

# Secretariat for the Salesian Family

**Approved by the Rector Major and the General Council  
Rome: January 29, 2015**

## 1. Nature and purpose

The Secretariat for the Salesian Family is an organ of animation and coordination, established by the GC27<sup>1</sup> and directly dependent on the Rector Major in accordance with Article 108 of our General Regulations.

Its purpose is to animate the Congregation with regard to the Salesian Family and to promote the communion of the various groups that belong to it, respecting their specificity and autonomy.

It assists the Congregation in taking up the responsibilities Don Bosco wanted it to have towards the Salesian Family, viz. to preserve unity of spirit and to foster dialogue and fraternal collaboration for our mutual enrichment and greater apostolic effectiveness".<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Members of the Secretariat

The Secretariat consists of the following members:

2.1. The Delegate of the Rector Major for the Secretariat for the Salesian Family; he is the Secretary of the Central Secretariat and performs the tasks described in Article 6.

2.2. The SDB confreres who have tasks of animation within those groups of the Salesian Family for whom the Salesian Congregation has responsibility for the charism:

- The World Delegate of the Salesian Cooperators;
- The World Delegate of the Past-pupils of Don Bosco, both men and women;
- The Spiritual Animator of the Association of Mary Help of Christians;
- The Central Assistant of the Volunteers of Don Bosco;
- The Central Assistant of the Volunteers with Don Bosco.

2.3. Three members of the World Consultative Body of the Salesian Family:

- An FMA chosen by the Mother General;<sup>3</sup>
- Two members elected by the World Consultative Body.

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<sup>1</sup> The GC27 has taken the following resolution; it:

- A. "suppresses paragraph 3 of Article 134 of the Constitutions which attributes to the Vicar of the Rector Major the task of animating the Salesian Family;
- B. establishes a *Central Secretariat for the Salesian Family*, directly dependent on the Rector Major, in accordance with article 108 of the Regulations, with the following duties:
  - to animate the Congregation in the Sector of the Salesian Family and ensure interaction with the other Sectors of the Congregation at world level;
  - to promote, in accordance with article 5 of the Constitutions, the communion of the various groups, respecting their specificity and autonomy;
  - to direct and assist the Provinces so that in their own territories they develop, according to their own statutes, the Association of the Salesian Cooperators, the Movement of the Past Pupils and ADMA" (CG 27, n. 79).

<sup>2</sup> *Constitutions of the Society of St. Francis de Sales*, article 5.

<sup>3</sup> The presence of an FMA chosen by the Mother General among the members of the Consultative Body of the Salesian Family is motivated by the historic collaboration that has existed between the Salesian Congregation and the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians since the beginning of the charism of Don Bosco and that has now developed in several areas of the mission all over the world.

### **3. Duties of the Secretariat in relation to the Congregation**

The basic duties of the Secretariat in relation to the Congregation are:

- ensure on world level an interaction with the sectors and the regions of the Congregation;<sup>4</sup>
- “direct and assist the Provinces so that in their own territories they develop, according to their own statutes, the Association of the Salesian Cooperators, the Movement of the Past Pupils and ADMA”.<sup>5</sup>
- encourage and support the regions and provincial conferences in promoting the growth of the Salesian Family in number and quality;
- offer to Provincials, Provincial Delegates of the Salesian Family, and Province-level delegates, spiritual animators and assistants of the groups of the Salesian Family help in forming delegates and local groups.

### **4. Duties of the Secretariat in relation to the Rector Major and his Council**

The main duties of the Secretariat in relation to the Rector Major and the General Council are:

- prepare the section of the six-year project of the Rector Major and his Council concerning the Secretariat and forward it to the Rector Major and his Council for their approval;
- draw up the Secretariat’s plan of work for each year and present it to the Rector Major;
- submit an annual budget and statement of accounts to the Rector Major and his Council for their approval;
- examine the requests to belong to the Salesian Family and offer an assessment of them to the Rector Major and his Council.

### **5. Duties of the Secretariat in relation to the Salesian Family**

Some of the duties of the Secretariat in relation to the Salesian Family are the following:

- offer the Rector Major the necessary guidelines for ensuring the fruitfulness of the charism in every group of the Salesian Family;<sup>6</sup>
- represent the Rector Major in the various groups in order to ensure the “growth of each group, guidance in being faithful to the charism, and commitment to the fruitfulness of the Salesian vocation in all its forms”;<sup>7</sup>
- animate and involve the various groups in world-level activities concerning the Salesian Family: the World Consultative Body, the Spirituality Days, regional meetings;
- foster in the groups an awareness that the Salesian Family has to become “a vast movement of persons who in different ways work for the salvation of the young”;<sup>8</sup>
- pay special attention to the groups of the Salesian Family towards whom we have a special responsibility concerning our charism;<sup>9</sup>
- foster communion among the various groups by referring to the “Charter of the Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family” and drawing on their specific contribution;
- motivate the groups of the Salesian Family to realize some pastoral projects jointly;

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<sup>4</sup> Cfr. CG27 n. 79.

<sup>5</sup> CG27 n. 79.

<sup>6</sup> Cfr. *Charter of the Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family of Don Bosco*, n. 13.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*, n. 13.

<sup>8</sup> *Constitutions of the Society of St. Francis de Sales*, art. 5.

<sup>9</sup> *Charter of the Charismatic Identity...*, n. 38.

- study and reflect deeply on Salesian spirituality with the groups of the Salesian Family.

## **6. Duties of the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Secretariat**

The Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family Secretariat has the following duties:

- submit for the approval of the Rector Major and the General Council the part of the six-year project that concerns the Secretariat;
- keep the Rector Major and his Council informed of plans for formation and animation, of meetings and the progress of the Salesian Family;
- inform the Rector Major and his Council every year of the implementation of the Secretariat's plan of work and the progress of the Secretariat itself;
- represent the Rector Major, at his request, in events of the Congregation, the Church and civil society that may require the presence of the Salesian Family;
- convene the Secretariat at least three times a year to study, analyze, plan and assess the progress made by the Salesian Family;
- coordinate and animate his projects and activities with the members of the Secretariat;
- in agreement with the Councillor for Formation, schedule meetings with Salesians in initial formation to cultivate in them a sense of belonging to the Salesian Family and a responsibility for our charism within it;
- coordinate the World Consultative Body of the Salesian Family and the Spirituality Days;
- make known to the individual groups the documents of the Salesian Family;
- carry out visits of animation and accompaniment in the regions, in agreement with the Rector Major and the Regional Councillors;
- take part in the regional meetings of the Provincials to motivate and sensitize them to a sense of belonging to the Salesian Family;
- promote useful materials and publications concerning the Salesian Family;
- take up every other task that the Rector Major chooses to entrust to him.

## **7. Duration**

The present Regulation of the Secretariat for the Salesian Family is valid for three years, and is therefore "ad experimentum". After this period there will be an assessment and then a revision by the Rector Major and the General Council.