



SOCIETÀ DI SAN FRANCESCO DI SALES
SEDE CENTRALE SALESIANA
Via Marsala 42 - 00185 Roma

The Provincials
Provincial Headquarters

For information

Provincial Economers
Provincial Headquarters

31 January 2021
Prot. 21/0022

Dear Fr. Provincial,

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RECTOR MAJOR'S MISSIONARY SOLIDARITY

For several years now we have been developing a system for better coordination and greater transparency and accountability regarding requests of Provinces to the Rector Major for financial solidarity.

Primary Criteria

Requests for help to the Rector Major are presented by the Provincial, with the consent of his Council, by submitting a Project together with the properly filled in Project Application Form prepared by the Missions Sector.

It is important to keep in mind that the resources for the missionary solidarity of the Rector Major come mainly from Mission Offices dependent on him for the missionary activity of the whole Congregation (*Reg 24*). These Mission Offices, in turn, need to justify the projects to their donors, auditors and governments.

Similarly, donors, auditors and governments now demand detailed information about the use of donated funds. They often require evidence that the guidelines in *Laudato Si'* regarding respect and care for the environment, are reflected not only in our projects, but also in our curriculum of formation, educational programmes and even in our plans for constructions. It is also necessary that every project needs to address the issues raised by GC 27 and GC28 and the priorities of the Rector Major for the six-year period (2020-2026) as well as fit into the strategic plan of the Province (POI).

Priorities

The priorities for the missionary solidarity of the Rector Major are:

- a. Functioning of Provinces, Vice Provinces, Delegations who need help;
- b. Formation of confreres (*AGC 433*, pp. 20, 34);
- c. Evangelisation of poor and needy youth (*AGC 433*, p.22);
- d. Programmes for our lay mission partners (*AGC 433*, pp.43-44);
- e. New missionary presences or initiatives (*AGC 433*, p.48);
- f. Other programmes and projects whose nature no one else will fund.

Financial help for "other" projects like water well, drainage, solar panels, vehicles, etc are to be presented to concerned NGOs or to other funding organisations. The Mission Offices, Salesian NGO's as well as the Missions Sector could provide assistance to the PDOs, when requested, in the formulation of the project to meet their requirements.

Requests for help for the functioning of Provinces, Vice Provinces or Delegations is done only once every 12 months, be it in June or December Distribution. Requests for the functioning of the Province should include a copy of the annual budget of the Province submitted with the Project Application Form.

The Formation of Salesians

The Rector Major gives greatest priority to fund the formation of Salesians because on it depends the profile of the Salesians that are able to respond to the needs of the youth of today. Requests for formation is done only once every 12 months, be it in June or December Distribution. A letter to the Rector Major with the total number

of students is not enough. The official form prepared by the Missions Sector has to be filled in every year, with the name of each student, details of study and institute, etc., This list includes only students belonging to one's own Province. Do not include students belonging to other Provinces, even if they happen to be in the interprovincial studentate in the Province. This will be crossed checked with the help of the Formation Sector. Funds for doctoral studies in Rome are given for three years only. Requests have to be submitted every year.

It will be an important sign of communion with the whole Congregation that the Planning and Development Office of every Province mobilise local resources. Since "we share together our material goods..." (*Const* 76), no Province is only a recipient. Instead, all Provinces - even with a widow's mite (*Lk* 21,1-4) - contribute to this most noble cause which ensures the very growth and vitality of our Congregation.

Deadlines for Submission of Requests

Requests that reach the Sede Centrale are subjected to initial screening by a representative from the Missions Sector and from the Economy Sector, hence they need to be sent **at least two months** in advance. The **last dates for submission every year** are **31 March** (requests for Distribution in June) and **30 September** (requests for Distribution in December). Requests have to be submitted only to the specific email address for every distribution (e.g. 31 March 2021: *distribuzione168@sdb.org*; 30 Sept 2021: *distribuzione169@sdb.org*; 31 March 2022: *distribuzione170@sdb.org* etc.) Requests that arrive after the cut-off date will not be considered.

A Collaborative Decision

All requests are made available to the concerned Regional Councillor for perusal and comments. Then these are screened by a Committee chaired by the General Councillor for Missions, with the Economist General and a General Councillor at the beginning of the General Council's session. Finally, these are presented to the Rector Major and his Council for discussion and final approval. The Mission Offices are then authorised to distribute the funds in the name of the Rector Major. If a request is not accepted at a Distribution, it is not automatically carried over to the next Distribution. It has to be resubmitted by the Province concerned to the next distribution.

Transparency and Accountability

The practice of the vow poverty demands a transparent and complete accountability of the funds received (cf. *GC26*, n. 81). Since any request is presented to the Rector Major by the Provincial, similarly, it is his moral responsibility to ensure that funds received are used according to the purpose it was given and that these are properly accounted for through acquittal reports according to international accounting standards within an acceptable time.

Important Reminders

Finally, it is important to point out the following:

1. Every Province is asked to set up and develop its own *Planning and Development Office or Provincial Mission Office* and start or strengthen its own resource mobilisation from the public, past pupils, local benefactors, funding agencies, corporations, government, etc. The request for help from the Rector Major ought to be the last resort;
2. The long-term sustainability of any project ought to be an overriding concern (*GC 26*, n. 81);
3. Resources management is crucial through better use of buildings, land, equipment and other resources;
4. Invest on the formation of people rather than in structures. However, should new structures be necessary, it should be ensured that their maintenance over time will be manageable and they could be easily adapted to other use should the need arise in the future.
5. Provinces should have sent the previous year's Statement of Accounts and Financial Disclosure Form to the Economist General's Office in order to receive the resources approved in the Distributions.
6. Regular *Scrutinium Paupertatis* at the Province and institutional level is necessary to eliminate all waste and luxury and ensure that our existence and our work are at the service of the young who are most in need and marginalised. (cf. *AGC 425 - 2.4*).

Proper Use of Resources

Don Bosco reminds us that "what we have is not ours; it belongs to the poor; woe to us if we do not use it well" (*Const* 79). Thus, "attentive vigilance is needed in order to ensure that the goods of the Institutes are administered with prudence and transparency, that they are protected and preserved, combining the primary charismatic-spiritual dimension with the economic dimension and with efficiency, which has its own *humus* in the administrative tradition of the Institutes which does not tolerate waste and which is attentive to using resources properly" (Pope Francis, *Message to the Symposium on Management of Ecclesiastical Goods*, 8 March 2014).

In Don Bosco,


Fr Alfred Maravilla SDB
Councillor for the Missions


Bro Jean Paul Muller SDB
Economer General