



# acts

**of superior council**

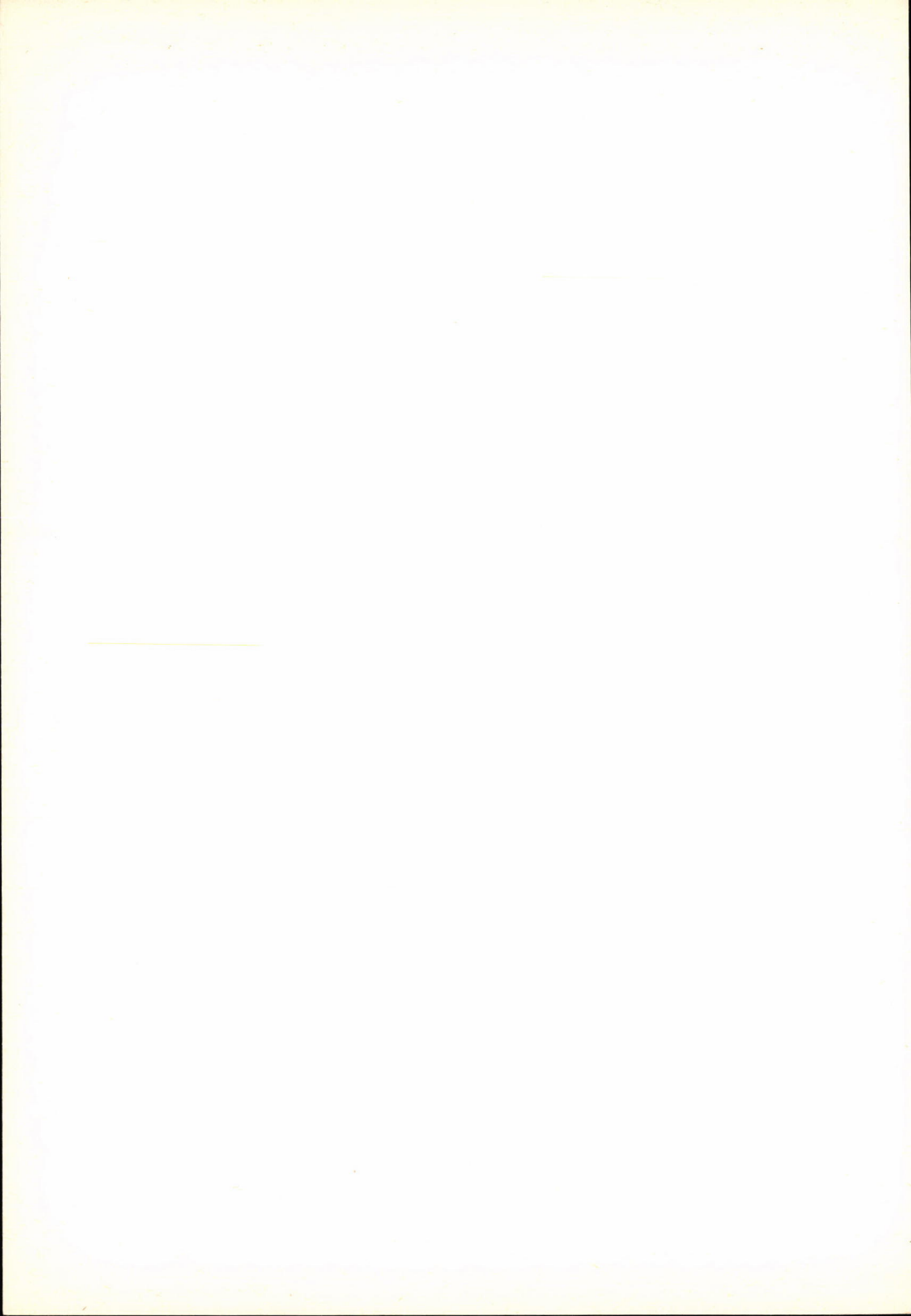
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**year LXI october-december 1980**

**N° 298**

**official organ  
of animation  
and of communication  
for the  
salesian congregation**

**ROMA  
DIREZIONE GENERALE  
OPERE DON BOSCO**





# acts

**of the Superior Council  
of the Salesian Society  
of St John Bosco**

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ANIMATION AND COMMUNICATION FOR THE SALESIAN CONGREGATION

**N. 298**

**Year LXI**

**October-December 1980**

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## 1. LETTER OF THE RECTOR MAJOR

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Father Egidio VIGANO'

### The lay element in the Salesian community

"THE LAY ELEMENT IN THE SALESIAN COMMUNITY" - 1. The uniqueness of our Society - 2. The Salesian Brother delineated: Description of his various functions; The essential qualities of the Salesian Brother - 3. Identity struggle: The Salesian Brother is a religious; He is not a "consecrated secular"; He is totally Salesian; He has opted for the lay aspect - 4. In what does this lay aspect consist?: Laicism in creation; Laicism in the mission of the Church; Laicism as a practical aspect in the religious life - 5. The true mark of the Salesian Brother: Belonging to the community; Secularism in the Congregation - 6. Parlous situation: Some statistics; Suggestion for the future; Trust in the Holy Spirit - 7. Today's most urgent task - 8. The crucial task of formation: Unity of formation; Specific formation; Ongoing formation - 9. Two authoritative appeals.

*Dear Confreres,*

For quite some time now I have wanted to speak about a topic of vital importance: the *Salesian Brother*. Indeed in today's situation this theme should be a matter of vital interest and study in every province, in every house: it should occupy the mind and heart of every single confrere.

The two recent General Chapters have treated the topic with deep concern; and the current state of affairs surely presents us with an urgent challenge. This is a matter that concerns not only our Brothers but each one of us; it has a bearing on us all as a body, on the community, on a very dimension of our Congregation: it is not a question of "him" but "us". We are dealing with a matter that is essential for the Congregation, part of its very framework; it forms a vital part of its identity and



constitutes a quickening and distinctive element in our mission.

We are well aware of Don Bosco's creative thinking in this regard. During his lifetime the first four General Chapters dealt with this particular topic; in fact it has been on the agenda of almost all succeeding Chapters.

