

STATUTE
ASSOCIATION OF PAULINE COOPERATORS
ad experimentum
2022-2027





Prot. n. 52a/22 SG

Roma 9 maggio 2022

Decreto di approvazione dello Statuto dei Cooperatori Paolini
ad experimentum

In data 9 maggio 2022, don Valdir José De Castro, Superiore generale della Società San Paolo ha convocato le Superiori generali delle altre Congregazioni religiose della Famiglia Paolina per esaminare la proposta della nuova stesura dello Statuto dei Cooperatori Paolini frutto del lavoro dalla Commissione per questo costituita. Con il consenso di tutte le presenti

approva

lo STATUTO DEI COOPERATORI PAOLINI
ad experimentum per un quinquennio
(2022 – 2027).

Con il parere unanime si stabilisce che questo nuovo Statuto entri in vigore a partire dal 20 agosto 2022, giornata della Fondazione della Società San Paolo e inizio della Famiglia Paolina, dando così la possibilità a tutti i gruppi della Associazione dei Cooperatori Paolini di prenderne conoscenza per applicarlo secondo lo spirito per cui è stato rinnovato.

Ringraziando tutti coloro che con dedizione ed impegno sinodale – in diversi modi – hanno lavorato per giungere a questo traguardo auspichiamo che anche questo Documento normativo contribuisca al rinnovamento della vita e della missione paolina nel mondo, secondo l'intuizione profetica del Beato Giacomo Alberione: «*Il Cooperatore ha il medesimo ideale di Gesù: accendere il fuoco dell'amore di Dio in ogni anima e in tutto il mondo... collabora ... a far giungere il Vangelo fino all'angolo più remoto della terra, e perciò ad accendere nelle menti degli uomini la luce della fede e il fuoco dell'amore*» (G. Alberione, *Il Cooperatore Paolino*, Albano Laziale, 1953, p. 209).


Don Valdir José De Castro
Sup. Gen. Società San Paolo


Sr. Anna Caiazza
Sup. Gen. Figlie di San Paolo


Sr. Maria Micaela Monetti
Sup. Gen. Pie Discepolo del Divino Maestro


Sr. Aminta Sarmiento
Sup. Gen. Suore di Gesù Buon Pastore


Sr. Marina Beretti
Sup. Gen. Istituto Regina degli Apostoli per le Vocazioni

Decree of approval of the Statute of the Pauline Cooperators
ad experimentum

On May 9, 2022, Father Valdir José de Castro, Superior General of the Society of Saint Paul, convoked the Superiors General of the other religious Congregations of the Pauline Family to examine the proposed new draft of the Statute for the Cooperators of the Pauline Family, fruit of the work of the Commission constituted for this purpose. With the consensus of all those present

he approved

the STATUTE OF THE PAULINE COOPERATORS

ad experimentum for a quinquennial

(2022 – 2027).

Unanimously, it was established that this new Statute will become effective on August 20, 2022, the Foundation Day of the Society of Saint Paul and the beginning of the Pauline Family, thereby allowing all of the groups of the Association of Pauline Cooperators the possibility of becoming familiar with the text in order to apply it according to the spirit in which it was renewed.

In gratitude to all those who worked with dedication and synodal commitment – in various ways – to reach this threshold, it is also our hope that this normative Document will contribute to the renewal of the Pauline life and mission in the world, according to the prophetic intuition of Blessed Father James Alberione: *The Cooperator has the same ideal as Jesus: enkindle the flame of the love of God in every soul and throughout the world... collaborate... to spread the Gospel to the furthest corner of the earth, and therefore to enkindle in the minds of the people the light of faith and the fire of love*". (J. Alberione, *Il Cooperatore paolino*, Albano Laziale, 1953, p. 209).

The signatures of the Superiors General follow

ABBREVIATIONS AND SOURCES

SACRED SCRIPTURE

Mt	<i>Gospel of Saint Matthew</i>
Lk	<i>Gospel of Saint Luke</i>
Jn	<i>Gospel of Saint John</i>
Rm	<i>Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans</i>
1Cor	<i>First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians</i>
Gal	<i>Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians</i>
Eph	<i>Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians</i>

MAGISTERIUM OF THE CHURCH

AG	<i>Ad gentes</i> , Decree of Vatican Council II, 1965.
LG	<i>Lumen gentium</i> , Constitution of Vatican Council II, 1965.
ChL	<i>Christifideles Laici</i> , Apostolic Post-synodal Exhortation of John Paul II, 1988.
VC	<i>Vita consecrata</i> , Apostolic Post-synodal Exhortation of John Paul II, 1996.

CHARISMATIC SOURCES

AD	<i>Abundantes divitiae gratiae suae</i>
RSP	<i>Per un Rinnovamento spirituale</i>
FSP58	<i>Alle Figlie di San Paolo</i> . Meditations and Instructions (1958).
FSP60	<i>Alle Figlie di San Paolo</i> . Meditations and Instructions (1960).
FSP-SdC	<i>Alle Figlie di San Paolo</i> . Explanation of the Constitutions (1961)
PrPM	<i>Prediche del Primo Maestro</i> (1960)
CP	<i>Il Cooperatore Paolino</i> (1953)

Chapter I

THE PAULINE COOPERATOR CALLED TO HOLINESS IN THE PAULINE FAMILY, IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE WORLD

In 1908 I heard this invitation from my spiritual director: «Always remember: Annuerunt sociis (cfr. Lk 5:7): it is necessary to seek the help of persons». Then the Cooperators began to be fostered (RSP, p. 566).

