



**ASSOCIATION
OF PAULINE COOPERATORS
STATUTE AND DIRECTORY**

AD EXPERIMENTUM

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ABBREVIATIONS

A. CHURCH DOCUMENTS

- AA *Apostolicam actuositatem* (Decree on the apostolate of the laity by Paul VI, 18 November 1965)
- CL *Christifideles laici* (Apostolic exhortation of John Paul II, 30 December 1988)
- EN *Evangelii nuntiandi* (Apostolic exhortation of Paul VI, 8 December 1975)
- SC *Sacrosanctum concilium* (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 4 December 1963)
- VC *Vita consecrata* (Apostolic exhortation by John Paul II, 25 March 1996)

B. SSP DOCUMENTS

- Doc. Cap. *Documenti capitolari* (Special General Chapter of SSP, 1969-1971)

C. WRITINGS OF THE FOUNDER

- AD *Abundantes divitiae gratiae suae* (Rome, 1971).
- CISP *Carissimi in San Paolo* (Rome, 1971).
- UCBS *Unione Cooperatori Buona Stampa* (Bulletin of Pauline Cooperators, 1918-1928)
- UPS *Ut perfectus sit homo Dei* (Albano-Ostia, 1960-62), in I-IV volumes

D. TECHNICAL TERMS

- Local refers to parish or city
- Provincial refers to diocese or province
- Regional refers to interdioceses or zone or prefecture
- National refers to nation or country

I. PRESENTATION

The *Statute* and the *Directory* of the Association of Pauline Cooperators are two distinct documents that have a different value.

The *Statute* covers all the Pauline Cooperators who form part of any Institute of the Pauline Family, and is jointly signed and approved by the Superiors General of the pauline Congregations. It is shown below in a larger text.

The *Directory* that follows concerns exclusively the Association of Pauline Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul and is in a smaller text.

The *Directory* of the Association of Pauline Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul is subdivided in VIII chapters like the *Statute* to which it is closely connected and indicates the characteristics of these Cooperators with respect to those of the other Institutions of the Pauline Family.

The *distinct elements* are specified in the following articles:

«9.3 In accord with the Society of St. Paul and having at heart the constant preoccupation of the Church, the Association strives to:

- guide the members in the way of holiness;
- promote the apostolic commitment by participating in the specific mission of evangelization of the Society of St. Paul through communication;
- promote and engage in the other apostolates specific to the other Congregations and Institutes of the Pauline Family».

«**9.5** In order to live in communion with the other Pauline brothers and sisters, the Cooperator shall follow the spiritual-apostolic directives assumed by the Society of St. Paul».

The *formation* of the Cooperator of the Society of St. Paul is now very well taken care of and finds an ample description in chapter IV of the *Directory*:

«**11.1** The Society of St. Paul should take care to promote the vocation and formation of Cooperators according to the mind of the Founder and the exigencies of the Church».

«**11.2** The Cooperator, to better respond to the personal call to holiness and mission, pledges to promote an integral formation that commits oneself in its various aspects: **human, spiritual-charismatic, doctrinal**, and specifically **Pauline apostolic**».

11.2.1 Human formation is accomplished by cultivating particularly the values of the person, family, work, justice, solidarity and responsibility for the environment and the earth's resources...

11.2.2 Spiritual-charismatic formation is carried out through...

11.2.3 Doctrinal formation is undertaken through...

11.2.4 Pauline apostolic formation is acquired...

Chapter V of the *Directory* defines and describes in detail the three forms of cooperation: *prayer, work* and *offerings*; while Chapter VII redefines the organization of the Association of

Pauline Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul starting from the general level (*Statute*: General Board of Directors and General Executive Board), to the national level (*Statute*: National Board of Directors and National Executive Board) and, in the *Directory*, at the general and national level of delegation. The organizational chart tries to put in order the structure of the larger realities, ensuring that those of smaller entity can easily adapt in the various levels (regional, provincial and local).

In Chapter VIII, *How to Become a Pauline Cooperator*, it is clearly defined the formation journey of two years, the conditions for making the *Promise* as well as what will be given to the new Cooperator: the *Statute*, the *Directory*, the *Emblem* of the Pauline Family and the book *The Prayers of the Pauline Family*.

Even if this refers to the Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul, in the *Directory* is underlined the membership to the entire Pauline Family which, according to Fr. Alberione, is always inclusive and never an exclusive reality.

Those directly responsible are expected to send their eventual observations in order to formulate a better *Directory* of the Pauline Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul.

Wishing you all the best.

Fr. Silvio Sassi
Superior general

Rome, 4 April 2013

II. BRIEF HISTORY

"In 1908 I heard this invitation from my spiritual director: 'Always remember: An-nuerunt sociis: it is necessary to seek help' [cf. Lk. 5:7]. So I began to look after the co-operators" (Per un rinnovamento spirituale, 566).