Our Rector-Majors have discussed the topic in various ways in the context of the Congregation, in the conviction that the subject belonged to a unique element of our community. At the eve of his life Father Albera had prepared the main points for a circular entitled "Don Bosco, model of the Salesian Brother" as a follow-on to the circular of 1921, "Don Bosco, model of the Salesian Priest". In 1927 Father Rinaldi wrote a truly penetrating letter on "The Salesian Brother in the thinking of Don Bosco" (ASC 40), and it still merits our attention and meditation today (if anything more than ever because of today's crisis) for it sets forth clearly the scope of Don Bosco's thinking on the whole subject.

The profound social and ecclesial changes of our times urged the two recent General Chapters to take up the theme with particular determination, and GC21 has done this in most systematic fashion in its Document 2, "The Salesian Brother: a lay-religious vocation at the service of the Salesian mission" (GC21, 166-211) and in Document 3, "Formation to Salesian life" (GC21, 299-306). In this letter I wish to touch on the aspects of these documents that call for special renewal, and to refresh our memories regarding various enlightening directions and certain practical needs.



## 1. The uniqueness of our Society

Father Rinaldi has written that "the Salesian Brother is a brilliant creation of the great heart of Don Bosco under the inspiration of Mary Help of Christians" (ASC 40). He underlines the splendid modern features found in such a vocation and clearly sets out the reasons therefor: "The Salesian Brother is not to be considered as in second place, nor just a helper, nor even the right arm of his priest-confreres: he is their equal and capable of outpacing them in the way of perfection, as daily experience amply testifies" (ASC 40).

Keeping this excellent quote in context, we must try to understand how this "brilliant creation" Father Rinaldi speaks of really affects the very being of the whole Congregation. It will help us in our reappraisal of all members within the Salesian community.

After Vatican II the *community* was the object of an in-depth study; and this probing had more than a superficial influence on the specific character of community members. Our Constitutions affirm that our Society is made up of clerical and lay religious (art 3), and go on to say that "to live and work together is for us Salesians a fundamental need if we are truly to fulfil our vocation" (art 50); our same "mission is entrusted to the community at provincial or at local level; the work done by the members is both important and complementary" (art 34).

These citations from the Constitutions must have an important bearing on the *spiritual life and thinking of every member*. The Salesian is a *community member*, and as such must feel in his heart an innate complementary relationship with



other confreres who are Salesians in a different way. Hence the Salesian who is priest or cleric (or permanent deacon — which would need its own particular study) should feel a spontaneous bond of communion with the Brother, and the Brother should feel the same towards his priest or cleric confrere.

Our vocation is essentially a community vocation: hence there must be an effective communion that goes deeper than mere friendship between persons. More profoundly significant is the mutual relationship of the two basic elements, priestly and lay. Every confrere (priest, cleric or brother) lives his sacerdotal or lay vocation in a close and integrated relationship with the other — not separately, as though the vocation of each were independent or indifferent from the other.

These two basic choices call for a mutual and vital rapport between the different persons who live them. The two aspects grow and develop together in a life of communion; each is an advantage to the other; the one seeks to imbue the other harmoniously as both strive towards that “splendid modernity” and common mission that constitute the *distinctive character* of our Congregation (cf GC21, 194). Indeed it was Don Bosco’s wish that the Society of St Francis of Sales should be a “fellowship of priests, clerics and laymen (especially craftsmen) desirous of living in unity with the aim of doing good among themselves and among others... Note also”, continues Don Bosco, “that among the members of our Congregation there is no distinction; they are all treated in the same way, whether they be craftsmen, clerics or priests. We all consider ourselves as brothers” (MB XII, 152).



It is clear that our Holy Founder, when structuring the Congregation, decided that it should be both clerical and lay in character: not simply clerical, not simply lay, but clerical and lay in one sole communion of life and apostolate.

GC21 has shown the importance and influence of the Salesian Brother element in the educational and pastoral practice of the Preventive System. It has clarified and deepened the ways that priest and brother can complement each other; it has carefully measured the extent to which each element can imbue the other within the organism of a religious pastoral community served and animated by a guide enhanced by the charisms of priestly ordination (GC21, 196, 235, 212-239); yet the Chapter leaves the door open to further research and understanding, to the problem of improving mental attitudes, to courageous rethinking consonant with the cultural evolution and ecclesial renewal that is all about us.

In a special way has the Chapter called on us to build up a kind of community that of its very nature is able to *evangelise by educating and educate by evangelising* — on which so much stress was laid. The close relationship between priests, clerics and brothers (the Chapter reminds us) “does not mean subordination or opposition; nor does it mean the loss or fusion of one’s individual characteristics. On the contrary, it is a distinguishing mark of our Salesian apostolic communities and their members” (GC21, 194).

The differences in the image and role of the confreres are not to be considered as limitations or degrees, but as *sources of riches they share in common*; there is no question of something lacking, but rather the integrating potential to share



each other's excellence (GC21, 179); an harmonious contribution to a unique type of religious and apostolic community.

If we lose sight of this organic difference or allow it to become unbalanced, we do serious harm to the identity of the Congregation in its community dimension and hence in its style of apostolate. The present crisis we are facing is an attack on both our lay and priestly aspect; and especially is it impairing the suitable measure of blending of one aspect with the other. The sacerdotal dimension, nevertheless, having the benefit of long ecclesial tradition, has enjoyed a certain preponderance in this first century of our existence, and has made greater progress (even though today it too needs profound doctrinal revision and greater fidelity to its true nature); on the other hand, the lay dimension (which Don Bosco saw as something quite new — his "brilliant creation", as Father Albera and Father Rinaldi called it) is lacking in doctrinal tradition and has developed less vigorously despite the illuminating help of superiors and scholars. Gradually this difference also upset the balance of our distinctive Salesian character, and this should cause us to take up the matter seriously and do something about it with all the energy we can muster.

Vatican II and the recent General Chapters have brought new insights to bear on the subject so that we may study and develop what is already contained in the embryo of Don Bosco's foundation.



