

## **GENERAL REGULATIONS**

### **SECOND PART**

#### **FORMED FOR THE MISSION OF PASTORS AND EDUCATORS**

##### **VIII. General aspects of formation**

###### **Formation communities**

46. Formation communities must have a rector and a team of formation personnel who are specially prepared, above all as regards spiritual direction which is ordinarily given by the rector himself.

Those being formed and their guides must carry out with shared responsibility a periodic planning and evaluation of their work.

Those in formation should play their part in practical ways in the running of the community.

C. 103.104

47. During the period of initial formation the confreres will have once a month the talk with the superior referred to in article 70 of the Constitutions.

C. 70.105

48. To educate those being formed to a sense of personal responsibility in the use of time and to encourage the spirit of initiative, there should be a reasonable and gradual flexibility in the timetable and the day's activities, with priority for the more pressing needs of the community.

C. 103

49. The local community, since it shares the responsibility for the development of each confrere, is invited to express its opinion whenever one of its members seeks admission to profession or to holy orders. This will be done in the form most in keeping with charity.

C. 103.108

###### **Intellectual formation**

50. Our salesian mission orientates and characterizes at all levels the intellectual formation of the members in a way that is original and unique. Therefore the programme of studies must preserve a balance between serious and scientific reflection and the religious and apostolic dimensions of our way of life.

Those branches of study shall be cultivated with special care which deal with the education of and pastoral work for youth, catechesis and social communication.

C. 97

51. During the years of initial formation the studies should be so structured as to lead to degrees and qualifications recognized by the state, whenever that is possible.

52. The provinces able to do so should have their own study centre for the formation of the confreres and to provide qualified services of spiritual, pastoral and cultural animation.

When the study centre is inter-provincial, the provinces concerned shall give their responsible collaboration to enable it to achieve its aim.

As far as is possible it should also be open to externs, religious and lay, as a service to the particular Church.

C. 101

53. The assimilation of the salesian spirit is fundamentally a fact of living communication. But for this vital experience to be really efficacious it should be accompanied throughout the whole process of the initial formation by a gradual and systematic study of salesian spirituality and the history of the society.

### **Pastoral experiences**

54. The pastoral experiences should be carried out in activities proper to our mission, and should have as their purpose the development of an apostolic spirit and of the educative and pastoral potential of the salesian in formation. Such experiences should be diversified and graded so that they respond to the personal and religious development of the individual confrere and to the phase of formation he has reached.

The community has the responsibility for programming these pastoral experiences, for following up their realization with the presence and guidance of the formation personnel and for their periodic evaluation.

C. 115

### **Practical guide for formation**

55. At world level the practical guide for formation will be the salesian “Ratio fundamentalis Institutionis et Studiorum”, and at provincial level a directory approved by the Rector Major with the consent of his council.

The “Ratio” sets out in an organic and instructive way the complexus of principles and norms concerning formation which are found in the Constitutions, general Regulations and other documents of the Church and of the Congregation.

The provincial directory applies the principles and norms of salesian formation to the concrete local situations.

C. 100.101

## **IX. The formation process**

### **Immediate preparation for the novitiate**

56. Under ordinary circumstances the period of immediate preparation for the novitiate should not be less than six months in length and should be spent in a salesian community.

The details are to be laid down in the provincial directory.

### **The novitiate**

57. The house of novitiate should be in contact with social and apostolic realities of the neighbourhood. If circumstances make it desirable, the novitiate may be established alongside another suitable community.

58. When the candidate considers himself ready and sufficiently prepared he makes his application to begin the novitiate.

To be admitted he must be free from the impediments listed in the canon law (CIC can. 643-645 §1), show the aptitudes and maturity necessary for entering upon the salesian life, and his health must be such as to enable him to observe all the Constitutions of the Society.

The eventual dismissal of a novice belongs to the provincial of the novitiate house.

59. Studies during the novitiate should be carried out seriously and follow a precise programme which forms part of the overall plan of studies. They should have as their overriding objective initiation into the mystery of Christ, so that the novice by means of contact with the word of God may develop a deeper life of faith and a loving knowledge of God.

A solid theological basis for the religious life should also be presented. The Constitutions, the life of Don Bosco and our traditions should be studied.

60. At an appropriate time at the beginning of the novitiate, and again before making vows, the novices are to make a retreat.

61. During the novitiate the novice may freely leave the Institute. If he remains he will be admitted to profession after he has made the necessary application and if he is judged suitable; otherwise he is sent away.

In special cases the provincial may prolong the novitiate, but not beyond a further six months in accordance with can.653.

62. When a religious in perpetual vows asks to pass from his own institute to our Society, he must undergo a period of trial of at least 3 years duration in one of our communities, so that he may assimilate our spirit.

At the end of this time he may make formal request for admission, and if he is accepted may make his perpetual professional in accordance with canon law.

### **Formation after the novitiate**

63. Immediately after the novitiate all confreres must continue their formation for at least a two-year period in formation communities, preferably studentates.

During this period the general philosophical and pedagogical formation is given, with an introduction to theology. Technical, scientific or professional training may also be commenced or continued with specific qualifications in view.

C. 113.114

64. Practical training lasts ordinarily for two years and is carried out before perpetual profession in a community that can provide whatever is necessary for the validity of this experience.

C. 115

65. Members who are preparing for the priesthood must receive, over a minimum period of four years, a more intense and specifically priestly formation in formation communities, preferably studentates.

They must attend seriously to theological studies, preferably, in salesian centres.

During this period they must not undertake duties or other studies that will interfere with the specific purpose of this formative phase.

C. 116

66. In the phase which completes their initial formation following the practical training, lay salesians must be afforded the possibility for acquiring a serious theological, salesian and pedagogical preparation suited to their cultural level.

They should be engaged also, according to their talents, in studies aimed at their professional preparation in view of the apostolic work they will later carry out.

C. 116

### **Ongoing formation**

67. Ongoing formation requires that each confrere develop his capacity for communication and dialogue; he should form in himself an open and discerning mentality and a spirit of initiative, and in this way conveniently renew his own plan of life.

Each one should cultivate the habit of reading and the study of those branches of knowledge proper to his mission; he should maintain his openness to prayer, meditation, and to personal and community spiritual direction.

C. 118.119

100. Let every confrere study with his superior the field of further qualification best suited to his abilities and to the needs of the province, giving preference to whatever concerns our mission.

He should preserve that availability which is characteristic of our spirit, and be ready for periodic re-qualification.

C. 118.119

101. It is the duty of the provincial and his council to promote ordinary means and also extra ordinary initiatives for spiritual and cultural formation.

Meetings of rectors, of pastoral animators, of eonomers and of other confreres should be occasions for deepening our salesian identity in its educational and pastoral dimensions.

An attitude of ready acceptance should be fostered to formative opportunities offered by different organisms of the Church and of society.

Inter-provincial initiatives should be carried out by the provincials concerned in agreement with the regional councillor.

C. 101.118.119.161

102. All salesians in their mature years should periodically be offered the possibility of spending an appropriate period of time for their renewal.

Provinces should take this need into account in their planning, and each confrere should respond to it for his own good and that of the community.

C. 101.118.119