



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



STATUTES

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK

2020

**Eucharistic Youth Movement
Apostleship of Prayer Groups
Prayer Network Communities
Parishes, Shrines and other groups**

INTRODUCTION

Fr. Adolfo Nicolás SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, asks his delegate, Fr. Claudio Barriga SJ, in 2009, to initiate the recreation of the Apostleship of Prayer. This first stage was concluded with a letter from the Secretariat of State, dated July 11, 2014, in which Pope Francis approved the process of recreation of the Apostleship of Prayer. This process is described in the document entitled "A Pathway with Jesus in Apostolic readiness" (published in December 2014).

On July 7, 2016, in a letter sent to bishops around the world, Pope Francis appointed an International Director for the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, Fr. Frederic Fornos SJ, as proposed by the Superior General of the Society of Jesus. Also the Pope asked for new Statutes to be written in accordance with the re-creation process. In response to this request, in June 2017, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Arturo Sosa, S.J., accompanied by the International Director, delivered to the Holy Father a first version of the Statutes of the Apostleship of Prayer – which now became Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, and included the EYM – Eucharistic Youth Movement.

These Statutes were approved in 2018, when Pope Francis instituted the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer and Eucharistic Youth Movement) as a pontifical work, to emphasize the universal character of this mission and to mobilize Catholics through prayer and action, in the face of the challenges confronting humanity and the mission of the Church (the Pope's monthly prayer intentions). With these new Statutes, it was declared that this Pontifical Work also included an official youth branch, the Eucharistic Youth Movement. And it was established that the Groups of the Apostleship of Prayer were one of the forms of participation in this Network, together with other forms, namely, the Communities of the Worldwide Prayer Network, as well as the Parishes, Shrines, and other groups, or the form of individual participation.

After two years of dialogue and work with the Secretariat of State, the Holy Father, in December 2020, established in canonical and Vatican juridical law the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, as a Pontifical Foundation, based in Vatican City State.

The complete letter of the Holy Father and the Statutes follow.

CHIROGRAPH OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT IN CANONICAL AND VATICAN JURIDICAL PERSON OF THE "POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK" FOUNDATION

The *Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network*, formerly the *Apostleship of Prayer*, initiated in France by the Reverend François-Xavier Gautrelet, S.J., is based on the spirituality of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and receives the monthly prayer intentions proposed to the Church by the Holy Father.

Some years ago I instituted the *Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network* as a Pontifical Society to underscore the universal nature of this apostleship and the need we all have to pray more, and with heartfelt sincerity.

With the purpose of coordinating and inspiring this spiritual movement so dear to me, providing it with a structure adequate to the times in which we live by virtue of the apostolic power of the Church and of the sovereignty of Vatican City State, in view of canons 331, 114 and 115 §3, 116 §1 and 1303 §1, no. 1 of the Code of Canon Law, and article no. 1 of the Fundamental Law of Vatican City State of 26 November 2000, accepting the request presented by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

ESTABLISH

in canonical and Vatican juridical person the *Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network*, based in Vatican City State, governed by the Statutes annexed to this Chirograph, approved by me today, which will come into force from 17 December 2020.

Vatican City 17 November 2020.

Franciscus

THE "POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK"- A VATICAN FOUNDATION

STATUTES

INTRODUCTION

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (hereafter PWPN) developed following an original initiative of the Apostleship of Prayer, founded in 1844 in France by Father François-Xavier Gautrelet, SJ. Initially designed for young Jesuits during their early years of formation, the proposal expanded rapidly as an apostleship of prayer for the mission of the Church, reaching at that time approximately 13 million followers in many different countries. Later on, in 1915, the youth section known as the Eucharistic Crusade was established, nowadays the Eucharistic Youth Movement.

The Statutes of the Apostleship of Prayer have been amended over the years, (in 1866, 1879, 1896, 1968 and 2018) as the initiative has become increasingly a prayer service close to the Holy See for the intentions of the Holy Father (as expressly requested by Popes Leo XIII and Pius XI). In line with the wishes of his predecessors, Pope Francis decided that this service to the Holy Father, through prayer, should become a Pontifical Work. Therefore, if in the past the Apostleship of Prayer was perceived as a mission of the Holy See entrusted to the Society of Jesus, from now onwards, as the Pope's Worldwide Network of Prayer, the Foundation continues to maintain the original links with the Society but opens up to a new universal dimension, at the service of every single Church in the world.

