

STATUTE AND DIRECTORY

OF THE

ASSOCIATION OF PAULINE COOPERATORS

National Association of Pauline Cooperators
Via Alessandro Severo, 58
Rome Italy

FOREWORD

On March 11, 1988 the Holy See approved the Statute of the Union of Pauline Cooperators, an updated transcription of the first Statute written by Father Alberione in 1918.

However, the approved text needed some modifications and integrations to make it valid for and inclusive of all groups of Cooperators related to the Pauline Congregations. Moreover, there was a need to give it a better organic whole.

Therefore, in the VIIIth Meeting of the General Governments of the Pauline Family in February 1990, a special commission was created. After two years of study, it came out with the present Statute. This was presented in the Xth Meeting of the General Governments of the Pauline Family in January 1992 and approved “ad experimentum.”

At this stage it will be necessary to continue the doctrinal deepening regarding the authentic figure or identity of the “Pauline Cooperators,” according to the image traced by the most recent documents of the Magisterium and by theological reflection. In fact, there has been a change in the image of the laity in the Church. Until some years ago, the laity were seen more as a marginal collaborators of religious institutions which coopted them. Now, however, it is indisputable that the laity, by virtue of their Baptism have their own vocation which obliges them to walk on the way of holiness and of apostolate, and therefore, can be called to live the charismatic project of a Founder.

Hence, the Pauline Cooperator is a faithful lay person whom the Spirit calls to share in the foundational project of Father Alberione and to realize it together with the other religious institutes of the Pauline Family. The role of mediation of

the religious Congregations will be that of animating and stimulating the Cooperators to attain a Pauline Spiritual maturity which also allows him a greater autonomy.

With discretion, this and other elements on the new vision of the Pauline Cooperators are included in this present Statute that can render good service and make it operative.

To be noted is a certain “generalization” due to the complex reality which the Founder wanted to address the difficulty of designing a detailed scheme valid for all groups of Cooperators scattered in the world, and with a different structure according to the Congregations to which they belong. Therefore, at this stage of experiment, it is a question of giving permission to the regional, provincial organic bodies to proceed with the drawing up of Directories or Regulations that, while respecting what the Statute establishes, integrate it according to the exigencies of concrete situations.. Thus, on the experiences that gradually mature, it will be easier later on to have a new revision that will be presented to the Holy See for final approval.

That is important is to assimilate the operative and abiding principles of the Statute so as to have a spiritual and apostolic revitalization for all the members of the Pauline Family.

Rome, May 13, 1992

Father Teofilo Perez
Vicar General, SSP

IMPORTANT

The present statute is cordially recommended to every Cooperator who intends to participate in the Pauline spirituality and apostolate.

It is important to have clear ideas regarding its observance. The Association of Pauline Cooperators belongs to a big area of Catholic volunteers, and on that account, the observance of the Statute does not oblige anyone under any pain of sin. The only moral obligation arises from those which are commanded or prohibited by God and by the Church.

The Cooperator obliges himself to observe the Statutes on the basis of his convictions of faith, apostolic commitment, and desire for personal holiness and that of others. The same thing can be said of the Directory that has been inserted in small letters in this present Statute.

INTRODUCTION

“In 1908 I heard this invitation from my spiritual director: ‘Always remember: Annurunt sociis: it is necessary to look for help.’ So I started to take care of Cooperators” (PPM 159).

BRIEF HISTORY

The Association of Pauline Cooperators was founded by Father Alberione in Alba (Cuneo) on June 29, 1917. It started to exist in “its official and canonical form” in 1918, with the name ‘Union of Pauline Cooperators for the Good Press’ (now “Association of Pauline Cooperators”), when Msgr. Francis Joseph Re, bishop of the diocese, approved its Statute on September 29 of the same year and enlisted himself as the first member of the “Union”.

The Union of Pauline Cooperators was born to extend, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, The mission of the Pauline Family, that is, to make known to the whole world Jesus Christ Teacher and Shepherd, Way, Truth and Life, through the proclamation done with the use of the media of social communication.

