



STATUTES

MINISTRY FRIENDS OF JESUS AND MARY (MFJM)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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**STATUTES FOR THE ASOCIACION
MINISTRY FRIENDS OF JESUS AND MARY (MFJM)**

I. DENOMINATION, NATURE AND HEADQUARTERS

1. The Private Faithful Association is called MINISTRY FRIENDS OF JESUS AND MARY, with the MFJM initials. This Ministry has been created in response to a call that Our Holy Mother, the Virgin Mary made to the three little shepherds Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia in Fatima, Portugal. Its purpose is to teach the children to pray, to delve deeper, to meditate and to know the mysteries of the lives of Jesus and Mary through the Holy Rosary, the Gospels and abundant educational material adapted to the different ages of the children. The goal is that the children will take Jesus home and thus regenerate the family and society so that God may reign. MFJM is an apostolic association for global evangelization.
2. The MFJM, has its Biblical foundation on the following phrases from the Gospels: “I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me” (Jn. 10:14)

“Let the children come to Me, do not hinder them, because theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Mt 19:14)

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in Heaven always see the face of My Father who is in Heaven.” (Mt. 18:10-14).

And the words of St. Henry of Osso, patron of the MFJM: “You are the hope of the current world, in whom Jesus finds His delight, who being God, became a child for your love”.

3. The Spirituality of the MFJM is Christ Centered, Ecclesial, and Marian.
4. The Charism of the MFJM, is based on St. Henry of Osso’s dream, which is that all the children will be another Jesus on earth, thus regenerating the world; and having as a sole mission “to know and love Jesus and make Him known and loved by all”. MFJM’s motto is: “to conquer mankind through the children”.
5. The MFJM has its International Headquarters in the Archdiocese of Miami, Florida in the United States of America. It is closely linked with the prayer groups of other states and countries which have been formed under the supervision of the International Headquarters of the MFJM, as long as these groups remain faithful to the structure of the Catholic Church and of the MFJM. The groups of the MFJM, local or international, must be approved by the bishop in each location.
6. The Florida Center for Peace, an apostolic, Hispanic ministry of the Archdiocese of Miami sponsors MFJM spiritually and economically.
7. MFJM is subject to the authority of the Archdiocese of Miami.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a pastoral plan, that clearly states only one interest: “to show the children and adolescents, the parents, the Church, and all the persons in the areas where MFJM develops, how to maneuver on the road that takes us with certainty

- to heaven.”
2. To help develop the personal relationship of the child with Jesus, through prayer and devotion to Eucharistic adoration, so they can know Him, love Him intensely and keep Christ in the Eucharist as the center of their lives, without forgetting to also find Christ in their brethren.
 3. To inspire the love for Our Mother in Heaven, through the knowledge and recitation of the Holy Rosary.
 4. To promote a suitable catechetical formation through the knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures and the Commandments of the Holy Mother Church.
 5. To instill faith in our children such that, since inside the maternal womb, they are formed in the faith”; (Lk.1:41) born in the faith (Jn. 3, 5), grow in the faith (Lk. 2, 51-52), live in the faith (Gal. 2,20) and die in the faith (Jn. 11, 25-26) for the glory of God.

III. MEANS

To promote an intense love for Jesus, for Mary, for the Gospel, for the Church, and for the Pope, the MFJM has created a diversity of groups and pastoral actions:

1. PASTORAL GROUPS OF THE MFJM

- a) **Nests/Children’s prayer groups:** that meet in community to pray and participate in the monthly teachings that the MFJM has developed, according to the diverse ages and their psychology.
- b) **Prayer Communities for Expectant Mothers:** who meet and gather to pray, as means of initial formation to the children in the maternal womb.
- c) **Young friends of Jesus and Mary:** that meet to pray, to live the universality of the faith and practice good behavior and habits. They are encouraged to know themselves better and explore different vocations.
- d) **Prayer Communities for Parents:** that meet to pray and form themselves in the Faith.
- e) **Volunteer Missionaries:** those that know the Charisma of MFJM, and are available to promote assigned missionary actions for a set period of time, with the proper preparation and formation.

2. PASTORAL ACTIONS OF MFJM

- a) Celebrations inherent to the MFJM
 - i. Feast of St. Henry of Osso, Patron Saint of the MFJM (January 27)
 - ii. Family Eucharistic Morning (the day before the feast of Corpus Christi)
 - iii. Feast of All Saints (October 31)
 - iv. Consecration to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (date varies)
- b) Other Pastoral actions of the MFJM
 - i. Living Rosaries
 - ii. Pilgrim Virgen

- iii. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- iv. Acting Out Biblical Presentations
- v. Children's Choirs
- vi. Children's Liturgy Participation
- vii. Spiritual Exercises for both Children and Families
- viii. Formation of all members
- ix. The developing of educational materials, methodologies, audiovisuals, and catechetical materials to instruct on the Charisma of MFJM and on the Magisterium of the Church, while following the Liturgical Year thus promoting faith and good habits in society.

