

STATUTES OF THE WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA

INTRODUCTION

1." Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path" (Mk I, 3). The message of Fatima is a new intervention by God in the history of people. It has a universal character that echoes the Gospel in the freshness and simplicity of the first Christian catechesis, precisely by calling to prayer and penance, that will guide us to conversion, to "metanoia", to change of life.

"Be converted so that your sins will be forgiven" (Acts 3: 19); "Do not offend Our Lord any more because He is too much offended" (Apparition of October 13, 1917)

Indeed, the message of Fatima is an echo of the Word of God revealed in Christ.

The message of Fatima, by proclaiming God's primacy repeats for people the true way of the Gospel: "This is the time of fulfilment. The reign of God is at hand! Reform your lives and believe in the Gospel!" (Mk 1, 15).

2. The apparitions at Fatima clearly indicate that Our Blessed Lady is asking us for a deeper love and reverence for the Holy Trinity leading to amendment of life, for prayer and penance in reparation for sin and for the conversion of sinners, for a more genuine devotion to the Eucharist, devotion to the rosary and for consecration to Her Immaculate Heart. The urgent necessity for a response to this Message, and for the active promotion of it, in the interest of salvation of souls and of peace, is by God's grace the moving force behind the spread of the Apostolate of Fatima throughout the world.

3. In the words of Pope John Paul II: "The evangelical call to repentance and conversion, uttered in the Mother's (Fatima) message, remains ever relevant. It is more relevant today, still more urgent" (Pope John Paul II, May 13, 1982 at Fatima, Portugal).

"Fatima, in its message and its blessing, is conversion to God. Here we can sense the testimony of the redemption of mankind, by the intercession of her, who with her foot crushed and will ever crush the head of the old serpent" (May 12, 1991 at Fatima).

"It is as though here. . . the words pronounced on Golgotha had resounded with a new echo" (May 13, 1992 at Fatima).

According to the divine plan, "a woman clothed with the sun" (Rv 12:1) came down from heaven to this earth to visit the privileged children of the Father. She speaks to them with a mother's voice and heart.

The message of Fatima is a call to conversion, alerting humanity to have nothing to do with the "dragon" whose "tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth" (Rv, 12:4). Man's final goal is heaven, his true home, where the heavenly Father awaits everyone with his merciful love. Pope John Paul, II, May 13, 2000



God does not want anyone to be lost; that is why 2,000 years ago he sent his Son to earth, 'to seek and to save the lost' (Lk19:10). And he saved us by his death on the cross. Let no one empty that Cross of its power! Jesus died and rose from the dead to be 'the first-born among many brethren' (Rom 8:29). Pope John Paul, II, May 13, 2000.

In her motherly concern, the Blessed Virgin came here to Fatima to ask men and women "to stop offending God, Our Lord, who is already very offended". It is a mother's sorrow that compels her to speak; the destiny of her children is at stake. For this reason she asks the little shepherds: 'Pray, pray much and make sacrifices for sinners; many souls go to hell because they have no one to pray and make sacrifices for them". Pope John Paul, II, May 13, 2000.

And if we have not yet seen the complete fulfilment of the final part of this prophecy, we are going towards it little by little with great strides. If we do not reject the path of sin, hatred, revenge, injustice, violations of the rights of the human person, immorality and violence, etc. Pope John Paul, II, May 13, 2000.

And let us not say that it is God who is punishing us in this way; on the contrary it is people themselves who are preparing their own punishment. In his kindness God warns us and calls us to the right path, while respecting the freedom he has given us; hence people are responsible". Pope John Paul, II, May 13, 2000.

ARTICLE I. NAME.

The name of the organization is the World Apostolate of Fatima (the "World Apostolate"). It is a public international association of the faithful being a juridical person.

The World Apostolate shall maintain an office at Domus Pacis in Fatima, Portugal. Its address is
P.O. Box 382496 Fatima, Portugal.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE.

