserved communities.
2. **Amendments:**
Amendments to this Charter may be made with the full consultation of the Oversight Committee and in accordance with the canonical guidelines of the Ancient Catholic Church, ensuring that the principles of Cardinal Morgan’s legacy remain at the forefront.
3. **Ratification:**
This Charter is formally ratified on this day, as an act of faithful remembrance and a commitment to the future of priestly formation guided by the values of service, humility, and pastoral care.

May the Christopher Morgan Scholarship serve as a luminous beacon for those who, through humble means and a deep connection to the Benedictine tradition, seek to carry forward a ministry marked by transformative service to God and community.

**Additional Reflections:**
In supporting a candidate from a humble background with a genuine connection to the Order of St Benedict, this initiative not only reaffirms Cardinal Morgan’s enduring legacy but also encourages a broader inclusivity within the priestly vocation. This endeavor invites further exploration of how spiritual, academic, and financial support can converge to empower the next generation of ministers who are equipped to meet the challenges of modern pastoral care while rooted in timeless tradition.