1. The Association of Pauline Cooperators was founded in Alba (Cuneo), Italy, on 29 June 1917 by Fr. James Alberione, who envisioned it as closely connected to the religious Institute he had begun a short time earlier: the masculine branch in 1914 and the feminine branch in 1915, both of which were dedicated to fostering the Good Press. The Founder had in mind the example of St. Paul who, in his apostolic ministry, took advantage of the collaboration of many people: men, women, married couples, disciples... (cf. Rm. 16:3, 9, 21; 2 Co. 8:23; Phil. 2:25, 4:3; 1 Th. 3:2; Phlm. 1:24; Acts 19:22). In fact, the Association (in the beginning known as the "Union of Cooperators for the Good Press", 1924) was set up under the protection of St. Paul, as can be seen in article 1 of the very brief Statute prepared by Fr. Alberione himself and approved by the Bishop of Alba, Giuseppe Francesco Re, on 29 September 1918.
2. The Association steadily developed under the guidance of the Founder, who widened the radius of the Cooperators' actions to include the specific purposes of the other Pauline Congregations that were successively founded, extending it to the Eucharistic-Liturgical sphere (the Pious Disciples), pastoral work in parishes and dioceses (Pastorelle Sisters) and vocation work (the Apostoline Sisters).

3. Continuing the work of the Founder, the General Governments of the five Pauline Congregations – with the involvement of the Pauline Institutes of consecrated secular life, also founded by Fr. Alberione in the last years of his life – repeatedly reaffirmed the decision to promote and favour the development of the Pauline Cooperators, proceeding in a spirit of unity while at the same time respecting the spaces typical of each of Institute. In this way, the effort was made to further the reality already noted by the Founder himself: “The blessing of the Lord on this work, which is entirely his, has yielded good fruit” (UCBS, 1924).

4. In line with this, an updated version of the Statute was prepared so as to integrate into the original Statute the directives of Vatican II, our Special General Chapters and long years of life and experience. It was signed by Superior General Fr. Renato Perino on 30 June 1985 and presented to the Congregation for Religious and for Secular Institutes on 30 November 1987. The Sacred Congregation approved the Statute on 11 March 1988, the date on which the Union became an Association and therefore authorized to live and work throughout the Catholic world.

5. In February 1990, during the 8th Meeting of the General Governments of the Pauline Family, an Intercongregational Commission was set up to integrate the Statute even further so as to make it more open and easily applicable to all the groups of Cooperators who are connected to the above-mentioned Pauline Institutions. Thus a more organic Statute was drawn up, approved in 1992 for internal use on an *ad experimentum* basis, and was applied for several years. During the 25th Meeting of the General Governments (January 2007), the decision was made to collect together all the experiences of the long

preceding period, draw up a new Statute, and request its approval of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. This Statute, common to the Cooperators of all the Congregations and Institutes of the Pauline Family, would then be supplemented by Directories and Rules specific to each Institution, with the same period of experimentation as the present Statute.

III. NATURE, PURPOSE, NAME, GOVERNMENT

“The idea behind the Cooperators was this: persons who understand the Pauline Family and are united to it in spirit and intention...” (From a manuscript of Fr. James Alberione, 11 June 1954).

6. The Association of Pauline Cooperators is a branch of the Pauline Family, founded by Fr. James Alberione and made up of the following Institutions:

- Society of St. Paul
- Pious Society of the Daughters of St. Paul
- Pious Disciples of the Divine Master
- Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd (Pastorelle Sisters)
- Queen of Apostles Institute for Vocations
- Institutes Aggregated to the Society of St. Paul:
 - Jesus the Priest
 - Our Lady of the Annunciation
 - St. Gabriel the Archangel
 - Holy Family
- Association of Pauline Cooperators.

7. The Association of Pauline Cooperators makes its own the purpose of the Pauline Family, embracing “as externs”—as the Founder put it— all the apostolates of the other Pauline Institutions, as little by little these developed over the years, to the point of integrally living the Gospel in the spirit of St. Paul, under the gaze of Mary, Queen of Apostles (AD 93), and communicating it to the world with the means that correspond

best to the purpose of the individual Congregations: social communications (the specific purpose of the Society of St. Paul and the Pious Society of the Daughters of St. Paul); the Eucharist, the Priesthood and the Liturgy (the specific purpose of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master); pastoral work in parishes and dioceses (the specific purpose of the Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd [Pastorelle Sisters]), the promotion and nurturing of vocations (the specific purpose of the Queen of Apostles Institute for Vocations), as well as openness to other spheres that characterize the consecrated secular life of the Aggregated Pauline Institutes.

7.1 The Association of Pauline Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul, like the other Institutes of the Pauline Family of Father Alberione, is a bearer of the common Pauline mission and is co-responsible for the apostolic project of making known Jesus Master Way, Truth, and Life in the world. It brings to the Society of St. Paul the specific values of secularity, recognizing the identity and autonomy of every Congregation and Institute. It has a particular rapport of communion with the Society of St. Paul from which it finds its historical and spiritual roots (cf. *Doc. Cap.* 321; cf. *AA* 1, 4).

7.1.1 In maintaining “the specific values and identity of secularity”, it is counselled that the members of the Association do not have any uniform that would distinguish them from others like when a religious would wear a habit.

- As “leaven and salt of the earth” – hidden and unseen – what rather should distinguish the Cooperators from others are their good works and exemplary comportments, whether in their homes or in the parish or in their places of work.
- As an outward sign of one’s being part of the Pauline Family the Cooperator can wear the emblem of the Pauline Family, given during the making of the Promise (cf. 20.2).