IV. LOGO

1. The MFJM Logo has been designed taking into account the Ministry's Charisma and objectives, and will be used as the symbol that represents it in the Church. The Logo portrays five children colorfully dressed and holding hands, representing the five continents, and their races and cultures. They are centered on the northern part of the continental sphere, joined to the Holy Rosary which is surrounding the earth. Inside the continental sphere, to the center right, is the representation of the Heart of Jesus, bleeding, pierced with thorns, with the Cross rising from the very heart. At center left is the representation of the Heart of Mary, crowned with roses. Two flames stem from both hearts. Inside the earthly globe, we see the gold letters with the phrase: "FRIENDS OF JESUS AND MARY" in English and Spanish. Outside of the Rosary, to the left and the right, we read: "UNITED IN THE HOLY ROSARY" also in English and Spanish, both the official languages of MFJM in the United States of America.
2. The logo is a registered trademark under the rights of the copyright laws of the United States of America. The logo can only be used by the member countries of the Ministry. The International Headquarters of the MFJM, own the legal property of the logo, and as such, the logo is protected by corresponding intellectual and industrial international property rights. The aspect, color, structure, contents and/or elements of the logo cannot be altered without authorization of the International Headquarters.

Considering that there are member countries that would wish to have the logo in their native language, the International Headquarters of the MFJM has agreed to allow only one change, that of the Spanish language, that appears on the logo to the native language. The countries wishing to use another language on the logo must present their request in writing signed by the Spiritual Director of the MFJM in that country and by the president of the board of directors of that country. The International Headquarters MFJM will emit a letter of authorization signed by the President of the International Board of Directors.

The following legal requirements and responsibilities accompany the use of the logo:

- a) The permitted use of the logo should be for non-profit purposes to achieve the objectives of MFJM including advertisement, signs, letterhead, seal, diplomas, medals, name tags, pins, manuals, and pamphlets.
- b) The logo cannot be used in printed materials (books, pamphlets...) for sale without a letter of authorization signed by the president of the International Headquarters

of MFJM. Once authorized, the material becomes intellectual property of the MAJM for international use.

- c) The logo can be printed by the member countries of MFJM, on any color t-shirts and on other articles, with the proper authorization of the International Headquarters MFJM, as long as the elements of the logo remain intact.
- d) The International Headquarters MFJM must know in advance the contents of publications where the logo, with or without changes, would want to be inserted, if the insertion veers away from the primary objective of MFJM.
- e) The improper use of the logo, will not, in any case, relay any responsibility for the International Headquarters MFJM and/or all its members around the world.
- f) The International Headquarters MFJM can retrieve, at any time after the issuance, the authorization to use the Logo, with adequate motive.

V. THE MEDAL

The Medal of MFJM will be stamped with the logo in silver and silver metal. One side will be the logo and the other side will be the face of St. Henry of Osso with the words: “Saint Henry of Osso pray for us”.

VI. FAMILY FRIENDS OF JESUS AND MARY

1. Forming part of the MFJM family are the interested countries that receive the formation workshop, given by the International Evangelization Team, made up of Guides of Prayer Groups, approved by the International Headquarters of the MFJM. At the present time, the International Evangelization Group is made up of Guides from the United States and Panama.
2. Each country must have its own evangelization team that, after having taken the formation workshop by the International Evangelization Team, will be in charge of carrying on formation workshops in their country, in order to form new Guides and Parents.
3. All the member countries must have their own statutes and in them attest to their free relationship with all of the other countries, and their recognition of the International Headquarters MFJM. Also, each country must abide to the structure set forth by the MFJM and by the same token to the Universal Church. The local statutes must be in concordance to those of the International Headquarters MFJM, and at the same time meet the local ecclesiastical requirements in their respective countries.
4. Each country should adopt a Code of Conduct for the Protection of Minors as part of their statutes. (see Appendix: CODE OF CONDUCT-MINISTRY FRIENDS OF JESUS AND MARY-USA (MFJM))

5. No country can, without the consent of the International Headquarters MFJM, present any documents, be it authorizing or un-authorizing, to any diocese, be it their own or in another diocese.
6. The prayer groups can be present in the parishes with the proper authorization of the Pastor of that church. If the prayer group does not take place in the parish, but rather in either public or private schools, or family homes, these must be duly registered at the headquarters of the country in which they are in, and the Guides must be prepared and formed in the same way as those of the parishes. Considering that the groups outside the parishes do not have an assigned Pastor, these groups must consider that country's spiritual director as their Pastor, and be guided and subjected to the supervision and counsel of the Pastor, so as to have a coherent development of the group(s).-

VII. LEGAL ORGANIZATION

1. INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

It is the coordinating and planning organism of the International MFJM, which propels all the pastoral, human and social activities that the Ministry performs, while guarding the Charisma of the Ministry.

The International Board of Directors resides at the International Headquarters and meets in an ordinary way every six months, and extraordinarily when it deems necessary. The decisions will be made on a simple majority that will be five members plus one.