Art. 1 – Blessed James Alberione: man of God, attentive to the signs of the times

§1 – During the night of adoration to begin the twentieth century, a light coming from Jesus Master in the Eucharist sounded in the young James Alberione his invitation, “Come to me, all of you”, outlining for him the path of his vocation and mission to be carried out in the century that had barely begun. Alberione clearly perceived that generous persons *“would experience what he was feeling; and that teamed up into an organization” they were called to be the “new apostles to reform the law, education, literature, the press, morals; that the Church would have a fresh impetus for mission; that the new means of the apostolate would be well used... especially regarding the social questions and Church freedom” (AD 15-19). “He felt deeply obliged to serve the Church, the men and women of the new century and to work with others” (AD 16, 20).*

§2 – The encyclical *Tametsi futura* of Pope Leo XIII offered him an analysis of the society of his time and outlined for the Church the mission of recapitulating everything in Christ (cfr. Eph 1:9-10), who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (Jn 14:6). Alberione confessed, at that time, that he assumed this encyclical as a *“sacred inheritance”* for himself and for the future mission.

Art. 2 – The Pauline Cooperators in the mind and in the heart of the Founder

§1 – With the experience of that night, Father Alberione initially thought of an organization of Catholics to whom “he would give direction, work and a spirit of apostolate...”. But *“Toward 1910 he took a definitive step. It became much clearer that the writers, technical personnel and promoters [would have to be] religious men and women” (AD 24).*

He thus arrived at a clear inspiration for the Pauline Family: *“in the prayer he offered every morning to the Lord with the chalice, his first thought was for the Cooperators who would offer their intellectual, spiritual and financial cooperation” (AD 25)* and in the second place to the Congregations of men and women who unite the *“practice of the evangelical counsels to the merits of the apostolic life” (AD 24).*

§2 – As persons who desire to improve their Christian life, the Pauline Cooperators fulfill the vocation received at baptism, enriching it with the Pauline spirit and fulfill their apostolate by means of prayer, works, and offerings (AD 122).

§3 - *“The Cooperator – affirms Father Alberione in reference to the Pauline charism – has the same ideal as Jesus: to kindle the fire of the love of God in every soul and throughout the world... collaborate...spread the Gospel to the remotest corner of the earth, and thereby kindle in the minds of people the light of faith and the fire of love” (CP, p. 209).*

§4 – In the vision of the Gospel, this means being the yeast in the dough, the lamp on the lampstand, a city set on a mountain (cfr. Mt 5:14ff). *“You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world... Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father”* (Mt 5:13-16).

§5 - Alberione affirms: the lay person is *“a Pauline in the world”*. And in this sense, the lay Pauline Cooperator is truly an *“extension”* of the presence of the Pauline Family in the world.

Art. 3 – The Pauline Cooperator in the Pauline Family

§1 – The Pauline Family was born on August 20, 1914, in the city of Alba, Italy, with the foundation of the Society of Saint Paul for the apostolate of the Good Press. From the beginning, the Founder was inspired by the experience of the human family, consisting of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters. It is made up of ten religious and lay institutions that the Founder envisioned as branches of a large tree.

Thus, in 1915, he gathered a group of young women and founded the Pious Society of the Daughters of Saint Paul, always with the apostolate of the Good Press. In 1917, he began the “Union of Cooperators for the Good Press”, later called the “Association of Pauline Cooperators”, which gathers lay men and women who desire to live, according to their proper state of secular life, the Pauline charism in the footsteps of the Founder, *“in holiness, in Christ and in the Church”* (AD 3). In 1924, he founded the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master for the Eucharistic, priestly and liturgical apostolate; the Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd (Pastorelle), in 1938, who dedicate themselves to the pastoral apostolate at the diocesan and parish levels; and the Institute of the Queen of Apostles for vocations (Apostoline), in 1959, dedicated to the vocational apostolate in its various forms. In 1960 the Pontifical Approval was granted to the three Pauline Institutes of secular consecrated life aggregated to the Society of Saint Paul: Saint Gabriel the Archangel (Gabrielites) and Mary Most Holy of the Annunciation (Annunciationists), for consecrated laity; the Institute of Jesus Priest for diocesan priests who aspire to live the Pauline spirituality in their ministry. Later, in 1982, the Pontifical Approval was granted to the Holy Family Institute for the sanctification of married couples and the family, also this was born from the heart of Alberione.

§2 – By vocation, the members of the Association of Pauline Cooperators form an integral part of the Pauline Family, with *“equal dignity and equal character”* as Paulines, like all those who make up the Pauline Family; they live the same spirit, *“the Pauline spirit”*, as defined by Alberione: *“The Pauline Family strives to fully live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Way, Truth and Life, in the spirit of Saint Paul, under the gaze of the Queen of Apostles”* (AD 93).

§3 – Progressively, under the direction of the Founder, the Pauline Cooperators have expanded their range of action in accordance with the specific aims of the apostolate of the Congregations of the Pauline Family which, besides the proclamation of the Gospel through the means of social communication, they also realize in the Eucharistic/liturgical apostolate; in the parochial/diocesan pastoral work and in the pastoral work for vocations.

