

Project of Apostolic Life

"ad experimentum"

Association of
Salesian Cooperators

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December 23, 2007



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Presentation

Herewith, dear Salesian Cooperators, the Project of Apostolic Life, renewed and approved "ad experimentum". It is your identity card in the Church, the Salesian Family, and society.

It is offered to you as a "book of life" which must accompany you at all times. It contains the renewed Statutes and Regulations of the Association of Salesian Cooperators. The work of revising the text, carried out by the Association over the past six years, has aimed at guaranteeing fidelity to Don Bosco's original inspiration, a spiritual, theological and pastoral harmony with Vatican Council II and the Magisterium of the Church, continuity with the previous Regulations of Apostolic Life, and a Salesian and Christian response to the world's new challenges. Therefore there is no change from the Founder's original thinking, but a faithful and complete re-actualisation of his spiritual and apostolic charism.

On 15 March 2007 the Apostolic See approved the current Statutes declaring in an authoritative manner, once again, the authenticity of the evangelical way traced out by the Founder.

Now, on the 8th day of April 2007, the Solemnity of the Lord's Easter Resurrection, source and summit of our Christian life and our mission in the world, I, in my capacity as Rector Major, Successor of Don Bosco, officially promulgate this renewed Project of Apostolic Life.

I invite you to accept it with the gratitude and hope of one who is in receipt of a precious treasure.

From the moment of its promulgation, the Statutes will occupy a privileged place both in the personal life of each Cooperator, and in the life of the entire Association. That means we have to know its contents and interiorise its values.

The Statutes describe the spiritual richness of your charismatic identity; they define your apostolic project; they trace out your way to holiness and invite you to give witness to them as the most precious of gifts.

They also contain whatever refers to the organisation of the Association, but they are not actually a textbook of juridical norms, nor a simple doctrinal treatise. The Statutes set out the nature of the evangelical project of an Association of Lay Faithful, harmonising Gospel inspiration and practical structures, according to the spirit characteristic of Don Bosco.

The Statutes are intimately bound up with the Founder, who sought to communicate his own spirit. Don Bosco can be found in them. Your love for him passes by way of the vital taking up of the Gospel life project which he offers you. He is your model. It is he who is the key to reading this text.

A necessary complement of the Statutes are the Regulations, approved by me, which translate into practical and normative form the great evangelical inspirations and life choices of the Statutes themselves. They are their practical application, to the point

where a vital understanding of the Statutes cannot be complete without an adequate study of the Regulations. Certainly we are dealing with two texts of different kinds, but that does not mean discriminating between them in terms of importance, rather it requires a necessary integration. The first (the Statutes) represent your identity card and include the Founder's project, the norms relating to the Association's governance and animation, and approved by the competent authority of the Church; they can be modified only by its consent, the spiritual and juridical elements must always be in harmony. The second (the Regulations) contain the concrete application and universal practices of the Statutes, and which are therefore valid and are to be put into practice throughout the Association. Since some norms have been formulated in consideration of determined historical circumstances, which are of themselves changeable, the Regulations are, by nature, more easily modifiable.

What is important is the understanding and interiorisation of this "book of life". It needs to become the object of study, assimilation, prayer, life.

While I give you these, I entrust you all to Mary Help of Christians. May she take you by the hand and be your Mother and Teacher.

Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva

Rector Major

Rome, 8 April 2007

Solemnity of Easter, the Resurrection of the Lord

Decree

Prot.n. T 9-1/2006

Congregation For Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life

The Association of Salesian Cooperators, founded by St. John Bosco in 1876, makes up the third branch of the Salesian Family. From its origins, it existed alongside the Society of St Francis de Sales and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in order to share in the apostolic charism, thus contributing to the salvation of youth, the most precious and delicate part of human society. The Salesian Cooperators, sharing the common vocation to holiness according to the ideal of spiritual and apostolic life promoted by St. John Bosco, work actively in spreading human and Christian values according to the Founder's charism and pedagogical model. Therefore, accepting the request of the Rector Major of the Society of St Francis de Sales, Very Reverend Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva, presented following the deliberations of the World Congress which took place in Rome from 9-12 November 2006, this Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life by means of this decree approves the new text of the Statutes of said Association for six years ad experimentum, according to the text received.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given from the Vatican, 15 March 2007.

Franc Card. Rodé, C.M. Prefect

Gianfranco A. Gardin, OFM Conv.

Archbishop, Secretary

Project of Apostolic Life

Association of Salesian Cooperators

Part I

STATUTES

Preface

Christians have different paths offered them for living out their Baptismal faith. Some, urged by the Holy Spirit and attracted by Don Bosco, carry out the ideal of "working with him" by remaining in the world, and are called to live out the same charism as the Salesian Congregation in secular circumstances.

Right from the outset, Don Bosco thought about organising co-helpers for his work: He invited lay people, men and women, and members of the diocesan clergy, to "cooperate" in his mission of salvation of the young, especially those who were poor and abandoned. In 1876 he clearly set out the project of life by means of the "Regulations for the Salesian Cooperators" which he himself wrote and which were then approved by the Church. Today the Salesian Cooperators are spread and work throughout the world.

The current text describes their project of apostolic life. It offers an authentic way to holiness, according to the needs of the Church and the world today. To make this a reality, the Salesian Cooperators trust in the faithfulness of God the Father who has called them.

1 The Salesian Cooperator in the Church and in the world

Art. 1. The Founder: a man sent by God

To contribute to the salvation of youth, "the most delicate and precious portion of human society", the Holy Spirit, through the motherly intervention of Mary, raised up St. John Bosco who founded the Society of St Francis de Sales (1859) and, with Saint Mary Domenica Mazzarello, the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (1872). He extended the apostolic energy of the Salesian charism by officially setting up the "Pious Union of the Salesian Cooperators", the third branch of the Family (1876), united with the Society of St. Francis de Sales also called the Salesian Society of St John Bosco or the Salesian Congregation.

The Holy Spirit formed the heart of a father and teacher in St. John Bosco, one capable of total dedication, and through him inspired an educational method permeated by the charity of the Good Shepherd.

Art. 2 The Salesian Cooperators: a specific vocation in the Church

§1. To be committed as Salesian Cooperators is to respond to the Salesian vocation, taking on a specific way of living the Gospel and taking part in the mission of the Church. It is a freely chosen gift which qualifies one's existence.

§2. Catholics of whatever cultural or social circumstance may choose this path. They feel called to a special kind of life of faith fully involved in each day's concerns. It is marked by two attitudes: a) knowing God as Father and saving Love; encountering, in Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son, perfect apostle of the Father; living intimately with the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the People of God in the world; b) feeling themselves called and sent on a concrete mission, that of contributing to the salvation of youth; committing themselves in the same youthful and popular mission of Don Bosco.

Art. 3 The Salesian Cooperators: Salesians in the world

The Salesian Cooperators live out their faith in their own secular reality. Inspired by Don Bosco's apostolic project they feel themselves to be in living communion with other members of the Salesian Family. They are committed to the same youthful and popular mission as associates, brothers and sisters. They work for the good of the Church and society, in a manner adapted to their circumstances and actual possibilities.

CHAPTER 1. THE SALESIAN COOPERATOR IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE WORLD

Art. 4 A unique vocation: two ways of living it

§1. Don Bosco conceived the Association of Salesian Cooperators as being open to laity and to the secular clergy.

§2. Lay Salesian Cooperators live out the commitment and the Salesian spirit in their ordinary circumstances of life and work. With lay sensitivity and characteristics they diffuse values in their own setting.

