

## Models for Prayer, Orientation, and Questions to introduce individual articles

### Art. 11. Typical Activities

- *Salesian Cooperators are open to varied forms of apostolate. Among these they give a privileged place to family life, besides their own work and their life in the Association<sup>1</sup>:*
- *Christian catechesis and formation;*
- *animation of youth and family groups and movements;*
- *collaboration in educational and scholastic institutions;*
- *social service among the poor;*
- *work in social communications;*
- *cooperation in pastoral ministry for Vocations;*
- *missionary work;*
- *collaboration in ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue;*
- *witness to their own faith in socio-political service; and*
- *the development of the Association.*

#### **Prayer:**

In *Lectio Divina* Style:

John 14. 12-14

*“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”*

If the Lord expects his disciples to carry on the works he has done, how can we called, by Baptism to continue his ministry through specific works in his name?

Let us pray for the wisdom, courage, and faithfulness to live as Christ’s disciples today.

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<sup>1</sup> *Salesian Cooperators: A Practical Way...* Art. IV, 1.  
*Lumen Gentium*. Par. 35.

United States Catholic Conference, Inc. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. (Rome: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994) nos. 904-906. Print.

*Salesian Cooperators: A Practical Way...* Art. IV, 2-5.

### **Orientation to this formative session:**

In this formative session, we will be reflecting on Article 11 of the *Project of Apostolic Life Statutes*. To be true to its purpose, this session has to be formative ... not merely informative. In terms of Don Bosco's charism, it has to help our members to prepare for life as a member of the Salesian Family.

Therefore, we will look to fostering the integral and comprehensive growth and development of our vocation as a Salesian Cooperator, as a good citizen (human), and devote Catholic (Christian). Moreover, we will look to maximizing our personal and communal appropriation of this lesson by identifying what we have learned, naming the skills we need to acquire to live this lesson, opening our selves to the values and motivations that are at the heart of this way of life, and accepting the changes we must make to live this charism in communion (or relationship) with others.

The following question will orient us to the formative aspects of this process of reflection, prayer, and discussion as individuals and as a small community. As we begin this formative session, we have to keep in mind and heart that our purpose in all stages of formation is to deepen and strengthen our vocation to promised life within the Salesian Family.

### **Questions:**

As you study and reflect on the apostolates to which the Salesian Cooperator are called, please craft a sample advertisement inviting Catholic men and women to consider answering the call to join Don Bosco's family as a Salesian Cooperator. How would you describe a Salesian Cooperator, the mission of a Salesian Cooperator, and the job description of a Salesian Cooperator to those who might be interested? What qualities would you identify as desirable or required in a Salesian Cooperator (human, Christian, Salesian)?

As you would craft the session for those beginning or continuing their journey as Salesian Cooperators,

- What would you be sure that they learned from this session?

What skills would you teach them for greater effectiveness and fidelity into the future?

- What virtues or motivations would you invite them to acquire for their lives as cooperators?

- **How would you help them implement these ministerial apostolates in relationship as a team?**

## **Art. 14. Experience of a Committed Faith**

§1. *The Salesian Cooperator welcomes the Salesian Spirit as a gift of the Lord to the Church and makes it fruitful according to his or her own lay or ministerial condition. He or she takes part in the charismatic experience of Don Bosco and commits him or herself to promote Salesian humanism so as to create reasons for hope and future prospects for both the person and for society.<sup>2</sup>*

§2. *By living Salesian Spirituality, he or she fosters a “practical” experience of ecclesial communion.*

§3. *The Salesian Cooperator entrusts him or herself to the Immaculate Virgin and Help of Christians, for She is the guide of one’s apostolic Vocation: to be a true “co-operator of God”<sup>3</sup> in making His plan of salvation real. He or she asks Mary, the Help of Christians and Mother of the Good Shepherd, for the help and strength necessary for his or her own salvation and for that of the young. The daily entrustment to Mary characterizes Salesian Spirituality.*

### **Prayer:**

#### **In *Lectio Divina* Style**

#### **1 Corinthians 3:9**

*“ We are fellow workers with God; you are God’s farm, God’s building”*

The man who plants and the man who waters are on one level; neither can claim any precedence over the other; they are but servants working together for the one Master--God. God uses human instruments to bring to men the message of his truth and love; but it is he alone who wakes the hearts of men to new life. As he alone created the heart, so he alone can re-create it.