## 2. The Salesian Brother delineated

The Brother in our Congregation (like the layman in the Church) can fulfil a vast variety of functions (GC21, 166), and this very fact could throw a false light on his vocation and cause the lay element in our communities to be misunderstood.

### *Description of his various functions*

Speaking generally, the different offices fulfilled by our Brothers during the Congregation's first hundred years would follow this pattern:

1. *Functions of an educational, social, pastoral and formative nature*: that is, cultural and scholastic activities, especially in technical and professional schools; apostolic, sporting, music and drama groups; help and animation for leisure activities, the media, introduction to the work-force, social formation, etc.

2. *So-called tertiary activities*: that is, as office workers, administrators, accountants, buyers, secretaries, sectional representatives, infirmarians, sacristans, staff managers, etc.

3. *Domestic services*: that is, generous workers about the house, willing to perform all kinds of tasks for which they feel sufficiently competent, such as attending to cleanliness and orderliness, working in the fields, kitchen, bakeries, seeing to the smooth running of establishments, looking after visitors, and often performing the tasks of the invaluable factotum, etc.

This is a summary and incomplete list, but it does make it clear how diverse the activities and services are; the different aptitudes and training



required; and the vastly different programming needed for the formation of the Salesian Brother.

In practice, however, these activities are also carried out by priests and clerics (and not necessarily is this an abuse); indeed it is often a necessity and a matter of brotherly co-operation, practicality and part of community living. In fact it is desirable that certain transient daily domestic chores should be increasingly performed together by all members of the community as simple acts of solidarity.

Looking at the various types of services rendered by the Brothers, however, the above list does stress their many-sided (full-time) dedication to a type of activity or service that belongs peculiarly to their special calling.

### *The essential qualities of the Salesian Brother*

All these different services call for a reasonable variation in the apostolate and in formation; but before planning for this it is necessary to see beyond the multifarious activities and discover what constitutes the basic common denominator, the characteristic element, the essential make-up of the Brother as distinct from the priest.

Radically the difference is not one marked by any negative quality or lack of ecclesial endowment; it is a case of a different choice: the Brother has opted for a positive Christian ideal not determined by the sacrament of Holy Orders but constituted by a number of values which form of themselves a true vocational objective of high quality. Article 37 of the new Constitutions points out clearly the nature of this choice, calling it a vocation — indeed a vocation that is in itself *specific* (it has its own special nature), *complete*



(it lacks nothing), *original* (it is the brilliant creation of the Founder) and *meaningful* (it is entirely relevant) (cf GC21, 173).

*What is the essential and distinctive aim of the Salesian Brother's vocational choice?* GC21 speaks of one of its explicit options as "laicism" \*: "The lay dimension is the concrete form in which the Brother lives and operates as a Salesian Religious, This is his specific characteristic, a noteworthy and essential value of his identity. This lay aspect, then, is not to be taken in a negative sense. Neither is it to be understood as a service or a function. It is rather the sum total of the values that constitute a lay Christian conditioned by the Salesian Religious consecration" (GC21, 178).

### 3. Identity struggle

This statement that the Brother has made an explicit choice of a type of laicism is quite clear but needs to be studied further with calmness and diligence.

Unfortunately we find ourselves in an area not ready for in-depth research; and even the very terminology in use is far from clear, being vague and ill-defined both in secular and ecclesiastical usage. Nevertheless it is essential for us to understand well the assertion of GC21 that "the lay dimension is the concrete form in which the Brother lives and operates as a Salesian Religious". If we do not grasp clearly the truth within this declaration,

\* Italian is rich in such words as *secolarità*, *secolarismo*, *laicità*, *laicismo* (and others), all with varying nuances. Rather than invent English equivalents (*laicity*?!) the translation keeps to a limited vocabulary: but the context should make the meaning clear in each case.



how can we hope to get down to basics, develop our true community identity, and plan thoroughly for the renewal and reinstatement of this unique vocation?

True, we do have a number of very clear delineations in GC21, 172-180; but there are others that also need study. Let us ask the Holy Spirit for light to deepen our understanding and knowledge regarding the lay element in our community, with special reference to the identity of the Salesian Brother. Here we shall content ourselves with offering a few reflections on the Chapter findings; its documents serve as an indispensable basis for the work we must undertake in respect of this vocation and the formation it requires.

### *The Salesian Brother is a Religious*

It is eminently clear that the Salesian Brother is a true Religious and not a lay person in the sense used in the dogmatic constitution *Lumen Gentium* (v LG 31). The Council document indicates that the Brother's ecclesial life is not "secular" in character: he does not live for God as a "secular", immersed in matters of the family, employment, culture, politics. Our Salesian Brothers belong well and truly to the *Religious life*: their vocation in the Church "testifies in a splendid and singular way that the world cannot be transfigured and offered to God without the spirit of the Beatitudes" (LG 31); their ecclesial commitment, as also that of their confreres, is to "work to the extent of their capacities and in keeping with their particular kind of Religious life to which they have been individually called, whether it be one of prayer or of active labours as well, for the implanting and



strengthening of the Kingdom of Christ in souls and for spreading it to the four corners of the earth" (LG 44).

*He is not a "consecrated secular"*

Secondly, it is equally clear, for the same reason, that the reinstating of the Salesian Brother is not to be based on that "consecrated secularity" which is the mark of lay members of a Secular Institute (v my letter to the DBV in ASC 295). In the latter vocation there are certain individual ways of carrying out the apostolate, certain ways of interpreting obedience and poverty, certain temporal commitments beyond the specific mission of the Congregation — and these do not fit in with the Brother's true religious profession.

The community aspect is basic and indispensable for him; it is explicitly prescribed by Don Bosco and insisted on by the Constitutions. His specific spiritual heritage embraces the *sense of membership*, of being complementary, of participating in the mission to youth and the masses, of availability and obedience, of sharing the goods of the community according to the superior's approval, of chastity as the basis of brotherly communion, of daily community prayer, etc. This is a heritage he shares with all Salesian confreres, with all the rights and duties annexed thereto. To quote Father Rinaldi, "The Brothers are true Salesians, obliged to strive towards the same standard of perfection, and to exercise, each according to his own profession or craft, the exact same educational apostolate that is at the heart of the Salesian Society" (ASC 40).