The reference to Cooperators has been always included in the documents sent to the Sacred Congregation for the Religious and Secular Institutes, at the same time of the approval of the nascent Pauline Family. This is found in the report sent by Father Alberione to Msgr. Re on November 23, 1921, and transmitted by the letter to the Holy See on December 31 of the same year. It is that “The Pious Society of St. Paul is composed of branches: one male and another female (...); and of the third branch made up by Cooperators for the Good Press (...)”

In November 1922, Father Alberione sent another report to the same Congregation, followed by a third in January 1923, in which he explained the purpose of the “Union of Pauline Cooperators for the Good Press.” And in the same letter sent personally to the Holy Father Pius XI on March 25, 1926, besides the three religious Congregations already existing (Pious Society of St. Paul, Daughters of St. Paul, and Pious Disciples of the Divine Master) Father Alberione mentioned also the “Cooperators for the Good Press” persons who collaborate in the Apostolate of the Pauline Family through their writing, offering, prayers, and propaganda.

On March 23, 1937 Cardinal Marchetti Selvaggiani, vicar of His Holiness for the City of Rome, authorized with a decree the transfer of the seat of the ‘Union’, from Alba to Rome at the Generalate of the Society of St. Paul.

To better animate and guide the “Union”, Father Alberione, started publishing on October 25, 1918 the bulletin “Unione Cooperatori Buona Stampa.” Now “Il Cooperatore Paolino.” Through it Father Alberione wants to form spiritually and orient apostolically the whole movement of Cooperators, and to inform them about the life and activities of the Pauline Family. The chronicle of that time wrote: “The Bulletin had on its cover the name that it still bears today, and it is this which relates the history of its beginnings. It came out: with four pages, then eight, sixteen, twenty, twenty-eight, and it is sent every month to more than 10,000 cooperators” (UCBS, 1924).

The Italian edition was later on followed by the Spanish, French, English, Portuguese, Japanese, and Korean editions. Actually, there about fifteen editions of different nations, that continue to spread the message and charism of Father Alberione.

The Founder wrote: “What does it take God to stir up Cooperators for the Pauline Family?” With one “Fiat” He created the heavens. God is afraid only of our self-love.

‘And the blessings of the Lord upon His work has been plentiful” (cf. UCBS, 1924).

I. NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

“The Cooperators are thought of this way: Persons who understand the Pauline Family and form with it a union of spirit and intentions. They embrace, in their own way, the two principal purposes” while the Pauline Family promotes their Christian instruction, leads them to an exemplary life and makes them sharers in the spiritual goods of the congregation and in the merit of the apostolate...

The Pauline Family strives to live perfectly the precepts of charity in the religious life and in the apostolate. The Cooperators, instead, strive to live the same precepts in a Christian life lived more perfectly. All together they form a union of persons aiming at and helping to promote “The Glory of God and peace to men after the example of St. Paul. (CISP, 384-385).

I.1 –The Association of Pauline Cooperators, begun in 1917, is a branch of the Pauline Family, founded by Father James Alberione and is composed of the:

- Society of St. Paul
- Daughters of St. Paul
- Sisters Disciples of the Divine Master
- Sisters of Jesus Good Shepherd
- Institute of Queen of Apostles
- Aggregated Institutes:
 - “Jesus Priest”
 - “Our Lady of Annunciation”
 - “St. Gabriel the Archangel”
 - “Holy Family”
- Association of Pauline Cooperators
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I.2- The Association of Pauline Cooperators comprise those lay faithful of every age and condition who are aware that Christ called them to the perfection of charity and to work for evangelization (cf. Afl, 33).

They intend to realized their vocation by assuming the Pauline charism, bringing to it their contribution of prayer, work and [financial] offering (cf. UPS I, 20).

I.3- Priest and Religious who understand the validity of the specific mission of the Pauline Family and intend to collaborate to its realization can become members of the Association.

