



ASSOCIATION OF SALESIAN COOPERATORS

World Council

The World Administrator

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Rome, 22 June 2010

To the attention and care of the **Provincial and Local Administrators**
and for the information of: **Members of the World Council**
Administrators of the Regional Councils
Members of Provincial Councils
Regional and Provincial SDB and FMA Delegates

Subject: **APPEAL FOR SOLIDARITY FOR THE YEAR 2010**

Dear Administrators

Please note that the World Council, following the meeting of 10-13 December 2009 on the topic of **Animation of Economic Solidarity (AES)** has decided to act unequivocally to start putting in place, among the different levels of animation of the Association, the procedures described by the AES document.

Administrators, you are responsible according to the indications laid by the Statutes of the Association to prepare and submit the financial reports to the Council at a higher level (cf. Project of Apostolic Life 2007, Statutes Art. 39, item 3), following the provisions contained in the AES document. Therefore, we urge you to send your budget to your respective higher Council in accordance to the times indicated later in this letter.

You will find the document "Animating Economic Solidarity" ("Animare la Solidarietà Economica - Novembre 1998") at our website

http://cooperatori.sdb.org/cooperatori/solidarieta_economica.html

for now in Italian, which will help you with the task at hand. As established by the World Council, the AES document must be used as source for reflection, a reference point, an object of study and translation in all councils at local centres and all Provincial Councils, to achieve what we have set ourselves to do, that is, to achieve complete economic autonomy.

From the study of the AES document emerges the important role of the Administrator, which is fundamental to help Salesian Cooperators understand and grow in the sense of a participatory solidarity. Indeed, the task requires not only be a good administrator, but above all to be the "first" among the others who act as an instrument of change and motivation to stimulate and encourage initiatives and projects that provide an income to the local centres and other possibilities and opportunities for economic income for the association.

The figure of the administrator must change. Today it is seen only as a tax collector for the association and responsible for the economic management. The first change is in the method of procedure. The request to participate in the solidarity with the association as it is shown in the budget of each Centre should not be a generic entry but should always be accompanied by a motivating project or initiative. Only with a clear and concrete objective and motivation, you can call and ask Salesian Cooperators at each local centre to participate in the solidarity with the association. In this way we promote the culture where, although far from direct involvement, everyone can become part of a "united" force of support and solidarity, if we are able to present such concrete projects.

Let us promote this mentality and let us take on a sense of belonging to a body which is united and strong, acts in the name of Don Bosco in the world and in the various missionary commitments of the association. Let us commit to undertake, to learn to work always on the basis of projects to give more visibility to our mission and to our Salesian Cooperators who are involved in the apostolate, participating in the Salesian Family spirit, either through prayer as well as the direct support and work of committed lay people in all areas of service in the Church. Our style of collective action should consolidate and establish a clear identity of associative union, strong and active in solidarity, a lay people force that animates an association at the service of young people and present where Don Bosco wanted it.

Unfortunately, the current practice rooted in the lack of understanding leaves plenty of room for improvisation and (mis)interpretation. Many local centres operate on their own account, working with the heart of the Salesian Cooperator in the mission which they are called, but without the sense of belonging to a worldwide Association.

Let us then grow and strengthen our global identity. It is the local center our ground level where we are family and where we share the apostolic mission to which we are called.

Let us, therefore, use this document as an instrument to:

- increase the sense of shared responsibility of the Association;
- foster a sense of belonging to an Association that goes beyond its local centre;
- increase our autonomy;
- support the missionary dimension of the Association;
- stimulate the qualitative and quantitative growth, so the Association may be visible in the Church and society.

Let us ask ourselves what is the meaning of these budgets

- Consider our autonomy as Lay Salesians: let us not economically depend on the Congregation of the Salesians of Don Bosco nor the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, in order to fulfill our commitments. All Provincial centres need to contribute to the economic solidarity of the World Council, which is an organ of animation for the whole Association.
- We still carry out, rightly so, the many initiatives to help support the missions, and they should also be included in this apostolate done by the Association present all over the world.

letter also wants to call everyone to use the process of setting the budgets, as indicated in the AES document. In order to meet the real needs to sustain the animation of the association at all levels (as expressed clearly by the budgets), it is necessary to make every Salesian Cooperator responsible, because everyone can contribute with what they can.

These are the steps indicated by the AES document

- ❖ The World Council submits its budget to the provinces (October / November) so that they contribute to each part, calculated on the basis of per capita income of the respective geographic area and the number of Salesian Cooperators in that area.
- ❖ The Regions that have formed a Regional Council shall forward the budget to the Provinces (October / November).
- ❖ The Provinces work out their respective budgets, including the contribution to the World Council, the budget is then divided among all centres, and provide this information to the centres by December.
- ❖ The local centre becomes aware of what is required by the Provincial Council, and will add this contribution to its own annual budget

The local administrator, together with the local council appeal to the Salesian Cooperators for a generous and responsible response to the needs of the Association. This is about both a demand to sustain our own animation in one hand, and a response given with love, sharing with each other. It is not an imposed tax.

The Provincial Councils can send the World Council an advance payment from July to September for the current year and the balance of all contributions received between January and March the following year.

Therefore we begin this journey together. We are now waiting for your **Financial Reports for Year 2009** and we thank all those Provincial Councils who have already sent their contributions.

We hope you understand how important it is for the life of the Association to "Animate the Economic Solidarity". **No need to [stress] to get it right or expect 100% compliance but definitely we are set out to achieve our best.**

In this process, we place our hope for achieving the efficiency and independence of our Association. We are sure that we will get through the economic solidarity, to achieve that spiritual and apostolic renewal that the Association has shown it can do.

Thank you for everything you do and everything you will do: May the Lord be our reward!

The World Council Administrator, Mr. Giorgio Signori, who supervised the drafting and updating of the AES document, is available for any clarifications required.

Please receive in Don Bosco and from the Rector Major our cordial and fraternal greetings.

The World Executive Secretary
Association of Salesian Cooperators
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