The following members must have served as a MFJM prayer group guide for at least 10 years or be the Spiritual Director of the country:

- a) International Advisor that resides in Miami
- b) International Advisor that resides in another country (Appointed by this Board)

The following members must have served as a MFJM prayer group guide for at least 5 years:

- c) President
- d) Vice-President
- e) Secretary
- f) Treasurer
- g) Member(s) at Large
- h) Fiscal

2. DUTIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a) Oversee the good functioning of the MFJM.
- b) Give workshops for the growth of the MFJM.
- c) Program and evaluate the International Congress.
- d) Approve the president/coordinator of each country.
- e) Encourage and promote the relationship amongst the different national boards.
- f) Take care of specific problems that emerge within MFJM internationally and promote a rapid solution.

- g) Uphold the Mission and Charisma of MFJM.
- h) Promote the adoption of a Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children for all the countries participating in the ministry.
- i) Ensure and be vigilant for the strict compliance of the Statutes, and to the plans, programs and agreements adopted by the International Board of Directors.

3. NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

It is the coordinating and planning organism of the National MFJM, promoting all pastoral, human, and social activities in its country, while safeguarding the MFJM Charisma.

At the International Headquarters of the MFJM, the National Board of Directors will form part of the International Board of Directors.

The MFJM National Board of Directors, will meet in an ordinary fashion every six months, and extraordinarily when it deems necessary. Quorum exists when the President and three other members are present. The decisions are made by a simple majority from the total of members present. In case of a draw, the vote of one of the Members at Large will count as two votes to solve the controversy.

These members must have served as a MFJM prayer group Guide for at least 5 years except the International Advisors from Miami who must have served as a Guide for at least 10 years:

- a) International Advisors that reside in Miami
- b) President/Coordinator
- c) Vice- President
- d) Secretary
- e) Treasurer
- f) Member(s) at Large
- g) Fiscal

4. DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a) Support the work initiatives that stem from within the Ministry to foster growth in the Ministry.
- b) Make known the great value that MFJM has in both ecclesial life and in society, on a local and universal level, since, when attending the needs of the smallest, we are building the future of our society and of the Church itself.
- c) Put into action the talents, gifts, and charisma that the Lord has entrusted in them to promote the growth of the MFJM.
- d) Create the monthly educational materials for the website.
- e) Maintain the website of the MFJM Headquarters.
- f) Adopt and enforce the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children (Appendix)
- g) Advise on solving legal and personal issues amongst the members of the MFJM
- h) Raise funds that benefit the MFJM activities. Activities may include raffles, food, garage sales, and member donations.
- i) Tend to problems that surface within the Ministry, and to seek their quick solution.

- j) Uphold the Mission and Charisma of MFJM.
- k) Search for a national Spiritual Director (priest or religious) and obtain approval from the Archdiocese of Miami.
- l) Expose any error, incorrect decision, dishonest action, or illegal financial activity of any Board member, since the Board of Directors is legally responsible for all the actions of the MFJM.
- m) Strictly comply to the Statutes, plans, programs and agreements accepted/adopted by the Board of Directors and Assembly of Guides.

5. DUTIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORS FROM MIAMI.

- a) Be a member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Center for Peace as a representative of MFJM. (At least one International Advisor)
- b) Coordinate with the International Board of Directors of the MFJM in expanding national and international prayer groups.
- c) Help plan strategies and pastoral, human, and social activities for MFJM nationally and internationally.
- d) Obtain educational material for the evangelization and enrichment of the prayer groups.

6. DUTIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISOR FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY.

- a) Coordinate with the International Board of Directors of the MFJM in expanding international prayer groups.
- b) Help plan strategies and pastoral, human, and social activities for MFJM on an international level.
- c) Obtain educational material for the evangelization and enrichment of the prayer groups.

7. DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT:

- a) Call to order, preside, and direct the meetings convened with the Board of Directors and the Assembly of Guides and comply with all agreements.
- b) Represent the MFJM before the Church, government and civil society, delegating to the Vice-President in certain special situation and in an extraordinary form.
- c) Draft the agenda for the Board of Directors and Assembly of Guide meetings, and to sign the Acts of said meetings.
- d) Supervise the legal and financial activities of the MFJM, and its operating budget.
- e) Propose the work plan and annual report of the Board of Directors.
- f) Appoint the advisors deemed necessary for the better performance of the MFJM.
- g) Communicate with the Archdiocese of Miami regarding MFJM supervision. Make available to the Archdiocese the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings including financial reports if requested, revisions to the Statutes, and changes to the Board of Directors or the Spiritual Director.
- h) If the President wants/must leave his post, the resignation must be made in writing a month before it becomes effective.

8. DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT:

- a) Assume the presidency in case of absence or resignation of the President, or by appointment.
- b) Represent the MFJM in any events for which he/she is assigned.
- c) To perform any other function assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

9. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY:

- a) To summon the members of the Board of Directors to the ordinary and extraordinary meetings at the request of the President.
- b) To keep the minutes of the sessions of the Board of Directors and of the Assemblies of Guides.
- c) To maintain a list of guides and groups.
- d) To divulge and distribute the official communications of the MFJM and issue the different kinds of certificates if so needed.
- e) Maintain the files of the MFJM.

