

Statutes of the Apostolic Federation and League, 1920¹

Statutes

of the “Apostolic Movement for the propagation, defense and deepening of the Christian life.”

1. The task of the Apostolic Movement is to support existing organizations in the apostolic education of their members, and to propagate the concept of apostolate to the widest circles.
2. Our patroness is the Blessed Mother, the second patron is St. Paul, our motto is: *Caritas Christi urget nos!* (The love of Christ urges us on)².
3. Center for Germany: Vallendar on the Rhine, Germany.
4. The Apostolic Movement is subdivided into the Apostolic Federation (A.F.) and into the Apostolic League (A.L.).

The Apostolic Federation (A.F.)

I. The purpose of the Federation is the education of Catholic leaders (professionals, people of confidence, etc.) in the spirit of the Church and in close connection with each other.

II. Means towards accomplishing this goal are:

1. *Serious* striving for the *greatest possible* perfection according to one's state in life.

It therefore requires each member:

- a) to keep daily the particular examination (PE) and a spiritual daily order (SDO) and to control it in writing;
 - b) to seek out a regular confessor (spiritual director);
 - c) to give him an accounting of at least his S.D.O. and P.E. each month.
2. Organization into small work groups of the same sex.
 - a) The A.F. is subdivided into groups, sections, districts. Every district has a director in the Central Committee.
 - b) Admission is preceded by a candidacy of one year.
 - c) The members are responsible for one another in maintaining and deepening the spirit of the Federation; they report to their respective group leader whether they have made their monthly report about the PE and SDO to their spiritual director (confessor). The group leaders report the same about themselves and their group to the section leader, who reports in the same way to the district leader, who gives the report about himself and his district to the district director.
 - d) The official newspaper is the “MTA.”

¹ These statutes were composed by Father Kentenich in 1920, with the statutes of the Federation only slightly modified from their first form in 1919. See J. Kentenich/H. Hug (ed.), *Texte zum Verständnis der Apostolischen Liga* (Vallendar-Schoenstatt, 1982), p. 17-19.

² 2 Cor 5,14.

III. *Ongoing apostolic activity in all available areas*, subject to the *responsible pastor of souls* (local pastor, moderator of the organization, etc.)

The Apostolic League (A.L.)

I. The purpose of the A.L. is the education of trained lay apostles from all circles in the spirit of the Church.

II. One may join the A.L. as a member or an associate member.

III. The A.L. requires of its *members*:

1. *Serious striving for perfection according to one's state in life*. In particular, it requires each member:

- a) to keep daily the particular examination (PE) and a spiritual daily order (SDO) and to control it in writing;
- b) to seek out a regular confessor (spiritual director);
- c) to give an account of at least his PE and SDO each month.

SUPPLEMENT 1921:

For *members of religious communities* their own rule or constitutions *take the place of these* means of sanctity.

2. *Ongoing apostolic activity in their profession, subject to the responsible pastoral leader* (local pastor, chaplain of the organization, etc.)

IV. Of the *associate members* the A.L. requires neither a certain degree nor a certain form of self-sanctification, but only occasional apostolic activity, such as

- a) fervent apostolic prayer, or
- b) exemplary Christian life and ardent charity of neighbor, or
- c) execution of civil rights and duties for the benefit of immortal souls, especially enrollment in organizations which are active in this regard, such as Catholic Schools, or
- d) the material support of charitable and apostolic organizations, such as the Missions, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, societies for the dissemination of good literature, etc.

V. In order to awaken and invigorate the apostolic spirit, all who have joined the Apostolic League will, as far as possible, participate in the yearly retreats and ascetic-apostolic seminars organized by the Central Office to take place in the different parts of the country.

As the statutes unambiguously express, the Apostolic Movement is neither an organization (*Verein*) nor a competition to the same, but merely a community of education with the outspoken purpose to *provide assistance, when requested* to existing organizations for the apostolic formation of their members. This should sufficiently clarify the relationship between the traditional organizations and the Apostolic Movement.