

**Talk Tuesday, November 13, 16.30h: Strategies / Rules for establishing the WAF
(Prof. Americo / WAF Int. Sec.)**

GUIDELINES FOR STARTING A NEW WAF CENTRE

Regarding the process/requirements needed for starting the World Apostolate of Fatima in a new country, we enlist hereby the main procedures, which of course must be adapted to each particular context:

1. First of all, the person that will lead the process should be a member of the World Apostolate of Fatima in order to know exactly what our mission and spirituality is. As member of the WAF, you should devote yourself to the Marian Apostolate (through the First Saturday devotion, Marian Vigils, Eucharistic Adoration, Lay people formation (New Evangelization), Promotion of the Holy Rosary and the Brown Scapular, Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Acceptance of God's will and Penance, Meditation, Cell prayers, etc.). More information is also available in our webpage www.worldfatima.com

2. It is important to speak first with the parish priest or other representative of the Church in the area the WAF is supposed to start, as well as with the diocesan Bishop (this can be done through or by the parish priest), to explain what the WAF is and to ask permission in writing for establishing the WAF, so that people in that diocese can become associated with our Apostolate and live the Fatima spirituality. This will help creating an official structure in the new country, following our WAF international statutes. The WAF International statutes (available at the International Secretariat) shall be presented to the parish priest and to the Bishop. The WAF always works in communion with the Church authorities. That is why all WAF nations, apart from the responsible people, must also have a **Spiritual Director** that accompanies the work and activities of the Apostolate. The **Spiritual Advisor** should ensure that the Association is Catholic, that it is well integrated in the diocese & Parish, members are living to the charisma or spirituality of the association, do not obstruct the diocese or parish. He is a bridge between the diocese / Parish priest & the movement.

We also have the international WAF magazine in English that can help to promote our organisation and work of spreading the Fatima message.

3. Having said this, and after having the permission of the parish priest and Bishop or other, you can start to speak with people in your area and get them enthusiastic in joining the WAF group. For this, ask for some promotional material at the International secretariat that can be distributed to them. Individual people can affiliate just by signing the WAF pledge, but there can also be members who wish to meet in prayer groups, from time to time (decide the schedule) to pray the rosary, meditate on the Message of Our Lady and organise other Marian initiatives. An example of a programme for cell prayer groups can be found in our webpage. With the formation of the first cell prayer group, the new country gets the status of a beginning nation. After some time and with the fulfilment of other requests, it will grow into an advancing and finally, into a principal nation. These categories are clearly explained in our statutes.

For Marian associations with their own statutes but wishing to associate with WAF

1. The association must receive copy of our International Statutes in English.

2. Should submit an application form to the WAF international by enclosing their own constitutions and Church approval.
3. Should follow this method:
 - a. Hold an Assembly where they pass a resolution of joining the WAF International as a member of our Federation.
 - b. Their regulations and by laws must contain that they are a Division of the WAF. They should establish contact with the National WAF and inform them that they are joining our Federation by accepting our constitution. They should say that they were known before as "First Saturdays Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima in Scotland" and know they will be known as World Apostolate of Fatima, Program for the Promotion of the First Saturdays Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima in Scotland. They will stress on the promotion, living and service to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by promoting the Communion of Reparation of the First Saturday's.
 - c. They should sign the Pledge to Our Lady of Fatima as individuals accepting the Spirituality of Our Lady of Fatima. These pledges will be sent to the International Secretariat of the WAF and buried at the site of the Apparitions.
 - d. After assuming this resolution, they should go to their Bishop's conference in Scotland and inform them of their resolution, that they accept our International Statutes and become part of the WAF.
 - e. Their Bishop's Conference will give them their approval.
 - f. The International President and the Secretariat of the WAF International will send them a letter welcoming them into the WAF.

This procedure might slightly change according to the nature of the association applying for membership.