SANTUÁRIO DE FÁTIMA
SHRINE OF FATIMA

REGULATIONS FOR THE CREDENTIAL AND CERTIFICATE OF THE WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO FÁTIMA | VIA PACIS

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Article 1 - Purpose and Scope

1. "Via Pacis. Walking Pilgrimage to Fátima" refers, as a whole, to the process developed by the Shrine of Fátima for the creation of a Credential for the Walking Pilgrimage to Fátima and the issuance of a Certificate for the Walking Pilgrimage to Fátima. These two dimensions of the same process take the form of specific physical documents, with their own conditions of use in the case of the Credential, and requirements and procedures for award in the case of the Certificate.

2. These Regulations therefore establish the conditions of use of the Credential for the Walking Pilgrimage to Fátima (hereinafter, the "Credential") and the requirements and procedures for awarding the Certificate for the Walking Pilgrimage to Fátima (hereinafter, the "Certificate").

3. The Credential is intended to accompany pilgrims along their journey, allowing them to record the places they have traveled through and to document the completion of the pilgrimage.

4. The Certificate is a document recognizing the completion of a walking pilgrimage to Fátima that meets the requirements set out in these Regulations.

Article 2 - Conditions for Obtaining the Certificate

1. The Certificate may be obtained by anyone who, cumulatively:

   a) Completes the pilgrimage on foot;

   b) Covers at least 13 km, in a single day or over several days that form part of the same pilgrimage;

   c) Holds the corresponding Credential or presents other proof deemed eligible and adequate;

   d) Has registered the pilgrimage;

   e) Presents sufficient evidence to prove the route completed;

   f) Complies with the validation procedure set out in these Regulations.

2. Registering the pilgrimage or being in possession of the Credential does not, in itself, confer the right to be awarded the Certificate.

Article 3 - Credential and Proof of the Route

1. The Credential is the document that accompanies the pilgrimage, and pilgrims must complete the information it requests, namely:

a) Full name;

b) Contact information;

c) Reference Code;

d) Place of departure;

e) Date of departure.

2. At the start of the pilgrimage, the stamp corresponding to the place of departure should be applied whenever possible. Ideally, it is recommended that this be a place that is significant to the communal and ecclesial nature of the pilgrimage: the diocesan cathedral, the pilgrim's home parish church, or another relevant ecclesial institution.

3. Along the way, pilgrims must keep the Credential with them and seek to obtain stamps at the places they pass through, preferably at parishes, churches, shrines, or other adequately identifiable institutions or entities.

4. To the extent possible, the stamps should correspond to the different places or stages actually traveled, making it possible to establish, in a globally coherent manner, the itinerary followed between the place of departure and the destination.

5. It is recommended to obtain at least one stamp per day of the pilgrimage, without prejudice to the possibility of presenting other adequate proof.

6. No predetermined number of stamps is required, provided that the available evidence allows the route completed to be properly assessed.

7. Having a certain number of stamps does not replace compliance with the remaining requirements for awarding the Certificate.

Article 4 - Registration of the Pilgrimage

1. Before beginning the pilgrimage, or at its start, pilgrims must go to the page indicated by the QR code on the Credential and complete the registration form provided for that purpose.

2. The form collects the data necessary for registering and managing the pilgrimage, namely:

a) Full name;

b) Date of birth;

c) Nationality;

d) Email address;

e) Place of departure;

f) Date of departure;

g) Estimated arrival date.

3. After the form is submitted, a message will be sent to the email address provided, through which pilgrims must confirm their registration.

4. The confirmation serves to verify the use of the email address provided and to complete the registration procedure. It does not, in itself, constitute validation of the pilgrimage or of the requirements necessary for issuing the Certificate.

Article 5 - Reference Code

1. After the registration is confirmed, a unique Reference Code will be assigned to the pilgrimage, in accordance with the format defined for that purpose.

2. The Reference Code makes it possible to identify the pilgrimage registration and to match the Credential with the procedures associated with validating the pilgrimage and issuing the Certificate.

3. Pilgrims must write the Reference Code in the corresponding field of the Credential and keep it throughout the pilgrimage.

4. The Reference Code is individual, cannot be transferred or reused, and corresponds exclusively to the pilgrimage for which it was assigned.

Article 6 - Confirmation of Arrival

1. Upon arrival at the destination, pilgrims must confirm their arrival through the procedure established for that purpose, using their Reference Code.

2. Confirmation of arrival makes it possible to update the pilgrimage registration and to continue with the validation procedure and the possible awarding of the Certificate.

3. Confirmation of arrival does not constitute validation of the pilgrimage, nor does it, in itself, guarantee that the Certificate will be awarded.

4. In the case of group pilgrimages, confirmation of arrival may be made through a representative of the group, without prejudice to the individual verification of the requirements necessary for awarding the Certificate.

Article 7 - Verification and Validation of the Pilgrimage

1. To obtain the Certificate, pilgrims must present their Credential for validation at the location designated for that purpose or through another procedure expressly stipulated by the Shrine.