The purpose of the World Apostolate is:

- (1) the promotion of the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church and the strict adherence to the tenets of the Gospel;
- (2) the personal sanctification of adherents through faithful adherence to the message of Fatima;
- (3) the promotion of the common good by the spreading of the message of Fatima; and
- (4) in addition to these three general purposes the World Apostolate has the specific purpose of promoting the Pledge given by each member of the World Apostolate of Fatima



The World Apostolate of Fatima collaborates with many other expressions of devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, manifested in various ways approved by the Church.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP.

A. Individual members of the World Apostolate. The minimum required for adherence to the principles of the World Apostolate is the making of a pledge, promising: (1) to offer up every day the sacrifices demanded by one's daily duty to the faithful observance of God's law; (2) to say five decades of the Rosary daily while meditating on the mysteries; (3) to wear the brown scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as a sign and reminder of personal consecration to our Lady and (4) on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, confess and receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep company with Our Lady for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary.

Members in spreading the message of Fatima shall be united with the Holy Father, and the bishops in union with him. When acting in the name of the World Apostolate, they must keep within the terms of the message of Fatima and the authorized practices of the Apostolate.

Individual members may participate in the affairs of the World Apostolate only through the activities of their respective National Organization.

B. National Organizations. National organizations of the World Apostolate shall be of the following categories:

(1) Principal Nations

Nations whose Bishops' Conference or several Diocesan Bishops of the nation have recognized the Apostolate of Fatima by written document have the status of a **National Center**. In addition, these nations have held a national election of officers in recent years. Those nations shall also be in compliance with their obligations under Article VII of this Constitution. Each Principal Nation shall have and provide proof of the approval of its Diocesan Ordinary

(2) Advancing Nations

Nations who have one or more Bishops who have given recognition to the Apostolate of Fatima within the nation but have not held national election of officers have the status of **Advancing Nations**.

(3) Beginning Nations

Nations wherein individual members and group Prayer Cells exist but have not received recognition of the Diocesan Bishop nor held national elections have the status of **Beginning Nations**.

The Board of Trustees shall have the right to add to or change the requirements subject to approval at the next subsequent International Council meeting.



The Board of Trustees shall establish a credentials committee to whom all disputes as to classification of a National organization or membership shall be referred.

Those Principal Nations which execute these statutes shall be the initial members of the World Apostolate. Thereafter, a Principal Nation may become a member by: (1) executing a form approved by the Board of Trustees, (2) providing that form with the approval form the appropriate ecclesiastical authority, and (3) acceptance of the Principal Nation by the Board of Trustees.

If there is a dispute as to whether a Principal Nation may become a member that dispute shall be referred to the Credentials Committee

ARTICLE IV. INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL.

An International Council shall be convoked at least once every four years during the second week in November commencing in November 1999.

Extraordinary council meetings may be called upon written request of forty per cent of the delegates from the preceding International Council or upon the request of the board of trustees. All time limitations and other conditions of these statutes shall remain in effect for such extraordinary meetings.

The meetings of the International Council shall take place at Domus Pacis, its owner shall make the necessary facilities available for such meetings.

A. Notice. Notice of an International Council meeting shall be made by the International Secretariat, by the most efficient means available, six months in advance of the meeting.

B. Delegates. (1) Each Principal Nation shall be entitled to name two delegates to the International Council, a priest and a lay person. The delegates shall be elected by their respective National Organization.

(2) Each Principal Nation shall provide the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if applicable) of its delegate to the International Secretariat no later than sixty days prior to the first date of the International Council meeting.

(3) The International Secretariat shall certify the list of Principal Nations entitled to send a delegate and the list of delegates and shall provide the complete list to each Principal Nation using the most efficient means of communication at least thirty days prior to the first date of the International Council.

(4) Each delegate shall be allowed one vote on each issue placed before the International Council for a vote. In the event that a delegate is unable to attend the International Council,



that person may name an attending delegate (proxy) to vote in his or her place. Proxies shall be in writing, addressed to the International Secretariat and signed by the non-attending delegate. No attending delegate shall be permitted to hold more than one proxy.