§3. The Salesian Cooperator bishop, secular priest or deacon lives out his own ministry as one inspired by Don Bosco, a pre-eminent model of priestly life. Young people and ordinary settings are privileged amongst his pastoral choices.

Art. 5 The Association in the Salesian Family

The Association of Salesian Cooperators is one of the groups of the Salesian Family. Together with the Society of St Francis de Sales, the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and other officially recognised groups, the Cooperator is a bearer of the common Salesian vocation and shares responsibility for the vitality of Don Bosco's project in the Church and in the world. The Association brings to the Salesian Family the values specific to secular circumstances, and respects the identity and autonomy belonging to each group. The Cooperator lives in a particular relationship of communion with the Society of St Francis of Sales which, by the will of the Founder, has a specific role of responsibility within the Family.

Art. 6. The Association in the Church

§1. In the Church, The Association of Salesian Cooperators is approved by the Apostolic See as a Public Association of the Faithful and shares in the spiritual patrimony of the Society of St Francis of Sales. The members actively cooperate in its mission in the Church's name, under the authority of the Rector Major as Don Bosco's Successor, in a spirit of fidelity to their Pastors and in collaboration with other ecclesial forces.

§2. The Salesian Cooperators manifest a childlike devotion to the Supreme Pontiff.

§3. The Association of Salesian Cooperators is recognised as a juridical and ecclesiastical public entity. It has its headquarters in Rome.

2 The Salesian Cooperators' Apostolic commitment

Art. 7. The witness of the Beatitudes

The personal lifestyle of the Salesian Cooperators, marked by the spirit of the Beatitudes, commits them to an evangelisation of culture and social life. For this reason they live and witness to: The primacy of the spirit; the fruitfulness of suffering and non-violence as a haven of peace and pardon; freedom in obedience to God's plan, by appreciating the value and proper autonomy of the secular reality, and by involving and directing themselves especially to the service of the people; evangelical poverty, administering goods entrusted to them with criteria of simplicity and sharing in view of the common good; sexuality, according to an evangelical view of chastity, marked by delicacy and a married or single celibate life of integrity and joy, based on love;

Art. 8. Apostolic commitment

§1. Salesian Cooperators carry out their apostolate through their daily tasks in the first instance. They follow Jesus Christ, the perfect Man, sent by the Father to serve all people in the world. This is why they are committed to putting into practice, in the ordinary circumstances of life, the evangelical ideal of love for God and for one's neighbour.

§2. Enlivened by the Salesian spirit, they bring a privileged attention to young people wherever they are, especially to those who are poorest or victims of any kind of marginalisation, exploitation and violence, to those setting out in the world of work and to those who show signs of a specific vocation.

§3. They foster and defend the value of family as the basic nucleus of society and Church and are committed to building it up as "a domestic Church". Married Co-operators live their mission as spouses and parents through their marriage: "co-operators in the love of God the creator", "first and chief educators of their children", according to the pedagogy of kindness proper to the Preventive System.

§4. They put the Church's Social Teachings into practice and are attentive to social communications media, promoting its correct use as a means of education.

§5. They support the Church's missionary activity and foster education to a global perspective by an openness to dialogue amongst cultures.

CHAPTER 2. THE SALESIAN COOPERATORS' APOSTOLIC COMMITMENT

Art. 9. The task of Christian education

§1. The Salesian Cooperators take up the task everywhere of educating and evangelising as Don Bosco did, in order to form "honest citizens and good Christians to be the fortunate inhabitants of heaven some day", convinced that they are always on the way to greater human and Christian maturity.

§2. They share with the young the taste of the authentic values of truth, freedom, justice, the sense of the common good and of service.

§3. They educate the young to encounter the Risen Christ through faith and the sacraments, so they may find their meaning of life in Him and grow as men and women renewed.

§4. They are committed to helping the young develop life projects, able to encourage them to witness to their Christian and Salesian presence in the Church and society.

Art. 10. The pedagogy of kindness

In their educational task the Salesian Cooperators:

§1. adopt Don Bosco's "Preventive System" which "is based especially on reason, religion and loving-kindness", seeks to persuade and not to impose, prevent rather than to punish.

§2. create a family environment where animating presence, personal accompaniment and group experience help in perceiving God's presence.

§3. foster what is good and educate to love for life, to responsibility, solidarity, sharing and communion.

§4. appeal to a person's inner resources and believe in the invisible action of grace. They look upon each young person with realistic optimism, convinced of the value of education and the experience of faith. Their relationship with the young is inspired by a mature and accepting love.

Art. 11. Typical activities

Salesian Cooperators are open to many kinds of apostolate. Among these they give privileged place, along with their own work and professional involvement, to: Christian catechesis and formation, animation of youth and family groups and movements, collaboration in educational and scholastic institutions, social service for the poor, working in social communications, cooperating in pastoral ministry for vocations, missionary work in general, collaborating in ecumenical and religious dialogue, charitable commitment to social and political service developing the Association.

CHAPTER 2. THE SALESIAN COOPERATORS' APOSTOLIC COMMITMENT

Art. 12. Structures and ways of working

§1. Salesian Cooperators support their own apostolate with prayer, by involving others and through material means.

§2. A good part of the activities of the Salesian Cooperators takes place, in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, in structures where secular circumstances offer them the greatest hope of meaningful involvement: civil, cultural, socio-economic, political, ecclesial. Salesian.

§3. The Salesian Cooperators can also carry out their apostolic commitment in works run autonomously by the Association and in initiatives which respond to the needs of the locality.

CHAPTER 2. THE SALESIAN COOPERATORS' APOSTOLIC COMMITMENT

3 The Salesian Cooperators in communion and collaboration

Art. 13. Brothers and sisters in Don Bosco

Their common vocation and belonging to the same Association make Salesian Cooperators spiritual brothers and sisters. "One in heart and soul", they live out fraternal communion with the characteristic bonds of Don Bosco's spirit. They take part joyfully in the "family life" of the Association in order to know one another, exchange experiences, apostolic plans and grow together.

Art. 14 Co-responsibility for the mission

§1. Salesian Cooperators feel responsible for the common mission and carry it out according to their possibilities and abilities. Each is bound to take part in a spirit of initiative in planning, carrying out and evaluating the different activities, and in choosing those responsible for fulfilling special roles in the Association. If asked to take on positions of responsibility, they commit themselves to carrying out the tasks entrusted to them faithfully and in a spirit of service.

§2. Each Salesian Cooperator supports the Association's financial autonomy responsibly and with a sense of belonging, so it can realise its mission.

Art. 15 Participation in the life of the Salesian Family

Salesian Cooperators cultivate fraternal communion and cooperation with the other groups and members of the Salesian Family through mutual awareness and information, mutual spiritual assistance and help in formation, and involvement in common apostolic tasks. Through the Salesian Family's Advisory Councils at various levels, and other groups, they foster common research into initiatives which can enable the Salesian mission to offer a richer service to the Church.

Art. 16. The ministry of the Rector Major

§1. The Rector Major of the Society of St Francis de Sales is Don Bosco's successor. Through the explicit will of the Founder he is the Superior of the Association and carries

CHAPTER 3. THE SALESIAN COOPERATORS IN COMMUNION AND COLLABORATION

out the functions of Supreme Moderator within it. He is the guarantor of its fidelity to the Founder's project and fosters its growth.

§2. His ministry, also exercised through his Vicar or other representative, ordinarily makes use of the World Council especially in animating the entire Association and coordinating formation and apostolic initiatives.

§3. The members of the Association nurture feelings of sincere affection towards the Rector Major and are faithful to his directions.