The PWPN coordinates and inspires this spiritual movement in many countries around the world, sustaining the evangelisation mission of the Holy Father through prayer for a mission of compassion for the world. The Eucharistic Youth Movement is the PWPN initiative for young people

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CHAPTER I

DESIGNATED NAME, LEGAL HEADQUARTERS, DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF THE FOUNDATION

Article 1

1. The Vatican foundation entitled the “POPE’S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK” was established with the *Rescriptum ex Audientia*SS.mi on 17 November 2020.
2. The foundation headquarters is legally registered in the State of the City of the Vatican, and is therefore subject to Vatican public canon law and is listed in the respective Register of the State of the City of the Vatican, at no 58.
3. From today onwards the former “PWPN” foundation Statutes, approved on 27 March 2018, are thus rescinded.

Article 2

1. The PWPN is a Pontifical Work of ecclesiastic service to the Holy See, entrusted by the Supreme Pontiff to the care of the Society of Jesus¹. The PWPN is responsible for the task of coordinating and inspiring, at world level, in all countries and dioceses where prayer is understood as a form of Apostleship, and in particular where the monthly prayer intentions, proposed by the Holy father to the Church, are adopted as the theme or content of personal or group prayer, sharing in this way with the mission of the Church together at the service of the challenges to humanity².
2. The PWPN is open to all Catholics who seek to awaken, renew and fulfil the missionary vocation which proceeds from baptism.
3. The foundation’s basis is the spirituality of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and this is rendered explicit in the text of the Recreation of the Apostleship of Prayer entitled “A pathway with Jesus in apostolic readiness”³, offering the disciple of Jesus a means for his/her feelings and actions to identify with the heart of Jesus, in a mission of compassion for the world.

¹ Cf The Complementary Norms of the Society of Jesus, 309 §2: “Among such associations the Society actively promotes and fosters with special care the following, and it encourages provinces to do the same ... the Apostleship of Prayer, and the Eucharistic Youth Movement, recommended by the Holy See”.

² Cf This includes various official documents, among which the outstanding *A pathway with Jesus in apostolic readiness*, which has the approval of Pope Francis (Rome, 3 December 2014) and presents the story of the “Recreation” of the Apostleship of Prayer up to the present day.

³Cf Note 2.

Article 3

1. The total capital of the Foundation is composed of an initial endowment of the sum of €150.000 (one hundred and fifty thousand euro) and \$280.000 (two hundred and eighty thousand dollars).
2. The capital can be increased:
 - a. by purchases, legacies or donations of movable and immovable property to the Foundation, destined at all times to the fulfilment of the institutional purposes specified in this present Statute;
 - b. by contributions from public bodies and private individuals;
 - c. by the profits of royalties, such as copyrights and initiatives, set up in accordance with institutional purposes.

Article 4

The PWPN proposes to Catholics in every country the spiritual itinerary called “The Way of the Heart”, which integrates two dimensions:

a. Compassion for the world and other human beings

The Holy Father commends to the Foundation the mission of making known, promoting and inspiring prayer for his intentions, which express the challenges to humanity and the mission of the Church. The PWPN is therefore responsible for the dissemination of these prayer intentions throughout the world and is committed to their promotion. Those persons who respond and pray for these intentions open their vision and their hearts to the needs of the world, making their own the joys and sorrows, the pain and suffering of humanity and the Church, and are inspired to incorporate in their lives works of corporal and spiritual mercy. In this way, they follow a spiritual pathway which allows them to leave the “globalisation of indifference” and open themselves up to compassion for the world.

b. Communion with the mission of the Son

Embarking on this spiritual journey, inspired and coordinated by the PWPN, the missionary vocation of baptism is reawakened, allowing all believers in their daily lives to participate in the mission that the Father commended to His Son. Thus they become available in an interior way to the call of God, by means of His Holy Spirit, which seeks and guides every heart and every human conscience towards good.

Article 5

“The Way of the Heart” is a didactically structured spiritual process to help us identify with the thought processes, will and projects of Jesus. In this way, all those who are baptised can put themselves forward to respond and serve the Kingdom of God, motivated by compassion in the style of the Son of God. This itinerary makes them available for the mission of the Church.

CHAPTER II

GOVERNING BODIES

Article 6

The governing bodies are as follows:

- a) The Steering Committee
- b) The International Director
- c) The Assistance Committee
- d) The Auditor

Article 7

The Foundation is directly subordinate to the authority of the Supreme Pontiff, who governs it by means of the Secretariat of State, taking into account the historic delegation of the Apostleship of Prayer, from the very beginning, to the Society of Jesus.