§4 – The Pauline Cooperators bring to the Pauline Family the specific values of their lay state, with respect to the proper identity and autonomy of each institution of the same Family: *“This profound unity in diversity forms part of the charismatic nature of the Pauline Family”* (Pauline Catechesis, p. 67). Each Pauline Cooperator is to appreciate and live the communion with all of the other members of the Pauline Family.

Art. 4 – The Cooperators in the heart of the Church

§1 – The members of the Association of Pauline Cooperators, *“who by Baptism are incorporated into Christ, are placed in the People of God, and in their own way share the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ and to the best of their ability carry on the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world”* (LG 31), commit themselves to correspond concretely to the universal call of God to holiness.

§2 – In the Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles laici*, Saint John Paul II emphasizes that *“because of the one dignity flowing from Baptism, each member of the lay faithful, together with ordained ministers and men and women religious, shares a responsibility for the Church's mission”*. There is, however, a specific modality that characterizes it and is specific to it: the secular dimension (cfr. ChL 15).

§3 – The Association of Pauline Cooperators bears witness to the common Pauline mission and is co-responsible for the apostolic project of the Founder in communicating Jesus Master and Shepherd Way, Truth, and Life in the Church and in the world.

Art. 5 – The Cooperators in the heart of the world

§1 – The Pauline Cooperators are called, first of all, to holiness and living it in the world. Therefore, they are urged by the Holy Spirit to cultivate the interior life and a personal relationship with Christ so that, enlightened by the same Holy Spirit, they do everything to give *“glory to God and peace to humanity”*.

§2 – The Pauline Cooperators sanctify themselves in the specific manner that derives from being inserted in the temporal reality, in daily family, professional, social, and ecclesial life.

§3 - *“The lay faithful are called by God that, being led by the spirit of the Gospel, they may contribute to the sanctification of the world, as from within like leaven, by fulfilling their own particular duties. Thus, especially by the witness of their life, resplendent in faith, hope and charity they must manifest Christ to others”* (LG 31; cfr. also ChL 15). The Pauline Cooperators commit themselves to giving to the world *“a Christian mentality, which then generates... Christian life, Christian legislation... and all that fosters a spiritual life for souls and a Christian life for society”* (FSP58, p. 436).

§4 – The Pauline Cooperators, in the spirit of the Evangelical Beatitudes, commit themselves to living the Gospel in company with today's humanity. The journey of holiness is characterized by a life according to the Spirit as a free, personal, and conscious response of love to the love that has been received. This life according to the Spirit is manifested:

- in Evangelical poverty, as defined by Alberione, with the criteria of sobriety, industriousness, and sharing in light of the common good;
- in purity of heart, mind, will, behavior;
- in mercy as openness and pastoral charity;
- in justice, to build a more fraternal world that recognizes and promotes the rights of all, especially of the weakest;
- in being artisans of communion and peace in a world that is agitated and shattered by violence and by social divisions;
- in being persons of communication, of good relationships in order to build bridges in a multicultural and multi-ethnic humanity.

§5 – In the example of Saint Paul the Apostle, the Pauline Cooperator is called to live and bear witness, with courage and joy, to faith in the crucified and risen Christ. *“Do not be afraid, I am with you always, until the end of the age”* (Mt 28:20).

Chapter II

IDENTITY OF THE PAULINE COOPERATOR

The Cooperators are thought of as persons who understand the Pauline Family and are united in spirit and purpose with it. They embrace its two main aims, in the way possible to them, and make their contribution in the way possible to them (AD, Appendix VI, 341).

Art. 6 – Characteristics of the Pauline Cooperator

§1- The Pauline Cooperator, accepting the call to live the Gospel as a lay person in the world as a member of the Pauline Family, commits to incarnating it in daily life in accordance with the directives of the Church, which invites the laity to “share more intensely in the spirituality and mission of the various religious institutes” (*Vita consecrata*, 54).

§2 – Pauline Cooperators can be Catholic Christians of any cultural and social condition, regardless of age, who, aware of their personal baptismal vocation, commit themselves to living the Pauline spirituality and mission in their specific state as laity. They intend to collaborate in its realization, thus finding a precious opportunity to actualize their own Christian vocation, developing their own gifts and making fruitful the talents received from the Lord.

§3 – Men and women of good will, also of other religious and cultural beliefs who are attracted to the Pauline charism, can share in the local and national initiatives and offer their collaboration.

§4 – For particular “irregular” situations, the directives of the Church are to be followed.

Chapter III

SPIRITUALITY OF THE PAULINE COOPERATOR

You are nourished by the Pauline spirit... You have a Pauline Christian spirituality. Nothing else. It is the Christian spirituality as interpreted by Saint Paul. There is nothing greater! ... Our spirit is the Gospel (FSP-SdC, pp. 62-63).

Art. 7 – An integral spirituality

§1 – The spirituality of the Pauline Cooperator is that which is cultivated by the entire Pauline Family, which has as its essential points of reference: Jesus Master and Shepherd, Way, Truth and Life, Mary Queen of the Apostles, Saint Paul and Saint Peter.

§2–The Pauline Cooperator nourishes himself in Christ through the Word of God and the Eucharist; in Christ, he unifies prayer, study, apostolate, and personal life; in Christ he/she receives grace, strength, and courage to be yeast and light in his witness of new life in the midst of today's humanity. *“The whole person in Jesus Christ, in view of loving God completely by means of one's intelligence, will, heart and physical strength”* (AD 100).

