

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SHRINE
AND PILGRIMAGE APOSTOLATE (NASPA)

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE ONE

The name of the association shall be:
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SHRINE
AND PILGRIMAGE APOSTOLATE

ARTICLE TWO

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office of the association shall be at **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (400 Michigan Avenue, NE)**, in the City of Washington, in the **District of Columbia**. The association may have other such offices as may from time to time be designated by its members or the Executive Board. (The above address will be that of the elected Secretary/Treasurer.)

ARTICLE THREE

PURPOSES

1. To restore the meaning of pilgrimage as a religious and spiritual experience of renewal, thus enhancing a sense of evangelization to a pilgrim people.
2. To cooperate with diocesan directors of pilgrimages and pilgrimage leaders that the pilgrimage experience will become a spiritual journey of faith.
3. To inspire interest in pilgrimages to the shrines sacred to our Catholic heritage in this country and abroad.
4. To be of service to shrine personnel and directors of pilgrimages in their ministry in a pilgrim people, and to enable collaboration of efforts to this end.

ARTICLE FOUR

POWERS

In furtherance of the objectives described above, but not limited to these, the association shall have power to collect and distribute information, to conduct investigations, to engage in various fund-raising activities, to plan and conduct an annual convention, to collect annual membership dues and convention fees, to conduct promotional activities and to hold such property as is necessary to accomplish its purposes.

ARTICLE FIVE

MEMBERSHIP

1. **Full Membership.** Full membership is offered to one properly designated representative of each Shrine that has been established by competent religious authorities (e.g., has been approved by the local ordinary as a place of pilgrimage), to authorized directors of pilgrimages in dioceses and to other persons representing Church groups deemed appropriate by the Executive Board.
 - a. **Full members** who are current in their dues shall enjoy all privileges of the organization including the right to hold an elective office.
 - b. **Full members** and **associated members** are entitled and expected to promote the organizations' goals and objectives among the pastoral network of the Catholic Church in the United States.
2. **Associate Membership.** Associate membership is offered to private organizations and individuals who wish to participate in the goals and gatherings of the association in order to foster the pilgrimage apostolate.
3. **Business Membership.** Business membership is offered to businesses who wish to participate in the goals and gatherings of the association in order to provide business support to shrines.

4. **Voting.** Those present at the annual convention who are current in their dues, regardless of membership level, shall have one vote on official proposals presented to the assembly of members.
5. Officers are elected and official proposals are approved by a simple majority of the voting members present at the convention.
6. **Suspension and Expulsion.** The Executive Board may suspend any member whose conduct is detrimental to the objectives or interests of the association or by-laws. The Executive Board may expel members only with the approval of the general assembly at the yearly convention.

ARTICLE SIX

DUES AND FINANCES

1. The association will be financially independent through the following means:
 - a. The annual dues for full and associate members will be determined by the Executive Board in union with the general assembly.
 - b. The annual convention fees and projects sponsored by the organizations.
 - c. Donations and contributions of various entities and private individuals.
2. Reimbursable expenses include travel, food, and lodging for officers and the convention planning committee for planning sessions.
3. The association is designed as a not-for-profit organization. The association shall use its funds only for the objectives and purposes specified in these articles of association and by-laws.

ARTICLE SEVEN

CONVENTIONS

The program for conventions will be planned in such a way that it will feature speakers, workshops, and professional development of interest to the general membership. The program will also contain events particular to each of the three interest groups: Shrine Personnel, Pilgrimage Directors, and Associate Members. Time will be allotted for separate meetings of each group, if necessary.

ARTICLE EIGHT

GOVERNMENT

1. The association will be governed by the following officers who will be know as the Executive Board:
 - a. President.
 - b. Vice-President.
 - c. Secretary/Treasurer.
2. Terms of Office:
 - a. President – Two years as President, renewable for another two year term.
 - b. Vice-President: Two years as Vice-President, with the option to run/be elected as President.
 - c. Secretary/Treasurer – Three years, renewable for another three year period.
3. Duties of the President:
 - a. To be primarily responsible for the conventions during his/her years in office.
 - b. To be responsible for publishing and distributing the proceedings of the convention.

- c. To appoint a recording secretary or secretaries to record minutes of the convention.
 - d. In an election year, or whenever an office becomes vacant, to appoint a search committee of three persons to nominate candidates for the office of the President, Vice-President, and/or Secretary/Treasurer, during the annual convention. One member of this committee should be an Associate Member. Members of the search committee cannot be nominated for office.
 - e. To preside at the annual convention.
 - f. To serve as spokesperson for the association to interested parties.
 - g. To choose up to three other members to work with the officers as a planning committee for the annual convention, at least one of whom will be an Associate Member. One person should also be a member from the staff where the convention will be held.
 - h. To authorize extra-ordinary disbursements.
 - i. To appoint a committee with the approval of the Episcopal Liaison and the Representative of the Shrine and Pilgrimage Apostolate of the United States Catholic Conference, for particular issues.
 - j. To call special meetings when there is a need.
 - k. To work with the membership to develop long range programs for the Shrine and Pilgrimage Apostolate.
4. Duties of the Vice-President:
- a. To preside at the meetings of the organization in the absence of the President.

- b. To perform other duties assigned to him/her by the President, Episcopal Liaison, or the Shrine and Pilgrimage Representative of the United States Catholic Conference.
 - c. To cooperate with the President in the planning of the actual convention.
5. Duties of the Secretary/Treasurer:
- a. To facilitate all mailings of the association.
 - b. To keep all financial records, including notification and reception of the annual dues.
 - c. To maintain the association checking account.
 - d. To take care of normal operational expenses.
 - e. To report to the membership, at the annual convention, the financial status of the association.
 - f. To record and keep the proceedings of the annual convention.

ARTICLE NINE

RELATIONSHIP TO THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

1. Episcopal Liaison:
- a. To represent the concerns of the organization to the American Bishops.
 - b. To encourage the Pilgrimage Apostolate among Shrine Directors/Rectors, Diocesan Pilgrimage Coordinators and Pilgrimage Leaders.
 - c. To be informed of the activities, elections, and decisions of the organization.

- d. To promote the apostolate through his own initiatives.
2. Representative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Office of Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees.
- a. To work closely with the Executive Board of the organization.
 - b. To provide suggestions and ideas for development in the service of the organization and apostolate.
 - c. To serve as a link between the Executive Board and Episcopal Liaison.
 - d. To maintain open dialogue with the organization in the light of the policies of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

ARTICLE TEN

INSIGNIA

The Executive Board may adopt insignia, colors, badges, and flags for the association as it deems desirable.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

AMENDMENTS

Any amendment of/to these Articles of Association or By-Laws, may be adopted by a simple majority of the members with the right to vote at the annual convention.

ARTICLE TWELVE

DISSOLUTION

The association may be dissolved by a vote of two-thirds majority of its full membership.

In the event of dissolution, the property of the association shall be distributed to another organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or a corresponding section of any future tax code.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION AND BY-LAWS

The foregoing were approved and adopted by the members of the National Association of Shrine and Pilgrimage Apostolate.

President

Vice-President

Secretary/Treasurer