



Confederazione Mondiale Exallieve ed Exallievi delle Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Via Gregorio VII, 133 int.4/sc.B 00165 Roma
Tel.06/63.56.92 Fax 06/39.37.51.31 C.F. 97070250580 www.exalliefma.org

Nucleus 16th

THE MEANING OF THE STATUTE

*By Gabriela Patiño **

In this sixteenth Nucleus, I propose that we stop to consider the meaning of the Statute of the World Confederation of Past Pupils of the FMA. We rely on the words of Sister Michaela Pitterová, FMA, expert of Canon Law, whose competence and availability accompanied the revision approved by the Elective World Assembly, held in Mornese during the summer of 2015. Her brief but clear indications will help us to deepen this "programmatic document where you will find the lines of interpretation to live the dimensions of the Salesian charism in the spirit of the Preventive System, taken in our formative environments and then delved into the same Association", in the words of Mother Yvonne in her presentation. To Sister Michaela our sincere thanks for her valuable company.

"Notes on the meaning of the Statute of the World Confederation of Past Pupils of the FMA".

Each Statute represents the identity of an association. It contains some elements necessary to identify the association and distinguish it from others; they also determine its operation.

The Statute amended by the V Confederal Assembly is a continuity with the preceding Statute, but has been quite enriched. It is a document that contains charismatic and legal elements, all-important to live the identity of the Past Pupils, and to maintain the unity of the Association.

The Preamble and the first heading expresses the identity of the Association and the characteristics of its members. In this sense, the new Statute is more elaborate than the preceding one and considers not only the Association as a whole but also takes into account the spirituality, mission and training of its members.

The Preamble of the Statute is a beautiful text that contains in an extreme synthesis the inspiration, birth, development and direction of the Association. The last two paragraphs further indicate the scope of the application of the Statute.

The **first title: "Nature of the Association"** must be known and deepened by all the Past Pupils and not only by those responsible for the leadership of the Association. As already mentioned, the current text was enriched and updated. The definition of the Association and spirituality appears enriched. Articles have been added on the mission, training and relationships of communion with the FMA Institute, the Salesian Family and other associations.

The remaining titles of the Statute are more technical, but equally important, not only for the proper functioning of the Confederation but also for the Federations and Unions.

The **second title describes the organization of the whole Association**, not only of the Confederation. Indeed, it contains some specific rules on the Federations and Unions (rules that were not in the previous Statute), identifying competencies at various levels. Defines the tasks and powers of each of the members of the Confederal Council. It also redefines the role of the Confederal Consultation.

These norms not just have a simple "informative" value but represent the model for the statute of Federations and Unions (cf. arts.10.1b, 11.1b). Moreover, the rules on **Associative Relations (Title**



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III) were rewritten, which directly concern each member. Therefore, all members of the Association should know and deepen the knowledge of the Preamble, the first and the third chapter. Managers must also have a good knowledge of technical standards that relate to the organization.

Sr. Michaela Pitterová

Let us listen also to the voice of our Rector Major and Mother Yvonne, who in line with Sister Michaela invite us to "assimilate in depth the spirit of the Statute for the association to remain living and fruitful" (M. Yvonne).

The Statute of the Confederation states the Rector Major "is the Statute of each and every one and you shall undertake to know it and make it known for the vitality of the whole Association. I wish all Federations in the world would examine it carefully. Successively assuming the Salesian spirituality as it mentioned in the Statute itself, in order that the unity in action and the fidelity to Don Bosco and M. Mazzarello's spirit will be visible and effective. Effectively sharing day after day the human and evangelic values you are holders of, thanks to the education received and kept as a life style".

Is clear, therefore, the responsibility of each Past Pupil, in relation to the statute as "official text of the Association", "instrument of guidance and counseling" for associative life, "frame of reference" for the statutes and regulations of Federations and Unions around the world; and finally, a text of reflection, verification and confrontation.

Our Mother ratifies with her words: it's up to us "a mission that is primarily of formation and growth in what refers to consciously assume the inherent charisma and spirituality; knowledge and responsibility of the gift received and the subsequent commitment to transmit the charism to the young generations with the original freshness and richness of the lived experience in different cultures.

The spirit that animates the Statute, as long as it is understood and lived, becomes a living document and of broad prospectives for the Association for the formation of those who belong to it and, in particular, for those who are elected in one of the functions of government.

I wish every Past Pupil of the FMA holds in their hands this little book and make your vademécum of the associative Salesian life: the set of rules governing the life, management and organization of the Association, as well as those that have to do with discipline and relations between the Association and its members and between the same partners.

* Word Delegate of the Past Pupils of the FMA

WORKSHEET FOR THE CONFEDERATION COUNCIL, THE FEDERATION AND THE UNION AND FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD OF PAST PUPILS.

Read carefully the short text just offered in this nucleus. Identify, based on the indicated text, a suggestion to implement it in the Union or Federation. Please send your responses, personal or group via e-mail delegatamondialeexallieve@gmail.com or via regular mail to the following address: Vía del Ateneo Salesiano, 81 – 00139 Roma (Italia).



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Pray with Psalm (118)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
His mercy endures forever.

Let Israel say: his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Aaron say his mercy endures forever.

Let those who fear the LORD say his mercy endures forever.

In danger I called on the LORD
the LORD answered me and set me free.

The LORD is with me; I am not afraid;
what can mortals do against me?

The LORD is with me as my helper
I shall look in triumph on my foes.

Better to take refuge in the LORD
than to put one's trust in mortals.

Better to take refuge in the LORD
than to put one's trust in princes.

All the nations surrounded me
in the LORD's name, I cut them off.

They surrounded me on every side
in the LORD's name, I cut them off.

They surrounded me like bees
they burned up like fire among thorns
in the LORD's name, I cut them off.

I was hard pressed and falling,
but the LORD came to my help.

The LORD, my strength and might,
has become my savior.

The joyful shout of deliverance
is heard in the tents of the righteous:
"The LORD's right hand works valiantly;
the LORD's right hand is raised
the LORD's right hand works valiantly."

I shall not die but live
and declare the deeds of the LORD.

The LORD chastised me harshly,
but did not hand me over to death.

Open the gates of righteousness
I will enter and thank the LORD.

This is the LORD's own gate,
through it the righteous enter.



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I thank you for you answered me
you have been my savior.
The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.
LORD, grant salvation!
LORD, grant good fortune!
Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
The LORD is God and has enlightened us.
Join in procession with leafy branches
up to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, I give you thanks;
my God, I offer you praise.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
his mercy endures forever. Amen