§3 – The Christocentric vision of Saint Paul is reflected in the spiritual direction of the Founder, who invites us to comprehend the total mystery of the Son of God through the Evangelical definition of Master and Shepherd who, *“since he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, will satisfy all their inner hopes, or rather infinitely surpass them”* (AG 13).

§4 – The Alberionian vision of Mary Queen of the Apostles transmitted to us is that which is expressed in the Liturgy: *“Edidit nobis Salvatorem”*. The Most Holy Virgin gave us the Savior, carried him in her womb, gave birth to him and gave him to all of humanity. Our spiritual life develops in the same sequence.

§5 – The Founder indicates two principal characteristics about Saint Paul: *“It is no longer I who live, Christ lives in me”* (Gal 2:20) and *“I have become all things to all”* (1Cor 9:22). The process of Christification and the passion to make it known to all, especially to the “Gentiles”, characterize the Pauline Spirit of the entire Pauline Family.

§6 – The Pauline method – Truth, Way, and Life – is a characteristic of the Pauline Family to foster and develop our spiritual life. Assimilated and made our own, it will be a great help for the Cooperators.

§7 – The “Pact” or “Secret of Success” is the prayer created by our Founder and expresses the personal consciousness that must animate the lifestyle and thinking of the members of the Pauline Family and, consequently, also of the Cooperators.

§8 – The daily practices of piety, as well as spiritual accompaniment, foster living one's vocation in the world with constant attention to the signs of the times.

§9 – In living the spirituality, the Cooperators will find assistance in the witness of the life of *Primo Maestro*, always straining forward in the search for Pauline sanctity, as well as in the witness of the

first generations, especially the Pauline witnesses whose cause for beatification and canonization are in progress.

§10 – Spiritual retreats and the celebration of the Pauline dates and feasts constitute moments of grace to renew our spirituality, our sense of belonging to the Pauline Family, and the sharing of the fruits of our apostolic commitment.

§11 – The Pauline Cooperator, rooted in Christ and aware that all the baptized are called to holiness and perfection in charity, accepts their own weaknesses and the sufferings that arise in life and in the mission and entrusts themselves to the mercy of the Lord and in the conviction “*that all things work for good for those who love God*” (Rm 8:28).

Art. 8 – Pauline lifestyle

§1 – The Pauline spirit and color translate concretely into a “Pauline lifestyle” which is a personal manner of being in the daily reality in which the person lives, consisting of gestures, relationships, choices. This style finds its roots and its meaning in the values the person has acquired, and it is their external expression and manifestation.

§2 – The Pauline lifestyle finds its origin and exemplarity in the study and knowledge of our models: Paul and Alberione, our points of reference for those interior motivations and convictions that generated their behavior and attitudes that we admire today and by which we desire to be inspired.

§3 – The style of Paul and of Alberione is summarized in this: “passion for God, passion for humanity”.

Chapter IV

APOSTOLATE

If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! (1Cor 9:16).

Art. 9 – Laity in the world and in the Church with the Pauline color

§1 – The Pauline Cooperator fulfills their apostolate in the first place through daily commitments. They follow Jesus Christ the Master, Way, Truth, and Life, sent by the Father to serve and to save the people in the world. Therefore, they commit themselves to realize the Evangelical ideal of the love of God and neighbor in the ordinary conditions of life.

§2 – The Association of Pauline Cooperators assumes the aim of the Pauline Family, embracing “from outside” – as the Founder said – all the apostolates of the other Pauline Congregations, in order to live integrally the Gospel in the spirit of Saint Paul, under the gaze of Mary Queen of the Apostles, and to communicate it to the world through those means that are more appropriate to the nature of the individual Congregations: social communication (specific aim of the Society of Saint Paul and of the Pious Society of the Daughters of Saint Paul), the Eucharist, the Priesthood, the Liturgy (specific aim of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master), the parochial and diocesan pastoral ministry (specific aim of the Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd-Pastorelle), the promotion and care of vocations (specific aim of the Institute of the Queen of Apostles for vocations-Apostoline), as well as opening to other environments that characterize the secular life specific to the Cooperators.

§3 – One of the principal commitments of the Pauline Cooperators with respect to the apostolate is to insert themselves within the pastoral activity of the Church, both in general and locally, collaborating with the Church in those areas that characterize the specific nature of the Pauline Congregations.

§4 – The Pauline Cooperator is called to participate in the life and the mission of the Pauline Family in the following ways:

- a. Prayer: is the most necessary cooperation. It consists in the personal and community offering of prayer for the diffusion of the Gospel and for the coming of the Kingdom of God into the world. The Cooperator cultivates the prayer of praise, thanksgiving, reparation, intercession and also promotes the initiatives of prayer in their own environment. The Cooperator offers their commitment in daily life, the prayers and sufferings in the spirit of the Pauline Offertory.
- b. Action: the Cooperator lives in solidarity and fraternal charity toward everyone, participates according to their possibilities in the various expressions of the Pauline apostolate, freely offers their collaboration in the fulfillment of the Pauline mission.
- c. Offerings: as a sign of generosity and zeal, according to their own possibilities, they contribute to the apostolic and vocational initiatives of the Pauline Family, for the attainment of their objectives. They also make themselves available to organize activities to raise funds for the formation, vocations, and the mission.