Art. 17. Particular bonds with the Society of St Francis de Sales and the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians

The Association of Salesian Cooperators has "a stable and secure bond" with the Society of St Francis de Sales and special charismatic ties with the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. Salesian communities (SDB and FMA), provincial and local, feel themselves involved in the task desired by Don Bosco of "supporting and giving growth to" the Association, contributing to the formation of its members, making it known and promoting its Project of Apostolic Life.

Art. 18. Links with other groups of the Salesian Family

The Salesian Cooperators sense their closeness to all other groups of the Salesian Family. They are open to and foster all kinds of cooperation, especially with lay groups, respecting each one's identity and autonomy.

4 The Salesian Cooperators' Salesian spirit

Art. 19 A precious heritage

Led by the Holy Spirit, Don Bosco perceived an original style of life and action, and handed it on to the members of his Family: the Salesian spirit. The Salesian spirit is a typical evangelical experience which has its source in the heart of Christ himself. This animates the presence and action in the Church and world of the one who lives it. It is nourished by apostolic commitment and prayer, and characterises his or her entire life, making it a witness to love. It requires a demanding "ascetical method" lit up by a cheerful smiling face in accordance with Don Bosco's saying: "work and temperance".

Art. 20 Experience of committed faith

§1. Salesian Co-operators welcome this spirit as a gift of the Lord to the Church and make it fruitful in accordance with their particular circumstance, lay or ministerial. Each one participates in Don Bosco's spiritual experience, lived with particular intensity by those first Cooperators among the young in the Oratory at Valdocco, and they commit themselves to living out the *Sequela Christi*, the following of Christ.

§2. In the Immaculate Virgin, Help of Christians they discover the deepest elements of their vocation: Being true "co-operators of God" in the realisation of his salvific plan. They turn to Mary, Help of Christians and Mother of the Good Shepherd, asking her for the strength needed to be practically involved in the salvation of the young.

§3. They foster an experience in practice of ecclesial communion through the Association, which is a living part of Church.

Art. 21. Apostolic love takes centre place

§1. The heart of the Salesian spirit is apostolic and pastoral charity. It makes the Father's mercy, Christ's salvific love and the power of the Holy Spirit present amongst the young. Don Bosco expressed this in his motto: "Give me souls, take away the rest". He signified this by the name "Salesians", choosing Saint Francis of Sales as patron, model of Christian humanism, apostolic dedication and kindness.

CHAPTER 4. THE SALESIAN COOPERATORS' SALESIAN SPIRIT

§2. For Salesian Cooperators this charity is a gift of God that unites them to Him and to young people. It is inspired by Mary's motherly solicitude, which helps them in their daily witness.

Art. 22. Salesian presence in the world

§1. Salesian Cooperators feel they are "intimately linked" with the world in which they live and wherein they are called to be its light and leaven. They believe in an individual's inner resources. They share the values of their culture. They accept what is new with a Christian critical sense. They integrate "all that is good" in their life, especially if it pleases the young.

§2. They adopt a constructive attitude in the face of the many challenges and difficulties amidst which they are called to work. They are committed to spreading a Christian culture of solidarity and acceptance in society.

Art. 23 Style of action

Salesian Co-operators sanctify their existence through work and daily life. They live as "good Christians and honest citizens". They are available, altruistic and generous and believe in the value of acting without selfish interests. Their activity is rooted in union with God.

Art. 24 Style of relationship

Salesian Cooperators practise the loving-kindness desired by Don Bosco in their relationships. They express themselves openly, warmly and joyfully, always ready to take the first step, and to accept the other with kindness, respect and patience. They give rise to relationships of trust and friendship creating a family atmosphere around them consisting of simplicity and affection. They work for peace and seek clarification and agreement in dialogue.

Art. 25 Style of prayer

§1. The Salesian Cooperators are convinced that without union with Jesus Christ, they can do nothing. They call on the Spirit who enlightens and strengthens them day by day. Their prayer is simple trusting, joyful and creative, permeated by apostolic zeal and faithful to life. To nourish their life of prayer Salesian Cooperators have recourse to spiritual helps offered by the Church, the Association and the Salesian Family. They take an active part in liturgy, seeing value in forms of popular piety that can enrich their spiritual life.

CHAPTER 4. THE SALESIAN COOPERATORS' SALESIAN SPIRIT

§2. They reinvigorate their faith in sacramental experience. The Eucharist nourishes their apostolic charity. In Reconciliation they encounter the mercy of the Father who impresses a dynamic and constant conversion on their life and helps them grow in their ability to forgive.

§3. They similarly strengthen their interior and apostolic life with moments of spirituality which are planned by the Association.

Art. 26. In communion with Mary and our Saints

§1. Salesian Cooperators, like Don Bosco, nurture a childlike love for Mary Help of Christians, Mother of the Church and humankind. She cooperated in the salvific mission of the Saviour and today, too, she continues to be Mother and Helper of the Christian People. She is a special guide for the Salesian Family. Don Bosco entrusted the Salesian Cooperators to her so that they may receive protection and inspiration from her in their mission.

§2. They turn to Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, with particular affection. They have trusting recourse to the intercession of St. John Bosco, "Father and teacher" of the young and of all the Salesian Family.

§3. Amongst the models of apostolic life, they especially venerate Saint Francis of Sales, Saint Mary Domenica Mazzarello, Blessed Alexandrina Maria da Costa, Mamma Margaret and the other Saints, Blesseds and Venerables of the Salesian Family.

5 Belonging, and formation of the Salesian Cooperator

Art. 27. Entry into the Association

§1. The commitment to become a Salesian Cooperator demands a free, gradual, motivated and mature choice at the urging of the Holy Spirit and accompanied by those responsible for formation. The aspirant, wishing to enter and be a part of the Association, accepts an appropriate preparatory programme.

§2. When the aspirant has achieved sufficient maturity in the Salesian charism, recognised as such by those responsible in the Centre, he or she presents a request for admission. However, the individual is required to have reached the age of majority.

§3. Belonging to the Association begins with the personal Promise which expresses the will to live out one's Baptism according to the Project of Apostolic Life.

Art. 28. Value of belonging

§1. The Salesian Cooperators are aware that belonging to the Association is a privileged experience of faith and ecclesial communion. It also means that it is a vital element in sustaining their own apostolic vocation.

§2. They recognise that this belonging demands concrete signs of presence and active participation in the life of the Association.

Art. 29. Responsibility and initiatives on behalf of formation

§1. Salesian Cooperators are the first ones responsible for their own human, Christian, Salesian and professional formation.

§2. The Association fosters and sustains personal and group formation through the instrumentality of qualified Salesian Cooperators, Delegates, and other members of the Salesian Family.

Art. 30. Faithfulness to tasks assumed

§1. To be a Salesian Cooperator is a vocation lasting an entire lifetime. With a profound sense of belonging, Salesian Cooperators know how to constantly express their witness,

CHAPTER 5. BELONGING, AND FORMATION OF THE SALESIAN COOPERATOR

apostolate, and kinds of service. They are called by God to live the Salesian charism in the Association, in openness and availability also to working in initiatives fostered by other agencies, church or religious organisations. Their fidelity is supported by the affection and solidarity of the members of the Association and of the Salesian Family.

§2. To consolidate the value of belonging to the Association - and through this to the Salesian Family - the commitments of association made by means of the Promise will be confirmed according to the most appropriate manner established by the Regulations.

Art. 31. Leaving the Association

§1. The Salesian Cooperators who intends, by personal choice, to cease to belong to the Association, will present the Local Council with a written statement attesting to his/her decision. The Local Council will give copies of the statement to the Provincial Council.