10. FUNCTIONS OF THE TREASURER

- a) Prepare the cash flow; present the annual budget proposal to the Board of Directors; control the expenses of the MFJM.
- b) Revise and sign, along with the President of the MFJM, the reports related to the financial statements of the MFJM.
- c) Supervise the accounting of activities developed by the Board of Directors.
- d) Collect donations from MFJM members, and maintain a ledger controlling donations.
- e) Present before the Assembly of Guides the Annual Financial Report.
- f) Form and expand the MFJM patrimony, in accordance with the policies and work plans approved by the Board of Directors, considering the Statutes and Regulations pertaining to this matter.

11. DUTIES OF THE MEMBER(S) AT LARGE:

- a) To attend the Board meetings of the Florida Center for Peace to represent MFJM.
- b) To communicate to all members, the agreements, resolutions and guidelines of the Board of Directors, using any means of communication available.
- c) Promote the goals and objectives of MFJM, to attract new members.
- d) To divulge to society in general, through the different means of communication, the information that the Board of Directors might consider opportune and pertinent.

12. DUTIES OF THE FISCAL

- a) To supervise the work done by MFJM, striving to meet its goals and objectives.
- b) To ensure the compliance of the Statutes.
- c) To supervise the upkeep and good use of all the materials and properties of the MFJM.

13. DURATION OF SERVICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of the Board of Directors of MFJM, shall be elected to exercise their duties for a period of 4 years, and can be re-elected as many times as necessary. In the event that one of the Board members ceases his/her functions before the end of the period for which she or he was elected, an election shall ensue in an extraordinary Assembly of Guides,

called especially for such purpose. As long as a new member is not elected, the outgoing member(s) shall continue in their assignments until the new election, and all of their actions shall be deemed valid for all intents and purposes.

14. COMPENSATION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board members serve on a voluntary basis.

VIII. THE COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES OF MFJM

The coordinating, planning, and evaluating organism of MFJM on an international level. It convenes every two years at the International Congress and is responsible for analyzing the development of MFJM in general. Here, countries bring their pastoral problems, challenges, and accomplishments in the prior two years. It is formed by each country's President of the Board of Directors/Country Coordinator, another designated Board Member, and their Spiritual Director. Decisions are made by voting. Each country has 3 votes, one per person present at the meeting. If a member is absent at the moment of voting, each country may designate another member to vote in their absence.

DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT/COUNTRY COORDINATOR

1. Be elected by Guides in respective country.
2. Be approved by the International Board of Directors MFJM at the Headquarters.
3. Give an annual donation to the Florida Center for Peace.
4. Be approved by the country's respective Archdiocese.
5. Find a Spiritual Director (priest or religious) for the country and submit for approval of the respective Archdiocese.
6. Coordinate monthly Guide meetings for:
 - a. Prayer and formation,
 - b. Distributing monthly prayer group materials.
7. Visit existing groups at least once a year if possible.
8. Organize training workshops for new Guides.
9. Organize Consecration for children of prayer groups.
10. Organize Family Eucharistic Morning
11. Organize All Saints Day party (optional)
12. Participate and encourage Guides to participate in International Congresses.
13. Participate in the International Delegate meeting as country's delegate.
14. Maintain the national archives of all the prayer groups and Guides including:
 - a. List of Spiritual Directors and their contact information.
 - b. List of International Delegates and their contact information.
 - c. List of Guides with contact information.
 - d. Record Card of each prayer group Guide which includes contact information, prayer group parish, and number of children in the group.
 - e. Letters of approval from Archdiocese and parishes.
15. Inform the Headquarters in Miami at least once a year of the above a) and b).
16. Cause elections to name a Board of Directors for the country with active Guides and with approval of the Spiritual Director.
17. Create and update the country's Statutes for MFJM in line with the Headquarter's Statutes and submit them for approval of the country's Archdiocese.

18. Resolve problems within MFJM with love and wisdom.

IX. NATIONAL ECCLESIASTICAL ADVISOR/SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

The National Ecclesiastical Advisor/Spiritual Director will be a Presbyter or Religious (male or female) presented by the National Board of Director of MFJM to the Bishop, who will determine his/her ratification, or shall assign whom he considers competent. (Cfr. Can # 324 § 2). He/she will accompany the MFJM for a period of two years that can be indefinitely renewed.

DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:

1. To safeguard the healthy doctrinal and spiritual formation of the members of the MFJM.
2. To safeguard the adherence to the MFJM Charisma, and for the honesty and morality amongst the members.
3. To attend international congresses. If possible, attend monthly meetings, seminars, workshops and encounters of MFJM.
4. To promote all that refers to celebrations of the Ministry and of the Universal Church, and the Christian and human formations of the MFJM.
5. To act as Doctrinal Advisor, so as to ensure that the decisions made are faithful to the Doctrine of the Catholic Church. To accompany and follow up the Mission and Vision of the MFJM.
6. To represent the MFJM at an ecclesial level and at any event or social invitation in which the Board of Directors needs to be present.
7. To recommend actions and strategies to the Board, to achieve the objectives of the MFJM.

The Spiritual Director functions shall cease by his/her own decision, by death, or proposed by the Board of Directors, whose decision was made through a voting with quorum, duly certified in an Act of the Board of Directors.

