

PONTIFICAL ACADEMY FOR LIFE  
BYLAWS

Part I  
ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Art. 1 - The President

§ 1 - The President serves as Chair of the Meetings of the Academy. When necessary, he can delegate this function to the Vice-President or, secondarily, to the Chancellor or to another Member of the Board of Directors.

§ 2 - The President may authorize the Vice President or, secondarily, the Chancellor or one of the Officers or Ordinary Members, to represent the Academy at public functions.

§ 3 - The President is the Officer authorized to communicate the positions of the Academy. When necessary, he can delegate this authority.

§ 4 - To respond to identified needs of the Academy, the President can request assistance from individual Members or groups of Members.

§ 5 - The President, having consulted the Board of Directors, may appoint an Ordinary Member to oversee the activities of the Academy's Young Researcher Members. Such appointment shall be for a renewable term of five years.

Art. 2 - Vice President

§ 1 - If a Vice-President has been appointed, he assists the President in the guidance and the governance of the Academy, particularly in coordinating the activities of the Secretariat and in formational activities.

§ 2 - The Vice-President substitutes for the President if the President is absent or unable to act.

Art. 3 - Chancellor

§ 1 - The Chancellor cooperates directly with the President in the guidance and governance of the Pontifical Academy for Life. He can be delegated by the President to perform some of the

President's functions in place of the President.

§ 2 - The Chancellor co-signs the official acts and documents of the Pontifical Academy for Life and, if need be, its official correspondence as well.

#### Art. 4 - Board of Directors

##### § 1 - Membership

- a) The Board of Directors is composed of the President, a Vice-President if one has been appointed, an Ecclesiastical Counselor if one has been appointed, the Chancellor and six Board Members appointed by the Supreme Pontiff for renewable five-year terms. Four of such appointed Board Members are chosen from among the Ordinary Members of the Pontifical Academy for Life upon proposal by the President; one is nominated upon the proposal of the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, and the sixth is the President of the Pontifical John Paul II Theological Institute for Marriage and Family Sciences;
- b) Upon the resignation, recall, or death of a Board Member, the Supreme Pontiff provides for a his replacement for the remainder of the Member's term.

##### § 2 - Duties

- a) To decide upon the general guidelines for the ordinary-course activities of the Academy and address particular issues related to the life of the Academy. In particular, the Board of Directors is study and decide upon the theme of each year's Annual Meeting.
- b) To review the President's proposals, before they are presented to the Secretariat of State, with respect to the appointment of the Officers of the Central Office of the Pontifical Academy for Life;
- c) To evaluate the performance by the Academicians of their statutory duties and commitments (within the Pontifical Academy for Life) and of the correct implementation, insofar as it concerns them, of the provisions of the Statute and these Bylaws;
- d) To examine, in connection with the appointment of Corresponding Members and their eventual reappointment, the appropriateness of their *curriculum vitae* and their activities in the promotion and protection of human life.

##### § 3 - Meetings

a) A quorum for meetings of the Board of Directors is constituted by the presence in person of a majority of its Members, and meetings are ordinarily held at the principal office of the Pontifical Academy for Life;

b) All Members present are entitled to vote;

c) The passage of resolutions requires an affirmative vote more than one half of the Members present at meeting where a quorum is present. In the event of a tie vote, the Chairman's vote prevails;

d) Minutes are to be kept for every meeting.

e) The Board of Directors' meetings are either ordinary or special:

A. Ordinary Meetings:

I. The Board of Directors is to hold an Ordinary Meeting at least twice a year;

ii. Ordinary Meetings are called by the President, or, upon his authorization, by the Vice President or the Chancellor;

iii. Notice of an Ordinary Meeting, together with the proposed agenda therefor, is to be given to the Directors at least 30 days before the proposed date of the Meeting;

iv. The President, together with the Vice President and the Chancellor, is to prepare the agenda for the Meeting, taking into account any suggestions offered by the other Directors;

v. If he is unable to be present at an Ordinary Meeting, the President can delegate the Vice-President or the Chancellor to represent him and to direct the work of the Board at the meeting;

vi. With the prior consent of a Director who is unable to be present at an Ordinary Meeting, the President can invite another Academician to represent that Director at that Meeting;

vii. The President may invite the Member who oversees the activities of the Young Researcher Members to attend an Ordinary Meeting, without a vote, to present the issues pertaining to that class of Members.

B. Special Meetings:

I. The Board of Directors can meet in special session to consider urgent matters;

ii. Special Meetings are called by the President, or, with his consent, by the Vice President or the Chancellor, or if the President is requested by more than half of the total number of Directors.