§2. The Association's decision to exclude one of its members for serious reasons is to be taken by the Provincial Council following the reasoned request of the Local Council. This is done in a spirit of charity and clarity after judging a life style which is not coherent with the fundamental duties expressed in the Statutes and Regulations, and the decision is to be communicated in writing to the one concerned.

Art. 32. The Promise and its meaning

§1. The meaning and scope of the promise is to express the will to live out the baptismal option according to the Project of Apostolic Life. Don Bosco himself proposed the promise as an apostolic expression of their Salesian vocation in the world.

§2. The promise

“Father, I adore you because you are so good and because you love each one of us. I thank You for having created and redeemed me, / for having called me to be a part of Your Church / and for having made Don Bosco's apostolic Family part of it. / This Family lives for You in the service of the young / and of ordinary people. Drawn by Your merciful Love, I want to love You in return by doing good.

For this reason, after preparing myself,
I PROMISE

To commit myself to living the evangelical Project of the Association of the Salesian Cooperators, that is: To be Christ's faithful disciple in the Catholic Church; To work in Your Kingdom, especially for the welfare and salvation of the young; To deepen and witness to the Salesian spirit; To cooperate, in Family communion, in all the apostolic initiatives of the local Church.

Grant me, Father, the strength of Your Spirit, so I may always be faithful to this proposal in my life. Mary Help of Christians, Mother of the Church, Help me and guide me. Amen”.

CHAPTER 5. BELONGING, AND FORMATION OF THE SALESIAN COOPERATOR

The current formula may be adapted according to various circumstances, so long as its contents are respected. When the promise is renewed, instead of "after preparing myself I promise", say: "I renew the promise of ..."

6 Organisation of the Association of the Salesian Cooperators

Art. 33. The Organisation's motivations

The Salesian Cooperators are called to live their vocation by being aware of the need for an appropriate organisational structure. They are organised in an Association understood as a means to help them live their project of apostolic life in a spirit of unity, according to Don Bosco's invitation.

Art. 34 Flexible organisation

The Association, faithful to the will of its Founder, has a functional and flexible structure based on three levels: local, provincial and world. Through such organisation it aims at placing value on the efficiency of its action in a locality and its openness to the universality of communion and mission.

Art. 35 Government and animation at local, provincial and world level

For its government and animation the Association, reserved to the authority of the Rector Major normally represented by his Vicar, or by his delegate, is entrusted to Councillors who also include Religions appointed by the SDB and FMA Provincials. Legal representation of the Association is entrusted to the Coordinator of the respective Council.

Art. 36 The local level

§1. The basic nucleus of the Association's reality is the local Centre. Ordinarily it brings together Salesian Cooperators working in a determined locality. The centre is preferably erected at an Institution of the Salesians of Don Bosco or the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

§2. The Local Centres are directed collegially by a Local Council which elects a Local Coordinator from amongst its members. Each Centre has a Delegate SDB or FMA appointed by their respective provincials.

§3. Men and women of good will, of other confessions, religion and culture, who sympathise with the Salesian charism, can share in the initiatives of the Local Centre and offer their collaboration as friends of Don Bosco.

**CHAPTER 6. ORGANISATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE SALESIAN
COOPERATORS**

Art. 37 The provincial level

- §1. The Local Centres are organised into provinces erected by the Rector Major on the recommendation of the World Council.
- §2. In consideration of the special bonds which link the Association to the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, the provinces correspond to the respective SDB or FMA Provinces.
- §3. Each province has a Provincial Council elected by the Local Councils according to procedures laid down in the Regulations.
- §4. The Provincial Council is organised collegially, electing a Provincial Coordinator from among its members. Each Provincial Council has an SDB and FMA Delegate appointed by their respective Provincials.
- §5. For the animation of the Association, provinces, respecting their autonomy to govern, are organised into regions on the basis of language, culture or locality, by decision of the Rector Major in understanding with the World Council. They elect their World Councillor for the Region. The SDB and FMA Provincials concerned come to agreement over the appointment of a Regional SDB and FMA Delegate.

Art. 38. The world level

- §1. The World Council is made up of World Councillors elected by the Regions and the World Executive Secretariat (WES). The WES is made up of the World Coordinator, directly appointed by the Rector Major, the World Administrator and the World Secretary elected, by secret ballot, by the World Councillors, the SDB World Delegate appointed by the Rector Major and the FMA World Delegate appointed by the Rector Major at the proposal of the FMA Mother General.
- §2. The members of the World Council remain in office for six years.
- §3. The directives of the World Council come into effect only after their approval by the Rector Major.

Art. 39. Administration of the goods of the Association

- §1. The Association of Salesian Cooperators, inasmuch as it is a public, ecclesiastical, juridical, entity, has the ability to acquire, possess, administer and alienate temporal goods, according to law. The good possessed by the Association as such are ecclesiastical goods.
- §2. The Rector Major with the World Council administers the goods of the Association at the world level and is the competent authority for granting local and provincial councils permission to carry out acts of extraordinary administration and alienation which do not require the intervention of the Apostolic See.

§3. The Councils, through the administrators chosen from among them, see to the management of the goods of the Association. The administrator also prepares the financial report to give to the council at a higher level.

Art. 40. Final dispositions

§1. The Association of Salesian Cooperators is governed by the current Statutes. Other norms are contained in the Regulations at world level or in Directories at various levels.

The Statutes set out the vocational identity of the Salesian Cooperator, the spirit, mission and principles for the organisational structures of the Association of Salesian Cooperators.

The Regulations contain the practical points which specify and regulate activity, methodology, structure and organisation. The Regulations allow the Statutes, to which the document is subordinated, to be applied in practical form in the daily life of the Association.

The Directories are particular dispositions of the Association for adapting the Statutes and the Regulations to function concretely in the various territorial realities or specific activities. They are approved by their respective Councils and ratified by the Superior Councils in the immediate area, who have to guarantee that the Directories conform to what is set out in the Statutes and the Regulations.

§2. The current Statutes may be modified at the proposal of the Supreme Moderator, the World Council or the Provincial Councils. In whichever case it is up to the Supreme Moderator of the Association to approve the proposals for modification which will be then duly published.

Proposals for modification should establish: a clear and detailed presentation of the reasons justifying the modification, the concrete aims which justify it, the principles it articulates. The process for making the modification will be defined by the World Council under the supervision of the Rector Major. The modification must then be approved by an absolute majority of those taking part in the World Congress, by the Supreme Moderator of the Association and by the Apostolic See.

Conclusion

Art. 41. A way to holiness

The Salesian Cooperators choose to share the evangelical way traced out by these current Statutes and Regulations. They shape a responsible commitment on the way that leads to holiness. With his abundant grace, may the Lord accompany all those who work in the spirit of the "da mihi animus", doing good to the young and to ordinary people.

Rome,

8th December 2006

**CHAPTER 6. ORGANISATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE SALESIAN
CONCLUSION COOPERATORS**

Part II

REGULATIONS

Introduction

The current Regulations complete the Project of Apostolic life as laid out in the Statutes of the Association. They offer guidelines and norms for putting the principles expressed by the Statutes into practice.

**CHAPTER 6. ORGANISATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE SALESIAN
INTRODUCTION COOPERATORS**

1. The Salesian Cooperators' Apostolic Commitment in the Church and in the World

Art. 1 The Salesian Cooperators in the Church

§1. The Salesian Cooperators become part of the local Church placing themselves at the service of the parish and the diocese. Called by the Church to a ministry, they exercise it with responsibility and with an attitude of service in a Salesian style.

