

Statutes for the

APOSTOLATE of DIVINE MERCY

in the Service of Human Life

ARTICLES CONCERNING NATURE AND PURPOSE

Art. 1. Nature: The Apostolate of Divine Mercy, In the Service of Human Life (hereinafter “the Apostolate”), is a private apostolate of the faithful, wherein its members, by private agreement, choose to support the structure and follow the charism outlined in these statutes. (*Canons 298, § 1; 299, § 1, 2; 321*)

Art. 2. Purpose: The overarching purpose of the Apostolate is to expose the underpinnings of the “culture of death” and counter that with an evangelization that is based on the spiritual, theological, and philosophical teachings of the Church. The primary source of the apostolate’s charism will consist of the Maria Faustina of the herald of the doctrine of Blessed John Paul II (*The Humanae Vitae, On the Misericordia*), and the The apostolate will also fulfilling its purpose, and serve as the basis for Saint JohnPaulII’s spiritual and The other sources include Church Councils, the writings of the Church the saints, and the vast spiritual and theological I)



spiritual teachings of St. Blessed Sacrament (the Divine Mercy) and Gospel of Life, Mercy of God, *Dives in Theology of the Body*. rely on other sources in many of these sources Faustina’s and Blessed theological masterpieces. Sacred Scripture, the Papal promulgations, the Fathers, the teachings of library of Catholic literature. (*Canon 304, §*

Art. 3. Title: The the “Apostolate of Divine Human Life,” draws upon Divine Mercy as espoused thereafter being embraced Church, and expounded by Blessed John Paul II in his encyclical *On the Mercy of God, Dives in Misericordia*. The intersection of Divine Mercy and God’s gift of human life, as exemplified by the name of the Apostolate, is an inevitable truth, forged by God and integrated into the life of the Church through the papacy of Blessed John Paul II.

apostolate's full name, Mercy, In the Service of the spiritual doctrine of by Saint Faustina and by the Roman Catholic

Membership in the Apostolate

Art. 4. Membership is open to all men and women who are baptized persons, in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, and are joined with Christ in the Church's visible structure by the bonds of profession of faith, of the sacraments, and the Church's ecclesiastical governance. (*Canon 304, § 1*)

Art. 5. To insure that they are fully aware of the Apostolate's purpose and duties, persons may request membership only after having read through the statutes. (*Canon 307, § 1*)

Art. 6. Members always retain the right to leave the Apostolate. This means of dismissal from membership is done by notifying the Apostolate in writing. (*Canon 308*)

Art. 7. Persons may belong to other public/private associations or apostolates during their affiliation with the Apostolate. (*Canon 307, § 2*)

Manner of Action

Art. 8. In fulfilling the Purpose of the Apostolate, members aspire to:

- a.** Daily prayer consisting of the Rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet, with the intentions offered for the end of abortion in the world, the healing of the mothers impacted by abortion, abortionists, and abortionists' staff, and the souls of the aborted children.
- b.** Support – either in the form of prayer, time, talent or treasure – for the upkeep of the physical facilities used in South Bend to prayerfully witness to the culture of life, including the “Prayer Peninsula” and the Divine Mercy Adoration chapel, both located in close proximity to the abortion facility on Ironwood Circle in South Bend.
- c.** The keeping of adoration hours, including, when possible, hours kept at the Divine Mercy Chapel on Ironwood Circle, adjacent to the abortion clinic in South Bend, Indiana.
- d.** Either specifically pray for or participate in the evangelization that is described above in Article 2. As stated above, the substance of this evangelization is embodied in the spiritual teachings of St. Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament (the herald of the doctrine of Divine Mercy) and Blessed John Paul II (*The Gospel of Life, Humanae Vitae, On the Mercy of God, Dives in Misericordia*, and Theology of the Body). Many secondary sources exist, including Sacred Scripture, Church Councils, Papal promulgations, the writings of the Church Fathers, the teachings of the saints, and the vast library of Catholic spiritual and theological literature. (*Canon 304, § 1*)

Art. 9. No sin is committed if members are unable to perform any of the above-mentioned items.

Art. 10. Members may gather to pray the above prayers, which would be especially appropriate near the abortion clinic on Ironwood Circle in South Bend, including the Divine Mercy Chapel on Ironwood circle. Members may also gather to evangelize pursuant to the above precepts,

which would be especially appropriate out side of an abortion facility or as part of an activity to promote the culture of life. Any gathering must always be moderated by prudence and charity, along with the proper ecclesiastical approval if located in a parish church or chapel.