2. Validation involves assessing the evidence presented, taking into consideration, namely:

a) Whether the pilgrimage was completed on foot;

b) Whether the minimum route of 13 km was completed;

c) The consistency among the place of departure, the declared route, and the proof presented;

d) The stamps and any other evidence available to prove the route;

e) The correspondence between the evidence presented and the pilgrimage registration.

3. Validation is carried out through an overall assessment of the available evidence and does not depend exclusively on the existence or number of stamps in the Credential.

4. Clarifications or additional evidence may be requested whenever the information presented is insufficient or raises reasonable doubts as to compliance with the requirements.

5. The absence of a particular stamp or the completion of an unconventional itinerary does not, in itself, result in denial of the Certificate, provided that the evidence as a whole makes it possible to recognize that the established requirements have been met.

Article 8 - Awarding, Issuance, and Delivery of the Certificate

1. Awarding the Certificate depends on validation that the requirements established in these Regulations have been met.

2. After the pilgrimage's eligibility has been validated, the Certificate may be issued on the basis of the data contained in the registration and the evidence confirmed during the validation procedure.

3. Pilgrims must report any inaccuracy they become aware of in the data to appear on the Certificate, preferably before it is issued.

4. Issuing, printing, and delivering the Certificate are separate operations and may occur at different times.

Article 9 - Correction and Reissue

1. Inaccuracies identified before the Certificate is issued must be reported so that they can be corrected.

2. When, after issuance, replacement of the Certificate proves necessary for a justified reason, it may be reissued under the terms defined for that purpose.

3. Reissue does not require a new pilgrimage or a new validation of the requirements previously recognized, without prejudice to the need to reassess the situation when the requested change concerns elements relevant to the pilgrimage's eligibility.

4. The Shrine of Fátima may request the information necessary to justify and process the reissue.

Article 10 - Responsibilities of the Pilgrim

1. Pilgrims are responsible for:

   a) Providing truthful and correct information;

   b) Reporting any inaccuracies in relevant data;

   c) Keeping the Credential during the route;

   d) Seeking to obtain the evidence necessary to prove the pilgrimage;

e) Keeping the Reference Code;

f) Presenting the evidence necessary for validating the pilgrimage.

2. Improper use of the Credential, alteration of the information it contains, or the provision of false information may result in the Certificate not being issued or, if discovered later, its revocation.

Article 11 - Responsibilities of the Shrine

1. The Shrine of Fátima is responsible for ensuring the organization and operation of the "Via Pacis. Walking Pilgrimage to Fátima" process, under the terms established in these Regulations.

2. In connection with this process, it is specifically responsible for:

a) Providing clear and accessible information on the conditions of use of the Credential and the requirements and procedures for obtaining the Certificate;

b) Providing the means necessary for registering pilgrimages and identifying them through the Reference Code;

c) Promoting the verification and validation of pilgrimages through consistent, objective, and fair assessment criteria;

d) Ensuring the issuance and availability of Certificates for pilgrimages whose eligibility has been validated;

e) Providing procedures for correcting data and, where justified, for reissuing or revoking Certificates;

f) Ensuring the appropriate handling of the personal data collected, in accordance with applicable law and the information made available to the respective data subjects;

g) Ensuring the traceability of operations relevant to the management, validation, and certification of pilgrimages.

3. The Shrine of Fátima ensures, within the available technical and operational conditions, the continuity and proper functioning of the means made available for the process, without prejudice to any technical or operational limitations or circumstances beyond its control.

Article 12 - Nature and Scope of the Certificate

1. The Certificate is a document recognizing the completion of the pilgrimage, issued on the basis of the information provided by the pilgrim and the evidence presented and assessed in the validation procedure, namely the pilgrim's Credential.

2. The validation carried out for awarding the Certificate serves exclusively to verify whether sufficient conditions have been met for recognizing the pilgrimage, under the terms of these Regulations.

3. The Certificate does not constitute official proof of a pilgrim's presence at a particular place, date, or time, nor does it certify, for legal, administrative, or judicial purposes, the itinerary actually traveled.

Article 13 - Denial and Revocation

1. The Certificate may be denied when:

   a) The requirements set out in these Regulations have not been met;

   b) The evidence presented is insufficient to allow validation of the pilgrimage;

   c) There are relevant discrepancies that cannot be adequately clarified;

   d) False information has been provided or altered evidence has been presented.

2. If, after issuance, circumstances are found to exist that, had they been known earlier, would have prevented the Certificate from being awarded, the Certificate may be revoked by means of a reasoned decision, and the occurrence will be recorded.

Article 14 - Personal Data Protection

1. The personal data collected are processed for the purposes of registering, monitoring, validating, and certifying the pilgrimage and, where applicable, for producing statistical information.

2. The data will be processed in accordance with applicable personal data protection law and retained only for the period necessary for the purposes for which they were collected or to comply with applicable obligations.

3. Detailed information on the processing of personal data, including the respective purposes, legal bases, recipients, retention periods, and exercise of data subjects' rights, is available in the Privacy Policy associated with this service.

Article 15 - Matters Not Provided For

1. Situations not expressly provided for in these Regulations will be assessed by the entity responsible for awarding the Certificate, taking into consideration the nature and purpose of the pilgrimage, the established requirements, and the evidence available for assessing each situation.