Notice of a Special Meeting, together with the proposed agenda therefor, is to be given to the Directors at least 10 days before the proposed date of the Meeting;

- iii. The agenda of a Special Meeting is prepared by the proposer(s) of the Meeting;
- iv. Substitutes are not authorized for Directors who are unable to participate in a Special Meeting.

#### § 4 - Financial Matters

Members of the Board of Directors serve without compensation other than the reimbursement of documented expenses incurred.

### CENTRAL OFFICE

#### Art. 5 - Central Office

##### § 1 - Scientific Section

The President, or for him the Vice-President or Chancellor, coordinates the work of the entire Scientific Section. For this purpose, when necessary, he may call upon the direct cooperation of one of the “Section Managers.”

##### § 2 - Technical-administrative Section (or Secretariat)

The Section is responsible for

- a) Harmonizing, according to relevant needs and consistent with the instructions of the Presidency, the various activities conducted by the Central Office;
- b) Taking minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and, as the President determines, of the any other official meeting of the Academy;
- c) Preparing an annual report, to be delivered to the Offices of the Holy See having jurisdiction, of the official activities conducted on by the Pontifical Academy for Life;
- d) Preparing the agenda for the Annual Meetings and other official meetings, having consulted an official of the Scientific Section, and for submitting such agendas to the Presidency for approval;
- e) Preparing the annual budget and the final financial statements each year, including with them a brief report with appropriate observations.

##### § 3 - Archives and Library

- a) The acts and documents of the Academy are to be kept in the Archives, which are in the care

of the Archivist-Librarian;

b) The documents of the Catholic Church concerning issues relevant to the Pontifical Academy for Life, the publications of the Academy, the works received in exchange, as well as books and magazines purchased or offered as gifts, are to be kept in the Library of the Academy;

c) The Archivist-Librarian catalogs the holdings and oversees their consultation, including consultation by correspondence.

## MEMBERS-ACADEMICIANS

Art. 6 - Members, or Academicians

Members of the Pontifical Academy for Life are called on to commit themselves to promote and defend the principles of the value of life and the dignity of the human person, interpreted in conformity with the Magisterium of the Church and the teachings of the Supreme Pontiff, and to be "...present and active in the leading centers where culture is formed, in schools and universities, in places of scientific and technological research, of artistic creativity and of the study of man....they ought to place themselves at the service of a new culture of life by offering serious and well documented contributions, capable of commanding general respect and interest by reason of their merit."

§ 1 - Ordinary Members

Ordinary Members are appointed by the Supreme Pontiff for five-year terms, according to the statutory norms. There can be no more than seventy Ordinary Members. At the end of their five- year terms, Ordinary Members can be reconfirmed for subsequent five-year terms, but cannot serve after reaching the age of 80.

§ 2 - Honorary Members

Certain Academicians who have distinguished themselves for their particular commitment in favor of life, and in the activities of the Academy, can be named Honorary Members by the Supreme Pontiff.

§ 3 - Corresponding Members

a) The Corresponding Members, appointed for five-year terms by the Board of Directors, establish links with institutes and research centers dealing with the culture of life in the Members' respective countries;

b) Each Corresponding Member is to:

- I. Participate actively in the Annual Meetings of the Academy;
- ii. Keep the Board of Directors and the Presidency informed about the most relevant political, legislative, scientific and cultural events in the Members' countries and about the activities the Member promotes in harmony with the purposes of the Pontifical Academy for Life;
- iii. Prepares reports or studies on topics relevant to the purpose and activities of the Academy;
- c) Corresponding Members may be reappointed for up to two additional five-year terms, as determined by the Board of Directors, but cannot serve after reaching the age of 80.

#### § 4 - Young Researchers Members

a) Young Researchers, who are chosen from among university graduates in courses of study related to the study, defense and promotion of life, who have excelled during their university studies, who have begun a career of professional specialization or scientific research in the fields of knowledge that concern the Academy, and who evidence a desire to explore more deeply the anthropological, ethical, social and legal aspects of their professions and areas of research, are appointed by the Board of Directors for a term of five years and, at the time of the appointment, must not be older than 35 years of age;

b) Each Young Researcher Member must:

i) Participate in the Annual Meeting of the Academy and in other meetings, study opportunities and communications organized specifically for Young Researchers Members;

ii) Remain in frequent contact with the Ordinary Member overseeing the formation and activities of this class of Members;

iii) Disseminate knowledge of the Academy, its aims and its initiatives to other young researchers in the universities, institutions and research centers in their countries

c) Young Researcher Members may be reappointed for a second five-year term, as determined by the Board of Directors, but any case may not serve in this class of Members after their thirty-fifth birthday.

