



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM  
PRO LAICIS

139/06/AIC-76

## DECREE

The World Apostolate of Fatima is an association of the faithful that has as its general purpose «the promotion of the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church and the strict adherence to the tenets of the Gospel; the personal sanctification of the adherents through faithful adherence to the message of Fatima and the promotion of the common good by the spreading of the message of Fatima» (*Statutes*, art. II, 1-3).

In the apparitions of 1917, the Blessed Virgin reaffirmed to the three little shepherds -Lucia dos Santos and the blessed brothers Francisco and Jacinta Marto- the perennial Christian message of conversion, prayer and penance in reparation for sins and for the conversion of sinners, together with a more genuine devotion to the Eucharist, the devotion to the Rosary and the consecration to her Immaculate Heart.

At the same time, «the World Apostolate has the specific purpose of promoting the Pledge given by each member of the World Apostolate of Fatima» (*Statutes*, art. II, 4).

The members of the World Apostolate of Fatima, spread throughout numerous countries of the world, commit themselves to become faithful witnesses of the Catholic faith in their own families, at work, in the parishes and communities, participating in this way in the “New Evangelisation”.

The Second Vatican Council, together with the post-conciliar teaching, has given special attention to the new forms of aggregation of the Christian faithful and their participation in the life of the Church. Deep esteem and consideration has been shown to them (cf. Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity *Apostolicam actuositatem*, 18, 19 and 21; John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, 29).

In his Apostolic Letter, *Novo millennio inuente*, His Holiness John Paul II wrote about the great importance of «the promotion of forms of associations, whether of the more traditional kind or the newer ecclesial movements which continue to give the Church a vitality that is God’s gift and a true “Springtime of the Spirit”» (46).



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Consequently:

Having examined attentively the request presented to this Dicastery, by Prof. Américo Pablo López Ortiz, President of the *World Apostolate of Fatima*, that this association be erected as a public international association of the faithful and that its Statutes be approved;

Considering that the World Apostolate of Fatima is a suitable instrument for the formation of the lay people through the message of Fatima in view of the new evangelisation proposed by the Holy Fathers John Paul II and Benedict XVI;

Valuing the commendatory letters received from many Dioceses around the world, which reflect the positive appreciation of the Bishops for the activities developed for the members of the *World Apostolate of Fatima* to benefit the Church;

In light of articles 131-134 of the Apostolic Constitution *Pastor Bonus* for the Roman Curia and according to canon 312, § 1, 1° of the Code of Canon Law, the Pontifical Council for the Laity decrees:

1°. The erection of the *World Apostolate of Fatima* as a public international association of the faithful, according to canons 298-320 and 327-329 of the Code of Canon Law.

2°. The approval of the Statutes of this association, duly authenticated by this Dicastery and deposited in our Archives, for a period of five years *ad experimentum*.

Vatican City, 7 October 2005, Memory of the Blessed Mary Virgin of the Rosary.

+ Dn. Clemens

Josef Clemens  
Secretary



+ St. Ryłko

Stanisław Ryłko  
President