

Agreement between the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians for the animation of the Salesian Cooperators.

*The RECTOR MAJOR
OF THE SALESIANS,
Fr. Egidio Viganò,
and the SUPERIOR GENERAL
OF THE FMA
M. Marinella Castagno*

in view of the fact that "in the Church the ASSOCIATION OF SALESIAN COOPERATORS is approved by the Apostolic See as a public Association of the faithful and participates in the spiritual patrimony of the Society of St. Francis de Sales" (RAL 6,1. cf. CIC. 303);

bearing in mind that "the Cooperators' Association is one of the groups of the Salesian Family. With the Society of St. Francis de Sales and the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.... it is a bearer of the common Salesian vocation and shares responsibility for the vitality of Don Bosco's project in the world" (RAL 5);

in the light of art. 25, 1. of the Regulations of Apostolic Life of the Association of Salesian Cooperators, which states: "Special relations unite the Cooperators to the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians who, through the Sister Delegates, animate the centres set up in association with their works. This animation is analogous to that carried out by the Salesian Delegates, and is regulated by an agreement made between the Rector Major and the Mother General of the F.M.A. ".

AGREE AS FOLLOWS

Art. 1

1. Without prejudice to their own Constitutions and Regulations, the Salesians and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, aware of their responsibilities, commit themselves to observe the *Regulations of Apostolic Life* of the Association of Salesian Cooperators in accordance with their respective competence and within the limits indicated by the Regulations themselves.

2. In this commitment they will make special reference to local and provincial councils of the Cooperators who have to govern the Association at those levels in collegial fashion (RAL 43,1). And since the various local Centres of the Association are organised according to a provincial plan "based on the structure of the Salesian province" (RAL 42,1), the SDB Provincial is recognized as the one who makes present the ministry of the Rector Major in services of "animation", guidance and promotion (RAL 23,3, and 42,2).

Art. 2

The fusion of a local Centre attached to a work of the FMA with a local Centre attached to an SDB work or vice versa, requires the consent of the competent SDB and FMA Provincials, and will take place by a collegial act of the Provincial Council, after hearing the views of the respective local Councils, by a decree of the Coordinator of the same Provincial Council. The new Centre succeeds the two previous Centres as regards economic assets and liabilities, unless a different arrangement is made in the decree of fusion.

Art. 3

1. If it should happen that an SDB or FMA work, to which a local Centre is attached, should be suppressed, the Centre can be transferred to a neighbouring SDB or FMA work, where a Centre has not yet been established, in the same manner as is indicated in RAL 45,2 after hearing the views of the local Council which is being transferred.

2. In the event of such transfer proving impossible, the local Centre may be made independent under the same conditions, with the previous written consent of the Bishop of the diocese.

Art. 4

Except in the case of fusion referred to in art. 2, a local Centre may be suppressed in itself, or by suppression of the SDB or FMA work in connection with which it was erected, for just reasons recognized by the Provincial Council, with the previous consent of the SDB Provincial and also of the FMA Provincial in the case of an FMA work, under the conditions foreseen in RAL 45, 2; for the suppression of an independent local Centre, the Council must hear the opinion of the Bishop of the diocese. The temporal goods of suppressed Centres, including financial assets and liabilities, pass to the Provincial Council, unless a different arrangement is made in the decree of suppression.

Art. 5

Local delegates who are not priests will strive as far as possible to obtain for their Centre the services of a Salesian priest, to be appointed in agreement with the SDB Provincial, for the important moments of prayer and discernment and for the sacramental and liturgical life of the Cooperators. Such a priest, even if he be not a Salesian, shall not be a member of the local Council nor have any organizational responsibilities.

Art. 6

When local Centres are erected attached to SDB or FMA works which are near each other, it is of the greatest importance that relationships be laid down to ensure common understanding and collaboration, by mutual agreement between the local Councils concerned, while respecting each Council's proper autonomy and without prejudice to the higher competence of the Provincial Council.

Art. 7

The Provincial Council, in agreement with the SDB Provincial and the competent FMA Provincials shall decide in the case of the different local Centres erected in association with FMA works whether they belong to its own provincial grouping, bearing in mind all the circumstances, especially the geographical configuration of the FMA Provinces and of diocesan structures. In case of doubt or disagreement recourse must be had to the World Consulting Body.

Art. 8

In provincial groupings which bring together Centres associated with FMA works of different provinces, joint pastoral action shall be fostered as far as possible, with the organization of common initiatives especially in the field of formation. In the carrying out of activities care should be taken to preserve the necessary solidarity with and participation in diocesan pastoral work, in accordance with RAL 18,2.

Art. 9

SDB and FMA Provincials, in the area of their respective competence, must appoint without undue delay the SDB and FMA Delegates for each local Centre or provincial grouping of Centres, in accordance with RAL 46,2.

Art. 10

If within the confines of an FMA Province there is more than one Provincial Council in operation, the FMA Provincial Delegate is by right a member of each of them.

The FMA Provincial Delegate is also competent to visit the Centres erected in association with FMA works.

Art. 11

1. The SDB Provincial Delegate carries out his duties of spiritual animation and Salesian apostolic formation in respect of all the Centres of the provincial grouping for which he has been appointed; for this purpose it is highly desirable that he be a Salesian priest.

2. In the performance of his task, he will work in common agreement with the FMA Provincial Delegate so as to ensure fruitful apostolic results and in view of combined pastoral activity.

3. In agreement with the competent FMA Provincial and with the FMA Provincial Delegate, he will visit the Centres erected in association with FMA works, also for the purpose of preserving and developing the relationships (RAL 24,2.) which bind the Cooperators to the Salesian Congregation.

Art. 12

Relationships of collaboration and shared responsibility between the Salesian Congregation and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians as regards the Association of Salesian Cooperators at international level shall be studied periodically and by common accord by the Councillor General for the Salesian Family and for Social Communication (cf. SDB Const. 137) and by the FMA Vicar General (cf. FMA Const. 126). For this purpose both may avail of the collaboration of specialists.

Art. 13

Among the five members he is able to appoint to the World Consulting Body of the Salesian Cooperators in accordance with RAL 48,1, the Rector Major will include a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, previously presented by the FMA Superior General.

Art. 14

The SDB Rector Major and the FMA Superior General will see to it that this agreement is put into practice, and will jointly resolve any doubts or disputes which may eventually arise in its regard.

Rome, 16 August 1986

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