C. Attendance by Non-Delegates. Representatives of Principal Nations (other than Delegates), Advancing Nations, and Beginning Nations shall be permitted to attend the International Council meeting but shall not be allowed to participate in the proceedings in any manner.

All non-delegate attendees shall provide proof of the approval of their attendance by their local Ordinary.

D. Agenda. The agenda for the International Council meeting shall be prepared by the person or persons designated by the Board of Trustees and shall be provided by the International Secretariat to the delegates no later than thirty days prior to the first day of the International Council. Such notice shall be provided by the most efficient means available.

E. The International Council shall select, from its members, a Board of Trustees, consisting of nine members who shall serve until the next International Council until his/her successor is elected and qualified, as follows:

- (1) International President
- (2) International Vice President
- (3) International Treasurer
- (4) International Secretary
- (5) Trustees

F. Quorum. One third of the number of Principal Nations must be present in order for the International Council to have a quorum present and for it to conduct business.

G. Voting. All voting shall be done by secret ballot and a relative majority of those present and voting shall be required for a matter to be approved.

The members shall first elect the International President on a ballot for that office. The members shall next elect the International Vice President, International Treasurer and International Secretary on individual ballots for each office.

The remaining five trustees shall be elected in a single ballot. On each ballot each person named on a majority of the ballots cast shall be named a Trustee. If, on any ballot, there shall remain a vacancy or vacancies, the succeeding ballot shall contain as many names as there are remaining vacancies. On each succeeding ballot the person receiving the fewest votes on the preceding ballot shall be removed from such succeeding ballot.

Each ballot submitted shall contain the names of as many persons as there are vacancies on the Board and no person may be named more than once on any given ballot.



Any ballot which does not conform to the requirements of this section shall be deemed void and shall not be counted

H. The President of the International shall preside over the International Council and all meetings shall be conducted pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition,

ARTICLE V. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

A. The affairs of the World Apostolate of Fatima shall be managed by the Board of Trustees.

B. The names of the trustees selected by the International Council shall be submitted to the Bishop of Leiria/Fatima within seven days of the conclusion of the International Council. If the Bishop shall fail to confirm any person or persons so elected, such vacancy shall be filled by the remaining trustees by meeting in telephone conference called with at least two weeks notice.

C. Meetings of the Board of Trustees. The board shall meet at least once each year at Domus Pacis. Arrangements for such meetings shall be coordinated between the manager of Domus Pacis and the International Secretariat. The cost of accommodating such meeting shall be borne by Domus Pacis and credited against the United States imposition.

Other meetings may be convened (i) at the request of the International President or (ii) by a majority of the members of the board.

Such meeting may be conducted by telephone conference call provided that each member shall have received one week's notice of such meeting.

D. The International President shall preside over all board meetings.

E. Episcopal Moderator - recognizing the importance of strict adherence to the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church and the importance of the message of Fatima to that teaching, the Bishop of Leiria/Fatima is hereby designated as the Episcopal Moderator of The World Apostolate of Fatima.

The Episcopal Moderator shall have control over all matters involving faith and morals and shall, in addition oversee The World Apostolate's compliance with these statutes.

The minutes of each meeting of the International Council and Board of Trustees shall be submitted to the Episcopal Moderator within seven days of their completion, which shall be no later than thirty days from the completion of such meeting.

The Episcopal Moderator may veto any action of the Council or Board if he finds that such action violates the faith and morals of the Catholic Faith or these statutes.



The Episcopal Moderator shall notify the Board or Council of any such action within two weeks of his receipt of the minutes.

The Episcopal Moderator shall be an Ex Officio member of all committees of the World Apostolate.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS.

International President. The International President shall convoke and preside at meetings of the International Council and Board of Trustees and shall insure that the policies of the organization are carried into effect. The President shall be an Ex Officio member of all committees.

Vice President. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President upon his request or his inability or unavailability to preside.

Secretary. The Secretary notifies members of regular and special meetings with a copy of the proposed agenda; keeps and maintains a record of minutes of meetings, distributes copies to those entitled and handles correspondence. The Secretary may perform such duties through the International Secretariat.