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<sup>2</sup>*Salesian Family Charter. 15-17.*

<sup>3</sup>I Cor. 3:9.

## **Art. 30. Fidelity to Commitments Assumed**

*§1. With the Apostolic Promise, the Salesian Cooperator responds to a Vocation which lasts his or her entire life. He or she expresses it in daily life through witness, the apostolate, and various forms of service. He or she places self at the service of the mission of the Church with availability, living the Salesian charism with authenticity. He or she collaborates with commitment in initiatives that are promoted by other ecclesial, religious, and civic organizations. Each one's fidelity is supported by the affection and solidarity of the other members of the Association and of the Salesian Family.*

*§2. In order to reinforce the value of belonging to the Association – and through this, to the Salesian Family as a whole – membership commitments assumed with the making of the Apostolic Promise are renewed according to those modalities which are most opportune, as established by the Regulations.*

### **Prayer:**

#### **In Lectio Divina Style: 1 Cor. 12-12**

*Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ.*

Unity, not unvarying uniformity, is the law of God in the world of grace, as in that of nature. As the many members of the body compose an organic whole and none can be dispensed with as needless, so those variously gifted by the Spirit, compose a spiritual organic whole, the body of Christ, into which all are baptized by the one Spirit.

## **Art. 31. Leaving the Association**

*§1. The Salesian Cooperator who, through personal choice, intends to cease to be part of the Association will communicate this to the Local Council with a written declaration. The Local Council will send a copy of the declaration to the Provincial Council.*

*§2. The decision to dismiss one of its members from the Association for grave reasons, must be taken by the Provincial Council, at the justified request of the Local Council, in the spirit of charity and of clarity, after having verified a lifestyle which is incongruous with the fundamental duties expressed in the Project of Apostolic Life. This decision shall be communicated to the interested party in writing.*

### **Prayer:**

#### **In Lectio Divina Style: Acts 1:16**

"Brothers and sisters, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—

*Steven Cole explains that "Judas' defection and suicide had been difficult for the disciples to understand. How could a man chosen by Christ for such a high privilege turn against Him? Had Jesus made a mistake in choosing Judas? Why would God let such a terrible thing happen? Peter and the other apostles found help with these difficult questions by going to God's Word.*

### **Art. 33. The Reasons for This Organization**

*Salesian Cooperators, called to live their apostolic Vocation in society and in the Church, have an appropriate organizational structure. The Association of which they are part is the means to live out mission and communion according to this Project of Apostolic Life.*

#### **Prayer:**

#### **In Lectio Divina Style**

*When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that among the pagans their so-called rules lord it over them and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10: 41-45)*

“The basic trouble in the human situation is that men wish to do as little as possible and to get as much as possible. It is only when they are filled with the desire to put into life more than they take out, that life for themselves and for others will be happy and prosperous.”

### **Art. 35. Governance and Animation at the Local, Provincial, and World levels**

*With the authority of the Rector Major safeguarded, and represented normally by his Vicar, or by a Delegate named by him, the governance and animation of the Association is entrusted to its own Local, Provincial, and World Councils, which also include the presence of Religious members nominated by their respective SDB or FMA Provincial for the Local and Provincial Councils, and by the Rector Major for the World Council. Legal representation of the Association is entrusted to the Coordinator of the respective Council.*

#### **Prayer**

#### **In Lectio Divina Style: Philippians 2-3-5**

*Plea for Unity and Humility. “There must be no competition among you, no conceit, but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of the other people’s interest instead. In your minds, you must be the same as Christ. (Phil. 2:3-5)*

The fact that they share in the Holy Spirit should keep Christians from disunity. The Holy Spirit binds man to God and man to man. It is the Spirit who enables us to live that life of love, which is the life of God; if a man lives in disunity with his fellow men, he thereby shows that the gift of the Spirit is not his.