



World Unity through Prayer

# World Apostolate of Fatima

*INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT*

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## **PRESS RELEASE OF THE WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, presented Professor Americo Pablo Lopez-Ortiz, International President of the World Apostolate of Fatima, the decree of erection of the World Apostolate of Fatima as a public association of the faithful for the Universal Church. A public ceremony was held at the *Aula Magna* of the Pontifical Council for the Laity on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2006, to proclaim it publicly. The decree was issued on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2005, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The ceremony included a moment of prayer, the reading and consignment of the decree of erection, the World Apostolate of Fatima's President's remarks and the Pontifical Council for the Laity's President's remarks.

At his address to the Pontifical Council for the Laity, the President of the WAF, Prof. Americo Lopez-Ortiz, accepted with joy the decree of approval: "A great blessing and at the same time a great responsibility to carry out with hope and excellence! Under the umbrella of the WAF, all associations and apostolic movements propagating the authentic message of Fatima may encounter an example of faithfulness and loyalty to the Holy Father and the Diocesan Bishops in communion with the successor of Peter. The WAF will serve the Church as a worldwide instrument of the New Evangelization proposed by Pope John Paul II, the Great, and his Successor, Pope Benedict XVI".



*The Holy Father Benedict XVI receives Prof. Americo Lopez-Ortiz, International President of the WAF at the General Audience on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2006.*

Professor Lopez-Ortiz added: "The WAF will line its charisma of formation of lay people by transmitting the authentic message of Fatima and its profound spirituality, centred in the Primacy of God in our society and our civilization.



*The ceremony of consignment of the Decree of erection and the approval of the statutes of the WAF at the Aula Magna of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.*

An era of peace, a century of hope, a new Marian Pentecost, a new spring for the world was promised by Our Lady, if we are faithful to her message. The message of Fatima is more urgent now than ever before, more actual and more essential to the present state of moral and spiritual crisis of our civilization. Our Apostolate must contribute as much as possible to offer a new criteria, a new option to solve the present crisis by turning to the ever new, ever actual, ever efficient call of the Gospel: «Repent and do penance! Convert yourself while there is still time!». This is our faith, this is our commitment, this is our responsibility to God, to the Church, to history! Do not rest until the pleas of Our Lady are heard by humanity... Do not rest until her requests are responded by many!" concluded Prof. Lopez-Ortiz.



*Ceremony of the signing of the new universal pledge of the WAF. From left to right: Bishop Serafim of Leiria-Fatima, Mr. Georges Inglin, International Vice-President, Fr. Mark Moretti, President of the WAF – USA. Seated: Prof. Americo Lopez-Ortiz, International President and Fr. Andrew Apostoli C.F.R.*

Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, remarked: “It is with great joy that we celebrate this moment of the consignment of the decree of erection and approval of the Statutes of the World Apostolate of Fatima. It indicates the occasion when the Holy See formally and joyfully accepts a new subject which has as its goal the sanctification of its own members and the building up of the whole Church. At the same time, the lay faithful are confirmed by the Holy See in their right to associate in order to promote a more perfect Christian life and to develop evangelizing activities throughout the whole world”.



*The International Board of Trustees of the WAF showing the decree of erection of the Apostolate.*

The decree of erection states: “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 Evangelization.

Consequently: having examined attentively the request presented by this Dicastery by Prof. Americo Pablo Lopez-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 WAF is a suitable instrument for the formation of the lay people through the message of Fatima in view of the new evangelization proposed by the Holy Father John Paul II and Benedict XVI [...] the Pontifical Council for the Laity decrees the approval of the WAF and its statutes.”

Present at the public ceremony there were representatives of 14 countries accompanied by H. E. Bishop Seraphim of Leiria-Fatima, Monsignor Luciano Guerra, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Luís Kondor, Vice-Postulator for the cause of canonization of Jacinta and Francisco Marto, Fr. Manuel Antunes, Director of the Movement of the Message of Fatima in Portugal, H. E. Mons. Diego Bona, Bishop Emeritus and President of the WAF in Italy, the former President of the Republic of Italy, H. E. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, Archbishops and national leaders from five continents.



*From left to right: Prof. Americo Lopez-Ortiz, International President of the WAF, H. E. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, former President of the Republic of Italy, Archbishop Emeritus Karel Otčenasek of the Czech Republic and Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.*

An international congress on Fatima was celebrated at the *Salesianum Centre* in Rome with speakers offering magistral conferences on the authentic Message of Fatima during the subsequent days of the public ceremony. The Apostolate also participated at the General Audience of the Holy Father of Wednesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of February and at the Holy Mass presided by the successor of Peter on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2006.



*Group photo taken at the Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome.*