§ 2. The Salesian Cooperators foster adherence to the Church's magisterium. Relationships with parish priests, priests and religious in general and other lay people, are marked by esteem, solidarity and active participation in pastoral planning, especially plans concerning youth, family and vocations.

Art. 2 The Salesian Cooperators in their socio-cultural reality

§1. In all walks of life Salesian Cooperators are faithful to the Gospel and to the Church's social teachings. Attentive to the signs of the times, they continue God's creative work and give witness to Christ through honesty, hard work, their consistency of life, educational mission, their serious and up-to-date professionalism, sharing of joys, sorrows and ideals, and their availability for service of their neighbour in every circumstance.

§2. They aim to form a mature critical awareness in themselves in order to responsibly participate in social life in areas of culture, economy and politics. They reject everything that provokes and feeds injustice, oppression, marginalisation and violence, and they work courageously to remove the causes of these.

§3. They pay attention to and value the ethical dimension of culture. They keep themselves constantly up to date on developments in the communications media especially because of their impact on the formation of the young and of ordinary people.

§4. According to their own capacity and possibilities, they enter into cultural and socio-political structures, and trade unions in order to achieve the development of the common good. In conformity with the evangelical demands of freedom and justice, they work for the respecting of human rights and, as a consequence, work to heal and renew ways of thinking and acting, the laws and structures of the environments they are part of.

Art. 3 The Association in civil and ecclesial reality

§1. The Association is attentive to appeals from civil society for the promotion of individual integrity and basic human rights.

§2. The Association courageously intervenes, following directions of the Church's magisterium, to foster a socio-political culture inspired by the Gospel, and defends human and Christian values. It inspires and stimulates its members to responsibly take up their particular tasks in society. It makes its presence felt in apostolic associations, movements and groups, educational agencies, especially those which serve youth and family, solidarity with developing peoples and the promotion of justice and peace.

§3. The Association gives particular attention to social volunteer work. It accepts formation proposals and takes part in initiatives of entities inspired by Christian principles.

§4. The Association is committed to working on behalf of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue.

Art. 4 The structures in which it operates

The Salesian Cooperators promote the setting up and functioning of associations, becoming active in contexts where they find themselves; particularly: civil, cultural, socio-economic and political contexts: being attentive to the education of youth and family life ecclesial contexts: offering responsible cooperation to bishops and parish priests, especially in parish communities in settings animated by the Salesian Congregation, the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians or other Groups of the Salesian Family in works run by other religious and ecclesial movements.

Art. 5 Works run directly by the Association or by members of the Association.

§1. The Salesian Cooperators may express their apostolic commitment in works directly managed by the Association or by members of the Association. In their characteristics and purposes such works should express the spirit and charism of the Association, as will be defined in the respective Statutes.

§2. The responsibility for management will always be directly tied to the local Association which promotes the activity or to the members who directly take up its management, without being a burden to higher levels of the same Association. In those situations where it is thought opportune, a process may be initiated for civil recognition in view of wider development of the work in the civil field.

2. Salesian Cooperators in communion and collaboration

Art. 6 The Family spirit

§1. For the growth of a sense of belonging to the Association, the Salesian Cooperators support one another by an exchange of spiritual goods.

§2. They show a human and Christian solidarity in practical ways with Salesian Cooperators who are sick or in difficulties, accompanying them also with their affection and prayer.

§3. In communion with Salesian Cooperators who have died and in gratitude for their life of witness, they pray for them and faithfully carry on their mission.

§4. In fidelity to the Church's magisterium and its pastoral guidelines on themes such as the family, and in a spirit of Christian charity, the Association pays attention to members who suffer the consequences of separation and/or divorce. The Association accompanies them in the difficulties they encounter in their life and faith. The attitude is one of support for them in living through their situation by trusting in the infinite mercy of the Father and maintaining a tenor of life that is consistent with the fundamental duties they have accepted in the Promise.

§5. In a spirit of family, the Association is open to religious of the Salesian Family who for valid reasons have left their institute and feel that they are still linked to the Spirit of Don Bosco. Their official entry into the Association requires a formation process appropriate to their new reality.

Art. 7 Co-responsibility in action

So that co-responsibility for the mission can translate into co-responsibility in action:

§1. within the Association, tasks at any level are carried out in a spirit of service according to the principles of communion, co-responsibility and cooperation.

§2. in the diversity of circumstances and tasks, Salesian Cooperators bring their own specific contribution to the Association. Each one is called to participate, in different ways, in the life of the Association:

– young people, full of energy, come to the common mission with their sensitivity and creative capacity.

- adults and older individuals, with their mature experience and long-standing fidelity, bring the witness of a life rooted in Christ and experienced over time: family, commitment to one's environment through one's work and culture, the exercising of social, economic and political responsibility,
- those who are unable to carry out any activity can support the educative and apostolic activity of others by offering up their suffering and through prayer,
- members of the diocesan clergy who are Salesian Cooperators, offer the service of their particular ministry.

Art. 8 Economic solidarity

- §1. The sense of belonging and shared responsibility also involves the financial aspects of the Association. The Salesian Cooperators support the Association in its functioning and in exercising its mission at local, provincial, regional and world level, with financial contributions.
- §2. They live solidarity also by way of offerings sent to the Rector Major to support, according to the various possibilities, the world requirements of the Association, missionary initiatives and other projects linked with the Salesian mission.

Art. 9 Particular links with the Society of St Francis of Sales and the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians

- §1. Relationships with SDB confreres and FMA Sisters are developed in an atmosphere of mutual trust. The animation of the Centres attached to Salesian works involves the SDB and FMA Delegates, and provincial and local religious communities in the formation of the members; this helps members to foster and give witness to the Salesian charism, especially in their lay context
- §2. SDB and FMA Provincials, in cooperation with Rectors and Superiors, guarantee unity in communion and mission. They commit themselves to fostering the spiritual growth of the Centres and involve the religious communities in witnessing to values of holiness and generous service of animation.

Art. 10 Links with other groups of the Salesian Family

- §1. Salesian Cooperators, recognising the common spirituality and mission which unites them with the other groups in the Salesian Family, are united with them in facing up to the pastoral challenges of the Salesian mission in the world.
- §2. In order to bring about communion in concrete terms with the other groups of the Salesian Family, Salesian Cooperators are called to encourage meetings, celebrations, days

2. Salesian Cooperators in communion and collaboration

for formation, updating, animation, friendship and familiarity, days of prayer, retreats and days of recollection.

§3. They are particularly open to cooperating with Salesian lay associations while respecting the specific identities of the latter.

2. Salesian Cooperators in communion and collaboration

3. The Salesian Cooperators' Salesian spirit

Art. 11 Style of action

§1. Don Bosco was a practical and enterprising person, a tireless and creative worker, animated by an uninterrupted and deep interior life. The Salesian Cooperators, faithful to his spirit, and attentive to reality, are also practical. They discern the signs of the times and try to offer appropriate responses to the chief needs of young people arising out of their locality and in civil society. They do this in a spirit of initiative. They are ready to evaluate and constantly adapt their activity.

§2. They accompany their action with an attitude of contemplation that urges them to seek and recognise the mystery of God's presence in daily existence and the face of Christ in their brothers and sisters. Therefore they calmly face up to the difficulties of life, its joys and sorrows, and accept the cross that is part of apostolic work.

Art. 12 Spiritual Life

§1. The Salesian Cooperators nourish their interior life through participation in the sacraments, daily dialogue with the Lord and by *lectio divina*.

§2. They celebrate traditional Salesian feast days.