Governance & Accounting of Funds

Art. 11. The Apostolate is governed by a Moderator, along with six officers called "Chancellors" one of which will also be entitled "Treasurer". (*Canon 324, § 1*)

Art. 12. The Moderator and Chancellors will hold their positions until removed or by written resignation. The positions of Moderator and Chancellors shall be voted upon every six (6) years, and each individual position must be approved by a majority vote in order for the individual to retain his or her position. Each individual must abstain from the vote that occurs on his or her position.

a. Also, an individual holding the position of Moderator or Chancellor shall be removed if an individual cannot be contacted for a period of at least six months, at which time the position will be considered vacant. Vacant Chancellor positions shall be filled by the Moderator.

b. If a Moderator is removed by the Chancellors, for failing to attain a majority of the vote, the remaining Chancellors shall nominate three persons to take the vacant position, and shall submit the nominations to the local Ordinary for the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese. The local Ordinary can add or subtract from the list of nominees, and the Chancellors shall vote from the list of nominees unless only one individual remains after the local Ordinary's review. A vote of approval consists of the highest number of votes. In the event of a tie, a second vote shall be held, after presentations to the Chancellors by the candidates. If a tie persists, either the local Ordinary shall choose the Moderator, within five days of the last vote, or a coin flip, by one of the Chancellors, with all of the Chancellors in attendance, shall determine.

c. The position of Treasurer shall be determined by the Moderator. The Moderator may remove a Chancellor from his or her position if the Moderator deems that the Chancellor retaining his or her position is not in the best interests of the Apostolate. A Moderator may be removed by the competent if his or her conduct gives rise to grave harm to ecclesiastical teaching or discipline, or it is a scandal to the faithful. The Moderator's replacement shall be determined by the procedure set forth above.

Art. 13. The Moderator's duties shall include:

- a.** accepting memberships;
- b.** appointing Chancellors and determining the Treasurer;
- c.** representing the association to ecclesiastical authorities and other entities;
- d.** maintaining the integrity of the Apostolate's statutes; and
- e.** other duties which serve the purpose of the Apostolate.

Art. 14. Chancellors' duties shall include:

- a.** electing fellow Chancellors and the Moderator; and
- b.** supporting the work of the Apostolate and the Moderator as set needed and forth by the Purpose, above.

- Art. 15.** After appointment by the Moderator, a Treasurer's duties include:
- a.** Administration of the goods of the Apostolate in line with the Purpose (above) and in accordance with the consent of the Moderator. In the event of a disagreement, a vote of the Chancellors, with the Moderator and Treasurer abstaining, shall decide the administration of the goods of the Apostolate.
 - b.** The Moderator can serve as the Treasurer, if in the best interests of the Apostolate.
 - c.** All donations to the Apostolate, whether received by a Chancellor, the Moderator, or an appointee of either position, shall be placed in one financial account, to be recorded therein. Such account shall be called the "donations account." The Moderator shall decide which account into which donations shall be deposited and tracked.
 - c.** In accordance with canon 1301, the Apostolate is subject to the authority of the local Ordinary in whatever concerns the administration and distribution of goods which are donated or left to it for pious purposes. Any competent ecclesiastical authority has the right to ensure that the goods are applied to the purposes of the Apostolate. The local Ordinary and any competent ecclesiastical authority can request review of the donations account that maintains the funds received by the Apostolate.
 - e.** To the extent donations are received, the Moderator shall decide how such donations should be accounted-for and who shall handle the accounting therefor. Outside contracting for annual accounting shall be determined by the Moderator.
 - f.** Chancellors shall have the right to review the financial account holding the donations at any time, upon request to the Treasurer and or Moderator.

Art. 16. The Moderator, with the advice of the Chancellors, may determine the proper administration of goods of the Apostolate. (*Canon 309; 310*)

Art. 17. The Apostolate's physical headquarters are located wherever the Moderator resides, or, while an adoration chapel is in existence, at the adoration chapel itself or an office attendant to the adoration chapel.

Art. 18. Since the association is open to receiving members from anywhere, and because technology makes it possible to institute a "virtual" headquarters, the Apostolate shall use the internet both to communicate with the Moderator, Chancellors, and members as well as to provide information to prospective members.

REVIEW & AMENDMENT OF STATUTES

Art. 19. The Apostolate shall, after an appropriate period, request a review of its statutes in order to request juridical personality. (*Canons 299 § 3; 312; 322, § 1, 2*)

Art. 20. Once approved, in respect to Church authority, the statutes shall remain open for ecclesiastical review. (*Canons 299, § 3; 305, § 1, 2; 322, § 2*)

Art. 21. If changes are to be made to the approved statutes, the Moderator shall propose the modification to the Chancellors for ratification by a majority vote. Once passed, the proposed

changes shall be forwarded to the local Ordinary for approval before being added to the statutes as dated addendums.

Art. 22. For everything not expressed or regulated by these Statutes, the rules of Canon Law are to be applied.

Duration of Apostolate

Art. 23 The Apostolate shall remain in existence unless its membership falls to zero, in which case it may be suppressed. It may also be suppressed by the competent authority if its activity gives rise to grave harm to ecclesiastical teaching or discipline, or is a scandal to the faithful. The fate of the goods of the Apostolate if it is suppressed is to be determined by the Moderator unless dictated otherwise by the wishes of donors.

Statement of Non-Liability

Art. 24. The Diocese of Fort Wayne – South Bend - as well as all other Catholic Archdioceses/Dioceses - possess no legal and/or financial responsibility and/or liability for the statutes, policies, or actions of the Apostolate and its individual members.

Art. 25. Individual Apostolate members understand and recognize that they are solely responsible for their own actions, speech, and activities.

These Statutes have been approved by His Excellency, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades [of the Diocese of Fort Wayne–South Bend, USA] on _____, 2012. The letters granting the *nihil obstat* and expressing his blessing and support for *The Apostolate of Divine Mercy, in Service of Human Life* can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).