



ST PAULS BIBLICAL CENTRE STATUTE

The *St Pauls Biblical Centre* is an operational organization of the Society of St Paul, constituted on 4 April 2013, to implement the *operational line 1.2.2* of the IX General Chapter, in which it asked the General Government and the Circumscription Governments, in accordance with the international apostolic organizations, to elaborate «a project that coordinates the biblical pastoral activities of the Congregation», providing the Circumscriptions with concrete and feasible guidelines. This idea has been taken up and confirmed by the X General Chapter (*operational line 1.1.3*).

Thus, it actualizes the indication of Blessed James Alberione: «The book that we have to distribute in particular is the Bible: more than other books, before other books, always» (*UPS III*, 12).

I. PURPOSE AND NAME

St Pauls Biblical Centre is an organization of the Society of St Paul for the coordination and animation of the biblical apostolate of the Congregation and operates through *St Pauls Biblical Centres* of the Circumscriptions.

The name and its representation at the circumscription level are composed of two parts: “Biblical Centre” translated into the language of each Circumscription and logo/trademark. (*Examples: Centro Biblico San Paolo, Centro Bíblico San Pablo, Centro Bíblico PAULUS, St Pauls Biblical Centre, etc.*).

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1. General Objective

To develop and concretize a biblical pastoral project, in the broadest sense, that can act as a reference point for the biblical apostolate of the Congregation. For this purpose, it will assess and accompany all biblical initiatives, in order to direct, coordinate and facilitate synergies.

2.2. Specific Objectives

- 2.2.1. *To remember* (the past): safeguard and make known the thought of the Founder and the initiatives put in place throughout the Pauline history in the biblical field.
- 2.2.2. *To involve* (the present): share the different biblical initiatives of the Congregation: editorial (translations and editions of the Bible, sets of commentaries and related materials), pastoral (biblical missions, Gospel Days, festivals), formative (Bible studies, thematic in-depth courses), liturgical-spiritual (moments of prayer, adoration outlines) and distribution.
- 2.2.3. *To strain forward* (the future): developing a congregational biblical apostolic project that can stimulate and act as a reference for the editorial, formative, pastoral and spiritual initiatives at the international and national levels.
- 2.2.4. To serve as an interlocutor and mediator between the Circumscriptions in all that relates to the biblical apostolate, encouraging collaboration in the creation of biblical projects between Circumscriptions for the benefit of the whole Congregation.
- 2.2.5. To stimulate and support Pauline biblical apostolate at the service of the local ecclesial communities.
- 2.2.6. To harness, in the exercise of the biblical apostolate, all the means and languages, including the digital media.
- 2.2.7. To integrate the activities of the *International Catholic Bible Society* (SOBICAIN) of every Circumscription within *St Pauls Biblical Centre*.

3. MEMBERS AND OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

The members of the *St Pauls Biblical Centre* are the International Coordinator, his Council and the Representatives of the *St Pauls Biblical Centres* of the circumscriptions.

3.1. The International Coordinator

The Coordinator of *St Pauls Biblical Centre* at the international level is appointed by the Superior General with the consent of his Council (*Const. Art. 206.2/11*) for a period of three years. The headquarters will be determined by the Superior General.

The Coordinator of the *St Pauls Biblical Centre* informs and is accountable to the CTIA of its activities, keeping active the involvement of the representatives of *St Pauls Biblical Centres* of the circumscriptions.

3.1.1. Competencies

- a. To elaborate a biblical congregational apostolic project that individual Circumscriptions will be required to keep in mind, and to propose it, through the CTIA, for the approval of the General Government.
- b. To stimulate the work and creativity of the circumscription representatives of the *St Pauls Biblical Centre*, encouraging support among the Circumscriptions and keeping the flow of information and exchanges alive.

- c. To ensure that the action of *St Pauls Biblical Centre* is conducted with a “Pauline spirit”: universal in the means, contents, languages and recipients, etc. (Cf. *UPS I*, 372-373).
- d. To be attentive so that the circumscription *St Pauls Biblical Centre* can be the effective organization that stimulates, proposes, follows up the biblical initiatives of the Circumscription.
- e. To accompany and verify the work of the SOBICAIN, supporting with all possible forms the initiatives favouring translation, distribution and reading of the Bible.
- f. To organize, at least once during his term, a meeting of formation and exchange with the representatives of the circumscription *St Pauls Biblical Centres*, in order to discern, plan and develop the biblical apostolate of the Congregation. The place of meetings will be the one that the International Coordinator and his Council will deem most suited to achieve the objectives entrusted to them. The members, however, may be convened for extraordinary meetings using the Internet each time a need arises.

3.2. The Council of the International Coordinator

The Council of the Coordinator of *St Pauls Biblical Centre* is composed of three Pauline biblical scholars, appointed by the Superior General with the consent of his Council, preferably selected from the coordinators of the circumscription *St Pauls Biblical Centres* and representatives of the different linguistic-continental areas.

3.2.1. Competencies

- a. To work closely with the Coordinator of *St Pauls Biblical Centre* at the international level, developing and actualizing with him the congregational biblical apostolic project.
- b. To accompany and support the Coordinator of the Biblical Centre in the involvement of the different Circumscriptions.
- c. To verify periodically the implementation and the different aspects of the biblical apostolic project of the Congregation.

3.3. The Circumscription Representatives

The representative of *St Pauls Biblical Centre* at the circumscription level is a Pauline appointed by the circumscription Superior with the consent of his Council, upon the recommendation of the Director General of the Apostolate (cf. *SoA.M* 236.6). The local office of the *Centre* will be indicated by the Superior or Delegate of the Circumscription.

He must be inserted in the circumscription apostolic organizational chart in dependence on the Director General of the Apostolate, ensuring full cooperation with the editorial director.

3.3.1. Competencies

- a. To collaborate with the Director General of the Apostolate, in synergy with the editorial direction, so that in the circumscription Apostolic Project the biblical congregational

apostolic project is kept in mind, giving due attention to the biblical initiatives, the heart of our mission.

- b. To accompany and coordinate the biblical initiatives of the Circumscription, helping to realize the projects of biblical animation and formation, keeping informed the International Coordinator.

4. HEADQUARTERS AND ADMINISTRATION

- 4.1.** The headquarters and institutional centre of *St Pauls Biblical Centre* is in Rome, at the General House, while the operational office will be indicated by the Superior General.
- 4.2.** *St Pauls Biblical Centre* will have an initial fund allocated by the General Government; later, it will have to find ways to sustain itself.
- 4.3.** The travel costs for meetings and activities will be borne by the Circumscription of origin of the respective members and the meeting costs will be borne by the host Circumscription, in agreement with the General House.
- 4.4.** At the beginning of the fiscal year the International Coordinator of *St Pauls Biblical Centre* with his Council will draw up the budget and will have the *Società Apostolato San Paolo* (SASP) as the administrative centre which, at the end of the year, will prepare a financial Statement and a report on the patrimony. The approval of the budget and the administrative supervision are entrusted to the General Bursar with the authorization of the General Government.

5. INTERPRETATION AND APPROVAL

- 5.1.** The legitimate interpretation of this present Statute is the competence of the Superior General.
- 5.2.** The present Statute was approved by the General Government on 8 November 2016.