7.2 The mission of the Society of St. Paul offers many possibilities of apostolate to all and everyone can find a precious opportunity to actualize one's Christian vocation in it.

8. In conformity with the directives of the Founder, the Association of Pauline Cooperators is entrusted to the care of the Superior General of the Society of St Paul, whose duty is to verify the conditions for becoming a member of it.

9. Who can be a member of the Association of Pauline Cooperators? Persons who understand the value of the Pauline Family's mission and want to collaborate in its fulfilment, thus finding a precious opportunity to use their skills to fulfil their Christian vocation and enable the talents they received from the Lord to bear fruit. In welcoming his/her special call, the Cooperator adheres to the Pauline ideal and commits him/herself to incarnating it in daily life according to the directives of the Church, which invites the laity to "share more intensely in the spirituality and mission of various religious Institutes" (VC, 54).

9.1 The members of the Association of Pauline Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul are:

- The lay faithful of every age and condition who are aware that Christ called them to the perfection of charity and to work for evangelization.
- The priests and religious who understand the validity of the specific mission of the Society of St. Paul and intend to collaborate to its realization.

9.2 The members cooperate in many ways carried out with a Pauline spirit as indicated by the Founder (cf. *UPS* I, 20; *CISP*, 389-390; *AD* 342; *UPS* I, 381):

- prayer;
- works;
- offerings.

9.3 In accord with the Society of St. Paul and having at heart the constant preoccupation of the Church, the Association strives to:

- guide the members in the way of holiness;
- promote the apostolic commitment by participating in the specific mission of evangelization of the Society of St. Paul through communication;
- promote and engage in the other apostolates specific to the other Congregations and Institutes of the Pauline Family.

9.4 In living one's particular vocation, the Cooperator adheres to the Pauline ideal and tries to incarnate it in one's daily life:

- by assuming, in the spirit of the beatitudes, the Pauline spirituality, having as models Jesus Master Way, Truth, and Life, Mary Queen of the Apostles and St. Paul the Apostle; and
- by cooperating through prayers, works, and offerings.

9.5 In order to live in communion with the other Pauline brothers and sisters, the Cooperator shall follow the spiritual-apostolic directives assumed by the Society of St. Paul.

9.6 After becoming member of the Association, the Cooperator is not to join other religious associations that would make one ineffective in living out the demands of the Association and one's specific mission.

IV. FORMATION OF THE PAULINE COOPERATOR

“Enrolment in the Cooperators should be preceded—and especially followed up with—suitable instruction. It is certainly a good thing that the faithful want to participate in the 2400 Holy Masses, but this is just one step. They must be enlightened and participate, according to their possibilities, in the Pauline life and works; they must come to understand always more the meaning of true cooperation and carry it out generously” (Fr. Alberione, “Our Cooperators,” in San Paolo, April 1951).

10. It is the duty of each Institution, working in synergy, to promote the formation of the Pauline Cooperator according to the thought of the Founder and the needs of the Church, without losing sight of the Pauline Family as a whole, in keeping with the specific charism of the Institution to which the Cooperator wants to associate him/herself more closely.

11. Consequently, it is the duty of the individual Institutions to draw up their own specific formative *iters*, in view of the integral and permanent formation of the Cooperator, as a continual personal process of maturation in faith and of configuration to Christ, according to the will of the Father, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (cf. CL, 57), so as to [help the individual] discover always more clearly his/her particular vocation and be ever more ready to live it in fulfilling his/her mission as a lay person (cf. AA, 28, 29b).

11.1 The Society of St. Paul should take care to promote the vocation and formation of Cooperators according to the mind of the Founder and the exigencies of the Church.

11.2 The Cooperator, to better respond to the personal call to holiness and mission, pledges to promote an integral formation that commits oneself in its various aspects: **human, spiritual-charismatic, doctrinal**, and specifically **Pauline apostolic**.

11.2.1 Human formation is accomplished by cultivating particularly the values of the person, family, work, justice, solidarity and responsibility for the environment and the earth's resources. The Cooperator:

- will take care of deepening the *Social Doctrines of the Church* in all its implications, studying them in the light of Jesus Master Way, Truth, and Life and relating them to one's daily life;
- will endeavour to work honestly, considering it – after the example of the Apostle Paul – as service to the brothers and sisters and a witness of Christian life;
- will try to develop solidarity in charity, sustained by a deep sense of justice in the light of the Beatitudes;
- will get actively involved in safeguarding the environment and will practise the responsible use of what nature has gifted humanity.