X. PRAYER GROUP GUIDES MFJM (GUIDES)

1. MEMBERSHIP

Guides are members that are disposed to lead, manage, and accompany the different pastoral groups of MFJM. The guides are present in the different parishes and other places where the prayer groups are conducted. The Guides must have an attitude of obedience and open disposition towards the Pastor and all the pastoral work of the parish. The Guides must have participated in a MFJM formation workshop and comply with all the laws of the respective diocese. They must live a life of deep Catholic faith by means of praying, participating in the sacraments of the Church, reading and meditating on the Word of God, reading the life of the Saints, and living devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary by praying daily the Holy Rosary.

2. DUTIES

- a) Teach the children and their families to pray with the heart in a personal way and

- in community.
- b) Maintain the Saints as models of Faith.
- c) Disseminate the information in the monthly MFJM packet, created by the International Headquarters MFJM, which includes topics to cover in the prayer groups regarding the pastoral plan, the feasts of the Church, the life of the Saints, and the weekly gospels.
- d) Form the children in their Faith according to the Magisterium of the Mother Church by means of songs, games, and posters.
- e) Aide the members in their spiritual growth.

3. ADMISSION

The admission of new Guides will be done according to the ecclesiastical right and the Statutes of MFJM. (Can # 307 § 1) To become a Guide of MFJM, one must:

- a) Be baptized and profess the Catholic Faith. (Cfr. Can# 11)
- b) Be greater than 18 years of age.
- c) Fill in an application for admission attaching the baptism certificate and/or a letter of recommendation from the pastor of the Guide's parish or a religious who can attest for the Guide. If the Guide cannot fill these requirements, for reasons beyond their control, they must present a sworn testimony to the required information.
- d) Participate in a Workshop for New Guides to learn the Mission and methodology of MFJM.
- e) Participate in the monthly Guide meetings to receive formation and grow spiritually.
- f) In the United States, complete the requirements of the "Virtus" program.

4. BLESSING OF THE GUIDES

Annually, new Guides will be blessed in a Solemn Eucharist where all the MSJM families of the locality will participate.

5. FORMATION OF THE GUIDES

The MFJM will provide ample formation by means of the following:

- a) Workshops, seminars, retreats, and congresses, not only spiritual, but also psychological, pedagogic, artistic, social, scientific, and ecological.
- b) The use of techniques and methodologies that are educational, dynamic, and creative, inspired by the MSJM Charisma, the Magisterium of the Church, and based on the "Practical Guide of the Catechist" written by St. Henry of Ossó:
 - i. Learn-doing, learn-playing, learn-resolving, reflect-action, analyze and reflect.
 - ii. Art that teaches, music that educates...

XI. ASSEMBLY OF GUIDES

It is comprised of active Guides and meets once a month to pray, encourage spiritual formation and growth, and explain activities in the monthly MFJM packet.

1. DUTIES OF ASSEMBLY OF GUIDES:

- a) Know the Manual of MFJM with all the indications of what is necessary to manage a prayer group.
- b) Know and approve general policies, strategies, and projects for MFJM.
- c) Know work plans and reports presented by the Board of Directors in their annual meeting.
- d) Elect/ratify the National Board of Directors for a period of 4 years. The decisions will be made by a simple majority of the total members present. Should a tie exist, a new vote will be taken. If the tie continues, one of the Members at Large will vote twice.

An Extraordinary Assembly of Guides may be convened if necessary.

2. RIGHTS OF THE GUIDES

The Guides may have a voice and a vote in the Assembly of Guides, where they can be elected to be members of the Board of Directors of MFJM and where the Board is elected/ratified. Also, they participate in the spiritual, intellectual, and human formation realized.

3. OBLIGATIONS OF THE GUIDES

- a) To know and comply with the Statutes of MFJM.
- b) To assist the information and formation meetings offered by MFJM.
- c) To promote the goals and the Charisma of MFJM.
- d) To live their spiritual and prayer life responsibly.

4. SUSPENSION OR RETIREMENT

The Guides can be suspended/retired in the following circumstances:

- a) On committing a public offense against Christian principles and morals or laws of the locality or country. Applying the Gospel's advice for correcting brethren found in Mt. 18:15-17, the suspension/retirement will be realized if the Guide does not listen or accept the correction. In cases involving a crime, the suspension will be immediate, and the proper authorities will be notified.
- b) On not complying with the goals and objectives of the Association and thus negatively impacting the development of MFJM.

XII. THE OPENING OF MFJM IN PARISHES AND OTHER DIOCESES

1. OPENING IN THE PARISHES

The Board of Directors of MFJM will solicit from the pastor, the parish administrator, or representative of the institution, permission to open a prayer group in the locality.

2. OPENING IN OTHER DIOCESES

The Board of Directors of the MFJM, by means of the *Petitio Ad- Experimentu* will solicit from the local Bishop permission to commence work in the diocese, in the parish designated by the Bishop, or in the parish of a willing Pastor who solicits this permission, for a 365 days trial period. The Pastor will provide the Bishop and the Board of Directors an evaluation of the apostolate and subsequently will solicit *the recognition and official permission to realize the pastoral action of the ministry as an ecclesial movement in the locality*. (Cfr. Can # 529 § 2)

XIII. PATRIMONY

The patrimony is everything that concretely speaks of the Charisma of MFJM and helps in its recognition among members, the Church, and society.

