

La Hermandad de Soledad de Buenaventura

Seville, Spain | Ventura, California | Los Angeles, California

Hermanos Unidos

I. The Vetting Process: Establishing Solid Solidarity

No scabs, no tourists, no federal agents. Membership in the confraternity isn't an individual consumer choice; it is an organized commitment to the cell.

- **Mutual Vetting:** You don't just sign a card to join. Every prospective member must submit a formal declaration of intent, which must be backed and signed by at least two active, veteran members of the collective. If you don't have comrades to vouch for your material dedication and reliability, you don't get a seat at the table.
- **The Absolute Oath:** Admission is finalized only when you stand before the general assembly and take a binding oath. You are pledging your labor, your conduct, and your personal reputation to uphold the collective's bylaws (*Reglas*).

II. The Procession: Strategic Anonymity & The Black Bloc Protocol

The afternoon of Good Friday is the ultimate deployment. The *Estación de Penitencia* functions exactly like a disciplined, highly organized Black Bloc action through the streets.

- **The Erasure of Class (The Tunic):** When you put on the white serge tunic and drop the one-meter-high black *antifaz* (hood) over your face, the individual worker drops away. Your legal identity, your job, your wealth, or your poverty cease to exist. Every member looks identical. The hierarchy of the capitalist street is entirely leveled.
- **The Direct-Route Protocol:** You leave your home in uniform with your face fully covered. You are ordered to march to the assembly point (the Convent of San Buenaventura) via the shortest, most direct geographical route possible. No stops at commercial storefronts, no talking to bystanders, no lingering on the sidewalk. You move with purpose, execute the mission, and return home the same way.
- **Operational Silence:** Once in the ranks, absolute silence is enforced. No casual chatter, no looking around to check out the crowd, and no breaking the line without express permission from a cell marshal (*Celador*). You eat nothing, drink nothing, and break for nothing. Your hunger and your fatigue are sublimated into the collective march. Any breach of this discipline results in immediate removal by the Chief Marshal (*Diputado Mayor de Gobierno*).

III. General Assembly Democracy & Accountability

- **Rank-and-File Democracy:** The collective is governed by the *Cabildo General*—the general assembly. Every member gets an equal voice and an equal vote upon reaching the age of 18 (with one year of active membership). Decisions on strategy, resource allocation, and internal policy are handled through direct democracy, not top-down edicts.

- **Leadership Recall and Maturity:** To run for the coordinating position of *Hermano Mayor* (Organizer/Elder Brother), you must have a minimum of 6 years of unbroken active struggle within the ranks and be over 25. Leadership is a burden of service, demanding proven dedication, transparency, and a lifestyle that doesn't bring heat or disgrace to the collective.
- **Mutual Aid Treasury:** The treasury relies entirely on democratically set dues from the rank-and-file. Every cent is accounted for, subject to rigorous internal audits, and used solely to maintain the collective infrastructure and fund mutual aid operations for the community. No profits, no skimming, no corporate sponsors.

The Ventura-Buenaventura Connection: It's no coincidence that the mission town of Ventura, California, shares a name with this Seville brotherhood. Both trace back to San Buenaventura (St. Bonaventure), the Franciscan philosopher who argued that true knowledge isn't found in abstract academic elitism, but in communal love, practical labor, and shared struggle. Whether on the cobblestones of Seville or organizing on the asphalt of Los Angeles, the principle remains the same: *An injury to one is an injury to all, and the collective outlives the individual.*