11.2.2 Spiritual-charismatic formation is carried out through:

- the reading, study and meditation of the Sacred Scripture especially the Gospel, the Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of St. Paul;
- the commitment to build a spirituality that has at its heart and as foundation Jesus Master Way, Truth, and Life, the integral Christ as known by St. Paul who sees in Christ the fulfilment of the Sacred Scriptures (cf. AD 159-160);

- the capacity to entrust oneself to Mary, Queen of Apostles and to St. Paul the Apostle, model of every Pauline and guide in the process of Christification: “It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2:20).
- being nourished daily at the table of the Word, meditation and spiritual reading;
- a mature discipleship that is guided by Christ the Master, in the course of the liturgical year. There is no better school for the spiritual formation of each Pauline than participation in the life of grace that the liturgy gives;
- the “full, active and fruitful” participation at the Eucharist “in order to be everything in Christ, a total love for God: intellect, will, heart, physical forces.” “Everything: nature, grace, vocation to the apostolate. A car that runs on four wheels: holiness, study, apostolate, poverty” (AD 100; cf. CISP 10);
- an increasingly solid knowledge that Pauline piety is Eucharistic: All springs from the vital source which is the Eucharistic Master (cf. AD 16-19, 82, 95, 155). From the Eucharist Adoration one learns to draw nourishment for one’s spiritual life and apostolate;
- the daily examination of conscience done according to the mind of the Church and of the Founder: *cor poenitens tenete* (“have a contrite heart”). In this way one learns to restore the right relationship with God, with oneself and with one’s neighbour and to value the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and takes the right consideration for the need of a spiritual direction as an indispensable means to walk with certainty and progress in the Christian life (cf. AD 158).
- the Liturgy of the Hours or part of it, especially the Morning Praises and the Evening Prayer. In this way, the Cooperator learns to sanctify time by participating in the common and official prayer of the Church;

- the harmonisation of the exercises of piety with the sacred liturgy (cf. SC 13). In particular, with the attentive and meditative prayer of the Holy Rosary one learns to grow in devotion to the Queen of the Apostles. The Cooperator will have an important tool in one's hands: *The Prayers of the Pauline Family*, which will be given during the rite of Promise and which, in addition to other prayers, contains introductions written by Fr. Alberione himself;
- participation in the meetings, reunions and retreats that are expressly promoted by the Association and which would allow one the knowledge of the spiritual heritage of the Pauline Family;
- the reading and study of the thoughts of blessed Alberione and the documents that the Society of St. Paul and the same Pauline Family can furnish;
- the participation in the spiritual, formative meetings promoted by the group to which one belongs for a greater communion among the members and for a progressive knowledge of the Pauline charism.

11.2.3 Doctrinal formation is undertaken through the reading and study of the documents of the Church and those related to the pastoral mission of the Society of St. Paul and the Pauline Family: evangelization, catechism, liturgy, communication, vocation promotion, the Cooperator:

- is to know the Magisterium of the Church, study the II Vatican Council documents, particularly those regarding the laity; know the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and its doctrine;
- should be able to penetrate the human thought and knowledge with Gospel values which is light and salt of the world (cf. AD 87);
- should take into consideration the liturgical documents to better live the mystery of Christ in the sacramental signs of

the Church, appreciate and cultivate the communicative force of liturgical art and sacred music (cf. *AD* 74);

- should be attentive to the documents and the parochial and diocesan pastoral plans in order to understand the reality in which one lives and eventually take part in them with mature responsibility.

11.2.4 Pauline apostolic formation is acquired by lending oneself to collaborate in various ways to the apostolic initiatives of the Society of St. Paul and the Pauline Family. Without forgetting that the Cooperators are "for the Church" and that – for their specific lay vocation – "the proper place of their evangelizing activity is the world" (*EN* 70), each Cooperator should learn to offer its particular service to the needs of one's local Church, by mutual agreement with the Society of St. Paul to which one is united for the benefit of the universal Church (cf. *AD* 65). This specific formation aims to strengthen in the candidates the "special" mission that they should accomplish as future Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul: to proclaim the Good News by giving maximum importance to the culture of communication. For this:

- they should particularly learn and assume a critical outlook and pro-active attitude towards the messages that the various media spread;
- they should commit themselves to have special knowledge about the potentialities of all means and all modes of communication for the purpose of evangelization and for the spread of the Word of God, the Christian faith, morals and liturgy;
- they should seek to acquire a basic formation for the wise and positive use of social media and new ways of communicating as important occasions for evangelisation.

12. To be enrolled in the Pauline Cooperators, it is necessary to undergo a two-year period of formation, which concludes with the making of a Promise.

12.1 The formation period of the Cooperator of two years before making the Promise should be, whenever possible, uninterrupted.

12.1.1 For valid reasons the formation of the candidate may be interrupted; but it should not go beyond an accumulation of three months.

12.1.2 Only the circumscription Superior of the Society of St. Paul can validly decide how the formation of the candidate would proceed in case of such interruption, upon the recommendation of the local Coordinator through the National Delegate.

12.1.3 In exceptional cases, the circumscription Superior may lessen the period of formation of the candidate upon the recommendation of the local Coordinator through the National Delegate.

12.1.4 The circumscription Superior can prolong the period of formation of the candidate upon the recommendation of the local Coordinator through the National Delegate.

13. Jesus Master Way, Truth and Life, St. Paul the Apostle and Mary, Queen of Apostles¹ are the essential points of reference with regard to the spiritual physiognomy of the Pauline Cooperator.