I.4- The cooperation can be many ways as indicated by the Founder:

- prayer and support for vocations and activities;
- evangelization through the media of social communication;
- promotion of prayer and liturgical life; and
- pastoral animation in the local church (cf. CISP, 389-390).

I.5-The Association of Pauline Cooperators (APC), like the other Institutes of the Family of Father Alberione is a bearer of the common Pauline mission and co-responsible for the apostolic project of making known Christ Way, Truth, and Life in the world. It brings to the Pauline Family the specific values of secularity, recognizing the identity and autonomy of every congregation and institute. It establishes a particular rapport of communion with the Society of St. Paul from which it finds its historical and spiritual roots (cf. DCSSP 321; cf. AA 1, 4).

I.6-The Pauline mission opens wide spaces of apostolate to all and everyone can find a precious opportunity to actualize his/her Christian vocation in it.

I.7- The Association of Pauline Cooperators follows the purpose of the Pauline Family, which is to live integrally the Gospel in the spirit of St. Paul, under the guidance of the Queen of Apostles (AD93) and to communicate it to the world in the exercise of the apostolate with those means that more correspond to the nature of each Institute.

I.8- In accord with the Pauline Family and having at heart the constant preoccupation of the Church, the Association of Pauline Cooperators strives to:

- a) guide the members in the way of holiness; and
- b) promote the apostolic commitment by participating in the Pauline mission of evangelization.

I.9- I receiving his particular vocation, the Cooperator adheres to the Pauline ideal and tries to incarnate it in his daily life:

- a) by assuming, in the spirit of the beatitudes and according to his condition in life, the Pauline spirituality, having as models Jesus Teacher, Way, Truth, and Life, Mary Queen of the Apostles, and St. Paul the Apostle;
- b) by cooperating through prayers, works, and offerings in the apostolic activities of the Pauline Family.

I.10- To better live in communion with the other Pauline brothers and sisters, the Cooperator shall follow the spiritual-apostolic directives assumed by the Pauline Family.

II FORMATION OF THE PAULINE COOPERATOR

“Christ sent by the Father, is the source of the Church’s whole apostolate. Clearly then, the fruitfulness of the apostolate of lay people depends on their living union with Christ...”

“Similarly laymen [or priests] who have followed their particular vocation and become members of any of the associations approved by the Church, aim sincerely at making their own the forms of spirituality proper to these bodies” (AA 1,4).

II.1- The Pauline Cooperator, to better respond to the personal call to holiness and mission, pledges to promote his own formation in its various aspects.

- a) The **SPIRITUAL FORMATION** – through reading and meditation of the Sacred Scripture specially the Gospel, the Acts of the Apostles in the Liturgy of the Church; knowledge of the spiritual heritage of the Pauline Family and participation in the meetings, reunions and retreats that are expressly promoted by the association.

a.1 The spirituality of the Pauline Cooperators has at its center and foundation Jesus teacher and Shepherd, Way, Truth, and Life, the integral Christ as known by St. Paul who sees in Christ the fulfillment of the Sacred Scriptures (AD 159-160). The cooperator shall entrust him self /herself to Mary, Queen of Apostles. Guide and model of every Pauline, to be guided in the journey to Christification: “It is no longer I that live, but Christ who lives in me: (Gal 2:20).

The Cooperator is nourished at the table of the Word with meditation and spiritual reading, and of the Eucharist “to be wholly in Christ, for a total love for God: intelligence, will, heart, strength.” “All nature, grace and calling for the apostolate. A cart on four wheels: holiness, study apostolate, poverty” (AD 95, 100; cf. Cisp 10).