§5 – The Pauline Cooperators can fulfill their apostolic commitment in works managed autonomously by the Association or through initiatives that correspond to the aims of the Association and approved by their own Superiors.

§6 – At the local and circumscription levels, coordination is to be sought among the apostolic activities to enhance their efficacy.

§7 – The name itself of Pauline Cooperators expresses the reality of Cooperation in the various apostolic forms of the Pauline Family. The wealth and creativity that may result from putting together the talents of each person for the development of a greater sense of belonging and involvement is not to be underestimated.

§8 – The Pauline Cooperators can offer a valid contribution to vocational promotion for the Church and for the Pauline Family.

Chapter V

Formation – Membership – Promise

His overriding thought was that in view of one's own salvation and in view of a more fruitful apostolate one needs to develop the whole human personality: mind, will and heart... (AD 22).

Art. 10 – Integral Formation

§1 – The formation required by the Founder for all the members of the Pauline Family must be an integral formation that involves every dimension of the human person: mind, will, heart, physical energies. The entire being must be transformed and Christified in the encounter with Christ the Truth, Way, and Life, as disciples of the Master.

§2 – In order to be integral, integrated, and stable, the formation is proposed by Father Alberione with the image of a cart with four wheels: sanctity, study, apostolate, and poverty (cfr. AD 100). It is specific to the Alberionian vision of the person and of his life; it is part of the tradition of the Pauline Family and it must permeate the path toward spiritual perfection of the Pauline Cooperator.

§3 – The formative itinerary of the Pauline Cooperator covers these areas:

Human formation – This is realized by cultivating particularly the gift of life; knowledge of oneself and the personal history in the light of the Gospel, the values of the person, the family, work, justice, solidarity, and responsibility for our common home.

Christian formation – Cultivates everything that helps us to: “*give a reason for your hope*”: the reading, study, and meditation on the Word of God, especially the life and the letters of Saint Paul; the reading and studying of the documents of the Church, the formation and active participation in the liturgical life; the life of prayer as a personal relationship with Jesus Master Way, Truth, and Life, in the spirit of Saint Paul the Apostle under the gaze of Mary Queen of the Apostles; participation in the Sacraments, especially of the Eucharist, which is adored and celebrated, and Reconciliation; the participation in the strong moments in the life of the local Church and those scheduled by the Association of the Cooperators.

Charismatic-apostolic formation – Commitment to the reading and study of the writings and the life of the Founder and the documents of the Pauline Family; to deepening the identity and the vocation/mission of the laity in the Church and in society according to the teachings of the Magisterium of the Church; to knowledge and study of the charism and of the mission of the Pauline Family today, including the specific aspects of the Institutes it incorporates.

Formation for study – Growth in the knowledge of the means, the forms and the languages of social communication, of the liturgy and of the pastoral work, and how to apply them to Evangelization; in the knowledge and information on the religious, social, cultural and political realities of one's own nation for a better “mediation” and “inculturation” of the Gospel in the human realities of today and to penetrate the thought and human knowledge with the categories of the Gospel that is light and salt for the world (AD 87); in knowledge of the history and the life of the Association of Pauline Cooperators; in the continual perfection of the knowledge and study of one's own professional life; in cultivating the commitment to “learn from everything and from everyone” in daily life.

§4 – The first formator is, undoubtedly, the Holy Spirit with whom the Pauline Cooperator cooperates actively, docilely, and responsibly. The second responsible for the formation is the Pauline Cooperator.

§5 – Becoming a member of the Association of Pauline Cooperators requires a period of initial formation of at least two consecutive years, which culminate with the Promise. Every Pauline Cooperator is called to have a disposition for ongoing formation.

§6 – Anyone who desires to become a member of the Association of Pauline Cooperators is to accept a formative process directed toward fundamental content for the identity of the Pauline mission, institutionalized in the formative itinerary specific to the Pauline Cooperators and translated into a personalized plan of life, enhancing their personal life experience and talents.

§7 – The Association promotes the personal and group formation through qualified persons, Cooperators and other members of the Pauline Family, following the formative itinerary.

§8 – The Pauline Family receives the Cooperators and offers them the necessary formation and accompaniment in their vocational journey, within a social/ecclesial reality called “Association of Pauline Cooperators”, to which they belong through the free and personal adhesion expressed in the Promise.

Art. 11 – Membership

§1 – The commitment to becoming a Pauline Cooperator requires a choice that is motivated and matured under the action of the Holy Spirit.

§2 – Membership in the Association of the Pauline Cooperators begins with the “Promise”, with the voluntary expression of the desire to live the baptismal commitment in the modality specific to that of the Cooperator in the world with the “Pauline spirit”.

§3 – Membership in the Association requires concrete signs that translate into the active participation in the life and the activities of the Association. Fidelity to the duties assumed and content of the Promise manifest the decision, day after day, to respond to a vocation that lasts a lifetime.

§4 – Membership in the Association is also expressed by promoting the Association in the various areas of personal, social, professional and ecclesial life.

§5 – The Pauline Cooperators are conscious that membership in the Association nourishes their own experience of faith and communion to sustain their vocation and they become promoters of relationships and interactions that are healthy, constructive, positive and purposeful.

Art. 12 – The Promise

§1 – For the Pauline Cooperator, the meaning and the scope of the Promise is to express the will to live one’s own baptismal vocation according to the Pauline charism, committing themselves to bear witness in the world, through their life and word, to the Gospel they proclaim.

