

World Apostolate of Fatima, Phoenix Diocesan Division, Inc.

PREAMBLE

The apparitions at Fatima and the subsequent apparitions to Sister Lucia clearly indicate that Our Blessed Lady is asking 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.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the organization is The World Apostolate of Fatima, Phoenix Diocesan Division, Inc. (the "Blue Army"). It is a non-profit corporation organized pursuant to the provisions A.R.S. §43-1201(4) of the revised statutes of the State of Arizona. It is a non-profit corporation within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE II

NATURE

The Blue Army is a movement of Christ's faithful in the Church which has attained juridic personality as a private association of the faithful within the meaning and discipline of the 1983 Code of Canon Law.

ARTICLE III

PURPOSE

The purpose of the World Apostolate of Fatima is: (1) The personal sanctification of adherents through faithful adherence to the message of Fatima, (2) the promotion of the common good by the spreading of the message of Fatima, (3) the promotion of the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church, and (4) in addition to these three general purposes, the World Apostolate of Fatima has the specific purpose of promoting the "Blue Army Pledge of Our Lady of Fatima," drafted with Sister Lucia in 1946 and entrusted by the Bishop of Fatima to the World Apostolate of Fatima to be promoted throughout the world.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

The World Apostolate of Fatima, Phoenix Diocesan Division Inc., while maintaining an independent corporate identity, is a division of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, U.S.A., Inc., also known as "The Blue Army" or "The World Apostolate of Fatima." The minimum required for adherence to the principles of the World Apostolate of Fatima 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, and (3) to wear the brown scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as a sign and reminder of personal consecration to Our Lady.

Promoters in spreading the message of Fatima shall be united with the Holy Father, and the bishop and priests in union with him. While acting in the name of the World Apostolate of Fatima, they must keep within the terms of the message of Fatima and the authorized practices of the Apostolate. It is specifically recommended that members, in addition to the above requirements, 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 while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, and keep company with Mary for an additional fifteen minutes while meditating on one or more of the mysteries of the Rosary.

Permission must be obtained from the local ordinary before organizing a Diocesan Division of the Blue Army. A diocesan spiritual director shall be appointed with the concurrence of the local ordinary.

ARTICLE V

THE ORGANIZATION

There shall be established a Diocesan Council, whose members shall consist of three delegates from each parish and/or mission of the diocese and will be called "Parish Representatives."

They shall be the pastor and two lay members of the parish or mission appointed or approved by the pastor or spiritual director. There shall be a Credentials Committee to maintain at all times an up to date list of members of the Diocesan Council.

The Diocesan Council shall meet at least once annually during the month of May or June in such place within the diocese as may be specified by the membership at its annual Diocesan Council meeting.

Special meetings may be called by the president, or upon written petition of at least five percent of the Diocesan Council members, at a location to be designated therein, with at least two weeks notice to the members.

The membership shall receive from the Treasurer at the Diocesan Council Meeting a financial report of the organization; the Council is free to propose matters of policy for consideration of the Board of Trustees as well as the limitation and discontinuation of projects.

ARTICLE VI

ELECTIONS

Each member shall be eligible to vote at the Diocesan Council Meeting and shall be eligible for election to the Board of Trustees. Eligibility, if challenged, shall be determined by the Credentials Committee to be established annually by the President and to hold office until the completion of the next meeting.

A Nomination Committee shall be appointed, as hereinafter set forth in Article IX, and shall present a slate of candidates for membership on the Board of Trustees by written notice to the members at least two weeks prior to the convening of the Diocesan Council. Nominations may also be made by any delegate by submitting the name of a qualified member to the Nomination Committee or from the floor during the Diocesan Council meeting and the receipt of a second to that nomination.

QUORUM

The quorum of the Diocesan Council meeting shall be twenty-five percent of the eligible delegates as determined by the Credentials Committee, in cooperation with the Diocesan Coordinator.

VOTING

A simple majority vote of the eligible delegates is necessary for decisions and elections. Voting for elections will be done by secret written ballot, except for those instances in which there is only one nominee for a given position.

PROXY

Members who cannot be present at the Diocesan Council meeting may select a substitute from among their own Parish Delegation by written proxy. Member may hold and cast only one proxy vote.

ARTICLE VII

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The affairs of the organization shall be managed by the Board of Trustees which shall consist of nine

members. The members shall serve three year terms which shall be staggered. The staggering of terms will be established by lot among the nine trustees first elected so that three of those nine members shall be designated to serve a three year term; three shall be designated to serve a two year term; and three shall be designated to serve a one year term. Thereafter, the Diocesan Council shall elect three trustees annually on a rotating basis to serve a three year term.

The names of the trustees elected by the membership shall be submitted within seven days of the conclusion of the Diocesan Council Meeting to the local ordinary for confirmation. If the local ordinary shall not confirm any person or persons so elected, then a vacancy or vacancies shall exist until the next Diocesan Council Meeting.

Following the election of trustees at each Diocesan Council Meeting the Board of Trustees shall elect from its members the officers as listed in Article VIII hereof, who shall serve in office until the next Diocesan Council meeting or until their successors shall have qualified.

The Board of Trustees shall meet a least four times per year. Meetings may be called by the President or upon the written request of three members of the Board of Trustees. Members shall receive at least two weeks notice of meetings except for those meetings called as a result of exigent circumstance. The Board may consider any matter within its purview at any meeting, but an agenda of those matters as to what action is anticipated shall be provided by the President or Board members convening the meeting.