He allows himself/herself to be guided by the Master Christ in the course of the liturgical year, for a better participation in the life of grace that the liturgy gives, which constitutes the first school for spiritual formation of every Pauline.

a.2 The cooperator should remember that Pauline piety is Eucharist: “All springs from the vital source which is the Eucharistic Master” (AD 16-19, 82, 95, 155). As far as possible, he makes the Eucharistic Adoration, from which he will draw nourishment for his spiritual life and apostolate; he makes daily the examination of conscience according to the mind of the Church and of the Founder: *cor poenitens tenete*” (Have a contrite heart), as a persevering way of conversion that flows into the Sacrament of Reconciliation so as to restore the right relationship with God, with himself and his neighbor, thus increasing grace by virtue of the same sacrament; he considers also the need of a spiritual direction as an indispensable means to walk with certainty and progress in Christian life (AD 158).

a.3 He tries to pray the Liturgy of the hours or part of it, especially the Morning Praise and the Evening Prayer, thus participating in the common and official prayer of the Church.

a.4 He/She prays the Rosary to grow in the devotion to the Queen of Apostles.

a.5 He/She deepens the knowledge of the spiritual heritage of the Pauline Family through the reading and study of the thoughts of Father Alberione, through the documents that the Pauline Family itself can furnish (AD 93).

a.6 Every month he/she participates in the Spiritual, formative meeting promoted by the group to which he/she belongs for a deeper knowledge of the Pauline charism and for a greater communion of the members.

a.7 He/She participates in retreats promoted by the Association, basic period for his/her own spiritual growth.

b) **DOCTRINAL FORMATION**—through the reading of documents of the Church, particularly those regarding the laity, the specific mission of various Pauline institutions, the catechisms, the social doctrine of the Church, liturgy, mass media and through the knowledge of the thought of the Founder and what pertains to the Pauline Family.

b.1 He/She reads and studies the documents of the Church, of the II Vatican Council, and of the Magisterium, particularly those regarding the laity. He/She studies the, catechism of the Church and its social doctrine to

penetrate the thought and human knowledge with the Gospel which is the light and the salt of the world (AD 87).

b.2 He/She takes into consideration the liturgical documents to better live the mystery of Jesus Christ in the sacramental signs of the Church (AD 74), taking into account the liturgical art and sacred music.

b.3 He/She is attentive to the documents and the parish/diocesan pastoral plans involving the reality in which he/she is in, so as to collaborate according to his/her charism.

b.4 He/She takes account of and knows the role and function of the mass media to better collaborate in the diffusion of the Word of God and of the Christian thought through the media of social communication.

c) **APOSTOLIC FORMATION**—by rendering oneself to carry out some of the apostolic expressions of the Pauline Family through a theoretical-apostolic preparation.

c.1 The Cooperators are for the Church: for their specific lay vocation “particularly they have received from God the world as the place of their vocation in the Church” (cf.EN 70; cf.L 23); therefore, everyone according to the vocation given by God and the personal attitudes and inclination he/she collaborates in the Pauline project. Every Cooperator offers a particular service so as to be a real participant, according to his/her possibilities, to the needs of the local Church in which he/she himself/herself, in concert with the Institute of the Pauline Family to which he/she is united for the benefit of the universal Church (cf.AD 65).

d) **HUMAN FORMATION**—by cultivating particularly the values of the family, work, justice, solidarity.

d.1 He/She cares about the value of the family to be able to concretely live Jesus Way, Truth, and Life in his/her daily life.

d.2 He/She promotes honestly in work considered a service to brothers and sisters and a witness of Christian life.

d.3 He/She tries to develop solidarity in charity, sustained by a deep sense of justice in the light of the Beatitudes.

II.2 All the Institutes of the Pauline Family should take care to promote the vocation and formation of Cooperators according to the mind of the Founder and the exigency of the Church.

II. FORMS OF COOPERATION

“To pray and to work for vocations: that is the principle cooperation. There is the apostolate of the Press, Movie, Radio, TV, records. There is the apostolate of sacred Liturgy and of prayer in general. There is the pastoral apostolate of the priests and Pastorelle Sisters.

