



## CONSTITUTION

### **Article # 1: Name**

The name of the organization is the Polish American Priests' Association (P.A.P.A)

### **Article # 2: Objectives**

The objectives of the Polish American Priests' Association are:

1. To foster fraternity, solidarity, unity, and mutual support among Polish American priests.
2. To serve as a support system to priestly spirituality, ministry and pastoral activity by promoting and encouraging the renewal and preservation of liturgical customs, traditions, and heritage of the American Polonia.
3. To develop the priestly identity of Polish American priests in the United States; to act as advocates for their rights as persons and pastoral agents, and to support them in the fulfillment of their responsibilities and needs.
4. To take a position in regard to problems that affect Polish American priests and their local communities.
5. To collaborate with Orchard Lake Schools in the implementation of an effective pastoral program for the spiritual needs of American Polonia.
6. To promote the acceptance of Polish-born priests and to encourage their integration into American society in terms of language and culture.
7. To encourage solidarity and network of communication between diocesan or regional Polish American Priests' groups as a vehicle to express common concerns and to address particular issues of Polish American priests.

8. To provide a national forum for Polish American priests in which personal and pastoral experiences are shared and focused toward a common vision which will help resolve questions that arise in various Polish American communities.
9. To provide individual priests, living in areas where there is no local Polish American priests' group, a forum for expressing their personal experiences and concerns.
10. To cooperate, where feasible, with all organizations and agencies which promote the religious, educational, social, economic, and political welfare of the Polish American community.
11. To contribute, in a positive way, to the mosaic of American Catholicism by sharing with it the treasures of Polish Catholicism.
12. To represent the Polish-American clergy and cooperate with the laity before the various departments of ecclesiastical and civil government.
13. To be a significant voice of the Polish-American clergy before the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
14. To promote vocations within the Polish American community to the priesthood, religious life, diaconate, and lay ministries, as well as promoting and facilitating the acceptance of Polish-born priests and seminarians into the dioceses of the United States.

### **Article # 3: Membership**

1. Diocesan and regional Polish American priests' organizations can become members of the national association, if, by majority vote, that group elects membership in PAPA.
2. Individual membership is open to all priests in the United States of Polish Ancestry.
3. Membership is also open to all priests who desire to support the purpose and objectives of this association.
4. To be a member one must be a priest in good standing.
5. Active membership is maintained by payment of dues as determined by the Executive Officers and Board Members of the Association.

### **Article # 4: Organization**

The association will be governed by a Board of Directors, which will be composed of the four Executive Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The other members of the Board will be the President or Chairman of the Polish American Priests' groups that have elected to become members of the Association, nine at-large members elected by the

general membership meeting in convention, and the Polish Apostolate Representative to the USCCB Committee on Refugees and Migration.

#### **Article # 5: Duties of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall carry out the decisions and resolution of the general membership, gathered in national convention. In other matters it acts according to what it judges necessary for the fulfillment of the purposes of the Association

#### **Article # 6: Meetings**

The Board of Directors shall meet at least two times a year and shall preside over the general membership gathered together in national convention. *N.B. National conventions are usually held the second full week of Easter except when Easter falls late in April and the meeting would run into the month of May; in these instances, the convention is in session from Tuesday-Friday of Easter Week. (Adopted at the 12th Annual Convention, Albany, New York 2001).*

The national convention will take place annually in a place determined by the Board of Directors.

#### **Article # 7: Duties of Officers and Members of the Board**

*If an officer or Director cannot finish his term of office the President can appoint another member of the organization to that particular office for the remainder of the term. (Amendment passed by the national delegates at the 12th Annual Convention, Albany, New York in April 2001.)*

**The President.** The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Association and the chairman of the Board of Directors and shall, in general, supervise and conduct all of the business and affairs of the Association. He will ordinarily chair all the meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors. He shall receive proposals regarding the matters that are to appear on the agenda of the meetings of the Association. In general, he shall perform all duties incident to the Office of President as may be prescribed by the general membership and the Board of Directors.

**The Vice-President.** The Vice President will assist the President discharging his duties, and he will assume the duties of the President in his absence and when so acting shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President.

**The Secretary.** The secretary shall be responsible for the minutes taken at the association meetings. He shall be the archivist of the association. He shall keep the record of the active

membership of the Association. He shall send out the agenda and the minutes of the Association meetings. He shall see that all notices of general and special meetings and other matters are duly given in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution or any of the by-laws hereafter adopted or as directed by the Association.

The Treasurer. He shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds of the Association; receive and give receipts for money due and payable from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such money in the name of the Association in such bank or institution as determined by the Executive Officers and the Board of Directors. He shall report on the financial condition of the Association at its regular general meeting and at the regular meetings of the Board of Directors.

The Board Members. Board Members are expected to attend the two regular meetings of the Board each year. They are to assist the President in carrying out the work of the association by serving on the committees necessary for that work.

#### **Article # 8: Terms of Office**

The officers of the Association and members of the board of Directors shall be elected from among the active members of the association meeting in national convention for a term of two years. An officer or board member succeeds himself for only one term. Elections shall be determined by a simple majority of the votes cast.

#### **Article # 9: Amendments**

The board of directors may propose amendments to the current constitution and/or by-laws during the national convention of the Association or meetings specifically convoked for that purpose. The amendments must be authorized by a majority of the Board of Directors.

The amendments to the constitution or by laws must be made known to all the members forty (40) days prior to the convention or special meeting convoked for that purpose.

To be adopted, the amendment must receive a two-thirds majority of those voting at the convention or meeting.

Any member can present a motion for an amendment of particular articles or by-laws of the constitution by presenting the motion to a member of the Board who will then bring the motion before the entire Board for consideration.

**Article # 10:  
Final Disposition of Funds**

In case the Association is liquidated or dissolved, the remaining funds, after all debts have been paid and all financial obligations concluded, are turned over to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB). No remaining funds, after the liquidation of the Association, may be used by any private person or by any member of the Board of Directors.

**By-Laws**

- A. Credentials: The Board of Directors will function as a credentials committee and will accredit the active members of the Association.
- B. Quorum. A quorum is established by a simple majority.
- C. Rules of Procedure: The rules for running meetings of The Board of Directors or of the general membership will be determined in accordance with the constitution of PAPA and its bylaws. Other procedures shall utilize Robert's Rules of Order.
- D. Committees: Committees of any nature will be named by the President and or Board of Directors. All committees will work under the supervision of the Board.
- E. Dues: Annual Dues for membership shall be established by the Board of Directors
- F. Representation: The President will be the official representative of the Association before the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and other national bodies. If unable to be present, he may delegate a Board Member to take his place.
- G. Associate Membership: Deacons may join the association as Associate Members. Interested laity may be affiliated with the association.
- H. The Treasurer of the Association is to be bonded.

*THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT USED THE TITLE OF THE BISHOPS CONFERENCE IN FORCE AT THE TIME OF ITS COMPOSITION, THAT IS, NCCB- NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS. WHEN THE BISHOPS OFFICIALLY CHANGED THE NAME OF THE CONFERENCE THE CONSTITUTION OF P.A.P.A, MADE THE CHANGE TO REFLECT THE NEW TITLE- UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS. (USCCB).*

*Adopted in Convention, Chicago, April 10-11, 1991  
Amended at the Albany, New York Convention in 2001*