§2 – Following the period of initial formation, they proceed to the admission of the new Cooperators. The candidate presents the written request to the National Coordinator and his Council, expressing the free will to be admitted to the Association of Pauline Cooperators. After the suitability is evaluated, the candidate is accepted for the Promise and their name is transmitted to the World Council, which enrolls their name into the General Registry of the Association located in the General Archive. The Pauline Cooperator will also receive the enrollment in the Work of the Perpetual Masses, that the priests of the Society of Saint Paul celebrate annually for all the Pauline Cooperators.

§3 – The new Cooperator receives the Bible, the Statute and Directory of the Cooperators (and the Regulation, in those areas in which it exists), together with the emblem of the Pauline Family. They will also receive the book *The Prayers of the Pauline Family*, with which they can continue the spiritual formation and live in prayerful communion with the entire Pauline Family.

§4 – The “Promise” of the Cooperators in a Nation/Circumscription will take place within a liturgical celebration, in the presence of the Superior of the Circumscription or one of the Pauline Congregations (or a delegate), using the following formula:

*O Lord, my God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you have called me to be a Pauline Cooperator,
grant that in the imitation of Saint Paul the Apostle,
I..., through the grace of God, may belong to Christ.
I intend to apply my mind, will, heart and physical energies,
in conformity with my state in life,
to the promulgation and proclamation of the Gospel
in the forms and in the spirit of the Pauline Family
for your greater glory and for my sanctification
and that of my brothers and sisters.
May Jesus Christ the Master, Way, Truth and Life,
Mary Queen of the Apostles and
Saint Paul the Apostle help me to be faithful.*

§5 – In order to renew the faith in the commitment assumed, the Pauline Cooperator is invited to renew the Promise once a year, when possible, during the month of June, dedicated to Saint Paul and during which the anniversary of the foundation of the Association of Pauline Cooperators is celebrated.

§6 – The patronal feast for all the Pauline Cooperators is the Solemnity of Saint Paul the Apostle, which takes place on June 30 for the entire Pauline Family.

§7 – The Cooperators are to participate in the liturgical celebrations specific to all the Institutions of the Pauline Family.

Art. 13 – Departure from the Association

§1 – The Pauline Cooperator who personally chooses to cease being a member of the Association is to communicate this to the National Council with a written declaration and providing the motive. The National Council will send a copy of the declaration to the World Council of the Cooperators who will remove the inscription from the General Registry and send them documents attesting that the person is no longer a member of the Association.

§2 – The decision to dismiss a member from the Association for serious reasons, must be taken by the National Coordinator with his Council based upon a motivated report by the team responsible for local coordination, after having verified that the lifestyle is inconsistent with the duties assumed by the Promise. The National Council must give the interested person the possibility of presenting a defense within 60 days from the notification, after which the merit will be decided. The candidate may appeal to the World Coordinator and his Council, who is responsible for the attestation of the eventual departure.

§3 – The Cooperator who does not participate in the life of the Association, without serious reasons for doing so, may be dismissed if the interventions of the Coordinator do not bring reconciliation.

§4 – The decision of the World or of the National Council must be communicated to the interested person in writing.

§5 – The civil and canonical responsibility for the behavior of each Cooperator is individual and personal and not that of the Association.

Art. 14 – Spiritual Benefits connected with the Association of Pauline Cooperators

§1 – To the Pauline Cooperators regularly enrolled, the Holy See grants the plenary indulgence on the following feast days:

- Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Divine Master;
- Body and Blood of Christ;
- Mary Queen of the Apostles;
- Immaculate Conception of Mary;
- Assumption of Mary Most Holy;
- Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary;
- Saint Paul the Apostle.

§2 – As a sign of gratitude and appreciation for all the Cooperators, the Society of Saint Paul celebrates, each year, 2,400 Holy Masses – Perpetual Masses – and will continue to celebrate them until “it pleases the Lord to continue the existence of the Congregation” (*San Paolo*, n. 24).

§3 – In order to benefit from the fruits of the Perpetual Masses, the person must be enrolled in the proper registry, following the instructions from the Superior General of the Society of Saint Paul.

§4 – When a Cooperator dies, the information is to be sent promptly to the World Coordinator, the members of the Association, and of the Pauline Family. Each group of the Nation to which the Cooperator belonged will celebrate a Mass for their eternal repose and the members of the Association and of the Pauline Family will offer prayers in suffrage.

Chapter VI

ORGANIZATION

We must give great importance to the organizations. Yes. Organize the good. The organizations have great strength and each one can be holy, but alone it is a twig. If instead of a twig, many branches are tied together, then it becomes strong (PrPM 1960).

Art. 15 – Public association of the faithful joined to the Pauline Family

§1 – The Association of Pauline Cooperators is approved by the Holy See as a public Association of the faithful. Therefore, it is recognized as a juridical ecclesiastical person and participates in the spiritual patrimony of the Pauline Family.

§2 – Corresponding to its vocation and mission, the Association of Pauline Cooperators is endowed with a minimal organizational structure, intended as an instrument to help live the spirit of unity in the Pauline Family.

§3 – For its own governance and animation, the Association is entrusted to Local, National/Circumscription, and World Councils. All the Councils include the presence of a representative of the Pauline Congregations located in that territory with a right to speak and active vote. For the Local and National/Circumscription Councils, this representative is appointed by the Assembly of the Local and National/Circumscription Superiors, while for the World Council, the appointment is made by the Superior General and his/her Council.