The action of the laity, cooperating with the Holy See, Bishops, Priests, Religious, is summed up in instructing according to the faith, in contributing to Christian life, Through prayers and sacrifice” (cf.CISP 389-390)

III.1- In accordance with the constant indications of the Founder, cooperation is concretized in the threefold form of prayer, works, and offerings.

A.Prayer

III.2- Cooperation through “prayer is the most necessary; it animates and gives growth to the whole apostolate of the Cooperators” (UCBS 1925). It consists of offering personal and communitarian prayers for the diffusion of the Gospel and the coming of God’s reign in this world.

III.2.1 The Cooperator promotes initiatives of prayer; organizes and facilitates prayer meetings for the youth and Eucharistic adoration in the parish community where it is possible.

III.3-Pauline Cooperator cultivates a prayer of praise, reparation, and intercession of Christ, the only Mediator between God and men.

III.3.1 Like St. Paul, the Pauline Cooperator incessantly prays, trying to penetrate deeply the mystery of Christ; intercedes for all those he reaches with his work and mission, and for those who work in the Church for the spreading of the Gospel.

III.4-A precious form of prayer is the offering to God of one's sufferings, uniting these to those of Christ, to repair the evil caused by the abuse of the mass media and to ask for graces "on the apostles and the apostolate."

III.4.1 The Pauline Cooperator offers his/her daily sufferings to atone for sins; every moment of his/her life be always for Christ, with Christ and in Christ; his/her suffering should be endured peacefully, looking at Christ who gave Himself for the salvation of men.

III.4.2 When the Cooperator, for motive of health, cannot participate in the spiritual-formative meetings of the group, he/she unites himself/herself through personal prayer and offering of his/her suffering with the whole Pauline Family, so that the apostolate be for the glory of God and peace to men.

B. Works

III.5- The Pauline Cooperator, sharer of the prophetic, priestly and kingly power of Christ, exercises the work of evangelization of the Pauline Family in forms possible for him/her, according to his/her aptitudes and the availability of his/her time and means.

III.5.1 The Pauline Cooperator, using his/her profession, personal relations, family demands, circumstances the environment furnishes, shall exercise the apostolate, using the most efficacious means. To such end:

- a) He/She collaborates in the editorial, the marketing of the printed matter and of the audio-visuals, particularly those edited by the Pauline Family;
- b) Where it is possible, he/she prepares programs for the radio and TV and gives his/her own contribution to the owner of the Catholic stations.
- c) He/She devotes himself/herself generously to the spreading of the Word of God and promotes its knowledge by organizing and participating in the "Days of Gospel" and "Bible Week";

III.5.c.1 The Cooperator promotes the centers for listening to the Word of God; encourages the reading of the Bible, specially the New Testament; facilitates in the conduction of the "Lectio

- Divina”; makes the families aware of prayer at home, particularly the Rosary. Each group makes a program of activities;
- d) organizes the Eucharistic adoration, takes care of the service to priests, gets himself/herself involved in the upkeep of sacred furnishings, facilitates the initiatives oriented to develop the knowledge of the liturgy and its actuation:
 - e) promotes parish and diocesan activities particularly the catechesis, liturgical life and works of charity.
 - f) Prays for the clergy and the Religious and supports the work of vocations for the Pauline Family and for the whole Church;

III.5.f.1 Organizes prayer meetings to ask for vocations, above all on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations (IV Sunday of Easter); distributes vocation brochures, and where it is possible, organizes vocation exhibits.

III.5.f.2 The Cooperator takes into consideration the collaboration with the vocation promoters of the Pauline Family.

- g) In collaboration with national, diocesan, and parish organizations, he/she involves himself/herself in the preparation and celebration of the “World Day of Social Communications” and promotes all the initiatives aimed at making the community of faith aware of the theme of the “Day.”