*He is totally Salesian*

Thirdly, it is also very clear that since he is a Salesian Religious with full rights, the Brother is the bearer of the spirit and mission of the Congregation in their entirety. The Society of St Francis of Sales lives the active life, is involved with human beings, and hence is interested in temporal values and areas.

Its mission is obviously religious, dedicated to evangelisation and necessarily linked to the vast field of human culture, especially in education and influencing social and political affairs — even though its activity is of quite a different nature. It involves indeed a close merging of Gospel and culture, sacred and temporal, Church and world, Beatitudes and social progress. It is committed to a holiness that really makes an impact, that involves the young, that has an influence in building a new society.

Now the joint efforts to renew our “earthly city”, even when this is done with a specific religious mission, implies knowledge and cultivation of the characteristic riches that are in the many so-called human values. The new emerging culture is enriched with the discovery of the wonders of the earth, and at its centre labour has pride of place and is man’s means of harnessing natural and cosmic forces for the progress of humanity.

An evangelising mission so involved with the development of man will consequently demand that the community (that carries out this mission) will need to assume many roles and make sundry approaches to the realities of life. This will mean not only different and complementary functions but also diverse and overlapping attitudes.



Thus we find in the Congregation's single vocation two fundamental aspects: the sacerdotal and the lay. It is not simply a case of this or that confrere arbitrarily, independently and haphazardly preferring the ministry or things temporal; no, it is a matter involving the Salesian community as a vital organism, that is, *the Congregation as such*, which has of its essence a peculiar and simultaneous sense of both the sacerdotal consecration and the lay dimension, each imbuing the other and forming together a unique life of communion.

Hence all members of the Salesian community must experience as a part of their lives a kind of "lay sensitivity" and a specific "sacerdotal sensitivity" as they strive for brotherly communion and co-responsibility. At the same time each will achieve this blending through different attitudes and roles, and both will avoid the perils of worldly laicism on the one hand and an exaggerated clericalism or "popular-front Church" on the other.

It is plain that the Brother's attitude and roles are oriented to the lay aspect and the priest's and cleric's to the sacerdotal; but both are conscious of an intimate and indissoluble relationship in such a way that this mutual and harmonious overlapping constitutes part of the special Salesian spirituality they share in common; hence my initial statement: that every confrere is a community member, and as such must feel in his heart an innate linkage — priests and clerics with the Brother, and Brother with the priests and clerics.

Unfortunately in some places people refer to us as "The Salesian Fathers", as if the community or Province were reserved for priests only or characterised by them alone. Even amongst ourselves at times, for some reason or other, apostolic



commitments are planned which have little if any place for the role of the Brother. Such activities imply a perilous imbalance in our vocation.

The community can deviate into two dangerous "clericalistic" extremes: reducing the Salesian apostolic project to a simple cultural and catechetical activity; or a kind of secularist monopoly on the part of the priests that is a travesty and falsification of their sacerdotal character and ministry, and invades the field proper to Brothers and layfolk.

A Salesian community should always study what constitutes the specific and essential contribution of the Brother, even if no Brothers are yet available for the community (and in that case the substitution should be on a temporary basis). This is the only way to put a correct assessment on how necessary the Brother is and set about seriously remedying such a harmful deficiency.

It is sad that not all in the Congregation seem to feel this way. In a recent questionnaire put out by the Formation Department among the Provinces the question was put: "Salesianly speaking, how does the Province feel about the lack of Brothers?" Some answered, "We are getting used to it". If in the face of this sad reality we assume such an attitude of resignation, it is my sad conviction that we are on the way to losing a distinctive dimension that belongs to the essence of our Congregation.

*He has opted for the lay aspect*

And there is a fourth factor that is reasonably clear, at least as an affirmation of the distinctive character of the Brother — namely, that the lay aspect is, in our Congregation, the practical way



the Brother lives and acts as a Salesian Religious.

This is hardly the place to describe the many and various roles of the Brother. We would rather examine the attitude that is basic to his characteristic vocation — by which the Salesian heart of the Brother (and hence his special apostolate and formation) is distinguished by particular positive values from that of the priest or cleric (and this is a difference that is a rich asset to communion). It is this very diversity that invests the Brother with an indispensable element of community identity and is responsible for a unique modern touch in the Salesian way of life and action.

At this point certain fascinating and difficult queries arise. Basically the problem does not lie in the practical and material activities of the Brother but in the fundamental psychological reason of his choice. To understand the *lay aspect* one's first task is to grasp *not what the Brother wants or is able to do, but what his attitude is as he works*. In other words, what goes on inside him that characterises his life choice? What is his state of mind in his thinking, his activities, his witnessing, his influence on the religious tone of the whole community?

Naturally this attitude will as a consequence indicate certain preferences and differences in his activities and practical responsibilities. There will be in the community's mission certain necessary and opportune things that will appear as belonging to the Brother — not in a stereotyped way according to a set of fixed rules, but according to the various and changeable cultural or circumstantial requirements. As Don Bosco said so practically and understandingly, "There are things that priests



and clerics cannot do, and you will do them” (MB XVI, 313).

The lay aspect, then, is not a *negative* affair (the absence of ordination); nor is it a *passive attitude* (waiting for the word to collaborate), as though the Brother were a mere instrument in the hands of another. No, the lay aspect requires that the Brother show a *positive drive* proper to an associate who is active and co-responsible, with initiative and ideas for the apostolate. In fact it expresses an essential aspect of the Salesian vocation itself.

Hence the last Chapter very rightly indicated a number of practical, distinctive and excellent traits in the spiritual life of the Brother (v GC21, 186-191); and it did so because his identity houses a living soul, that is, a spiritual force that nourishes, develops and energises him and makes him an enthusiastic bearer of the riches of the Gospel to others.

What are the contents and the extent of this lay dimension? This is a question that demands an answer; and an attempt to answer it means in effect a deeper understanding of the identity of the whole Congregation.