§4 – The legal representation of the Association is entrusted to the Coordinator of the respective Council.

§5 – The organizational structure requires flexibility and functionality based upon the realities and the specific needs of the Pauline Cooperators in the various nations and places, without losing sight of the lay and Pauline nature of the association.

Art. 16 – World Organization

§1 – The Superior General of the Society of Saint Paul, successor of Father James Alberione, is the Superior of the Association of Pauline Cooperators, who in this role exercises the function of General Moderator, guaranteeing fidelity to the project of the Founder and in promoting its growth and development.

§2 – In his ministry as General Moderator, the Superior General of the Society of Saint Paul is assisted by the General Superiors of the Pauline Congregations, with whom he forms a General Board with the task of directing and guarding the Association.

§3 – The General Board has the role of instituting the Association in the nations and in the circumscriptions, following the proposal of the World Council. By nation is understood the

geographical territory of a nation, while circumscription is understood as a group of nations joined by language or culture.

§4 – The General Board also has the role of appointing two Delegates of the General Governments of the Congregations of the Pauline Family: a religious from the Society of Saint Paul and a religious sister from one of the feminine Congregations of the Pauline Family, alternating with each mandate. These form part of the World Council of Cooperators.

§5 – The General Board will have its reference and representative in the World Coordinator with his Council.

§6 – The General Superiors and those of the Circumscriptions evaluate the possibility of the participation of a representation of the Cooperators, even if only as auditors, at the General Chapters, Provincial Chapters or Assemblies.

Art. 17 – World Council

§1 – At the worldwide level, the Association of Pauline Cooperators is governed by a World Council composed of:

- The World Coordinator who is a lay Cooperator nominated by the General Council following consultation with the national/circumscription Coordinators.
- The lay Cooperators, representing the different dimensions of the apostolate realized by the Congregations of the Pauline Family, elected by their respective national or circumscription Assemblies;
- Two delegates of the General Governments of the Congregations of the Pauline Family.

§2 – The Delegates of the General Governments have the role of spiritual and charismatic reference for the Association, they have the right to speak, active voice, and to participate in all the meetings of the World Council, since they are members by right.

§3 – The World Council has the task of animating and articulating the organization of the Association throughout the world, stimulating its communion and unity.

§4 – The World Council will gather at least twice a year, either in person or virtually. They may gather for extraordinary sessions for urgent or specific situations, at the discretion of the World Coordinator. They may, finally, also gather at the request of two-thirds of the members of the World Council.

§5 – An Ordinary World Assembly is to take place every two years in person and/or virtually with the participation of the members of the World Council and the lay delegates of the National Councils. This Assembly has the purpose of evaluating the journey of the Association on the basis of the program at the beginning of the mandate, to plan actions or initiatives.

§6 – The Cooperators who are members of the World Council are elected by the National Delegates gathered in the Ordinary World Assembly, in which the religious delegates appointed by the General Council also participate.

§7 -The mandate of the World Coordinator and the Council is for a term of four years. That of the National/Circumscription/Local and respective Coordinators is for three years. This norm serves to guarantee the rotation of service of animation and guidance.

§8 – The directives of the World Council become effective with the approval of the General Board.

Art. 18 – World Coordinator

§1 – The General Board will appoint one Pauline Cooperator as World Coordinator after consultation with the national Delegates.

§2 – The World Coordinator represents the Association with the general governments of the Pauline Family and with the Holy See and is its legal representative. He/she will be the reference point of unity among the Cooperators throughout the world.

§3 – To fulfill its work, the World Coordinator must have an Executive Secretary whose qualifications must be described in a regulation prepared by the World Council.

Art. 19 – National Organization

§1 – In the national setting, to promote communion at the Pauline Family level, the Association of Pauline Cooperators is governed by a National Coordinator and his Council, composed of a Cooperator representing each dimension of the apostolate to which they refer, present in that nation.

§2 – One or two religious delegates of the Congregations of the Pauline Family present in that nation also form part of the National Council. They have the right to speak and active voice. The presence of the Delegates of the Congregations has the role of guaranteeing the charismatic identity of the Cooperators. Their numeric presence within the National Council is to be minimal with respect to the numeric presence of the lay Council Cooperators.

§3 – The National Delegate, following consultation with the Local Councils, will be appointed by the Assembly of the Major Superiors of the Congregations of the Pauline Family present in that nation.

§4 – The National Council has the role of accompanying the journey of the local groups, promoting the animation and initiatives to strengthen the interaction of the Cooperators and reinforce the sense of belonging to a single association according to the spirit of the Pauline Family.

§5 – The National Council will elect from among its members a National Coordinator, a lay Cooperator who will also serve as a representative of that nation with the World Council.

§6 – Taking into account the presence in some nations, the groups of a nation, under the proposal of the World Council, may organize themselves together with other nations relative to language, culture or territory.

§7 – This reality which joins various nations will be called a “circumscription”, and it must have the approval of the General Board upon the request of the World Council. The organization of a circumscription follows the same rules as a national organization.