C. Offerings

III.6- Aware of the high cost demanded by the various apostolic activities, the Pauline Cooperator:

- a) freely contributes, according to his means, to those initiatives of the Pauline Family that calls for greater assistance;
- b) supports the Pauline Missions; by providing materials for the construction of apostolic centers, as well as by acquiring machines and technical instruments necessary for apostolic activities;
- c) shares in the expenses of the printing and binding of books, especially the Bible and the Gospels to be distributed *gratis*, or at a minimum price in hospitals and charitable institutions, poor families, children and youth; and;

- d) offers scholarship for the poor Pauline seminarians and candidates to religious life.

III.7- In giving their offering, the cooperator shall remember what St. Paul says to the Corinthians when he invites them to share their goods with the needy Christians of Jerusalem (2Cor 8:1-15).

IV. SPIRITUAL ADVANTAGES AND PERPETUAL MASSES

“To one who gives material goods the Pauline Family offers spiritual goods of immense value, among which are specially the 2,400 holy masses that are applied to them every year” (RA 1953)

IV.1- To the Cooperators are reserved many spiritual advantages: indulgences, prayers in life and after death, participation in the merit for the good done through the various forms of Pauline apostolic activities (Alberione).

IV.2- The Holy See has granted to the Cooperators plenary indulgence on the occasion of the following celebrations:

- *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 of Mary
- *Feast of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary
- *Feast of St. Paul (cf. Prayers of the Pauline Family)

IV.3- In gratitude to and recognition of the Cooperators, the Society of St. Paul celebrates 2,400 Masses every year – Perpetual Masses- and will continue to celebrate them as long as it “pleases the Lord to allow the congregation to exist” (CISP 60).

IV.4- To enjoy the fruit of the 2,400 Masses it is required that the names be registered and sent to the General Office of the Cooperators, following the instructions given by it.

V THE PAULINE COOPERATOR

“The Pauline Cooperator proposes to unite evermore the Friends and the Cooperators with the other branches of the Pauline Family” (cf. UCBS, May 10, 1925).

The Pauline Family tends to live perfectly the precepts of charity in the religious life and apostolate. The Cooperators strive to live the same two precepts in a Christian life lived in a better way and through their apostolate. All together they form a union of persons who aim and help to promote the “glory of God and peace to men”. According to the example of St. Paul (cf. AD Appendix VI, 341-344).

V.1- The Association of Pauline Cooperators has a publication *Il Cooperatore Paolino* that is sent to every member (Italian speaking) of the association.

V.2- The magazine is a vehicle for the formation of the Pauline Christian laity. Furthermore, it informs the Cooperator about the plans and accomplishments in the apostolate of the Pauline Family, making him aware of material needs of the initiatives, especially in the missions (DCSSP, 325).

Through the reading of their monthly magazine, they will ever more assimilate the spirit of the Pauline Family, and will feel more involved and prepared in the apostolic activity.

V.2.1 The editors of *Il Cooperatore Paolino* shall treat themes related to the formation of the Cooperators and shall solicit their support in the preparation of the magazine.

V.3- *Il Cooperatore Paolino* also fulfills the function of coordinating the various national and international groups.

V.3.1- An adequate space shall be reserved for the presentation of activities and experiences of each group. This will facilitate mutual acquaintance of the apostolate of the Cooperators in the national and international level.

VI. HOW TO BECOME COOPERATORS

“The Pauline Family mirrors the Church in its members, activities, apostolate, and mission!

...The Union of Cooperators is added, because every body in the Church must cooperate. Today much is written and published on the apostolate of the laity. And one of the 17 schema for Vatican II is devoted to the lay apostolate; so we have to take care of those who participates as Cooperators” (APD 1963,1969

VI.1- The Cooperators should have a clear awareness of the identity and mission of the Pauline lay person in the Church. Admission to the Association of the Cooperators is to preceded by an appropriate and adequate instruction on the identity and mission of the Pauline Family and on the spiritual and apostolic life.

VI.2- The acceptance of a new member takes place, publicly, through the profession of the “Promise”, in the presence of an official delegate of the Association and of the other Cooperators.