#### § 5 - Removal of an Academician

If the circumstances specified in the Statute are verified, the Presidency of the Pontifical Academy for Life, having heard the opinion of the Directors, will present the matter to the Secretariat of State. Having received the consent of the Secretariat, the President will inform the person concerned of the termination of his/her membership of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

#### § 6 - Suspension of an Academician

If an Academician assumes a political public office, he or she must give timely notice thereof to the President of the Pontifical Academy for Life, who gives notice of the Academician's suspension from the activities of the Academy for the duration of his or her term in such office. During this period the Academician may not publicly describe him or herself as a Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life. Nevertheless, he or she will be allowed to participate, as an auditor, in the sessions of the Annual Meeting.

## Part II ACTIVITIES

### Art. 7 - Annual Meeting

#### § 1 - Call

The Annual Meeting is called each year by the Presidency, with at least 60 days advance notice, by written communication to all Members. The Annual Meeting is composed of two elements:

- a) A Studies Conference that deals with subjects appropriate to the purposes of the Academy and is, ordinarily, open to the public;
- b) One or more sessions reserved to the Presidency, to the Members and to the Central Office of the Pontifical Academy for Life, dealing with the internal matters, policies and activities of the Academy itself.

#### § 2 - Theme, program and speakers of the Studies Conference

The Board of Directors decides on the theme and the program of the Studies Conference and selects the speakers. They will deliver to the Secretariat the final version of their contributions to allow them to be distributed in a timely fashion (before the Assembly) to all the Members.

#### § 3 - Sessions

Ordinarily, each Annual Meeting will have at least four study sessions. One or more sessions will be reserved for the discussion of problems related to the activities and policies of the Academy. The study sessions, as the Presidency decides, may be open to the public, as well as to the media who request it and are accredited to the Holy See Press Office. Participation in the session dedicated to the internal life of the Academy is reserved for Academicians, the Presidency and the Central Office.

#### § 4 - Final Document and Proceedings.

At the end of each Annual Meeting, a Final Document on the chosen theme will be prepared by the Scientific Section, which will submit it for review and suggestions by the Members. The Presidency will see to its publication. Before the following Annual Meeting, the Proceedings of each Annual Meeting will be published - at least in English - by the Presidency.

#### Art. 8 - Study groups

##### § 1 - Composition and planning

The President, on his own initiative or at the request of a Dicastery, can create and convene Study Groups to deal with subjects related to the Academy's activities according to a program he establishes. Ordinarily, these Groups meet at the principal office of the Academy.

##### § 2 - Choice of the participants and invitation

The President selects and invites, from among the Members of the Pontifical Academy for Life and others, the participants in each Study Group.

##### § 3 - Coordination

The President may delegate the coordination of a Study Group to an officer of the Scientific Section, ordinarily to the person in charge of study activities. That delegate is also to collect and catalogue the documentation that is produced, in order to enable a final summary or a full report.

##### § 4 - Final document

The Scientific Section prepares a full report or a final summary of the work of the Study Group. The draft is submitted to the Presidency for approval.

#### Art. 9 - Publications

In addition to the Proceedings of the Annual Meetings and the Documents produced by Study Groups, the Pontifical Academy for Life can provide for the publication of monographic works authored by its Members or its Officers on issues of bioethical interest, as determined by an *ad hoc* committee authorized by the Presidency, but the expense of such publications may not be included in the budget of the Academy.



### Part III

#### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

##### Art. 10 - Financial resources

##### §1 - Financial Information

The Pontifical Academy for Life, with the approval of the Presidency, each year submits to the Secretariat for Economic Affairs in a timely fashion and for approval, its proposed budget and financial statements, together with an explanatory report. The appointed Officer is responsible for overseeing monthly revenue and expenses and the required financial reports that are to be submitted to the relevant Offices of the Secretariat for the Economy.

##### § 2 - Management of other economic resources

The Pontifical Academy for Life receives an annual financial contribution from the “*Vitae Mysteriorum*” Foundation and, moreover, can receive donations from other bodies, institutions or private individuals, to be used for its several purposes. In particular, these contributions will be used to support the Academy’s ordinary and special activities and, possibly as well, to fund scholarships and other initiatives for training in bioethics, particularly in developing countries. The budgets and financial statements for these contributions will be prepared by the Officer charged with their oversight and will, after approval by the Presidency, be submitted each year to the Secretariat for the Economy for appropriate review and approval.

Vatican City

February 12, 2018

Card Pietro Parolin

Secretary of State