Art. 20 – Local Organization

§1 – Locally, wherever possible, the groups of Pauline Cooperators are to organize themselves with a point of reference in one of the religious communities or centers of the Pauline apostolates. Each group must have a Coordinator, who is also the representative with the National Council. When the number of members exceeds 20, a Council is to be appointed together with the Coordinator. The number of Councilors is at the discretion of the group, but it should not exceed three Councilors. It is also recommended, wherever possible, that a Pauline religious accompany them as a charismatic, spiritual and apostolic point of reference. This also applies to the Local Council as indicated in Art. 19 §2.

§2 – The local group, under the leadership of the Coordinator, is to establish an itinerary and the initiatives of the Cooperators prepared in union and dialogue with the National Council. It also has the task of promoting the Association within its own territory.

§3 – The Cooperator who, eventually, comes to reside in a location in which there is no established group, must be joined to another group in another location, even at a distance. In the case of organized groups located in places in which there is no religious community of the Pauline Family, it is recommended that there be at least some contact with a religious from the nearest location.

§4 – Taking into consideration the specific reality of each nation, if necessary, the organization of local groups may have its own regulations approved by the World Council.

Art. 21 – Financial Resources and Administration

§1 – The Association of Pauline Cooperators does not have the intent to acquire, own, administer, and alienate temporal goods, although having the possibility as a public ecclesiastical juridical person according to the norm of law.

§2 – Due to its spiritual and charismatic bond with the Pauline Family, the Association has its operational reference with the centers of apostolate and the communities of the Congregations of the Pauline Family.

§3 – The fact that the Cooperators have their operational reference with the houses and centers of the Pauline apostolates does not grant them the right to manage or administer the goods and patrimony belonging to the Congregations. Nothing is owed to the Pauline Cooperators as remuneration for the services voluntarily offered within the structures of the Pauline Congregations based upon the title and by reason of the bond with the Association. Eventual professional loans that are private /personal must be regulated with respect to local civil legislation.

§4 – The headquarters of the Association of Pauline Cooperators is with the General House of the Society of Saint Paul in Rome. The general archive of the Pauline Cooperators will also be maintained at the same location.

§5 – In a national setting, the headquarters of the Association will be in conjunction with one of the congregations of the Pauline Family.

§6 – In order to sustain the eventual expenses regarding the production of formative materials, communications, trips, and sponsoring events, according to the needs, the various Councils may

organize licit and transparent ways to raise funds. With a sense of responsibility and sharing, every Pauline Cooperator is involved and participates to give the Association a contribution for economic autonomy that permits it to fully develop its mission and maintain the initiatives, avoiding any logic for the accumulation of goods.

Chapter VII

FINAL DISPOSITIONS

We need Cooperators who work beside us and desire to imitate the Pauline sisters and brothers in their apostolate and who desire to play an active role. It is possible to find many of these persons in the world (Il Raggio, 1958, n. 3, p. 74).

Art. 22 – To maintain unity

§1 – The Association of Pauline Cooperators is regulated by the present Statute. Other norms are contained in the Directory as an application of the Statute. There may also be Regulations at the national/circumscription levels. These are the principles that support them:

- The Statute defines the identity of the Pauline Cooperator, the spirit, the mission and the principles regarding the organizational structure of the Association.
- The Directory contains the practical points that specify and regulate the action of the articles of the Statute. It renders the principles of the Statute, to which it is subordinate, applicable in an operational form in the daily life of the Association.
- The Regulations are particular dispositions of the Association to adapt the Statute and the Directory to the concrete application in the various territorial realities or specific activities. They are approved by the World Council, which guarantees their conformity with the dispositions of the Statute and of the Directory.

§2 – The present Statute may be modified through the proposal of the General Council, of the World Council and of the National Councils.

§3 – It remains the competence of the General Council to approve the proposed modification and to present it to the Holy See. The modification approved by the General Council and by the Holy See will become effective in the manner and times indicated by the General Council.

INDEX

DECREE OF APPROVAL

Abbreviations and Sources

Chapter I

THE PAULINE COOPERATOR CALLED TO HOLINESS

IN THE PAULINE FAMILY, IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE WORLD

Art. 1 - Blessed James Alberione: Man of God, attentive to the signs of the times

Art. 2 - The Pauline Cooperators in the mind and in the heart of the Founder

Art. 3 - The Pauline Cooperator in the Pauline Family

Art. 4 - The Cooperators in the heart of the Church

Art. 5 - The Cooperators in the heart of the world

Chapter II

IDENTITY OF THE PAULINE COOPERATOR

Art. 6 - Characteristics of the Pauline Cooperator

Chapter III

SPIRITUALITY OF THE PAULINE COOPERATOR

Art. 7 - An integral spirituality

Art. 8 – Pauline Lifestyle

Chapter IV

APOSTOLATE

Art. 9 - Laity in the world and in the Church with the Pauline color

Chapter V

FORMATION – MEMBERSHIP – PROMISE

Art. 10 - Integral Formation

Art. 11 - Membership

Art. 12 - The Promise

Art. 13 - Departure from the Association

Art. 14 - Spiritual Benefits connected with the Association of Pauline Cooperators

Chapter VI

ORGANIZATION

Art. 15 - Public association of the faithful joined to the Pauline Family

Art. 16 - World Organization

Art. 17 - World Council

Art. 18 - World Coordinator

Art. 19 - National Organization

Art. 20 - Local Organization

Art. 21 - Financial Resources and Administration

Chapter VII

FINAL DISPOSITIONS

Art. 22 - To maintain unity