Our vague ideas and little knowledge regarding the true significance of “laicism” are probably the main reason for not understanding the thinking of our Father and Founder in relation to the Salesian Brother (and this goes too for the Co-operators and indeed all the Salesian Family). But, not to digress, we must keep to the lay aspect in the religious community of the Salesians of Don Bosco.



#### 4. In what does this lay aspect consist?

When a Salesian Brother makes his religious profession he is invested with a characteristic ideal which becomes part and parcel of his life, urging him on with an intense, unique, spiritual drive and receiving its specific nature from the *lay dimension*. However, the so-called "laicism" to which the Brother refers his vocation-choice, presents such a vast array of diverse aspects (some clear, some vague, some divergent) that one could lose oneself in listing and explaining them all.<sup>1</sup> But there is a common nucleus that forms the basis of the values we are searching for.

We limit our findings to a few of the more established clarifications in present day Christian thinking. We shall briefly indicate three main levels of laicism that are to the point in this study.

##### *Laicism in creation*

In the first place there is a level of laicism that refers to the universal condition of the values of creation. This is anterior to the Church and in a sense beyond its pale; it reaches out to all nature in its basic truth, that is, all created things in as much as they all have their innate goodness (v Genesis I, 25, 31 also AA 7).

Such laicism is at the base of all knowledge, all science, all technology. It is important to note that created things are not eternal, nor are they the result of a creative determinism. They are the object of a free God who knows what he wills and why he wills it. They constitute then the first step of a dialogue between God and man



before any human word, any interpretation and indeed before any religion.

It is not out of place to observe that the awareness of this kind of laicism could initiate a spiritual attitude and a universal dialogue; and this is very important today in a world obsessed with science and technology yet without any sense of creation and unable to see unity in the cosmos and its significance for man. Thus *a healthy lay mentality* at this level is a protection against all ideological brainwashing; it humbly and painstakingly seeks objective truth in creation's complexity.

Furthermore, our Christian faith has here a reliable yardstick for self-examination, for avoiding or getting rid of any irrational or mythological superstructures. Secularism today, in its positive aspects, can be considered a just maturing in reason and faith in reference to creation and its truths. God and creation are not two mighty antagonists dividing between themselves what is sacred and what is profane. Between God and creation there is unity, in the sense that nature exists precisely because the Creator wills it so.

A "lay mentality" therefore views the "profane" not only with enjoyment but also in a spiritual sense, recognising its natural goodness. The temptation to separate God and creation is equally pernicious whether in the attitude of the "laicist" who sees nature as something quite apart from God or in that type of "clericalism" (in any religion) which manipulates temporal values in an arbitrary fashion that has nothing to do with religion. Our Christian faith tells us that Christ is not an alternative to the cosmos, but its fulfilment, "In him all things hold together... and through him God



reconciled to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven" (Col I, 17, 20). Unfortunately the widespread creed of today preaches that to liberate man and make him a Prometheus of the universe requires the elimination of God. This is just short-sighted materialism or dreary mythology. It is no proper lay mentality but a degenerate atheistic laicism; whereas the knowledge of the objective realities of creation is a basic premise for every type of proper laicism.

We could say in this sense that a "lay mentality" is concerned with objective truth; it dedicates itself to this no matter how complex things are, no matter how much study, science, technology, patience and experimentation be called for; it cultivates a close attention and respect for assessing facts, a deep sense of professionalism, an awareness of the importance and problems of all facets of work, a factual approach to reality, a serious attitude to planning, an instinctive co-operation, and a profound appreciation of organisation. Indeed the universe is a good teacher.

All these qualities will be hard to find in one who thinks he can do away with secular values. Intuition, poetic temperament, goodwill or prayer will not fly a plane. Gilson justly says, "We are told that medieval cathedrals were built by faith; but faith would have built nothing without the architects. We Catholics who acknowledge the excellence of nature, since it is the work of God, must show our respect for it by making it a prime rule in our activities *that devotion never dispense with technology*".<sup>2</sup>



*Laicism in the mission of the Church*

There is another level of laicism and it belongs specifically to *the Church in the history of mankind*. It has reference to those disciples of Christ whom the Church calls *the laity*. They "seek the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will. They live in the world, that is, they are engaged in every work and business of the earth and in the ordinary circumstances of social and family life which, as it were, constitute their very existence" (LG 31).

*This laicism sees the world not so much as creation in general but as human beings*, as "the theatre of human history, bearing the marks of its travail, its triumphs and its failures, the world freed from the slavery of sin by Christ" (GS 2).

The lay Christian lives as a member of a Church which is the servant of man and the universal sacrament of salvation. Its mission is also "to imbue and perfect the whole range of the temporal with the spirit of the Gospel" (AA 5). And the layman sees himself as living out his baptism in his particular role of secularity (v LG 31). He is engaged in the multifarious temporal affairs and sees them as belonging to his vocation — matters to do with the family, social affairs, health, education, culture, employment, professions, industry, the economy, the sciences, justice, politics, public relations, peace, and many other such concerns.

Areas of human interest to be imbued and perfected by the spirit of the Gospel are indeed numerous and complex and call for all kinds of functions and professions, different ways of involvement both by individuals and associations, and in various walks of life ranging from the married



state to consecrated secularity. Thus there is an ever-varied and beneficent pluralism in the Church's laity — with one thing in common, their identical *secular character*.

Unfortunately it is the daily experience of the laity that among human beings the *mystery of evil* is ever active, with its overbearing idols of eroticism, riches and power. The laity are aware of the fetters of human weakness, ignorance and sin that hinder man from perceiving and respecting the basic laicism of creation and from reaching out to the transcendent and throwing open the doors to Christ. They see clearly that evil is not seated in creation but in the heart of man and certain structures set up by him. It is man's free will that manipulates temporal affairs towards evil.

The laity thus feel called to wage a constant war. In the midst of the world they understand that we cannot do without Christ and his Church. They rejoice that they are a part of a vast and divinely efficacious Mystical Body. They look to the priesthood and religious life as essential elements of their Christian existence and indispensable sources of inspiration, energy and spirituality. They see in the whole ecclesial community the fruitful means of salvation.