§3. They take part in the annual retreat and days of recollection made available by the Association. §4. They place value on spiritual direction, as accompaniment carried out, in particular by Salesians (religious and lay people).

3. The Salesian Cooperators' Salesian spirit

4. Membership and formation of the Salesian Cooperator

Art. 13 Entry into the Association

§1. Once the process of formation is over the aspirant presents a written request to the Local Council for membership of the Association.

§2. The Local Council then passes the aspirant's request, along with its evaluation, to the Provincial Council which arrives at a final approval on the basis of this evaluation.

§3. Entry into the Association takes effect with the acceptance of the personal Promise in the name of the Association, by the Provincial Coordinator or by another member delegated by him.

Art. 14. Sense of belonging

§1. To help the growth of a sense of belonging to the Association, and to constantly nourish their vocation, the Council in each Local Centre offers the Salesian Cooperators the possibility of renewing the Promise annually, preferably on a Salesian feast day.

§2. When a member fails to renew the promise over a period of three years, without valid cause, and distances himself/herself from the life of the Association, it is the Local Council's responsibility to evaluate the circumstances that have brought about this change of attitude.

§3. The local Council has the fraternal responsibility of contacting and accompanying the Salesian Cooperator who is thus alienated, inviting him or her to a process of discernment concerning the present circumstances of his or her membership in the Association.

§4. Salesian Cooperators, especially those committed to other apostolic activities or to volunteer work, bring their specific charism, spread the work of the Association and enrich the Centre through sharing their experience.

Art. 15 Initiatives for initial formation

§1. The formation process accompanies members throughout their lifetime because the Lord always calls us through the continual development of personal and environmental circumstances.

§2. To accompany the process of discernment of an aspirant, the Association offers flexible but structured formation courses whether on a personal or community basis. These include the study and analysis of some formation themes which refer to the human, Christian, ecclesial and Salesian dimensions: The Word of God, Documents of the Church, Life and work of Don Bosco, Don Bosco's Preventive System, The Project of Apostolic Life of the Association, Documents of the Rector Major, Documents of the Association, Spirituality and Salesian holiness, History and development of the Salesian Family charism.

§3. Salesian apostolic commitment and participation in the life of the Centre form an integral part of initial formation.

Art. 16. Initiatives for ongoing formation

§1. Aware of the need for ongoing formation, Salesian Cooperators: develop their own human gifts in order to better carry out their family, professional and civil responsibilities, mature in their own faith and charity, growing in union with God to make their life more evangelical and more Salesian, give time to reflection and study, to deepen their understanding of the Holy Scriptures, the teachings of the Church, their knowledge of Don Bosco, and Salesian documents, qualify themselves for the apostolate and service to which they have been called.

§2. The following initiatives are particularly formative: regular meetings, at least monthly, according to the demands of life and apostolate of the members of the Centre and other kinds of meetings possibly open to the locality and to civil society, intense occasions for prayer and discernment, contacts with Groups of the Salesian Family at all levels, better understanding of formation materials from the Salesian Family, with preferential attention given to the Salesian Bulletin.

§3. The Association's planning and review meetings at local, provincial, regional and world levels, are initiatives with special relevance for formation, as well as those on specific themes with and by other branches of the Salesian Family. Participation in such initiatives, promoted at higher levels in the Association, by those responsible and/or by representatives of Local Centres, should be properly prepared, and the fruits thereof shared with members of the Centre.

§4. The Association is committed to using the many social communications media and new technologies for collaborating in cultural dialogue, for fostering the development of critical sense and for developing formation programmes that can be made accessible in many ways.

Art. 17 Formation to the Service of Responsibility

§1. The service of animation and responsibility in the Association is a service of apostolate through which the Association grows and matures in communion, in spiritual life and in

4. Membership and formation of the Salesian Cooperator

the Salesian mission. All Salesian Cooperators may be asked to offer their resources and abilities for a determined period of time in the service of animation and responsibility.

§2. The Salesian Cooperator willingly accepts being available for a period of service asked of him or her, carries it out with discernment, takes on the specific formation needed as preparation for the task, according to programmes established by the Association. At the end of their term of service they give witness to their sense of belonging by an attitude of simple availability to the Association.

5. Organisation of the Association

Art. 18. Local Centres and their Coordination at Provincial level

§1. Local Centres are ordinarily formed with a minimum group of six members living and working in a determined locality. They are organised at provincial level as soon as possible and with an appropriate number, at least three Centres.

§2. Local Centres may also form into groups of specific interests and roles, always followed up and animated by the local Council. It is appropriate that one of their members be a part of the Council.

§3. Members living in an area where there is no Local Centre are joined to the nearest one. This Centre keeps contact with them and helps them to be involved in activities.

§4. The Association is open to the possibility of setting up Centres of Salesian Co-operators wherever the Salesian mission requests it, in ways defined by the Provincial Council.

§5. Members committed to a Salesian apostolic and educational work or centre can start a Salesian Cooperators Centre in relation to that work. These Centres will make sure that the lay people in that work will come in contact with the Association.

§6. Salesian Cooperators in extraordinary circumstances, who do not have the possibility of having reference to a Local Centre, will be in direct contact with the Provincial Council; the mode of this contact will be decided by the Council, which could include modern communications technology.

§7. At provincial level and in the locality of reference, the Provincial is recognised as the one who represents the Rector Major through services of animation, charismatic guidance and promotion of the Salesian Family.

§8. The Rector Major, with the consent of the Superior General of the FMA, delegates the service of animation, guidance and promotion of Centres, erected as part of communities of the FMA, to the FMA Provincial of reference.

§9. When an SDB or FMA Institution which was the point of reference for a Local Centre of the Association is suppressed, the Local Centre is bound to guarantee the Salesian presence in the locality, working in strict understanding with the local Church and with the consent of the Diocesan Bishop. The SDB and FMA Provincials will agree on those responsible in the Local Centre for solutions to possible animation and organisational problems as a result of suppression of the work, and they will make sure of the necessary spiritual animation by appointing an SDB or FMA delegate.

§10. When the Local Centres are erected as part of a nearby SDB and FMA Institution, it is only right that relationships of understanding and cooperation be established which are appropriate for those who recognise themselves as sharing the same mission and common spirit, and which, at the same time, will respect the autonomy of each Centre.

Art. 19 The Local Council

§1. The Association at local level is governed by a Council in the collegial fashion.

§2. The Local Council is made up of members elected by the Salesian Cooperators of the Local Centre. It is made up of an appropriate number of Councillors – ordinarily from three to seven but not beyond a third of the total members of the Centre – and of an SDB or FMA delegate with active voice.

§3. The elected Councillors remain in office for three years and can be re-elected for only one further three-year term.

Art. 20 Main duties and roles of the Local Council

§1. To ensure the functioning of the association with respect to its apostolic commitments, in communion with the Provincial Council, the principal tasks are: to plan, promote and coordinate the formation and apostolic initiatives of the members, to ensure links of union with the Salesian Congregation, the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and the other Groups of the Salesian Family, to decide on calling an Assembly, to see to the administration of the goods of the Association, to accompany the aspirants in finding their place in the Centre and prepare their formation journey, in understanding with the Provincial Council, to make the professional abilities and spiritual riches of all the members fruitful for the good of the Association, valuing their differences and constructively directing them to the gift of unity, animating initiatives which support the vocational faithfulness of the members and their active participation in the life of the Centre. The annual renewal of the Promise will be an appropriate occasion for the celebration of this journey to fidelity.

§2. Each Local Council will elect from amongst elected members: a Coordinator who may choose a vice coordinator from amongst the Councillors, an Administrator, a Secretary.