Telephone meetings may be convened by the President or at least three members of the Board of Trustees with twenty-four hours notice if circumstances permit.

A quorum for meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be five members. A majority of those present and voting shall be necessary for approval of actions by the Board of Trustees, except where a greater percentage is required by the Certification of Corporation or by the laws of the State of Arizona.

The Board of Trustees may, from time to time, create such positions---paid or volunteer---for the proper management and operation of the organization as may be necessary. Prior to the creation and filling of any such position, the Board shall clearly set forth a job description, title, salary range (if applicable) and job qualifications. All persons occupying such positions shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees and shall report to the Board of Trustees through the President.

ARTICLE VIII

OFFICERS

The officers of the World Apostolate of Fatima shall be members of the Board of Trustees and shall be elected to a term of one year. The officers are the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The officers shall hold office for a one year term or until their successors are qualified. The Spiritual Director shall be the priest having been appointed with the approval of the Diocesan Bishop as the Spiritual Director for the division. The Spiritual Director is not a member of the Board of Trustees.

PRESIDENT

The President shall convoke and preside at meetings of the Diocesan 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 diocesan committees, except the Nomination and Credentials Committees.

VICE-PRESIDENT

The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President upon his request or his inability or unavailability to preside and perform any other duties assigned by the President.

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.

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 firm of certified public accountants. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for preparation of the organization's budget and its presentation to the Board of Trustees for approval annually. The foregoing functions shall be conducted in conjunction with the Finance Committee.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Although not a member of the Board of Trustees, the Spiritual Director shall guide the organization in spiritual matters and shall act as the liaison with the local ordinary regarding matters theological and liturgical.

ARTICLE IX: ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

DIOCESAN DIVISION DIRECTOR

A Diocesan Division Director shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees to supervise and coordinate all activities of the organization in accordance with the policies established by the Board of Trustees. The Director shall be accountable to the Board of Trustees through the President.

DIOCESAN DIVISION COORDINATOR

A Diocesan Division Coordinator shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees to work with the parish organizations through the Parish Representatives and with the Credentials Committee in establishing credentials. The Coordinator shall also be responsible for the promulgation of the words and work of the Apostolate with the purpose of expanding the Apostolate and shall be accountable to the Board of Trustees through the President.

ARTICLE X:

COMMITTEES

The organization shall have the following standing committees: Credentials, Nomination and Finance.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee shall have the function ascribed to it in Article VI of this Constitution and shall consider any question relating to the validity of any person's status as a member of the organization. Any charges brought against a member pursuant to Article XII shall be referred to the Credentials Committee which shall conduct a hearing and make a recommendation to the Diocesan Council. The Credentials Committee shall keep and maintain a list of delegates of the organization current at all times. The Credentials Committee shall, two weeks prior to the convocation of the Diocesan Council, establish the voting list pursuant to A.R.S. 10-2315 which shall be fixed at that time pursuant to A.R.S. 10-2313.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Nomination Committee shall have the function ascribed to it in Article VI of this Constitution. The Nomination Committee shall consist of five members chosen by the Diocesan Council from among its members at the annual Diocesan Council Meeting. The members shall serve until the conclusion of the next Diocesan Council Meeting or until their successors shall have been appointed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee shall consist of no more than five persons chosen by the Board of Trustees. The Finance Committee shall oversee the establishment of an annual capital and expense budget in conjunction with the Treasurer and Board of Trustees, shall oversee the implementation of the budget and shall ensure adherence to the investment, capital expenditure and delegation of authority policies of the organization.

OTHER COMMITTEES

The Board of Trustees may from time to time create such other committees for such duration as it may deem to be necessary. The membership of such committees shall be filled by the President in consultation with the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XI

RESOURCES

The resources of the organization are from voluntary contributions.

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, as more fully described in Title 3, Chapter 22, nonprofit Corporation, A.R.S. 10-2301 et. seq.

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 ARS10-2301 et seq of the revised statutes of the State of Arizona and 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 XII

DISMISSAL

A member may be dismissed by the Diocesan Council for conduct contrary to the good or to the aims of the World Apostolate of Fatima and its current statutes.

ARTICLE XIII

FISCAL YEAR AND FINANCIAL REPORT

The fiscal year of the organization shall be July 1 to June 30. The Treasurer shall have a full financial report prepared by a certified public accountant as of the end of each fiscal year and as near to the end of the fiscal year as possible.

ARTICLE XIV

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Robert's Parliamentary Rules of Order shall be followed in the absence of specific rules, regulations or bylaws.

Proposed resolutions may be submitted in advance of or at the Diocesan Council Meeting.

ARTICLE XV

AMENDMENTS

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

ARTICLE XVI

RECOURSE TO CANON LAW

In all matters not covered by this Constitution, the current and applicable Canon Law will be applied.

Canon Law will also be applied in the case of dissolution of this organization and the distribution of its goods.

ARTICLE XVII

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Constitution will become effective when approved by a two-thirds vote of the quorum assembly of the Diocesan Council.

Tentative Approval by Diocesan Council June 4, 2000

Approved May 25, 2001 by
Most Reverend Thomas J. O'Brien
Bishop of Phoenix

Approved by Diocesan Council June 10, 2001