In the first level of laicism we made reference to a "lay mentality". In this second level of laicism we must now speak of a "*lay vocation*" — which is, after all, a life that participates in the mission of the Church. Living such a vocation, the layman impregnates his temporal commitments with the Gospel; he feels his lay state is not genuine without the help of grace; that his engagement in any profession or craft is unhallowed until he conquers the temptation to put his own interests



before objective values; and he knows from experience that a man is not whole and entire without Christ the Lord of history.

The lay vocation urges one to make a useful contribution to the history of mankind; to courageously opt for man and to stand staunchly by him in his misfortunes; to view the world not just as a place for sociological development but as a godly area where he may live his life of faith; to acquire proficiency in some temporal activity; to be aware of the extreme complexity of many of these activities; to strive to see what is possible and probable in social, cultural and political situations. Thus he will not strike the didactic pose nor dogmatise on matters that are open for discussion; he will respect other people's ideas and be willing to dialogue as he goes in quest of the fundamentals of laicism in creation and of the mystery of Christ.

The lay vocation calls for a psychology of realism and practicality; it is based on the conviction that apostolic action requires serious effort, dedication, study, planning, sacrifice, humility, prayer and courage.

The layman does not naïvely ignore or shut his eyes to complications that go with organisation, structures, institutions; indeed he marvels that some clergy and religious see their Christian commitment in such an abstract and superficial light that it becomes disembodied and immaterial — attractive, perhaps, but quite divorced from reality and its needs.

Since he belongs by baptism to the prophetic and royal priesthood of the People of God (v LG 34-36), he sets about making the world the true temple of the Lord and turning man's manifold



activities into a conscious and vital liturgy blending with the Eucharistic Christ. Creation thus becomes, through salvation-history, a dialogue of love between God and man, and the world is seen in the guise of the sacramental mediation of this intercommunion.

Such a vocation enables the layman to unearth from the "profane" a rich vein of sanctity — even attaining to spiritual heights traced out by holy Founders who have initiated special Gospel projects. We thank the Holy Spirit that among these latter he raised up Don Bosco at the beginnings of the industrial revolution to offer to men his special spirituality of apostolic action suitable for all, cleric, religious or laic.

### *Laicism as a practical aspect in the religious life*

Within the Church there is a third level of laicism, *in a more limited field* and suitable for the religious life. It is not what in ecclesiastical circles is known as "secularity", but is classed by the Church as a "form of religious life". It does not mean an immediate involvement in the world and its temporal activities but implies that one directly and publicly belongs to a community of Religious who witness to the Beatitudes; it is urged on by the overriding conviction of man's final destiny in which the values of the resurrection are seen as already present, operative and all-important in the history of man after the Easter victory.

Religious are groups of disciples of the Risen Christ whom the Church recognises and charges with the public testimony of that charity that was the definitive gift of the Risen Christ at Pentecost. Thus they are specifically characterised by a total self-



donation to a supremely loved God who ratifies the gift with a more intimate consecration of docility to the Holy Spirit (v LG 44).

This specific character is obviously quite different from "secularity" in so far as it is a form of life incorporated in a particular community, bound by public vows (aimed at the three idols of evil), professing a Gospel project sanctioned by Constitutions, owing obedience to a legitimate authority, and specifically participating in the Church's mission according to the design of the Founder.

It is to be noted that in itself the Religious life (given the organic structure of the Church) can include priests, clerics or layfolk. "It should be seen as a form of life, to which some Christians, both clerical and lay, are called by God so that they may enjoy a special gift of grace in the life of the Church, and may contribute, each in his own way, to the saving mission of the Church" (LG 43). The Religious life is not one-sided and cannot be interpreted narrowly as if there were not many different charisms raised up by the Spirit of Christ through the various Founders.

Amongst the numerous types of Institutes of the active life the lay aspect may wear many different coats. Many such Institutes are solely laic in character; others, such as our Congregation, have a lay dimension that is specific and original. Such a characteristic must not be interpreted and lived as "secularity"; yet it will have a real connection (according to the different charisms) and a certain congruence of thought and activity with the two levels of laicism we have already spoken of. The contemplative aspect that is proper to every religious vocation does not oblige a Congregation of active life to have a monastic soul — but rather to cultivate



its eschatological thrust in an apostolate among men.

It would be ignoring facts to maintain that with reference to the world and the problem of salvation our Congregation should not include the area of the working classes and the education of youth. Vatican II proclaims loud and clear: "Let no one think that their consecrated life alienates Religious from other men or makes them useless for human society" (LG 46).

Pope Paul VI, in his apostolic exhortation "Evangelica Testificatio" addresses Religious in these words: "A burning question of the present day preoccupies us: How can the message of the Gospel penetrate the world? What can be done at those levels in which a new culture is unfolding?... where a new type of man is emerging? You must give your full attention to the needs of men, their problems and their searchings; you must give witness in their midst, through prayer and action, to the good news of love, justice and peace. Such a mission, which is common to all the People of God, belongs to you in a special way" (ET 52).

Indeed, the "secular character" proper to layfolk reflects and imbues them with a dimension of realism that belongs to the whole Church in its sacramental and universal mission of salvation; and so it can be in some ways shared by various religious charisms according to their special way of life. And this is the case with us. The Society of Salesians of Don Bosco was born at the dawn of the industrial revolution to co-operate "in a religious manner" in the building up of the new society.

In those Institutes of active life that have a lay dimension, there will be *lay confreres* to fulfil that specific role. They will assure the Institute of this special dimension and see to its imple-



mentation. This role is a *vocation* and not simply a service performed. It implies the daily consolidation of three complementary and inseparable aspects that constitute the main source of the identity of the lay religious.

— *Religious consecration*, which is his fundamental option in his following of Christ.

— *The spirit of the Founder*, which is the Gospel setting he lives in and from which he draws his inspiration for his charges in the apostolate.

