



St Paul Biblical Center

Answering the objective delineated at point 2.1 of the Statute (*«To develop and concretize a biblical pastoral project, in the broadest sense, that can act as a reference point for the biblical apostolate of the Congregation»*), the international Coordinator of the Biblical Center, after having heard the Referents of the Circumscription on the occasion of the international Assembly held at Cinisello Balsamo (Milan, Italy) from 24 to 28 May 2017 and after having met his Council, proposes for the approval of the CTIA and, successively, of the General Government, **The biblical pastoral project of the Congregation**, delineating its objective, the action lines and its recommendations.

THE BIBLICAL PASTORAL PROJECT OF THE CONGREGATION

*Following the divine nourishment,
the divine light, the Book-Bible.
Enlighten the whole human being:
his intellect with divine truths,
his will, to which show the way to heaven,
his heart by directing him to the love of God and neighbor...
For the Pauline this is his daily reading;
it is the first book to be reproduced and to be disseminated;
the content and the substance of all our teaching
(1964 CISP pp. 207-208).*

Objective

To live and to give to the world the Word of God (*the whole Bible*), helping both individuals and communities to place it at the center of their personal lives (*to the whole man*) and to communicate it in a vivid and dynamic way by means of editorial, formative, pastoral, spiritual and ecclesial initiatives (*in all the forms of communication*), favoring at various levels, the exchange and sharing among the Circumscriptions (*in all the nations*).

Action lines

1. From the *editorial* point of view, the Editorial Director, in accord with the General Director of the Apostolate (DGA) and aided by the one responsible in the St Paul Biblical Center on the circumscriptional level, is to commit to favor according to the possibilities, translations of the

Bible “belonging to us”, for the purpose of offering diversified editions of the Scriptures with greater ease, favoring operations that favor their diffusion. To that is added attention to the pastorality of the publications, to multimediality and to initiatives that bear in mind today’s culture of internet communication.

2. From the *formative* point of view, the DGA, in harmony with the one locally responsible in the Biblical Center and with those responsible in the various areas of the apostolate, is to activate or strengthen moments of biblical formation offered to the faithful and to all those who search for God, handling them both as courses introducing the Bible or as courses for deepening, possibly targeting recognition of credits in formation and the release of documentation or diplomas that are recognized.
3. From the *pastoral* point of view, all the Circumscriptions, thanks to the coordination of the one locally responsible in the Biblical Center and to the involvement of the communities, are to realize or multiply the forms of celebration, knowledge and diffusion of the Word, taking advantage above all of occasions like the “Sunday of the Word” and the “Month of the Bible”.
4. From the *spiritual* point of view, the locally responsible of the Biblical Center is to propose and animate methods of prayerful reading of the Word, following forms of animation that are based on the method Way, Truth and Life and that help to perceive the Bible as a place of the living Presence of God.
5. From the *ecclesial* point of view, the DGA with the person responsible of the Circumscription, in harmony with the universal magisterium, is to always look for synergy and collaboration with the Episcopal Conference, the local Church and other ecclesial organs.

Recommendations

1. Those responsible of the Circumscription are urged to reconstruct, archive and transmit the fundamental elements of our history in the service of the Word of God, showing the specificities of their own Circumscription, in such a way that the whole Congregation may derive benefit from them, taking hold of the action of God in ourselves and around us.
2. All those who carry ahead the initiatives of the SOBICAIN are invited to keep the precious inheritance they have received, making emerge its historic and charismatic significance. They are to collaborate with the international Coordinator of the Biblical Center, informing him about the various initiatives of translation and diffusion and sharing objectives and results of their service.
3. It is hoped that the Biblical Center of Circumscription may have its own visibility within the sites that promote the apostolic initiatives of the Circumscription in such a way that a significant number of persons may come to know the biblical initiatives promoted.
4. It is recommended that every Circumscription bear in mind the “Project of biblical pastoral of the Congregation” in the elaboration of the apostolic Project and in the annual plannings, translating it in concrete action lines that contemplate the various levels of action: editorial, formative, pastoral, spiritual and ecclesial.
5. Let it be remembered that every Circumscription must update the organigram of the apostolic area, inserting the one responsible of Circumscription of the CBSP in staff to the DGA insofar as his role is transversal to the other functions.

Read and approved in the General Council of 13-15 November 2017.