13.1 The Solemnity of Jesus Master is celebrated on the last Sunday of October; while the Feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles is

¹ The Pauline Cooperators who collaborate with the Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd (Pastorelle Sisters) will look to Jesus the Good Shepherd, Way, Truth and Life, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd as their points of reference, including in the formula of the Promise.

celebrated on the Saturday after the Lord's Ascension; and the Feast of St. Paul the Apostle is celebrated on 30th June.

13.2 Other Feasts of the Pauline Family include: Jesus, Good Shepherd (4th Sunday of Easter); Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd (3rd September); Holy Family (Sunday within the Octave of Christmas); Mary of the Annunciation (25th March); Sts. Peter and Paul Apostles (29th June); St. Gabriel the Archangel (29th September); blessed James Alberione (26th November); and blessed Timothy Giaccardo (19th October).

14. The Association of Pauline Cooperators has an official organ of formation-information: *Il Cooperatore Paolino* (*The Pauline Cooperator*), accessible in digital format on the www.alberione.org website, which contains material provided by the Institutions of the Pauline Family.

14.1 The magazine *The Pauline Cooperator* (Italian edition,) may be replicated in other countries where the Society of St. Paul and other Pauline Family Congregations and Institutes are present.

V. FORMS OF COOPERATION

“To pray and work for vocations: this is the principal [form of] cooperation. There is the apostolate of the press.... There is the apostolate of the Sacred Liturgy.... There is the pastoral apostolate of the priests and Pastorelle Sisters...” (From a manuscript of Fr. Alberione, 18 Dec. 1965).

15. *Prayer:* this is the most necessary cooperation. It consists in offering personal and communitarian prayers for the diffusion of the Gospel and the coming of the Kingdom of God in the world. The Cooperator cultivates a profound prayer of praise, thanksgiving, reparation and intercession in Christ, and also promotes prayer initiatives in his/her specific environment.

15.1 The Cooperator promotes initiatives of prayer; organizes and facilitates prayer meetings for the youth and, where possible, the Eucharistic adoration in the parish community.

15.2 The Cooperator cultivates prayer of praise, thanksgiving, reparation, and intercession in Christ, the only Mediator between God and men. One is aided by the book *The Prayers of the Pauline Family*, which contains the common prayers and those that characterize the praying activity of the Pauline Family. One's prayer will be for this: Eucharist, apostolic, Marian.

- Like St. Paul, the Pauline Cooperator incessantly prays, trying to penetrate deeply the mystery of Christ; intercedes for all those reached by one's work and mission, and for those who work in the Church for the spreading of the Gospel.

- A precious form of prayer is the offering to God of one's sufferings, uniting these to those of Christ, to repair for the evil caused by the abuse of those means which for Paulines are instead apostolic instruments and to ask for graces on the apostles and the apostolate.
- The Cooperator offers every moment of one's life transforming it in prayer "for Christ, with Christ and in Christ" who gave His life for the salvation of men.
- When the Cooperator, for motive of health, cannot participate in the spiritual-formative meetings of the Group, one unites oneself in communion through personal prayer and offering of one's suffering for the whole Pauline Family, so that the apostolate be for "the glory of God and peace to men".

16. *Works:* the Cooperator shares in the work of evangelization of the Pauline Family in the ways possible to him/her, according to his/her aptitudes and the time and means at his/her disposal, in the different apostolates of the individual Pauline Institutions to which he/she is connected.

16.1 The Cooperator exercises the apostolate using the most efficacious means in the place of one's profession, personal relations and family demands, in circumstances the environment represents. To such end:

- collaborates in the publishing, marketing and diffusion of the printed matter, of the audio-visuals and of the digital means, particularly those produced by the Society of St. Paul;
- where there are "parish and diocesan centres of communication", one prepares programs for the radio, TV and the digital media;
- in places where such organizations are non-existent, the Cooperators could ask for their establishment and give their generous collaboration;

- one should be devoted generously to the spreading of the Word of God and should promote its knowledge by organizing and participating in the “Gospel Days”, in the “Bible Week” and in other apostolic and cultural initiatives;
- promotes the Centres for listening to the Word of God; encourages the reading of the Bible, specially the New Testament; facilitates or guides the *Lectio Divina*;
- one is to be committed in animating families to prayer, in family catechesis, in accompaniment.

16.2 The Group can make a programme of activities taking inspiration from the apostolates of the entire Pauline Family:

- organizes the Eucharistic adoration, takes care of the service to priests, gets involved in the upkeep of sacred furnishings, facilitates the initiatives oriented to develop the knowledge of the liturgy and its actuation;
- promotes parish and diocesan activities particularly in catechesis, liturgical life and works of charity;
- supports the vocation promotion of the Pauline Family, collaborating with vocation promoters, and for the whole Church, especially on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations (4th Sunday of Easter); distributes vocational material and, where it is possible, organizes vocational exhibitions;
- participates in the preparation and celebration of the World Day of Social Communications.

17. *Offerings*: as a sign of one’s generosity and zeal, the Co-operator freely contributes, according to one’s possibilities, to the apostolic initiatives of the Pauline Family so as to help it reach its goals.