— *The choice of the lay dimension*, which is the positive and ideal vocation he assumes in the light of the overall charism of the Institute he belongs to.

In this third level of laicism it is clear that the nexus with the other two levels cannot be reasoned out by arbitrary or 'a priori' arguments: they must be the subject of updated and practical examination by all the Institutes concerned.

## **5. The true mark of the Salesian Brother**

We have seen that to determine the content and scope of the lay dimension of the Salesian Brother, it is not enough to list his tasks (that is, what he actually does), but it is necessary to examine his interior attitude to these activities. This latter involves a religious consecration animated by the spirit of Don Bosco and specified by an aware and positive bonding to the lay aspect that is proper to the Society of St Francis of Sales.



### *Belonging to the community*

We are now back where we started, but with enriched and clearer ideas.

We began with the overall significance of the Salesian vocation, considering the Congregation as a whole, or a communion of complementary members. Only by basing our examination on our specific *community* characteristic (the very essence of our Salesian life and mission) were we able to describe more accurately the make-up of the Salesian Brother. Analysing the different levels of laicism (to further clarify the role of the Brother) we found ourselves again reflecting on the overall meaning of the Congregation as such.

It is significant that one cannot study the Salesian Religious without beginning with the concept of community and ending up at the same point. As we set about this brief examination of the lay dimension and arrived at the "third level of laicism" we found ourselves back again at the ideal of unity that our overall charism insists on so much.

This is just as it should be. Indeed it is only in this kind of circling that we shall find the various kinds of elements that constitute the true badge of the Salesian Brother. Furthermore, such research proves once again that we are not in crisis over a category of members, but that the problem is one that touches the very nature of our community in the face of the new culture and its challenge.

Rightly did the recent Chapters change the nomenclature from Salesian priest, Salesian cleric and Salesian brother to priest-Salesian, cleric-Salesian, and Brother-Salesian. They were not just juggling with words: the Chapter members had



really clarified their identity. The Brother as such, precisely because of his choice of the lay dimension, is a true Salesian, and bears the responsibilities (with his other associates) of the whole community.

Hence it is understandable that in the light of the clarifications of these recent years the very term "coadiutore" (that we have become used to over the years) presents something of a problem. Even in Don Bosco's time this was so. He accepted the then official usage of the Bishops and Regulars.<sup>3</sup> It would seem that the word does not really express the unique thinking of our Founder. The terms priest-Salesian, cleric-Salesian and deacon-Salesian express the nature and ecclesiastical characteristics of these members, while the title "Salesiano coadiutore" (Salesian-who-assists-in-the-ministry) really indicates a *function* and derives from the ecclesiastical terminology (Fratres coadjutores) of a different age. Perhaps certain misconceptions of what exactly Don Bosco had in mind are due to the ecclesiastical use of this title. Indeed in common parlance outside the Congregation the name has meant little and certainly does not get near Don Bosco's unique ideal; in fact in some places it has a whittled-down and negative significance.

Unfortunately it has not been easy to come up with a more suitable term that is clear and precise. After the studies of the last Chapter and our subsequent reflections thereon, it is understandable that the term "lay Salesian" is coming into favour, especially as the word "Salesian" expresses the essential state of "Religious" and member of the Society of St Francis of Sales founded by Don Bosco. Still, we have to admit we have not arrived at a term that catches the uniqueness of the *lay element* in our Congregation.



Our Society is an Institute of the active life. It explicitly interests itself in the toils and moils (even secular) of human life — and this to the extent that it is at the heart of this vast family to involve innumerable layfolk. We are not monks who fly from the world (which is meant in the good sense and is characteristic of many excellent Religious Orders); we nourish within ourselves an “interest in the temporal” in our restless apostolate among men: we live “religiously” immersed and interested in the day to day vicissitudes of human society — and hence the birth of our Secular Institutes.

The consecration of the Salesian Brother (which is identical with that of all his fellow Salesians) is inextricably linked with specific problems of man's development.

There is no preconceived tabulation by which we Salesians must list our vocations under certain categories, and the clarifying of the vocation of the Salesian Brother is a test (Father Rinaldi would call it transcendent) for the clarifying of the lay element in our Society. We have already noted how Don Bosco, at the dawn of the industrial revolution, founded the Society of St Francis of Sales for working-class youngsters. For him they were the most precious members of human society, on whom rested the future hopes of mankind (MB II, 45). In our first Holy Rule he wrote, “From the quality of their education, good or bad, will depend the happy or wretched future of *society* (MB V, 931). In our holy Founder's thinking there is clearly a *social concern*. I think we could justly speak of a kind of “lay style” in our Congregation as we take stock of the history of its founding, the unique way of life Don Bosco had in mind,



and the very nature of the mission he chose. A few instances follow.

*Secular slant in the Congregation*

Don Bosco's plan was to set up a vast apostolic movement for youth and the masses, suitable for work among the new social and cultural conditions of the times. When he condensed his ideas into a "Rule" he drew up a chapter on "Extern Salesians", and the first article expressed very well this innovation: "Any person, even living in the world in his own home and family, can belong to our Society..." (MB X, 889, 1308).

In this we see a deep interest and a definite slant towards the secular conditions of his times. Later Father Rinaldi tried to carry out this idea, at least partly, when he organised the group of devotees who have developed into today's Secular Institute of Don Bosco Volunteers.

Then as Don Bosco, prompted by God and backed by Pius IX, realised that it was absolutely necessary for his project that an animating nucleus be organised that would have the stability and consistency of a true Religious Congregation, he founded our Society. Such a foundation needed a *new style* to suit the particular exigencies of the rapidly developing new social conditions. It was none other than the anti-clerical Minister of State, Ratazzi, who advised him along these lines. Everything about the new Society needed to fit in closely with the inescapable process of secularisation towards which man was speedily heading: hence our new style of life, flexibility of structure, ownership of goods, religious garb, easy adaptability, family spirit, terminology (casa, ispettore,



sig. direttore, sig. assistente, etc.), our special fields of apostolate, and our working-class circumstances.