1. The motto
2. The logo
3. The badge
4. The medal
5. The customs or uniforms
6. The books and all the didactic materials edited by or for the MFJM.
7. The pamphlets and manual
8. The Pilgrim Virgin

Also considered patrimony are the donations of any kind from persons or entities, that will help realize the work of the MFJM.

XIV. REFORMS TO THE STATUTES

The current Statutes of MSJM can be modified or expanded when necessary. The modification will be realized by the Board of Directors and submitted to the Archdiocese of Miami for approval. The approved changes will be communicated to the Assembly of Guides in their annual meeting.

XV. DISSOLUTION AND EXTINCTION

The following is cause for dissolution and extinction of the MFJM.

1. Voluntary decision made by the Board of Directors and communicated to the Extraordinary Assembly of Guides.
2. *“The private association of faithful can extinguish according to the norms of the statutes; can be suppressed by the competent authority, if its activity causes grave harm to the doctrine or the ecclesiastic discipline or causes scandal to the faithful”* (Cfr. Can # 326 §1)

XVI. DESTINATION OF GOODS

As a result of dissolution, the goods will be put at the disposition of Movements or Ecclesial Institutions that promote or support the same goals and objectives of the MFJM, maintaining the rights acquired and the desire of the donors. (Cfr. Can # 326 § 2)

ANNEX

HISTORY

In 1990, a group from Miami, Florida travelled on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. The group included Teresian Sister Ángela Ros, STJ, and Mr. Luis Simán and his wife Mrs. Adela B. Simán. During the daily rosaries, Sister Ros and Mr. And Mrs. Simán, felt the need in their heart to respond to the call of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima asking the children to pray the Rosary for the conversion of the world. After this trip, the Florida Center for Peace (FCP) was founded, a non-profit organization consisting of two new Hispanic Apostolic movements dedicated to forming, and evangelizing prayer groups for adults, Mary Queen of Peace, and for children, Friends of Jesus and Mary.

The three of them had the same objectives in mind: **guide the children to be another Jesus on earth.** The Teresian congregation evangelizes children with prayer groups called Friends of Jesus. Therefore, given that the inspiration came in a Marian sanctuary, they agreed to name the new movement “Friends of Jesus and Mary.”

At first, the work of evangelizing children began in homes where they were taught with the rosary, bible stories, and Christian songs. During that time, the ministry focused on children between the ages of 3 and 12 years old. This initiative was blessed by Reverend Father Jordi Rivero, Spiritual Director of the Florida Center for Peace, and he designated Sister Ros as its spiritual director. Sister Ros and Mrs. Simán visited Sister Rose Monique Pena, OP, Director of Religious Education of the Archdiocese of Miami. Sister Rose Monique asked them to make a pamphlet explaining the new ministry and clarifying that the movement existed to provide religious education to children. Once the pamphlet was completed and turned into the Archdiocese, she gave her approval in 1990 to begin working.

At that time, they adopted the charisma for MFJM which is based on the gospel passages where Jesus says: **“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”** (Mt 19:14; Mk 10:14; Lk. 18:16). The goal is for the children to be another Jesus on earth adopting His proposal for living and adapting it to our times, and that they recognize Our Blessed Mother Mary as their example for living. In this way, they may realize the dream of St. Henry of Ossó, founder of the Company of St. Theresa of Jesus, STJ, whose sisters are known as the Teresians: **“Be of God and regenerate the world”**, having only one mission: **“to know and love Jesus and make Him known and loved by all”**. They also adopted him as their patron saint and adopted his motto: **“to conquer mankind through children”**.

It was then decided that the guides of the children’s prayer groups would use the “Practical Guide of the Catechist” (1872), written by St. Henry d’ Ossó and that the Ministry Friends of Jesus and Mary (MFJM), would operate as a branch of the FCP, its sponsor, operating administratively and legally subject to its statutes. Subsequently, on May 17, 2021, the Archdioceses of Miami approved MFJM as a Private Association of the Faithful, and approved their statutes.

The FCP and MFJM evangelize in English and in Spanish by distributing/selling books and publications, videos, and CDs; by organizing Marian and Eucharistic conferences and retreats; by

promoting prayer groups for children MFJM and for adults Mary Queen of Peace in the U.S. and throughout Latin America; and by maintaining a webpage (www.fcpeace.org). In the United States, the FCP promotes the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit to different parishes.

Throughout Latin America, in the adult prayer groups Mary Queen of Peace, many expressed interest in having prayer groups for children. As a result of this inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the pastoral movement was promoted in various countries of Latin America. Since 1993, the MFJM was expanded to include children still in the wombs of their mothers with prayer groups started for pregnant women. Our Blessed Mother has taken care that the seed germinate and give abundant fruit.

Throughout the years, the following countries joined this ministry: Aruba, Bolivia, Bonaire Chile, Costa Rica, Curacao, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Slovenia. Currently, MFJM is operating in 17 Latin American countries.

