

REFLECTION FOR THE SELECTION OF ANIMATORS IN OUR ASSOCIATION

The Tasks of the Provincial Council are

“To animate, is to give life”, it is much more than governing, than managing and organizing; it is above all, a spiritual animation, concerned with motivating people. It is a question of deepening the sense of identity around the values, criteria, and objectives, to make present the unity and the globality of the pastoral project.

Salesian animation guides the options, to unite and create communion around a shared project, where we try to bring everyone together and for this we favor information and communication, and at the same time we promote collaboration and increase the sense of belonging.

In article 35 of the Project of Apostolic Life – Regulations of the Association of Salesian Cooperators reference is made to the structures of animation and governance at local, provincial and world level:

"The Association, without prejudice to the authority of the Rector Major, normally represented by his Vicar, or by a delegate, entrusts, for its own governance and animation, to the Local, Provincial and World Councils, which also include the presence of religious members appointed by the Provincials SDB and FMA for the local and Provincial Councils and by the Rector Major for the World Council. The legal representation of the Association is entrusted to the Coordinator of the respective Council”.

There is no doubt about the importance of the councils of the Association as well as the animation of the Association at the different levels of its organization. In the Regulations of the PAL (Cf. Art. 17.1) it is stipulated that assuming responsibilities of animation in the Association is an apostolate for which all Salesian Cooperators must be as well prepared as possible and be available. “

What are the essential qualities to animate the Association at all levels?

1. First of all, you have to be a person of communion, a builder of peace, a person who listens, a seeker of God for whom it is clear that being a councilor is not synonymous with any reward or holding a power that fuels selfishness and personal conflict; such as, for example, disdaining and rejecting the work done by previous leaders, but rather, with an attitude of respect, one must try to give continuity to the previous work of animation, incorporating new objectives and motivating challenges, knowing that to be a good councilor, it is not necessary to be a highly qualified, important or powerful person, because we know that God is the one who forms us to be able to develop the vocation

to which we have been called and to which one day we said YES with the APOSTOLIC PROMISE.

This humble service is a short-term mission that must be offered with benevolence, trying that with generous dedication we can cooperate so that everyone can grow in charity, spirituality, fraternity and solidarity.

Above all, you need to be available.

Adequate associative formation with the promise made for at least 3 years (or similar years of active involvement with the Salesian family in its life and mission) and be an active member in a Center in the past year, which can be verified by:

- His /Her participation in regularly scheduled meetings, in the activities of his/her center and in the formation opportunities offered by the Association.
- His /Her regular monthly financial contribution (set by his/her Local Centre) as a sign of membership in the Association.
- To have a clear and coherent way of life in TUNE with the Gospel, in COMMUNION with the Church and with FIDELITY to the Project of Apostolic Life.
- It is relevant, but not exclusive, to have had prior experience of animation, to have or have had a significant apostolic commitment and to have fulfilled the tasks to which he/she committed himself/herself.
- Witnessing to a life within the Association, expressing a clear and permanent attitude of charity, service and fraternal conviviality.

2. In developing the tasks of animation and government in the various Councils of our Association, it is necessary to be clear about those concepts which guide them and link them to the Gospel content and to the human sciences.

- **FORMATION:** Observed in its three dimensions: human (in values), Christian (consistency of life with the Gospel and the Church), Salesian (prayer, work and perseverance in vocation).
- **SERVICE:** You must always be an active member. Efficient service, generous dedication and constant availability are necessary, it is not enough to be formed.
- **COLLEGIALITY:** We must act with a collegial spirit. For this, dialogue and listening are fundamental, respecting everyone's opinion, feeling part of a team that works in harmony for the common good. One-person decisions are the opposite of collegiality