

**The Bruté Society
Diocese of Evansville
Parish Manual
Third Edition — 2020**

INTRODUCTION

This manual has been prepared for the use of pastors, parish administrators and other parish leaders of the Diocese of Evansville, Indiana. Its purpose is to provide a description of The Bruté Society and its annual ceremony of induction for new members.

If any questions remain following a complete review of the information presented below, please write to:

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WHAT IS THE BRUTÉ SOCIETY?

The Bruté Society is an honorary association of southwestern Indiana Catholic lay persons who have been recognized by their fellow parishioners as outstanding models of Christian stewardship.

The Bruté Society was established in 1990 as an official activity of the Diocese of Evansville, Indiana.

Participation in this program by diocesan parishes is voluntary but strongly encouraged.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME

The Bruté Society is named for Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté who was appointed the first bishop of Vincennes in 1834. At that time, the territory of the Vincennes Diocese included all of Indiana as well as about one third of Illinois. The name “The Bruté Society” represents the rich spiritual and historical heritage of the present Diocese of Evansville.

PURPOSES AND GOALS OF THE SOCIETY

The Bruté Society was established to accomplish several related purposes:

1. To acknowledge and give thanks to God for exemplary Christian stewardship demonstrated by individual members of the parishes of the Diocese of Evansville.
2. To promote an ever-deepening commitment to stewardship as the way of life for all Catholics in southwestern Indiana.
3. To give public witness to the unity of all parishes of the Diocese of Evansville.
4. To provide an annual inspirational celebration for the Catholic Church in southwestern Indiana.

MEMBERSHIP

Who is Eligible?

Membership in The Bruté Society is limited to lay persons who are registered members of one of the parishes of the Diocese of Evansville. Ordained clergy and religious are not eligible.

Each parish may nominate at least one candidate for membership for 2019 and one for 2020. A husband and wife may be nominated as a couple; a couple is considered to be one candidate.

Parishes with up to 499 entries on their most recent parish mailing lists may nominate **one** (1) individual or couple. Those parishes with 500 to 999 entries on their most recent parish mailing lists may nominate **two** (2) individuals or couples each year. Parishes with 1,000 or more names on their mailing lists may nominate **three** (3) individuals or couples.

If a parish, due to extraordinary circumstances (illness of a potential candidate, for example), finds themselves in need of nominating beyond their allotted number, they should contact The Bruté Society before proceeding.

Individuals or couples who will be presented by the parish for membership in The Bruté Society should meet the minimum criteria outlined below under “Criteria for Selection.”

Who Selects Candidates for Membership?

Under ordinary circumstances, the Parish Council is responsible for selecting its parish candidate or candidates for membership, subject to the approval of the pastor.

Each Parish is responsible for establishing its own process for selecting its candidates.

Criteria for Selection

Any individual or couple whom a Parish Council would consider to nominate for membership in The Bruté Society should possess these minimum qualities and characteristics:

1. A lifestyle that is in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic faith.
2. An exceptional commitment to the principles of good stewardship. This is usually shown over a period of time through selfless giving of time, talent, and/or treasure to the life and work of a parish.
3. An individual or couple whom fellow parishioners would be proud to have represent their parish by being accepted as members of The Bruté Society.

Since many parishioners in each parish possess these minimum qualities, each Parish Council should seek out those few parishioners who stand out from the rest: those whose devotion and dedication to the parish can best and simply be described as “extraordinary.”

It is from this group of outstanding parishioners that a Parish Council would select its candidate(s) for membership each year.

Schedule for Selection and Notification of Candidates

Each parish must submit the name(s) and address(es) of its candidate(s) to The Bruté Society in September each year.

During September, the Bishop notifies all candidates of their nomination for membership and The Bruté Society invites them to participate in the ceremony of induction.

Candidates receive a series of letters and other materials which explain The Bruté Society and which contain all necessary information about the induction ceremony.

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Time and Place

Each year new members are inducted into The Bruté Society during a solemn Ceremony of Induction. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the time and manner in which this ceremony will take place has not yet been finalized. It may not be finalized until much closer to the award ceremony.

THE SIMON BRUTÉ MEDAL

As a special symbol of membership in The Bruté Society, each member receives a beautiful, distinctive medallion known as the “Simon Bruté Medal.” The ribbon from which this medal hangs is placed around the neck of new members by the bishop as part of the induction ceremony.

The Simon Bruté medal was fashioned from the official diocesan stewardship logo. This logo depicts the three stewardship “Ts” (Treasure, Time and Talent) presented in a way that looks like three people arrayed in a triangle. At the center stands the powerful symbol of the cross representing the core of the Christian Faith. The words “The Bruté Society” ring the inner design to symbolize that The Bruté Society members are, first and foremost, good stewards.