



SOCIETA' DI SAN FRANCESCO DI SALES

SEDE CENTRALE SALESIANA

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Consigliere per la Pastorale Giovanile

YOUTH MINISTRY CONTRIBUTION TO THE RM'S GC28 REPORT

1. THE CONGREGATION'S STARTING POINT

Planning for the six year period 2014-2020:

The identity of the Department:

- strengthen the **Department team**;
- formation of **Provincial Delegates** – proposal of a **School for Provincial Delegates**;
- **coordination** with Regional and Department **Councillors**;
- liaison, communication and cooperation with **other Youth Ministry bodies and agencies**.

Administrative choices:

- knowledge and application of the **Salesian pastoral ministry model** in line with the **Frame of Reference (FoR)**;
- offering **study seminars** on **listening to and accompanying young people**;
- reaffirming the theme of the **educative and pastoral formation** of Salesians and lay people;
- keeping alive the priority of **the poorest of the young**, those at risk and those in a situation of marginalisation;
- paying attention to the various processes of **evangelisation in the variety of cultural contexts**;
- **family as the object and subject of youth ministry**.

2. EVALUATION OF THE PATH TRAVELLED THUS FAR

1.1. The objectives, steps taken or currently underway

Area 1: Animation and Coordination

a. The Department team

- strengthened by adding members including one lay person;
- **yearly meetings organised**;
- **Provincial Youth Ministry Commissions**;
- the **various sector commissions**.

b. School for Provincial Delegates – 2016 and 2019;

c. Considerably strengthened coordination with Regional Councillors and Departments - Formation, Missions and Social Communications;

d. Collaboration with other youth ministry agencies – regional, national, ecclesial, civil forums.

Area 2: Priority commitments

- a. Regional meetings - knowledge, application, evaluation of the **Salesian pastoral ministry model (FoR)**;
- b. Attention to the area of **listening to and accompanying young people** – see Synod on Young

people, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.

- c. The theme of the **educative and pastoral formation of Salesians and lay people – EPC & SEPP.**
- d. **The poorest young people – Advisory Board in March 2019, and its Final Declaration;**
- Don Bosco International (DBI) and the Salesian Presence at the United Nations (SDB-UN) –**

advocacy

Teamwork and collaboration with **Don Bosco Network.**

- e. Attention within the various regional meetings to the processes of **evangelisation in the variety of cultural contexts;**
- f. **Family as the object and subject of youth ministry – Madrid Congress, SYM Family 2017, YM Advisory Board & Family, inclusion of the theme in General Chapter 28, pastoral indications in the light of GC28.**

AREA 3: SETTINGS AND SECTORS

A. ORATORY – YOUTH CENTRE

- a. Focusing on the **integral proposal with preference for the poor.** The Department did not fully succeed in offering a systematic verification of the oratory situation;
Insistence in regional meetings on **provincial commissions, youth ministry teams** to follow up and strengthen this sector;
- b. **EPC:** intervention by the Department following the **development of the SYM** with direct impact on **formation of committed youth leaders.**

B. SCHOOL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

The School/VTC is **still the most common educational setting in our mission:** we are also the largest educational agency in the world.

- a. **In the processes and steps undertaken - promoting the educative and pastoral quality of the Salesian presence in the school/VTC** through regional and continental meetings (Europe/America/Asia/Africa);
- b. **Accompaniment of provincials and school contact persons:**
Central Commission (**Escuela Salesiana América**) and meetings of Regions making up the ESA and organisation of ESA IV - Medellín (2017);
consolidation of the *Gruppo Formazione Professionale Europa SDB* (European SDB Professional Formation Group) and strengthening of the **Scuola Salesiana Europa** (European Salesian School);
Organisation of **meetings with Companies** that collaborate with our Salesian PFCs (two meetings).
- c. **Presentation of the FoR** – strategies and tools for application of the SEPP to the school;
- d. **School Office strengthened with the consolidation of a permanent group;**
- e. **The mapping of statistical data regarding Schools/VTCs – a web page showing Salesian Schools/VTCs around the world <www.salesianeducation.com>.**
- f. **European Planning Network:**
collaboration and harmony with other School bodies: OIEC, Catholic International Education Office; Education Commission of the Union of Superiors General, and other institutions through DBI.
- g. Accompaniment of **regional structures in the VT area**, with **DB Tech Africa, DB Tech India** and **DB Tech ASEAN.**
- h. **SDB-lay formation processes** continue within the **Educative and Pastoral Communities;**
- i. **Promoting experiences of initiation and adherence to the faith**, responding to new forms of personal and social poverty;
- j. **Families – as an object of reflection and accompaniment.**
- k. Our Schools/VTCs continue to follow the integral development of individuals as their aim:
educative project that recognises the person as the centre of educational action;
preferential attention to the poorest;
dialogue between faith, culture and life;
transforming the environment.