Article 8

1. The Foundation is governed by a Steering Committee (hereafter the Committee) made up of five members.
2. The Committee is chaired by the International Director who, insofar as possible, will be a Jesuit, proposed by the Superior General of the Society of Jesus and nominated by the Holy Father.
3. The Committee is composed of, besides the International Director, a representative of the Secretariat of State and three members proposed by the Superior General of the Society of Jesus.
4. The Committee members are nominated by the Secretary of State for a three year period and their nomination may be reconfirmed. The final terms of office will be in any case extended until the approval of the financial statement relative to the last measures of the mandate.
5. In the case of a vacancy during the three year period, substitutions for the remaining period of the mandate are possible, in accordance with paragraph 3-4 of the present article.
6. Committee members forfeit their position in the case of absence without reasonable justification for three consecutive meetings. They also lose their position on the Committee if they become publicly responsible for acts contrary to the moral and principles of the Catholic Church, or find themselves in situations of incompatibility with their responsibilities on the Committee. Their removal will be declared by the Secretary of State, whose decision is indisputable.

Article 9

The Steering Committee meets ordinarily at least three times a year, and exceptionally when the President, or three Committee members or the Superior Authority*, deems it necessary.

Article 10

The Steering Committee, as the administrative body:

- a) guarantees that the mission, vision, particular spirituality and ecclesiastic spirit of the PWPN are in line with the positions of the Holy Father and the Catholic Church;
- b) defines the general orientation of the Foundation's work and watches over the management procedures adopted;
- c) approves the financial budget for the following year within the 30 September of the current year and the final balance of the financial year within the 31 March of the following year;
- d) proposes through the intermediary of the Chairman, possible modifications to the Statutes, to be submitted to the approval of the Secretary of State following the favourable opinion of the Superior General of the Society of Jesus;
- e) approves the annual work plan and the strategic plan from the International Director's office;
- f) records the relevant meeting reports which must be sent on immediately to the Secretary of State and the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, following the relevant approval at the next Committee meeting.

Article 11

The International Director is responsible for:

- a) managing ordinary PWPN matters;
- b) reporting yearly on his managerial activities to the Steering Committee;
- c) keeping the Steering Committee informed with regard to international projects created and managed by the Assistance Committee;
- d) nominating regional and national directors for coordinating and inspiring, subject to consultation with the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, and with the approval of the respective national Bishop's Conference;
- e) nominating national coordinators, who – as this is not their principal mission – are part-time, and informing the respective national Bishop's Conference.
- f) informing the Superior General of the Society of Jesus regarding the activities of the PWPN on a regular basis;
- g) holding continent-wide meetings with national and regional directors and national coordinators.

Article 12

1. The Assistance Committee is made up of a minimum of three members, nominated by the International Director. Their nomination is on a yearly basis and is renewable.
2. The Assistance Committee is a consultative body which assists the International Director in presenting initiatives and possible projects to be submitted to the Steering Committee.

Article 13

1. The Auditor is nominated by the [Secretariat of State]⁴ for a three year term and may be reconfirmed in the position.
2. The Auditor's task is to:
 - a) oversee observance of the law, the Statutes and other measures concerning the foundation and in particular the keeping of accounts and maintaining correspondence with the budget, in line with current relevant legislative norms. The Auditor may in any moment proceed to inspect and monitor the foundation's finances;
 - b) carry out audits concerning the Foundation's financial management, including cash checks, if considered appropriate and/or necessary;
 - c) write up a specific report regarding the above mentioned activities to be submitted to the Secretary of State and the Steering Committee;
 - d) The Auditor participates in meetings of the Steering Committee, but has no voting rights.

CHAPTER III

ADMINISTRATION OF ASSETS

Article 14

The Foundation has the legal capacity to purchase, hold, manage and transfer material assets, in accordance with legislation in each separate country. The International Director is responsible for managing such assets with regard to the administrative activities of the Foundation. The national or regional directors are responsible for managing such assets, respectively at national or regional levels.

⁴ See *Motu Proprio* - "A better organisation" of 28 December 2020, article 3&4 - the auditor is appointed by the Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy.

CHAPTER IV

FINAL NORMS

Article 15

The organisation of the mission of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, together with its guiding perspectives at international and national level, is specified in the General Regulations.

Article 16

The present Statutes will remain in force *ad experimentum* from the date of approval for three years. Any modifications to the present Statute will be prescribed by the Secretary of State following proposals from the Steering Committee and after the favourable opinion of the Superior General of the Society of Jesus.

Article 17

In the case of the demise of the foundation for whatever reason, the assets making up the total holdings, (once the liquidating phase is concluded), will be assigned as indicated by the Supreme Pontiff for purposes corresponding to those of the Foundation.

Article 18

For all other aspects not expressly indicated and disciplined by the present Statute, the norms of the Code of Canon Law and the State of the City of the Vatican legislation will be complied with.

Vatican City, 17 November 2020.

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