17.1 Aware of the high cost demanded by the various apostolic activities of the Society of St. Paul the Cooperator:

- freely contributes according to one's means to those initiatives that call for greater assistance;
- supports the missions and new foundations of the Society of St. Paul;
- collaborates in looking for materials for the construction of apostolic centres and in acquiring new equipment necessary for apostolic activities;
- shares in the expenses of the production of books (in their various formats: print and digital), especially the Bible and the Gospels to be distributed *gratis*, or offered at a minimum price in hospitals and charitable institutions, poor families, children and youth;
- offers scholarship in order to accompany the formation of needy Pauline seminarians.

17.2 In giving their offering to the evangelizing activity of the Society of St. Paul, the Cooperators shall remember what St. Paul says to the Corinthians when he invites them to share their goods with the needy Christians of Jerusalem (cf. 2Cor 8:1-15).

VI. SPIRITUAL ADVANTAGES LINKED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF PAULINE COOPERATORS

“The two thousand Masses are a tribute of gratitude that the Pious Society of St. Paul offers each year for all the benefactors of the Families of St. Paul” (Fr. Alberione, “Our Cooperators,” in San Paolo, April 1951).

18. The Holy See grants all Pauline Cooperators duly enrolled in the Association the opportunity to gain the plenary indulgence on the following feast days:

- Feast of Jesus Master Way, Truth and Life;
- Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ;
- Feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles;
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception;
- Feast of the Assumption;
- Feast of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary;
- Feast of St. Paul the Apostle.²

19. In gratitude to and acknowledgment of the Cooperators, the Society of St. Paul celebrates 2,400 Masses–Perpetual Masses–for them every year and will continue to celebrate them “as long as it pleases the Lord to keep the Congregation in existence” (Fr. Alberione, Alba, 01.04.1936, “The Coopera-

² For the Pauline Cooperators inserted in groups connected to the Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd (Pastorelle Sisters), the following feast days are also included: Sts. Peter and Paul; Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd; the 4th Sunday of Easter.

tors," in *San Paolo*, n. 24). To enjoy the fruit of the Perpetual Masses, it is necessary that the person's name be recorded in a register maintained for this purpose, in keeping with the instructions issued by the Superior General of the Society of St. Paul.

VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PAULINE COOPERATORS

20. On the *general level*, the structure of the Association of Pauline Cooperators is subdivided as follows:

20.1. The *General Board of Directors* is composed of the Superiors General of the Society of St. Paul, the Daughters of St. Paul, the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master, the Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd (Pastorelle Sisters), and the Queen of Apostles Institute. It is the duty of the General Board of Directors to set down directives concerning the whole Association of Pauline Cooperators, prepare or update its Statutes, ensure that the Directory of each Institute is in harmony with the Statute, provide basic guidelines for the formation of the Association's members, and convoke international assemblies, choosing the theme, fixing the venue and taking care of its organization.

20.1.1 The Superior General of the Society of St. Paul as member of the General Board of Directors has the following duties other than what are stated above:

- appoints his Delegate General to the General Executive Board;
- he is co-responsible of electing some Cooperators to be members of the General Executive Board.

20.1.2 The Superior General of the Society of St. Paul in his function as *Altrice* (cf. AD 33-35) is the point of reference of all the Cooperators.

20.1.3 The general and institutional Office of the Association of Pauline Cooperators is at the General House of the Society of St. Paul in Rome.

20.1.4 The members of the General Board of Directors meet at least once a year.

20.1.5 The Superior General of the Society of St. Paul on matters of ordinary administration of the Association of Pauline Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul acts through his Delegate General.

20.2. The *General Executive Board* is composed of Delegates appointed by the Superiors General. These delegates can include several Cooperators chosen by the General Board of Directors at the recommendation of the National Delegations.

20.2.1 The Delegate General of the Society of St. Paul, together with the other Delegates General of the Superiors General, has the following duties:

- fulfils the general directives concerning the whole Association of Pauline Cooperators;
- revises and updates the Statute and assures its application;
- helps in seeing to it that the guidelines for the formation of the members of the Association are implemented;
- meets the other members of the General Executive Board at least once a year.

20.2.2 On behalf of the Superior General he acts on matters of ordinary administration of the Association of Pauline Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul and every year gives a report on the formation and apostolic activities of the Cooperators in the world.

21. On the *national level*, the structure of the Association of Pauline Cooperators is specified as follows:

21.1. The *National Board of Directors* is composed of the circumscription Superiors of the Society of St. Paul, the Daughters of St. Paul, the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master, the Sisters of Jesus

the Good Shepherd (Pastorelle Sisters), and the Queen of Apostles Institute present in the country. The National Board of Directors is presided over by turn for a three-year period by one of the Superiors that compose it. The Board is to meet at least once a year to inform its members about what was done, coordinate particular initiatives of the Pauline Family on the national level, convoke elective assemblies, and evaluate formation itineraries and the progress of the Cooperators in the individual countries.

21.1.1 The circumscription Superior of the Society of St. Paul, with the other members of the National Board of Directors, has the following responsibilities:

- appoints his National Delegate to the National Executive Board;
- appoints the Secretary of the National Board of Directors from among their own members for a term of three years;
- appoints the Secretary and Treasurer of the National Executive Board, also among the members of the Board themselves;
- appoints some Cooperators in the National Executive Board;
- convokes the elective assemblies;
- appoints, wherever possible, Cooperators to represent the Association in the Council of the Laity in the provincial and the national levels;
- appoints, wherever possible, the inter-congregational Coordinators of the Association in the local, provincial and regional levels in places where there are at least two congregational groups of Cooperators.

