

PUBLIC CEREMONY OF APPROVAL OF THE WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA BY THE HOLY SEE

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International President of the WAF

On November 19, 2010, Feast of Our Lady of Divine Providence, Patroness of Puerto Rico, the Pontifical Council for the Laity communicated to the International President of the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF), Professor Américo Pablo López Ortiz, a native of Puerto Rico, that the formal decree of PERMANENT APPROVAL of the World Apostolate of Fatima has been issued and sent to the Vatican's Secretariat of State to be handed to the President through the Apostolic Delegation in Puerto Rico. The WAF enjoys the highest possible juridical status in the Church, that is, an international public association of the faithful of pontifical right for the Universal Church.

On December 24, 2010, Christmas' Eve, the Decree 1289/10/AIC-76 was received. A public ceremony was organized by the Diocese of Mayagüez, Puerto Rico and was held at the Parish of Our Lady of Monserrate, at the city of Moca, Puerto Rico, on May 21, 2011. Three days of spiritual preparation were held with the Visitation of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima for Latin America & the Caribbean. From May 18-20 the programme included the recitation of the Holy Rosary, followed by the Holy Mass and ending with a conference on the Message of Fatima offered by Prof. Américo López, the International President of the WAF.

Every day, more than eight hundred of the faithful attended. Finally, on May 21, a Pontifical Mass was celebrated by the legate of the Diocesan Bishop, Monsignor Humberto López and



Procession of the faithful with the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima at Moca, Puerto Rico



Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Fatima that pilgrimages through Latin America & the Caribbean.

concelebrated by several priests. H.E. Bishop Ulises Casiano was hospitalized and could not attend. **For this occasion, five hundred of the faithful had a procession of 5 kilometers walking with the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima from the Chapel of Our Lady to the Parish at the town center. A huge crowd calculated in one thousand three hundred of the faithful attended the Mass and public ceremony announcing the decree of permanent approval of the WAF by the Holy See.**

After the homily, the decree was read by Mr. Rafael Maldonado, a member of the WAF-Puerto Rico National Committee. Monsignor Humberto López addressed the

audience with a message from Bishop Ulises Casiano. Prof. Américo López gave thanks to the Good Lord, to Our Lady and the Holy Father for this very important moment in the history of the WAF, remembering that it was in the Diocese of Mayagüez, Puerto Rico that the transition from private association of the faithful to public association of the faithful of pontifical right was firstly experienced with the support of Bishop Casiano.

The Parish Pastor, Father Wilson Montes, was an excellent host and received many visitors and members of the WAF for this special occasion. He is a member of the WAF since he was very young. At the end of the Mass, Father Wilson announced that his parish will observe the First Saturday's Devotion beginning in June to comply with the petitions of Our Lady of Fatima.

After Holy Communion, Monsignor Humberto López renewed the consecration and entrustment of the Diocese of Mayagüez to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on behalf of Bishop Ulises Casiano. After Mass, a dinner was offered for the WAF members and special guests.

The Holy See, through its Pontifical Council for the Laity (PCL), decreed on October 7, 2010, Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, that the World Apostolate of Fatima has been erected as a public association of the faithful, with a juridical personality, and its Statutes have been confirmed definitively approved. After a minimum term of five years of approval "ad experimentum", the World Apostolate of Fatima



Renewal of the consecration of the Diocese of Mayagüez, Puerto Rico by Monsignor Humberto López, legate of Bishop Ulises Casiano.

complied with excellence all requirements to be confirmed as definitively approved.



Monsignor Humberto López, representing the Diocesan Bishop of Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, presents the decree of permanent approval of the WAF by the Holy See to Prof. Américo Pablo López-Ortiz, International President of the WAF, on May 21, 2011.

As Bishop Josef Clemens, Secretary of the PCL stated: "This definitive approval of the Statutes marks a new moment for the World Apostolate of Fatima and it is our hope that it brings a new evangelization enthusiasm in your endeavours. We trust that all members will devote themselves wholeheartedly and with ecclesial maturity in serving the mission of the Church. May Mary, the bright star of the new evangelization, guide you always."

Only a public association of the faithful can receive a mission to teach the Catholic doctrine in the name of the Church, promote public worship or pursue a purpose which by nature is reserved to the ecclesiastical authority. **As a public association, the members of the WAF act in the name of the Church when fulfilling the purpose of the association. Our**

mission is the formation of lay people, the formation of families, by spreading the Good News of Salvation through the authentic Message of Fatima, a message of conversion, prayer, penance in reparation of sins and for the conversion of poor sinners, together with a more genuine devotion to the Eucharist, the Communion of Reparation of the Five First Saturdays of the Month, devotion to the Holy Rosary and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. World peace, the sanctification of the adherents, conversion of those nations in most need of God's mercy and the common good of humanity are the great objectives to be obtained from God's grace and mercy.

Through the religious experience of Fatima our societies can find again the true path to Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. As Pope Benedict XVI said on May, 2010 at Fatima: "We would be mistaken to think that Fatima's prophetic mission is complete". "Our Blessed Mother came to Fatima as a teacher to introduce the three little shepherds to the intimate knowledge of the Trinitarian Love", making them flavour His grace and mercy, "a grace experience that made them enamored of God in Jesus". The World Apostolate of Fatima, present in 110 countries of the world, exists for that purpose.

It is a time of great spiritual joy and motivation to carry on our responsibilities with the confirmation of the Successor of Peter, as we approach the period of preparation of seven years for the great celebration of the Centennial of the Fatima Apparitions on year 2017, a great sign of the developing triumph of "the Woman dressed in sun" as was prophesied in Fatima.



The future of the WAF is brilliant as per the smile of this child participating in the procession of Our Lady of Fatima.