



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM
PRO LAICIS

1199/08/AIC-16

DECREE

The International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS) has its origins in the International Office of Catholic Scouts, which was created in 1920 at the first World Jamboree by the French Jesuit Jacques Sevin, Count Mario di Carpegna, from Italy, and Professor Jean Corbisier, from Belgium. This initiative was blessed by the Holy Father Benedict XV and in 1922 a Statute was adopted by eleven countries. After the Second World War the officials of the Catholic Scout Associations reestablished contacts and decided to meet every year.

The first Statutes of the Association were approved by the Holy See on October 25, 1962 (cf. Secretariat of State, Letter addressed to Msgr Ettore Cunial), which was renamed the International Catholic Scouting Conference (ICSC), and later the International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS).

The essential aims of ICCS are to contribute to the comprehensive education of young people through the Scouting educational method enlightened by the Catholic faith; to guarantee the active presence of Catholic Scouts in the Church; to encourage dialogue between the Catholic Church and the World Scout Movement (cf. *Statutes*, art. 1).

The Second Vatican Council, together with the post-conciliar teaching, has given special attention to the importance of new forms of aggregation of the Christian faithful and their participation in the life of the Church. Deep esteem and consideration to these new forms of aggregation has been expressed in various teachings of the Magisterium (cf. Decree on the apostolate of the laity *Apostolicam actuositatem*, 18, 19 and 21; John Paul II, Post-synodal Apostolic exhortation *Christifideles laici*, 29). In his Apostolic letter, *Novo millennio ineunte*, His Holiness John Paul II wrote about the great importance of «the promotion of forms of association, whether of the more traditional kind or the newer ecclesial movements which continue to give the Church a vitality that is God's gift and a true 'springtime of the Spirit'» (46).

The New Code of Canon Law of 1983 established a new juridical framework for the associations of the faithful. Consequently, the Pontifical Council for the Laity, in agreement with the Secretariat of State requested all International Catholic Organizations to reformulate their canonical status according to the new universal legislation of the Church (Letter of February 6, 2003).



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Consequently:

Having examined the request presented to the Pontifical Council for the Laity by Dr. Baldur Hermans, ICCS General Secretary;

After an in-depth study of the text of the Statutes, that were revised during the last ICCS World Council, held in Tunis on September 2005;

In light of article 134 of the Apostolic constitution *Pastor Bonus* for the Roman Curia and according to canon 322 of the Code of Canon Law;

The Pontifical Council for the Laity decrees:

1. The confirmation of recognition of the *International Catholic Conference of Scouting* as a private international association of the faithful, with juridical personality, in force and according to canons 298-311 and 321-329 of the Code of Canon Law.
2. The approval of the Statutes, that have been appropriately modified, duly authenticated by this Dicastery and deposited in our archives.

From the Vatican, 23 April 2008, Liturgical memory of Saint George, patron of the Scouts.

+ Dr. Clemens

✠ Josef Clemens
Secretary

St. Card. Ryłko

Stanisław Card. Ryłko
President