Each Council designates a person in charge of Formation from amongst the members of the Council: in case such a person is lacking, the Coordinator takes on the role.

§3. It is also the role of the Local Council: to determine the areas of coordination pertaining to formation and mission in the Association, to spread and make known the spirituality of Don Bosco, to propose the vocation of the Salesian Cooperators by planning and putting into effect any initiatives for receiving aspirants, to make a decision with regard to the acceptance of the aspirant, which is then passed on to the Provincial Council, to evaluate collegially all initiatives proposed and carried out by members, to adopt other initiatives which promote the best functioning of the Centre with regard to what is laid down in the Project of Apostolic Life of the Association.

Art. 21. Tasks and roles within the local Council

There are various roles entrusted to the Councillors who take on responsibility for government within the Council.

§1. It is up to the local Coordinator to: call meetings, preside over them, coordinate the work, see that resolutions are carried out, inform higher bodies on the life and activities of the Association, represent the Association and maintain relationships, in the name of the Council, with lay and ecclesiastical organisations and with the other Groups of the Salesian Family, take part in the Provincial Salesian Family Advisory Council, take decisions in urgent cases, provided they are within the competence of the Council, making appropriate note of these afterwards, call elections for the renewal of the Council, preparing evaluation reports at the end of each triennium, and carefully attend to the handing on of matters between the outgoing and incoming Councils, maintain and develop programmes and initiatives in the Centre proposed by the Provincial Council, presenting the Provincial Council with requests for admission to the Association, accompanied by the opinion of the local Council and other necessary information.

§2. It is up to the local Administrator to: safeguard the goods belonging to the Association, stimulate financial solidarity amongst members, promote initiatives for financing the various planned initiatives, suggest possibilities for financial resources and financial assistance, promote solidarity funds to subsidise the more precarious activities of the Association, keep the accounts and ledgers up to date, present the budget and final balance to the Local Council, present the financial accounts to the Provincial Council.

§3. It is up to the Secretary to: keep the written minutes of meetings, support the Coordinator in the management of juridical acts with the Church and civil society, see that archival documentation belonging to the Council is kept up to date, from time to time update necessary data for the Provincial Council.

§4. It is up to the one in charge of Formation, in understanding with the Provincial Council, to: prepare the formation programme for the aspirants, prepare the annual programme for ongoing formation, see to and follow up all specific aspects of formation.

Art. 22 Delegates

§1. The SDB and FMA Provincials, through their Delegates, animate the Centres set up as part of their Institutions or linked to their Provinces.

§2. Each local Council has its local Delegate. Each Provincial Council has its Provincial Delegate and each World Council has its World Delegate. These are spiritual animators responsible above all for Salesian apostolic formation. According to the norms of the current Regulations, they are members of the respective Councils by right.

§3. SDB and FMA Delegates at local and provincial levels are appointed by their respective Provincials, after hearing the opinion of the members of the respective Council and bearing in mind as much as possible the needs of the Centres.

§4. If the Local Centre is not erected as part of an SDB or FMA Institution, the Provincial can appoint a suitably prepared Salesian Cooperator or another member of the Salesian Family as Local Delegate.

§5. A Delegate, where necessary or opportune, can be in charge of more than one Local Centre.

Art. 23. Specific tasks of Delegates

§1. They stimulate Councils' responsibility and cooperation in experiencing organisational autonomy, in charismatic communion with the Society of St. Francis de Sales and the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

§2. They offer their service as spiritual, educational and pastoral guides in order to support a more effective apostolate on behalf of young people.

§3. Provincial Delegates animate Local Delegates to help them take responsibility for their tasks of spiritual animation of the Salesian Cooperators and co-responsibility in their Salesian apostolic formation.

§4. Provincial Delegates, in understanding with the regional and world Delegates, foster updating and formation activities for all the Delegates of the Province; these will be open to all those responsible for the Association, as well as activities on the Salesian charismatic dimension with specific reference to their role of spiritual animation.

Art. 24. Organisation of the Province and the Provincial Councils

§1. The Local Centres of a determined locality - established by the Rector Major with the World Council - constitute a Province.

§2. At provincial level the Association is governed in a collegial fashion by a Provincial Council.

§3. The Provincial Council is made up of members elected by the Councillors of the Local Centres. It comprises an appropriate number of Councillors - from four to twelve - as well as the Provincial SDB Delegate and the Provincial FMA Delegate with active voice.

§4. Each Provincial Council elects from amongst its lay members: a Coordinator who can choose a vice-coordinator from amongst the Councillors, an Administrator, a Secretary, one who will be in charge of Formation.

The elected Provincial Councillors remain in office for three years and may be re-elected, without interruption, for a further three-year period.

Art. 25. Principal roles and tasks of the Provincial Council

§1. To ensure the functioning of the Association with respect to its apostolic commitments, in communion with the World Council, the principal tasks are to: plan, promote and coordinate the formation and apostolic initiatives of the members, promote cooperation amongst Local Centres meeting with them and supporting the commitments of the Local Councils themselves, establish courses for initial and ongoing formation with the Local Councils, according to guidelines indicated by the Association, accept an Aspirant after hearing the proposal and opinion of the Local Council and requesting the documents from the WES (World Executive Secretariat), pronounce the collegial act of a dismissal, ensure particular bonds with the Society of St. Francis de Sales and the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, give an opinion on the appointment of the Provincial Delegate, promote important occasions for spiritual growth and retreats, see to and animate initiatives which encourage vocational fidelity of the members and an active participation in the life of the Association, receive and examine the financial accounts of economic management of the Local Centres, approve the financial accounts of its own economic management, convoke and organise Provincial Congresses, take part in the initiatives of the Regional Advisory Council, see to the administration of the goods of the Association.

Art. 26. Tasks and roles within in the Provincial Council

There are many tasks entrusted to the Councillors who take on responsibilities of government within the Council

§1. It is up to the Provincial Coordinator to: represent the Association and maintain relationships, in the name of the Council, with lay and ecclesiastical organisations and with the other Groups of the Salesian Family, take decisions in urgent cases, provided they are within the competence of the Provincial Council, making subsequent note of them, call meetings, preside over them, coordinate the work, and see that resolutions are implemented, call the elections for the renewal of the Council, prepare evaluation reports at the end of each triennium, and take care to hand on matters from the outgoing Council to the incoming one, accompany Cooperators who are prevented from having regular contact with them, in agreement with those responsible for the Local Centre, cooperate with the World Councillor of the Region by fostering initiatives and informing him or her on the life and activities of the Association, Take an active part in the Provincial Advisory Council of the Salesian Family.

§2. It is up to the Administrator to: safeguard the goods belonging to the Association, animate the financial solidarity of the Local Centres, suggest likely financial resources and assistance, promote solidarity funds to subsidise the more precarious activities of the Association, keep the accounts and ledgers up to date, present the budget and final balance to the Provincial Council, present the annual financial accounts to the World Council.

§3. It is up to the Provincial Secretary to: keep the written minutes of meetings, support the Coordinator in the management of juridical acts with the Church and civil society, see to the updating of archival documentation belonging to the Council, from time to time pass on updated data to the World Council.

§4. It is up to the one in charge of Formation to: draw up a formation plan for the aspirants with the agreement of those responsible at local level for formation, draw up programmes for ongoing formation at provincial level, see to and follow up all specific aspects of formation in the province.

Art. 27. Specific tasks of the Provincial Council

§1. It is the task of the Provincial Council to erect and suppress local centres by means of a Decree signed by the Provincial Coordinator, with the consent of the SDB or FMA Provincial. To erect or suppress a Local Centre away from SDB or FMA institution the written consent of the diocesan bishop is required.

