

To Delegates of the Salesian Cooperators Association

Dear Delegates,

We hereby offer you this important document of the new Project of Apostolic life of the Salesian Cooperators Association.

We would like to emphasize that this new Project is a great occasion for relaunching the Association and at the time same, an invitation for all of you to join our lay brothers and sisters, and diocesan clerics with a renewed commitment in service and accompaniment. I remind you too that the new norms highlight the fact that the first responsibility of the Association has to be the Salesian Cooperators themselves. They will be the chief actors in a proper and effective animation that will help them to express their lay calling to the full.

With the approval, for now “ad experimentum”, of the Project of Apostolic Life of the Salesian Cooperators Association (Statutes and Regulations), the Agreement between Salesians of Don Bosco and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians for the animation of the Salesian Cooperators drawn up by the Rector Major, Fr Egidio Viganò, and the Superior General, Mother Marinella Castagno, on the 6th August 1986, has been superseded.

The substantial contents of this Agreement were fully integrated into the Project of Apostolic Life and ask SDBs and FMAs to live out their charismatic dimension in mutual fashion through a style of animation, where the Association is concerned, that fosters autonomy in communion.

Every Salesian community (SDB and FMA), provincial and local, is involved in the task, as set out by St. John Bosco from the beginning, of “supporting and giving increase to” the Association, by contributing to the formation of its members and by making their Project of Life known.

The Association recognizes within its Councils the authoritativeness of the religious members appointed by the Provincials. These, in cooperation with Rectors and Superiors, will work to guarantee unity in communion and mission, in an atmosphere of mutual trust.

The Salesian Cooperators will bring Don Bosco’s presence alive amongst the young of the third millennium, by acting as true lay Salesians in the world, committed to guaranteeing, in close understanding with the local Church and the consent of the bishop of the diocese where required, the continuity of Salesian presence.

They work alongside us, be it in prayer, through a shared commitment, in this mission which is part of the mission of Christ and his Church, trusting in the loving concern with which Mary Help of Christians guides and sustains them.

For Delegates the Project of Apostolic Life is an appeal to guarantee a service of apostolic and spiritual animation in view of an effective mission, by the members of the Association, to families and young people, by serving the Lord Jesus in them.

With the desire for an ever more profitable commitment to animation in the mission of our entire Salesian Family,

Rome, 24 April 2007

Rector Major of the Salesians

The Superior General of the FMA