

FACTS FOR PROVINCIALS ABOUT APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

1. The Apostleship of Prayer is not a work of the Society; it is a work confided to the Society.

2. The Society's responsibility to the AP is to provide orientation, animation and formation to Diocesan Directors.

3. Diocesan Directors are priests appointed by bishops. They may be Jesuits, but their appointment is from the bishop, even if made on the Provincial's recommendation.

4. Local directors are named by Diocesan Directors; they are usually parish priest.

5. The organization and direction of activities of the AP is the responsibility of Diocesan and local directors.

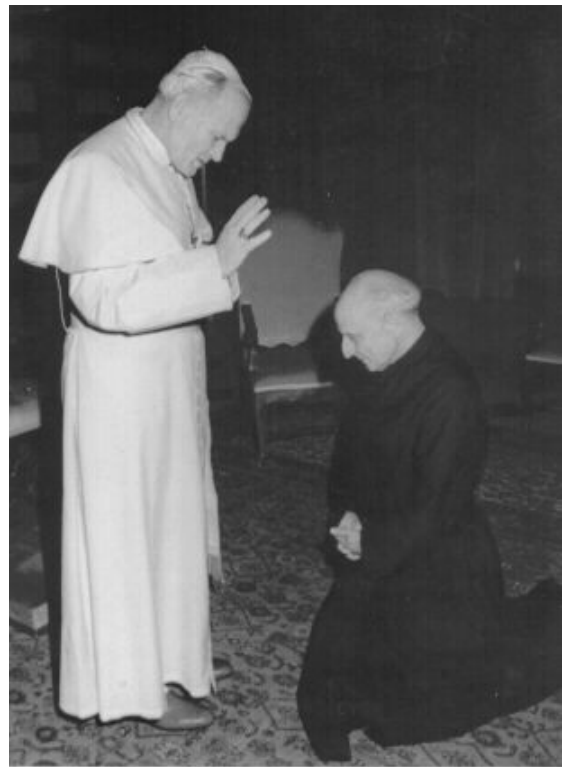
6. The Society normally provides animation, formation and orientation to Diocesan Directors by national and regional secretariats.

7. The National Secretary is appointed by Fr. General (Director General of the AP), who takes into account whatever may be prescribed in respect to such appointments by the ecclesiastical authorities of the various countries (Statutes IV.2). The appropriate provincial proposes candidates to the Director General, having observed this prescription, and informs the appropriate committee of the national conference of bishops when an appointment has been made.

8. "The role of the National Secretaries is to orient and encourage diocesan directors, over whom they in no way exercise jurisdiction, and to assist the Director General. In the exercise of their office they should act in harmony with the provincial of the Society responsible for the area". (Father Kolvenbach to National Secretaries, Oct 3 '85).

9. Two national/regional secretaries may be named by Fr. General for language reasons (Belgium, Canada, etc.).

10. Where there is more than one Province to a country, it has been customary for each provincial to appoint a part or full time province promoter to assist the National Secretary.



11. National and regional secretariats are services provided by Jesuit Provinces to assist in the orientation, animation and formation of Diocesan Directors and other members of the AP. Whatever their civil status, these secretariats are canonically considered part of the Province.

12. These secretariats are not to be confused with diocesan or archdiocesan secretariats, which belong to and are departments of the Diocese. When, as frequently happens, the Jesuit National Secretary or Province Promoter is also a Diocesan Director, and he is operating out of one secretariat, care should be taken to distinguish what belongs to the Diocese and what belongs to the Province.

13. If the Province is providing the secretariate for the (Jesuit) Diocesan Director, this service should be clarified and the Diocese invited to assist. This will prove helpful to eventual non-Jesuit Diocesan Directors.

14. "It is the duty of the National Secretary to see to the publication of periodicals, leaflets, and brochures for promoting the AP" (Statutes IV. 6). Normally, it is this press apostolate which absorbs most the national secretariat's energies.

15. Occasionally, problems arise regarding finances or overlapping publication programs, objectives and needs. Father General's norm in resolving such difficulties is invariable the same: "While the AP and its publications have no doubt to answer to the newer demands of its apostolate in the Church, yet it has its own specific aims, which are not necessarily the aims of the Province media apostolate... The Province must see that the specific apostolic aims of the Secretariat and its publications are fully respected". (PHK, May 6 '86).

16. The children and youth section of the AP is called the Eucharistic Youth Movement (formally Eucharistic Crusade); in some countries it exists with its own national secretariat and team. Where this is the case, the coordination of the two national secretariats, AP & MEJ, should be harmonious.

17. The five-point AP spiritual program of formation is basic Ignatian spirituality: Eucharist and daily offering as response to the heart (personal love) of Christ; docility to the Spirit and filial confidence in Mary; thinking and praying with the Church; assiduous prayer. The AP is a simple apostolate for simple people, an 18th annotation form of the Exercises.

(Fr. John Vessels, 1989)