C. INSTITUTES OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- a. A sustained process of animation by means of **policies and agreed-upon common programmes.**
Threefold challenge:

- i) **guaranteeing the quality of their formative and cultural offering;**
- ii) **guaranteeing fulfilment of their educative and pastoral purpose in accordance with the Salesian charismatic identity;** and
- iii) **achieving the financial and economic sustainability** that can guarantee their continuity over time.

Strategies.

- First: **defining and implementing the Salesian university pastoral model** – guidelines prepared in document entitled ***Orientamenti per la Pastorale nelle IUS***, (Guidelines for Ministry in IUS) currently being implemented *ad experimentum*.
- Second: **promoting communication and collaboration through a better knowledge of the network's institutions** – regular continental meetings.
- Third: **promoting the inclusion of new IUS executive leadership, Salesians and lay, through appropriate formation processes** – by means of Course for executive leaders.

Looking to the future:

guaranteeing academic quality as well as Catholic and Salesian identity;

poor youth;

social projection of the institution – economic sustainability;

higher education as a privileged space for evangelisation of the young

b. Reception facilities

diagnosis leading to a clear option for the evangelisation of young university students;

educative and pastoral project – personalised process of accompaniment.

D. PARISHES AND SANCTUARIES ENTRUSTED TO THE SALESIANS

The Department, lacking a person directly dedicated to this sector.

In some regions this sector is followed up well through shared reflection between provinces.

There are three challenges - **SEPP**, **pastoral directions as indicated in the FoR**, **the social dimension of charity**

In coming years they will **need closer attention from the Department.**

E. WORKS AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK

Following up and coordination of the sector concerning **Works and Social Services (WSS) for the young at risk** by a member of the Department.

In **Regional, National, Provincial** meetings – we see **convergences and points to be continued by way of synergy in view of Salesian charismatic identity and ecclesial prophecy.**

Reference to the OPP and the Province SEPP.

Development of an animating EPC.

Need for institutional accompaniment.

Presence of lay people in the WSS is a growing reality.

The **FoR** is an important resource for formation and guidelines for the sector.

Charismatic choices, educative and spiritual experience and a practical proposal continue to enlighten pastoral practice in WSS.

The World Advisory Board for Works and Social Services (27-31 March 2019) and its **Final Declaration.**

F. MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT

Collaboration with the Department for the Missions:

- processes within YM,
- formation and accompaniment in preparing for the volunteer experience
- the profile of the volunteer,
- connection with vocational animation,
- challenges and opportunities in the provinces,
- the community that sends and receives.

A part of this process has been the updating of the document “The Volunteer Movement in the Salesian Mission” (2008).

Involvement of YM, DIAM Delegates in regional meetings in 2015 and 2019.

An international commission along with contact persons from each of the Departments (YM and Missions) – **The Salesian Missionary Volunteer Movement, Identity and Guidelines** approved by the Rector Major and his Council in January 2019.

G. SALESIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

The SYM’s presence in every Province promoted and accompanied, strengthening of network collaboration, and formation enabled.

Accompaniment of Provincial Delegates for Youth Ministry, called to animate the SYM.

Coordination with the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians own Sector for Youth Ministry.

An increase in opportunities for coordination among the different provincial/national SYMs in the various regions around the world.

Europe: annual General Assembly, coordination (Small Team), “**Confronto**” (a discussion forum) on the Salesian Places.

America, Africa, India, The Philippines and Middle East – strengthening of intra- and inter-provincial coordination.

At world level - “SYM Don Bosco 2015”, World Youth Days (WYD) in Krakow (2016) and Panama (2019).

Increased offerings of **formation** for young SYM leaders, at various levels.

The Department has fostered the central role of reference to the Word of God, the Papal Magisterium and Salesian Youth Spirituality

Since 2016, special attention shown to themes and documents produced by the **Synod of Bishops** on “Young people, the faith and vocational discernment”, encouraging greater awareness of the **vocational dimension**.

Opportunities for formation and coordination were also encouraged through promulgation of the Encyclical ***Laudato Si’***.

In 2019: for the first time at Colle Don Bosco, **International Retreats**, in English, for SYM young people.