§2. The fusion of a Local Centre at an FMA institution with a Local Centre at an SDB institution, or vice versa, comes about through the collegial act of the Provincial Council, after hearing the respective Local Councils, with the consent of the competent SDB/FMA Provincials, by means of Decree from the Coordinator of the same Provincial Council. The new Local Centre takes over the financial situation of the two previous Local Centres, unless otherwise indicated in the Decree of fusion.

§3. The Provincial Council decides on the modality for setting up Centres of Salesian Cooperators wherever the Salesian mission requires it.

§4. The Provincial Congress comprises the Provincial Councillors and the Councils of the Local Centres. Its principal tasks are as follows: to establish guidelines and concrete indications for the Provincial Council in the fields of formation, mission and organisation at provincial level, to evaluate the progress of the Association in the province, to elect the Provincial Council.

The Provincial Congress is convoked by the Provincial Coordinator at least every three years on the occasion of the renewal of the Provincial Councillors.

Art. 28. The Regional Advisory Council

§1. Nations or geographical areas with more than one province of the same language and culture can, with the consent of the Rector Major, constitute a Regional Advisory Council.

§2. The Regional Advisory Councils, as bodies for coordination and animation, have as their purpose a more effective cooperation between Provincial Councils and the World Council. Each Advisory Council is a place to address issues and communicate them, to share plans for apostolate and formation for the benefit of the entire Region.

5. Organisation of the Association

§3. The Regional Advisory Council is made up of: the World Councillor for the Region, who presides; the provincial coordinators; the SDB and FMA delegates and others responsible for various sectors (formation, administration, secretariat), according to what has been established by the Directory of the Same Advisory Council.

§4. The SDB and FMA Delegates for the Advisory Council are appointed by the respective Provincials.

§5. The procedures for meetings, organisation and coordination of the Regional Advisory Council and for the Regional Congress are laid down in the Directory.

Art. 29 The Regional Congress

§1. The Regional Congress is made up of all the members of the Provincial Councils of a region and by members of the Regional Advisory Council if this has been set up.

§2. The Regional Congress is convoked by the World Councillor for the Region.

§3. The tasks of the Regional Congress are: draw up the regulations for the functioning of the Regional Congress, elect the new World Councillor for the Region according to the procedures approved by the Rector Major and keeping in mind that the number of religious with the right to vote may not exceed 1/3 of the total number of those who have the right to vote, establish the criteria for participation and the procedures for election of those responsible in the Regional Advisory Council, elect those with responsibility in the Regional Advisory Council, not necessarily from amongst those who are members of the Congress, periodically evaluate the state of the Association in the region and offer working guidelines.

Art. 30. The Ministry of the Rector Major

In exercising his ministry, personally or through his Vicar or other representative, the Rector Major ordinarily avails himself of the World Council of Salesian Cooperators, especially in animating the entire Association and coordinating its formation and apostolic initiatives.

Art. 31 The World Council

§1. To achieve the essential aims of the Project of Apostolic Life, and for a more effective vitality and internal cooperation, the Rector Major makes use of a Council at world level.

§2. The World Council collaborates with the Rector Major and his Vicar in the government and animation of the Association: It provides general guidelines with respect to formation, apostolic, organisational and administrative initiatives entrusted to the animation of World Councillors.

§3. The World Council is made up of: the World Coordinator, the World Administrator, the World Secretary, the World SDB Delegate, the World FMA Delegate, representing the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians for the Salesian Cooperators in their institutions, the World Regional Councillors for each region elected by their respective regional congresses.

§4. The tasks of the World Council are: To foster links between the Regions and the Rector Major, To know the actual situations of the different Regions and present them to the Rector Major, To provide the Rector Major with opportune and useful information for the adopting of decisions and guidelines, To guide and promote the practical application of decisions and guidelines for the Association that come from the Rector Major.

§5. The specific roles of the World Councillors are defined by the Council in sede at its first meeting where the Coordinator is appointed, in respect to and according to the directives of the Project of Apostolic Life and by adopting a specific Directory. The modes of participation of Councillors at meetings of the World Council are also laid down in this Directory.

§6. The World Council approves the Directories drawn up by the competent bodies at Regional and Provincial levels.

§7. The World Council presents the Rector Major with the procedures by which each Region elects its World Councillor. These procedures can also be conducted by correspondence.

§8. The World Council guarantees animation at the world level by appropriate communication tools in the Association's main languages

Art. 32. The functioning of the World Council

§1. So that its activity is smooth and functional, the World Council makes use of a World Executive Secretariat (WES), made up of the World Coordinator, the World Council Secretary, the World Council Administrator, the World SDB and FMA Delegates.

§2. For the appointment of the World Coordinator, the World Regional Councillors, the World SDB and FMA Delegates, the World Council offers the Rector Major a list of three names which may also come from outside the Council. A secret ballot elects the World Administrator and World Secretary, who may also be chosen from outside the Council. In the case of members of the Council being elected, the second of those elected from the Regions they belong to will take up the role of World Councillor.

§3. All elected members of the World Council remain in office for six years, and ordinarily will not be elected for a second consecutive period of six years.

§4. The directives of the World Council come into force after their approval by the Rector Major.

§5. World Councillors and Delegates emeriti may be invited to work with the Council but without the right to vote.

Art. 33. The World Congress

§1. The World Congress is the highest expression of representation in the Association. It gathers Salesian Cooperators from all Regions, in unity and communion with the Rector Major, according to already criteria of participation and modality already defined, from time to time, on the basis of the specific reasons for the Congress.

The World Congress exists mainly to: approve modifications to the Project of Apostolic Life, deal with themes of specific interest at world level, establish working guidelines on the themes proposed for the day's agenda, celebrate especially important moments in the life and history of the Association and the Church.

§2. It is up to the Rector Major, following a proposal from the World Council, to determine the theme, the place and the participants for ordinary and extraordinary World Congresses, entrusting their organisation to the World Executive Secretariat (WES).

Art. 34. Administration of the goods of the Association

The Rector Major with the World Council administers the goods of the Association at the world level. He is the competent authority for granting permission to local and provincial councils to carry out acts of extraordinary administration and alienation, which do not require the intervention of the Apostolic See, taking into account the dispositions of art. 39 of the Statutes.

Art. 35. Final dispositions

§1. The Salesian Cooperators are bound to respect and implement the current Regulations.

§2. So that the principles and prescriptions contained herein may be made flexible and adaptable to local situations of the Association, the structures of animation and government set out in the current Regulations can have appropriate Directories, which integrate and/or apply specific aspects of the Regulations regarding the government and animation of the Centres. Each Directory is subject to the judgement of the competent Council (local/provincial) which accepts it by absolute majority of those with the right to vote, and presents it to the immediately superior Council for definitive approval. In the case of the Regional Advisory Councils, the Directories will be set out by the Regional Congress and presented to the World Council for definitive approval. The same process is applied for approval of modifications to the various Directories

§3. The current Regulations may be modified at the initiative of the Supreme Moderator (Rector Major) of the Association, the World Council or the Provincial Councils. In whichever case, it is up to the Supreme Moderator of the Association to approve the initiatives for modification, which will be then duly published.

§4. Proposals for a modification should: offer a clear and detailed presentation of the reasons justifying the modification, define the concrete aims of such modification, indicate the principles it articulates. The process for making the modification is determined by the World Council under the supervision of the Rector Major. The proposal for modification must then be approved by an absolute majority of those taking part in the World Congress, and by the Supreme Moderator of the Association.

