

The Secretariat for the Salesian Family

Approved by the Rector Major and his Council

Rome, January 29, 2015

1. Nature and purpose

The Secretariat for the Salesian Family is a body for animation, formation, and coordination instituted by General Chapter XXVII¹ and directly dependent upon the Rector Major, according to the norms of Article 108 of the Regulations.

Its purpose is to animate the Congregation as regards the Salesian Family and to promote communion among the various Groups belonging to it while respecting their own specific character and autonomy.

It helps the Congregation undertake the responsibilities which it has towards the Salesian Family, as Don Bosco wished; that is, it is to "maintain unity of spirit and encourage dialogue and fraternal collaboration for reciprocal enrichment and a greater apostolic fecundity."²

2. The Members of the Secretariat

The Secretariat is composed of the following members:

2.1 the Delegate of the Rector Major to the Secretariat for the Salesian Family, who is the central Secretary of the Secretariat and carries out the tasks described in Article 6.

2.2 the SDB confreres responsible for the animation of the Groups of the Salesian Family for which the Salesian Congregation has charismatic responsibilities:

- the World Delegate to the Salesian Cooperators;
- the World Delegate to the Past Pupils of Don Bosco;
- the Spiritual Animator of the Association of Mary Help of Christians;
- the Central Assistant of the Don Bosco Volunteers;
- the Central Assistant of the Volunteers with Don Bosco.

¹ General Chapter XXVII has undertaken the following decision:

A. to suppress §3 of Article 134 of the *Constitutions* which give the task of animation of the Salesian Family to the Vicar of the Rector Major;

B. to institute a central Secretariat for the Salesian Family which is directly dependent upon the Rector Major, according to the norms of Article 108 of the *Regulations*, and its tasks, as follows:

- to animate the Congregation in the Salesian Family Sector and to assure interaction with the other sectors of the Congregation at the world level;
- to promote, according to the norms of Article 5 of the *Constitutions*, communion among the various Groups, while respecting their specific character and autonomy;
- to guide and assist the provinces so that they might develop, in their area, the Association of Salesian Cooperators, the Past Pupil Movement, and ADMA, according to their respective *Statutes*.

² *The Constitutions of the Society of St. Francis de Sales*, Art. 5.

2.3 three members from the Salesian Family Consulta

- an FMA chosen by Mother General³
- two members selected by the Consulta.

3. The tasks of the Secretariat in relation to the Congregation

The fundamental tasks of the Secretariat in reference to the Congregation are:

- to assure interaction with the sectors and regions of the Congregation at the world level⁴;
- "to guide and assist the provinces so that they might develop in their area the Association of Salesian Cooperators, the Past Pupil Movement, and ADMA, according to their respective Statutes"⁵;
- to encourage and support the regions and the Provincial conferences to promote growth, both in numbers and in quality, of the Salesian Family;
- to offer accompaniment to the Provincials, the Provincial delegates to the Salesian Family, and the delegates, spiritual animators, and Provincial assistants of the Groups of the Salesian Family so as to foster the formation of the delegates and of the local Groups.

4. The tasks of the Secretariat in relation to the Rector Major and his Council

The principal tasks of the Secretariat in reference to the Rector Major and the General Council are:

- to prepare that part of the Rector Major and the Council's six-year plan which regards the Secretariat and to give it to the Rector Major and his Council for approval;
- to elaborate an annual plan of work for the Secretariat and present it to the Rector Major;
- to present to the Rector Major and his Council for their approval the annual budget and the balance sheet;
- to study the requests to belong to the Salesian Family and to offer their evaluation to the Rector Major and his Council.

5. The tasks of the Secretariat in relation to the Salesian Family

In reference to the Salesian Family, the following are some of the tasks of the Secretariat:

- to offer guidelines to the Rector Major necessary to assure the continuity of the charism in every Group of the Salesian Family⁶;

³ The decision to have an FMA chosen by Mother General from among the members of the Salesian Family Consulta on the Secretariat is motivated by the historical collaboration that the Salesian Congregation has had with the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians from the very beginnings of Don Bosco's charism and which, today, is developing on multiple fronts in the mission in the entire world.

⁴ General Chapter XXVII, no. 79.

⁵ *ibid.*

⁶ *The Charter of the Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family of Don Bosco*, no. 13.

- to represent the Rector Major in the different Groups so as to guarantee the "growth of each one, guidance as concerns charismatic fidelity, and committed effort to make the Salesian vocation fruitful in all of its expressions"⁷;
- to animate and to involve the various Groups in the worldwide activities which concern the Salesian Family: the World Consulta, the Spirituality Days, and regional encounters;
- to accompany the Groups so as to help them become aware that the Salesian Family must become "a vast movement of persons who, in varying ways, work for the salvation of the young"⁸;
- to pay specific attention to the Groups of the Salesian Family towards whom we have a particular charismatic responsibility⁹.

6. The tasks of the Delegate of the Rector Major to the Secretariat

- to present to the Rector Major and to the General Council for their approval that part of the six-year plan which regards the Secretariat;
- to inform the Rector Major and his Council of projects regarding formation and animation, of planned encounters, and how the Salesian Family is doing overall;
- to inform the Rector Major and his Council annually on how the plans for the work of the Secretariat are coming along and how the Secretariat itself is doing overall;
- to represent the Rector Major, at his request, at Congregational, ecclesial, and civic events where the presence of the Salesian Family might be required;
- to convoke the Secretariat at least three times a year to study, analyze, plan, and verify how the Salesian Family is doing overall;
- to coordinate and animate together with the members of the Secretariat its particular projects and activities;
- to plan encounters with the Salesians in initial formation, in agreement with the Councilor for formation, so as to cultivate in the formandi the sense of belonging to the Salesian Family and the charismatic responsibilities in its regard;
- to coordinate the Salesian Family World Consulta and the Spirituality Days;
- to make the documents of the Salesian Family known to the individual Groups;
- to visit the various regions for animation and accompaniment, in agreement with the Regionals;
- to participate in the regional encounters of the Provincials so as to motivate them and sensitize them to the sense of belonging to the Salesian Family;
- to foster the publication of aids and other literature concerning the Salesian Family;
- to undertake every other task which the Rector Major intends to assign to him.

7. Duration

The present regulations for the Secretariat of the Salesian Family are valid for three years and, therefore, are "*ad experimentum*". After this period of time there will be an evaluation and any revisions necessary will be made by the Rector Major and the General Council.

⁷ *The Charter of the Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family of Don Bosco*, no. 13.

⁸ *The Constitutions of the Society of St. Francis de Sales*, Art. 5.

⁹ *The Charter of the Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family of Don Bosco*, no. 38.