Treasurer. Insures that accurate records are kept of all receipts and disbursements according to generally accepted accounting practices and shall provide a complete, independent accounting report prepared by a qualified firm. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for preparation of the organization's budget and its presentation to the Board of Trustees for approval annually.

ARTICLE VII. BUDGET .

At each annual meeting of the Board of Trustees the Treasurer shall submit a budget prepared *with the cooperation of the International Secretariat for consideration by the Board.*

The income shall consist of any gifts or bequests made by any person together with revenue raised by annual imposition on the Principal Nations, or any revenues available from the operation of Domus Pacis as described in an agreement among Sede Internacional do Exercito Azul, International and the Blue Army of our lady of Fatima U.S.A Inc.

Each Principal Nation shall provide to the International Secretariat, no later than June 30 of each year a copy of its annual budget, certified by its Treasurer to be true and accurate. The imposition shall be one percent (1%) of the annual revenue of such Principal Nation's budget.

The International Secretariat shall prepare and forward to each Principal Nation her calculation of the imposition no later than July 31 of each year.



Each Principal Nation shall pay to the International Secretariat the amount of the imposition no later than December 31 of each year.

In the event of a failure of any Principal Nation to provide its budget or pay the imposition by December 31 of any year the International Secretariat shall notify the involved nation and permit it six months to provide the requested information or payment. If the Principal Nation fails to cure its default within the specified time period the board of trustees may take further action at its next meeting. Further action may include monetary penalties or the removal of the offending nation from the list of Principal Nations.

In the event any nation contests the accuracy of the imposition it shall pay the uncontested portion and refer the dispute to the Board of Trustees for resolution.

Payment in kind or in discharge of World Apostolate of Fatima's obligations by any Principal Nation to third parties shall be applied in partial satisfaction of the imposition.

ARTICLE VIII. INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT.

The World Apostolate of Fatima shall have a permanent agent, appointed by the Board of Trustees located at Domus Pacis whose duties shall include the following:

- A. Provide for all notices required by these statutes.
- B. Provide copies of minutes of each meeting of the Board of Trustees to each member.
- C. Keep and maintain appropriate bank accounts as directed by the Board of Trustees.
- D. With the Treasurer, administer the budget of World Apostolate of Fatima
- E. Keep and maintain the archives of World Apostolate of Fatima
- F. Maintain a flow of information among the various nations including Advancing and Beginning Nations.

ARTICLE IX. YOUTH APOSTOLATE.

In keeping with Vatican II regarding apostolate for youth, the World Apostolate must dedicate itself to the youth in all its centers of the world according to the youth program.



ARTICLE X. RESOURCES.

The Resources of the organization are from voluntary contributions and from the impositions on Principal Nations as described in Article VII.

No officer or member of the organization shall be personally liable for the obligations of the organization if such officer or member has taken action in good faith for the benefit of the organization.

The World Apostolate of Fatima may acquire, possess, administer, encumber, or transfer any type of property: real, personal or mixed. These powers shall be exercised in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Canon Law.

Agreement of two-thirds of the membership of the Board of Trustees is necessary to acquire, transfer or encumber property.

ARTICLE XI. RULES AND RESOLUTIONS.

The norms of the Code of Canon Law shall be followed in the absence of specific rules, regulations or Bylaws.

Proposed resolutions may be submitted in advance of or at the International Council meeting.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS.

Amendments to this Constitution require a two-thirds vote of the quorum assembly of the International Council with written notification to the delegates at least ninety days in advance. Said amendments will be considered effective when approved by two-thirds vote of the International Council quorum assembly.

ARTICLE XIII. RECOURSE TO CANON LAW.

In all matters not covered by these statutes, the current and applicable Canon Law will be applied. Canon Law will also be applied in the case of the dissolution of this organization and the distribution of its goods.

ARTICLE XIV. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Constitution will become effective on October 7, 2005, on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

These statutes, in their original form, are deposited in the Archives of this Diocese.

From the Vatican, 7 October 2005

Walter Carriguiry
Guzmán Carriguiry
Under-Secretary