OTHER PROCESSES

DON BOSCO INTERNATIONAL

Don Bosco International (DBI) – three-year STRATEGIC PLAN and OPERATIONAL PLAN.

- **Poverty and marginalisation,**
- **migration and the world of work,**
- **privileged attention to the various policies in favour of *young people*, and also children.**

Qualitative and systematic growth in animation of the various European provinces.

“The Journey of DBI”.

Visits for getting to know European institutions for young people involved in the Salesian mission.

Privileged collaboration with Don Bosco Youth Net, TGS, the Salesian Youth Movement, SYM-international.

A step towards provinces in **countries outside the European Union**

- Documentaries “Alto El Fuego” (Medellin, Colombia – COM) or “LOVE” (Sierra Leone – AFW) produced by Misiones Salesianas;
- Systematic cooperation with **Don Bosco Network** and **Salesian Presence at the United Nations.**
- **Advocacy with European institutions.**

The DBI journey - belief in **creating and strengthening synergies**: the Salesian, Catholic and Christian world, organisations with the education of the young and their integral promotion as their aim.

SALESIAN MISSIONS INC – DB-UN: SALESIANS UNITED NATIONS

Salesian presence at the United Nations - Salesian Missions Inc (official name)

We are part of the network of **Religious at the United Nations** (RUN).

Membership of **various committees**: Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons (CSTiP), Committee on Financing for Development (CFFD) – in its executive committee, Committee on Migration (COM), Committee for Human Rights (CHR), the Mining Working Group, the NGO Major Group (NGO MG). As a member of the NGO MG we are also part of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Task Group.

We are in strict collaboration with a series of **permanent missions** in our attempts at advocacy-Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, the Permanent Missions of Samoa, Antigua and Panama. Discussions with the Permanent Mission of Slovakia.

Accreditation at Geneva and Vienna.

Advocacy at the UN in New York needs to be supported by **advocacy from below**.

Some provinces take part in the **Voluntary National Review Processes** (VNR) associated with the **High Level Political Forum** (HLPF). This forum monitors implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

Don Bosco Green Alliance.

3. EPILOGUE – LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

At the end of this report it would be right to be looking to the future. The reflections that follow are split into three: first, coordination of the Department, second, choices of animation processes, third, interventions and tasks.

Coordination of the Department

- a. What is important is **constant and systematic contact with provincials**.
- b. Continuing synergy **among the Departments** for **Formation**, for the **Missions** and for **Social Communication**.
 - **Accompaniment of young Salesians, the Salesian Missionary Volunteer Movement**, work on topics of **refugees**, involvement in **advocacy** in **Brussels** and **New York**.
 - c. **Closer accompaniment of the oratory/youth centre and also parishes and sanctuaries**, and also the processes of **vocational animation and aspirantates**.

Processes of animation

- a. **Youth Ministry School** - think of it as an extended space, so that other committed Salesians and lay people can also participate in it.
- b. **Salesian spiritual accompaniment** – better planning to strengthen such an essential dimension of our pastoral ministry.
- c. Collaboration and strict synergy with the **Department for Formation** – various formation to accompaniment experiences currently underway: e.g. Madrid and Quito.
Commence experiences of **formation to Salesian spiritual accompaniment**.
- d. The **Salesian Missionary Volunteer Movement**: a challenge to be managed with pastoral intelligence together with the **Department for the Missions** like the process we have experienced till now.

Interventions and tasks

Some challenges that will need further attention:

- a. fostering a mentality and commitment in members of the **Educative and Pastoral Community** in favour of a project based on the **relationship between education and evangelisation**;
- b. keeping alive the belief in the **charismatic, pastoral and pedagogical identity** of all sectors;
- c. **formation of lay people and SDBs while also strengthening the vocational dimension of the educators**;
- d. the **challenge of evangelisation** – offering a **proposal for consistent and systematic integral growth**, **paths for formation to faith and in the faith**;
- e. **choice for the poor and the least** not only at the sector level but as a **transverse choice** that responds to the various kinds of poverty across all sectors;
- f. **formation and accompaniment aimed at young leaders**;
- g. **sustainability for optimising the school/VT**;
- h. creating **synergies among schools/VT** capable of developing school networks – **encouraging the identity of the “Salesian school”** instead of “Salesian schools”;

- i. strengthening **university pastoral ministry** inspired by the Salesian ministry model;
- j. leading **young men and women to represent youth in processes of *advocacy*** as part of the processes of the United Nations and other international forums;
- k. **studying and planning the involvement of the Salesian Family** in the various processes and fields of action belonging to Salesian Youth Ministry.