VI.2.1- The period of formation that precedes the Promise varies from 1 to 2 years; it is characterized by personal meetings with the National Delegates nominated by the major Superiors and those responsible to the area.

VI.2.2- To make the “Promise”, the candidate must present a Letter of Petition to the National Board through the one Responsible of the local sector. In some cases the National Board can intervene directly.

VI.3- PROMISE OF THE PAULINE COOPERATOR

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 the mind of Christ.

I intent to commit my mind, will, heart and strength according to my particular state of life, for the proclamation and diffusion of the Gospel in the forms and spirit of the Pauline Family; for the greater glory of God and for the sanctification of myself and of my brethren.

Jesus Christ Teacher, Way, Truth, and Life. Mary Queen of Apostles, St. Paul the Apostle, help me to be faithful. Amen.

VI.4- Every Cooperator receives a copy of the Statutes-Directory which shall be for him the precious guide in developing his Pauline life.

VI.4.1- The acceptance of the Petition addressed to the National Director shall be validated by the giving of the Statute-Directory.

VI.5- The pastoral feast of the Cooperators is the solemnity of St. Paul the Apostle which for the Pauline Family occurs on June 30. Moreover, they shall celebrate the solemnity of Jesus Christ the Divine Master and of Mary Queen of the Apostles.

VI.5.1- The Cooperators participates in the liturgical activities of the Congregation to which he/she is united in a particular way.

VII ORGANIZATION OF THE COOPERATORS

“It is necessary that the most active Cooperators unite and form a Union that assures an organized, lasting and profitable action” (CP 234).

VII.1- The Association of Cooperators reports to the Superior General of the Society of St. Paul who, by the will of the Founder, has the duty to promote the unity of the Pauline Family.

VII.2- The General Office of the Association is at the General House of the Society of St. Paul.

VII.3- The Association is structured at the parish, diocesan, national and general level.

VII.3.1-The Association, besides what has been said above, can also be structured in the inter-parish and inter-diocesan level.

VII.4- According to the project of the Founder, the Pauline Cooperators assume a parish and diocesan structure as prime areas in which they are called to operate, without ignoring the other social and religious realities where often they find themselves (as in their workplace). It shall be the duty of everyone and of the groups to study the ways to better actualize the apostolic project of the Founder, in communion with the person-in-charge and the delegates.

VII.4.1- The Cooperators operate in the environment in which they live (work, parish, dioceses, social and religious realities); the modalities of action will be taken in communion with the ones in-charge, the delegates and the Pauline Institute to which they report. They will realize the apostolic project of the Founder in ways consonant to the realities of the place in which they are working.

VII.4.2- At the start of the year every group prepares a program of formation and apostolate. Such a program shall be sent also to the National Direction Board as stated in N.VII.8.4.

VII.5- Where there are “parish and diocesan centers of social communication”, organizations for liturgical, pastoral, vocational animations and pastoral council, the Cooperators that service that derives from their specific charism. In places where such organizations are non-existent, the Cooperators should ask for their establishment and give their generous collaboration.

VII.6-The Cooperators promote the spirit And Pauline apostolic commitment among the youth in the parishes and dioceses by creating core groups in view of the development of the Association.

VII.7- In parishes where there are more Cooperators (at least 3) they can establish a sector. Every sector must have a person-in-charge appointed by the National Delegate after having consulted the parish priest and the members of the sector.

VII.7.1- By way of exception to art.7.7 of the statute the local group recommends the person-in-charge appointed by the National Board who will confirm if it approves the recommendation.

VII.7.2- In cases where a Cooperator is geographically isolated, a unique group is established. The Cooperator shall have to make contacts with the person-in-charge of the area and with one of the National Delegates, shall try to participate in same meetings of the nearest group, as well as attend the Annual Retreat.

VII.7.3- The establishment of a new group or a parish or inter-parish sector depends on the petition to be sent to the National Board of the Association of Pauline Cooperators.