Every two years, starting in 2000, MFJM has organized International Congresses. In these congresses, member countries unite in brotherhood to pray, grow in faith, and decide future activities for the ministry. In 2004, it was decided that after two overseas conferences, the next would take place in the U.S. headquarters.

The Congresses of MFJM to date:

I-United States	Miami, Florida	July 7-9, 2000
II-United States	Miami, Florida	April 11-13, 2002
II-Dominican Republic	Sto. Domingo	April 22-25, 2004
IV-Nicaragua	Managua	June 19-22, 2006
V-Panama	Panama City	July 3-6, 2008
VI-United States	Miami, Florida	July 15-18, 2010
VII-Aruba	Oranjestad	October 4-7, 2012
VIII-Nicaragua	Managua	June 19-22, 2014
XIX-United States	Miami, Florida	February 18-21, 2016
X-Panama	Panama City	July 5-8, 2018
XI-Virtual	Zoom	8 al 11 de octubre 2020
XII-Virtual	Zoom	20 al 23 de abril 2023

Sister Ángela Ros served as Spiritual Director of MFJM until July 6, 2008 when Mr. Simán appointed Reverend Father Andrzej Makowiec, from Bonaire, NA. It was agreed at that time that the Spiritual Director would be designated at each International Congress. Father Makowiec continued in this function until June 22, 2014 when he retired from this position. Consequently, Reverend Father Juan Domingo Gutiérrez, from Nicaragua, offered to be the new Spiritual Director and he was accepted. In 2017 the position of International Spiritual Director was eliminated and each country operates under their own Spiritual Director.

The MFJM continues its mission of guiding children to Jesus, making Him known and loved in their families and in all the world, thereby realizing a service to the people of God in the Universal Church.

APPENDIX
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE PROTECTION OF MINORS
MINISTRY FRIENDS OF JESUS AND MARY USA (MFJM)
(June 10, 2024)

The primary objective is to ensure the safety of minors (“minors”) participating with MFJM.

The responsibility to comply with the Code of Conduct is not optional. The members of MFJM that do not comply will be subject to corrective measures established by the Board of Directors of MFJM. The infractions of these guides are considered grave and will be investigated and resolved according to these guidelines. The corrective measures may range from a verbal admonition to expulsion from the MFJM according to the nature of the violation.

I. Appropriate Conduct

1. Conduct with Minors:

The members of the clergy, the employees, and volunteers working with MFJM prayer groups (“the members”) which interact with minors will maintain an open, transparent, and trustworthy relationship with minors.

- 1.1 The members should be aware of the vulnerability of others when working alone, and should therefore work as a team when working with minors.
 - 1.1.1 Should establish an appropriate ratio between the number of adults and minors for all activities.
 - 1.1.2 The appropriate proportion should consider a) the age and development of minors, b) the level of risk of isolation of the activity and c) the place of the activity and the possibility that others can casually observe the activity.
- 1.2 Physical contact with a minor can be misinterpreted and should occur publicly and be appropriate (not sexual in nature). No physical contact should occur in private.
 - 1.2.1 Except in emergencies, physical contact between adults and minors should only be initiated by the minor. By rule, adults should not initiate any physical conduct except a pat on the upper back, a handshake, or a high five as positive reinforcement or a greeting.
- 1.3 Members will not possess or use illegal drugs or drink alcohol when working with minors. MAJM has a policy of zero tolerance and will employ appropriate corrective measures.

2. Sexual Conduct

- 2.1 Members of MFJM shall not establish intimate relationships with minors or others in the ministry. Members should always act in a professional manner and give example of Christian chastity in all moments.
- 2.2 Accusations of inappropriate sexual conduct with minors will be

- denounced to civil authorities and to MFJM in any circumstances. The procedures of the Archdiocese of Miami and the civil authorities will be followed to protect the rights of all involved.
- 2.3 The members should know and understand the rules of child abuse and the requirements for denouncing violations and should comply with them.

3. Electronic Communications

All information and all messages created, sent, received, and saved using the MFJM resources of communication are exclusive property of MFJM; No user may have any expectation of privacy. All communications should reflect Catholic teachings and values.

4. Electronic Communications with Minors

No member should use electronic communication with minors that participate in MFJM without written authorization from the directors of MFJM and the parents or guardian of the minor. Electronic communication includes all aspects of social media.

- 4.1 *No member shall collect email addresses, phone numbers, nor any other means of communication with minors without the permission of parents or guardians.*
 - 4.1.1 *The parents or guardians should designate, in writing, what method of communication with minors is acceptable and they should provide the contact information.*
 - 4.1.2 *With minors in grade and junior high school, members should communicate directly with the parents or guardians.*
 - 4.1.3 *In case of any direct communication with minors, members should copy the parents or guardians.*
- 4.2 *The electronic communication should be brief and to the point using appropriate language for the minor and the parent or tutor.*
- 4.3 *The appropriate limits that should be respected when communicating in person or verbally with minors or their parents/guardian is applicable to electronic communication.*
- 4.4 *The following guides apply to the following forms of electronic communication:*
 - i. *Cell phones, text, Twitter, Instagram and other messaging services: Except in an emergency, members shall not call a minor directly (to their phone) and instead will call the parent's or the family phone.*
 - ii. *The members will not share their phone numbers with minors unless first approved by their parents or guardians.*
- 4.4.2 *Email - Members cannot communicate with minors via email.*
- 4.4.3 *Social Media Sites*
 - i. *Members should not use social media sites to communicate with minors. MFJM can set up a site for communication with a group. The site should be approved by the MFJM Board and the parish*

and should have a name that reflects its official nature. More than one person should supervise the site.