21.1.2 The members of the National Board of Directors shall meet at least once a year.

21.1.3 The circumscription Superior of the Society of St. Paul in his function as *Altrice* (cf. AD 33-35) is the point of reference of all the Cooperators.

- He alone acts without involving the members of his Provincial Council.
- His National Delegate and the members of the National Executive Council of the Society of St. Paul are the persons immediately responsible of the Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul.

21.1.4 The following are the duties of the circumscription Superior of the Society of St. Paul towards the Cooperators of his circumscription:

- follows closely the initiatives of the Cooperators on the national level;
- evaluates the formation itineraries and the progress of the Cooperators in his circumscription;
- facilitates the dissemination of information that is of national interest;
- when opportune, appoints the regional Coordinator (and will have its own Council composed of the regional Representatives and the National Delegate) who will have the task of coordinating and animating the groups in their area of responsibility;
- when opportune, appoints the provincial Coordinator (and will have its own Council composed of the provincial Representatives and the National Delegate) who will have the task of coordinating and animating the groups of their diocese-province.
- appoints the local Coordinator who, with his Council, has the task of coordinating and animating the local group;
- approves the admission of the candidate to the Association upon the recommendation of his local Coordinator through the National Delegate;

- sends to the Superior General through the Delegate General the names of the Cooperators who made the Promise;
- reports every year to the Superior General through the Delegate General on the formation and apostolic activities of the Association in the national territory.

21.2. The *National Executive Board* is an organism composed of the Delegates of the circumscription Superiors of the respective Institutions present in the nation. Some Cooperators can be members of the Board. They are chosen by the National Board of Directors and hold this office for a three-year period.

21.2.1 The members of the National Executive Board of the Association are:

- the National Delegate of the Society of St. Paul;
- the National Delegates of the other Congregations of the Pauline Family;
- some Cooperators who are recommended to the circumscription Superiors by the National Delegates from among the nominees during the Assembly of Representatives of the different areas.

21.2.2 Their term of office will be for three years and may be renewed only once. Exception to the said provision will be at the discretion of the circumscription Superiors.

21.2.3 The members of the Executive Board shall meet at least once a year.

21.2.4 The National Delegate of the Society of St. Paul, together with the other members of the National Executive Board, has the following responsibilities:

- in recommending for the approval of the circumscription Superiors the Secretary and Treasurer of the Executive Board who may be among the members of the Council themselves;

- in recommending to the Majors Superiors a Cooperator to be a member of the Executive Board;
- in calling for the convocation of the National Assembly with the prior approval of the Majors Superiors;
- in proposing for the approval of the circumscription Superiors the number of Representatives present in the territory, together with the provincial and regional Coordinators, to participate in the National Assembly with the right to vote;
- in indicating for the approval of the circumscription Superiors the congregational group Coordinators of the Cooperators in the local, provincial and regional levels.

21.2.5 The National Delegate of the Society of St. Paul, assisted by his own Council, has also the following responsibilities:

- recommends to the circumscription Superior for approval the members of his Council, at least two but not more than four;
- recommends to the circumscription Superior for approval the Secretary of his Council who may be one of his Councilors;
- recommends to the circumscription Superior for approval the Treasurer of his Council who may be one of his Councilors;
- recommends to the circumscription Superior for approval the local, provincial and regional Coordinators;
- evaluates and revises the formation *Iter* of the Cooperators and sends it to the circumscription Superior for approval;
- contributes in the animation, promotion, coordination, and programming of the activities of the Cooperators especially on the national level;
- oversees the evaluation of the progress and accomplishment of the formative and apostolic activities of the Association;
- convokes the members of his Council for meetings as often as necessary;

- sends a report every year to his circumscription Superior on the progress of the formation and apostolic activities of the Association in its national reality.

21.2.6 The Association is further organized in the different areas according to:

- regional (composed of at least three dioceses; zone; prefecture);
- provincial;
- local.

21.2.7 Every Level has its own Council composed of:

- the Coordinator;
- the Councillors (at least two but not more than four);
- two Officials: the Secretary and the Treasurer who may be from among the Councillors themselves.

21.2.8 The appointment of all the Council members at the various levels will be made by the circumscription Superior upon the recommendation of the National Delegate. Their term of office will be for three years and may be renewed only once. Exception to the said provision will be at the discretion of the circumscription Superior.

21.2.9 The Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul operate in the environment in which they live (work place, parish, diocese, social and religious institutions). The modalities of action will be taken in accord – at various levels – with the Coordinator, the National Delegate, the Society of St. Paul and the Pauline Family.

- In a place where there are at least three Cooperators they can establish a local Group.
- In cases where a Cooperator is geographically isolated he will have to make contacts with the Coordinator of the local Group nearest to him and with the National Delegate. He shall try to participate, according to his possibilities, in the meetings of the Association and will attend the Annual Re-

treat. In the absence of the Society of St. Paul in the territory, he joins any of the groups of Cooperators of the other Pauline Congregations.

