



Associations of the Faithful Policy

I. POLICY:

The Diocese of Orlando provides a process by which an Association of the Faithful may be formally recognized and approved by the Bishop of Orlando.

II. ASSOCIATIONS OF THE FAITHFUL

One of the commissions of the 2005 Diocesan Synod concerned Ecclesial Movements and New Communities. These associations of the faithful are a sign of the times, emerging after the Second Vatican Council, and they witness to the vitality of the Holy Spirit working through them. In order for an association of the faithful to be recognized in the Diocese of Orlando, it must undergo a discernment process by replying to a list of questions presented by the Bishop. Once these questions are answered and appropriate documentation is provided to the Bishop, he and other consultors will determine whether the association of the faithful is appropriately organized according to its charism and leadership. At the conclusion of this process, the diocesan liaison and leader of the association of the faithful will receive a letter of blessing or endorsement from the Bishop. Diocesan liaisons are the eyes of the bishop over the faithful to assure the integrity of the association's charism and remain true to the work of the Bishop and his leadership of the Diocese. It is expected that each association of the faithful will be appointed a diocesan liaison by the Bishop. Each association of the faithful will be asked to complete an annual review to continue to enjoy the blessing of the Bishop.

The Secretariat for Laity, Family, and Life is delegated the task of oversight of the approval process and management of the list of those Associations approved in the Diocese.

III. INITIAL DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR RECOGNITION AND ANNUAL REVIEW

The initial discernment process and annual review will satisfy the following questions:

- a. Official name of organization
- b. Start date of operation
- c. Provide a brief description of spirituality, apostolate and activities of the group
- d. Criteria for membership
- e. Numbers of members in the Diocese of Orlando
- f. Charism of organization
- g. Headquarters of organization
- h. Parish of operation
- i. Diocesan Liaison (must be a priest in good standing of the Diocese)
- j. Financial Report (attach an annual financial statement)
- k. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

Initiated: January, 2008

Current: July, 2019