VII.7.4- In the presentation of the new group or sector, its spiritual and apostolic character must be as specific as possible.

VII.7.5- Where necessary, the National Board shall send its representative to the group that is to be formed.

VIII.8- The person-in-charge shall promote the group meetings, take care of the movement of the initiatives, stimulate personal commitment, maintain a constructive rapport with the National Board.

VII.8.1- The person-in-charge shall have a secretary and some councilors according to the number of the group, of which one function as a treasurer.

VII.8.2-The Secretary shall take care to provide the minutes of the group meetings so as to record the annual course of the group, also to have a historical remembrance.

VII.8.3- The admission of new members to the group shall be under the care of the local council that now and then examines the applications and weighs specifically every situation.

VIII.8.4- The group shall send through the person-in-charge the approved program regarding the annual course to the National Directorate.

VII.9- The Apostolate that each performs in full use of one's gifts, shall have the purpose of making present and of developing the initiatives and spirit of the Pauline Family in the parishes and dioceses.

VII.10-When opportune, the National Board shall appoint a Cooperator who is of proven fidelity to the Pauline charism, preparation and apostolic commitment, to represent the Association before the diocese and eventually to be a member of the Council of the Laity or of other organizations that have activities directly related to the Pauline mission.

VII.10.1- It is good to have the Pauline Cooperators included in the diocesan Council of the Laity, be it for making known better the Association or for giving apostolic service according to the specific charism.

VII.11- The diocesan person-in-charge shall study ways of putting the Pauline charism at the service of the diocese. Moreover, it is his duty to coordinate and promote the development of other groups of cooperators present in the diocese.

NATIONAL BOARD

VII.12- The Major Superiors of the Pauline Religious Congregations appoint the National Delegates. In countries where the Association is quite developed, the National Delegate are helped by area delegates who are also appointed by the Major Superiors with the same duties of animation and promotion.

VII.12.1-According to the local situations, the National Board can also appoint a regional or inter-regional person-in-charge who will have a Council composed of the area delegates of the Pauline Congregations, of the National person-in-charge and of the representative Groups.

VII.12.2- The regional or inter-regional person-in-charge with his Council receives the task of coordinating the groups of his own region of inter-region.

VII.13- The National Board of the Association is composed of the National delegates of the Major Superiors of the Pauline Congregations present in the territory, and of Cooperators. These are nominated by the National Delegates who can ask for a list of nominees from the Assembly of representatives of the local sectors. Their office shall last for four years. In the Board a coordinator is elected for a term that it determines not more than 3 years.

VII.13.1- Besides the choice of a coordinator in the Board it is opportune to nominate a secretary whose duty is to take the minutes of the meetings of the National Board.

VII.14- The National Board has the duty of animating, promoting, coordinating and programming the activities of the Association and of appointing the diocesan persons-in-charge.

VII.14.1- The National Assembly is convoked upon the proposal of the National Board which proposes its objectives. Every four years there shall be a renewal of offices according to the Art.VII.13 of the Statute.

VII.14.2-In the Assembly two representatives from every Sector present in the territory participate with the right to speak and to vote. Likewise, the National Board as well as area delegates with equal rights participate in that assembly.

GENERAL BOARD

VII.15- The General Board is composed of the General Superiors of the Pauline Family, General Delegates and some Cooperators appointed by the General Superiors.

VII.16- The General Delegates are appointed by the General Superiors of the congregations of the Pauline Family.

VII.17- The General Board that gives directives regarding the entire Association of the Pauline Cooperators. It prepares or updates the Statutes, indicates guidelines for the formation of the members, announces the holding of Congresses, chooses the theme, fixes the venue, takes care of the organization.

VII.18- The National Board shall maintain frequent contacts with the General Board by informing it about the work accomplished with or by the Cooperators, initiatives taken or to be started, and presents proposals aimed at improving the various aspects of the Association, so as to achieve a more brotherly and efficacious communion.