- For the establishment of a new local Group or Groups, a petition is sent to the circumscription Superior through the National Delegate.
- The local Group Coordinator shall promote the group meetings, take care of the progress of the initiatives, stimulate personal commitment, maintain a constructive rapport with the National Delegate and his Council.
- The admission of new members to the local Group shall be under the care of the local Council that now and then examines the applications and weighs specifically every situation. Upon approval of the local Council, the local Coordinator will submit the admission of the candidate to the National Delegate so that he will recommend him to the circumscription Superior.
- Upon approval of the annual programme the local Group shall send it to the National Delegate and his Council through the local Coordinator.

21.2.10 If necessary, in places where only the Cooperators of the Society of St. Paul are present, upon the recommendation of the National Executive Council, the National Board of Directors shall appoint a Cooperator who is of proven fidelity to the Pauline charism, preparation and apostolic commitment, to represent the Association before the diocese or other organization that engage in activities related to the Pauline mission.

21.2.11 In parishes or dioceses where there are at least two Congregations with more Cooperators for each Institution, the National Board of Directors shall appoint Group Coordinators upon the recommendation of the members of the National Executive Council.

21.2.12 When opportune, upon the recommendation of the National Executive Council, the National Board of Directors shall appoint a Cooperator who is of proven fidelity to the Pauline charism, preparation and apostolic commitment, to represent the Association to be a member of the National Council of the Laity or of other national organizations that engage in activities related to the Pauline mission.

22. International and National General Assemblies of the Pauline Cooperators can be held. These are to be convoked by the General Board of Directors or by the National Board of Directors (cf. 15.1 and 16.1).

VIII. HOW TO BECOME A PAULINE COOPERATOR

“The enrolment document is issued by the individual houses” (Fr. Alberione, “Our Cooperators,” in San Paolo, April 1951).

23. When candidates have completed the required period of formation, they may be admitted to the Association as new Cooperators. The candidate is to present a written request for admission to the Association of Pauline Cooperators. The circumscription Superior to whom the [prospective] Cooperator makes reference evaluates the person’s suitability, admits him/her to the Promise and sends the person’s name to the General Board of Directors. The General Board enrolls him/her in the Association and sends the new member a certificate of membership.

23.1 The Cooperators should have a clear awareness of the identity and mission of the Pauline lay person in the Church.

23.1.1 Admission to the Association of Cooperators is to be preceded by two years of appropriate and adequate formation on the identity and mission of the Society of St. Paul and on the spiritual and apostolic life of the Association.

23.1.2 This period is characterized by personal meetings with the National Delegate and the Coordinators in the different areas. At the end of two years of formation the candidate is admitted to make the Promise (cf. above, Art. 7).

23.2 To make the “Promise”, the candidate must present a *Letter of Petition* to the circumscription Superior through the local Coordinator and the National Delegate. In some cases the circumscription Superior can intervene directly.

23.3 With the Promise made, the name of the Cooperator will be officially enrolled and kept in the *General Register of the Association of Pauline Cooperators* in the General Archives of the Society of St. Paul in Rome.

23.3.1 The Superior General through his Delegate General will send to the new Cooperator a *Certificate of Membership*.

23.3.2 Other than the *Certificate of Membership*, one will be enrolled in the *Work of Perpetual Holy Masses* which the Priests of the Society of St. Paul celebrate *annually* for all the Pauline Cooperators.

24. The admission of Cooperators to the Association will take place during a liturgical celebration, in the presence of a circumscription Superior with the following formula (*Promise*):

*Lord my God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
who called me to be a Pauline Cooperator,
grant that in imitation of St. Paul the Apostle,
I may acquire a vibrant sense of Christ.
I intend to commit my mind, will, heart and physical strength,
according to my particular state of life,
to the proclamation and diffusion of the Gospel
in the forms and in the spirit of the Pauline Family,
for the greater glory of God,
my sanctification and that of my brothers and sisters.
May Jesus Master Way, Truth, and Life,
Mary, Queen of Apostles
and St. Paul the Apostle
help me to be faithful. Amen.*

25. To the new Cooperator will be given a copy of the *Statute* and the *Directory* (and also the *Regulation*, where it exists) of the Cooperators, together with the emblem of the Pauline Family.

25.1 The *Statute* and the *Directory* shall be for the new member the precious guide in developing one's Pauline life.

25.2 The *Emblem of the Pauline Family*, rich in significance of our Pauline heritage and spirituality, is the external sign of the Cooperator's belonging to the Society of St. Paul and the Pauline Family.

25.3 The new Cooperator will also receive the book *The Prayers of the Pauline Family* with which one can continue one's spiritual formation and live in communion of prayer with the entire Pauline Family.

26. The Patronal Feast of the Pauline Cooperators is that of St. Paul the Apostle, which is celebrated by the Pauline Family on 30 June.

26.1 Moreover, they shall celebrate the solemnity of *Jesus Master Way, Truth, and Life* and the feast of *Mary Queen of the Apostles*.

26.2 The Cooperators participate in the liturgical activities of the Society of St. Paul and are also encouraged to participate in the liturgical activities of the other Institutions of the Pauline Family.