- ii. However, only the administrator of MFJM should have the passwords and administration of the site.*
- iii. No personal contact information should be included in the profile nor in the accounts employed by the MAJM representative.*
- iv. Only the email addresses and telephone numbers for the offices or persons in charge can be included.*
- v. All MFJM accounts should protect privacy. The MFJM sites should not try to attract participation of minors.*
- vi. Members should ignore friend requests from minors.*
- vii. MFJM must obtain permission from parents or guardians to publish pictures of minors. Minors should not be identified in a picture.*
- viii. Members should only comment on MFJM issues on the site.*
- ix. Members should not instant message minors on the sites unless the messages are archived and reviewed by a supervisor.*
- x. The supervisors should review the sites and should immediately delete any inappropriate publications.*
- xi. MFJM should also be vigilant of sites created by third parties regarding MFJM. If inappropriate content is observed, the sites, users, or founders of the site should be denounced and forced to close the site. This includes the unauthorized use of the logo, bullying, sexual harassment, or defamatory language.*

5. Behavior Monitoring

Members should monitor their own behavior and those of others in MFJM to prevent and recognize risky, inappropriate behavior in order to provide the appropriate response and to reinforce appropriate behavior.

- 5.1** Members will participate in the archdiocese training (such as “Protecting the Children of God”) to learn to recognize alerting signs and risky behaviors. All members have the responsibility to maintain a “healthy suspicion” of all adults.
- 5.2** All members should understand the limits established by MAJM stipulated in the Code of Conduct and be able to identify any violations. They should pay special attention to adults that show favoritism, give gifts, organize unsupervised meetings alone with a minor, or other similar behavior.
- 5.3** Members should identify potentially dangerous situations and establish plans to avoid them.
- 5.4** Members should reinforce appropriate behavior and correct inappropriate behavior.
- 5.5** The members should report inappropriate behavior to the responsible supervisor.
- 5.6** Members should document any inappropriate behavior in writing and

- with evidence.
- 5.7 MFJM should develop a tracking system for credible accusations of members including reporting forms.
 - 5.7.1 Include sexual abuse of minors with serious physical injuries. The forms should be filled out by members that observe the injuries or hear about the abuse. All abuse accusations should be examined by an examiner (internal or external) trained to evaluate the politics and procedures of MFJM. Reports should include the results of the cases of abuse.
 - i. The investigator should include recommendations on improving policies and procedures to avoid future cases.
 - ii. Training or retraining to clarify procedures and to correct failure to follow adequate procedures.
 - 5.8 Members should not investigate, but can, if necessary, ask questions to clarify information to provide an accurate suspicion or accusation to the proper authorities.
 - 5.8.1 The name of the parts involved is important to an accusation.
 - 5.8.2 Basic information to clarify the nature of the interaction to be sure that the complaint is necessary. (For example, to be sure what the minor meant when using certain words which may have various interpretations.)

Every member must read the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Minors and sign the General Declaration of Intention. (See below)

II. General Declaration of Intention

I will do the following:

- **Try to treat all persons with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.**
- **Avoid situations of isolation or meetings alone with minors in activities of Ministry Friends of Jesus and Mary ("MFJM").**
- **Provide positive reinforcement to minors instead of criticism, competition, or comparisons.**
- **Refuse to accept expensive gifts from minors or their parents without previous permission from the supervisor.**
- **Abstain from giving gifts without prior approval in writing from parents or guardians and the supervisor.**
- **Denounce any supposed case of abuse to the appropriate contact within MFJM and the local entity of services or protection of minors (Child Protection Services). I understand that not denouncing a supposed case of abuse to the civil authorities is a violation of the law.**
- **Cooperate fully in any investigation of the abuse of minors.**
- **Comply with the norms of behavior in the *Code of Conduct* regarding electronic communications.**

I will not do the following:

- **Not smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of minors.**
- **While complying with my responsibilities in MFJM, not consume or possess alcoholic beverages nor be under their effects.**
- **Not use or possess illegal drugs nor be under their effects at any time.**
- **Not expose minors to any health risks (for example, expose them to cases of fever or other contagious diseases).**
- **Abstain from hitting, punishing, shaking, humiliating, threatening, and degrading a minor and taking disciplinary measures which scare or humiliate them.**
- **Touch any child or youth in a sexual or inappropriate way.**
- **Take advantage of another person in any way, particularly for sexual purposes.**
- **Show sexually explicit or pornographic content or images to minors; nor will that content be accessible in my possession during work with MFJM. Also,**

not possess any form of child pornography.

- **Not use obscene language or say inappropriate jokes in the presence of minors.**
- **Not communicate with any minors electronically, nor through social media, without prior approval from the supervisor or the parents.**
- **Not take pictures of minors without parental permission.**

Signature

Printed Name