The very nature of our activity is slanted towards a witness and service open to the secular: the "activity-spirituality" of St Francis of Sales is explicitly interested in temporal values and translates the wealth of the contemplative dimension and the religious vows into an education aimed at building up among men a society of love. Our mission among youth and the masses, in which we live out the vital tenets of the Preventive System, direct the Salesian's evangelising efforts along channels of secular culture and social education that open up man's development to the indispensable mystery of Christ.

In such a Congregation there are surely ample areas and conditions for the vigorous development for the vocation of the Salesian Brother. Father Rinaldi, in his incisive circular letter makes this point very emphatically. It is worth while quoting him, even at considerable length.

He says that Don Bosco "made religious perfection accessible at all levels of society". Then, referring to layfolk in the world, he says that "the field is vast and the harvest is ripe everywhere. It is necessary to invite to the harvest those to whom the Lord has given the bright vision of a higher vocation. And there are many who would willingly embrace this kind of spiritual life which occupies their thoughts in times of closer union with God. They make no decision because they think that kind of apostolate and life of perfection is only for those who are called to the priesthood.

"My dear Salesians, we must acquaint all with the too-little known fact that the religious life is not just for priestly vocations but for all who feel



within themselves the desire to lead a more perfect life and serve the Lord better in the many functions of the apostolate. Let us bruit abroad this good news by word of mouth, by writing, indeed by every means at our disposal. The beauty and grandeur of the vocation to the simple religious life is a divine gift of inestimable value and must be described as such. Let us make known the beauty and grandeur of the Salesian Brother's vocation. Let us train many good Brothers in all the various professions and trades. In the beginning Don Bosco was particularly absorbed in priestly vocations because without them he would not have been able to set up our Society, and also because in those days there was a great dearth of priests. However, in his Constitutions he sanctioned the principle of the simple religious vocation on the same plane as the priest-religious in all but the sacerdotal dignity. He made it clear that one day his Society would have a large number of lay Religious to carry out a true apostolate throughout the world" (ASC 4).

Those who would share and savour again this prophetic vision of the lay element in our Congregation should ponder well this excellent circular of Father Rinaldi.

## **6. Parlous situation**

At this juncture, and at the risk of grieving you I think it apposite to quote certain statistics on the critical situation that obtains today in the Congregation.

With certain exceptions it would seem that various communities have not really fathomed the



depths of the "unique creation" of Don Bosco's project. Perhaps they do not know or have not yet experienced the extensive excellence and enriching influence that the Salesian Brother brings to the Congregation. Furthermore, there is no doubt that for many years there has been a certain lack of adequate formation. A glance at some figures may rouse us from a perilous torpor.

### *Some statistics*

In Don Bosco's time the ratio of Brother to priest and cleric was 1:2 (one laic to two ecclesiastics). Today the ratio is 1:4.62 and falling. In the last 14 years (i.e., from 1966, when the Brothers reached their peak of 4,299) they dropped by 31.02% to the present number of 2,962. On the other hand, the drop in priests and clerics in the last 13 years (since 1967, when they peaked to 17,346) has been 20.65% to the present number of 13,346. There is a difference of 10.37% in the fall of each group — to the disadvantage of the Brothers.

A glance at the candidates entering the Congregation shows Brothers to clerics in a ratio of 1:9.88 (i.e., 44 Brothers to 435 clerics).

The maximum number of Brother-novices was 393 in 1956. Compared with today's numbers the drop is 84.98%. Cleric-novices reached their maximum in 1966 with 1,225; their number today shows a fall of 64.49%. The difference between the two groups is 20.49% — to the disadvantage of the Brothers.

In the first months of this year, 1980, there were at least 57 Provinces without Brother-novices; 9 Provinces had 1; 7 had 2; one had 6; one



(Madrid) had 15. Several Provinces have had none for some years: some up to 10 years without, and one up to 14 years (since 1967).<sup>4</sup>

### *Suggestion for the future*

This is today's sad situation, when we really should be expecting a change for the better in the lay dimension in the Congregation. Vatican II has shed new light on the lay vocation and given it a fresh impetus; it has initiated an ecclesial and apostolic evolution that has changed not only the importance and function but even the very proportion of committed layfolk and their role in the apostolate.

To apply this situation to the Congregation is not stretching the matter too far; nor does it mean that we are dividing ourselves into two separate categories: rather do we see our two groups as having developed and matured as one united whole — a growth that does not impair the distinctive character of the Congregation but rather increases its apostolic efficiency, since it implies an overall renewal of the community; and this, after all, means improving the authenticity of its two basic and overlapping dimensions, priestly and lay.

Father Rinaldi presents us with a curious thought, both humorous and daring. "According to the spirit in other Congregations", he writes "(and I do not refer here to the quite different cases of the ancient monastic Orders), the number of laybrothers was made to depend on the number of 'secondary jobs' available. When the required number was filled, God was expected in some way or other to make no more vocational calls, since there were no places left for the poor layfolk.



“With his Society”, continues Father Rinaldi, “Don Bosco opened up the way of religious perfection not just to a given number but to *all laymen who felt the call to holiness in community life* in educating poor and abandoned youth or in the apostolate of the missions. Thus Don Bosco, with his Society, put religious perfection within the pale of people of all classes: they could follow their various callings, artistic, cultural, mechanical or agricultural. In the Salesian Society there is a place for every category: the lesser educated can attain holiness in the ordinary chores of our houses; the teachers have the classrooms or the universities, the craftsmen their workshops, the farmers their fields” (ASC 40).

In the face of this prophetic vision of Father Rinaldi, the above statistics leave us shocked and grieved. They call for a serious soul-searching on our part, a reawakening from a kind of lethargy induced perhaps by a lack of serious thought over a long period of time as well as the agonising that is due to today’s sweeping changes.

Of course our own statistics are a part of the vast cultural upheavals of today. In some ways these have seriously impinged on certain aspects of our Salesian life more directly connected with today’s industrial developments.

The world of industry is intimately bound up with progress in science and technology; hence it has been subjected to an intense acceleration. Furthermore, together with the steady development of modern means and the astounding novelties of our times, man has become increasingly self-centred, inclined towards secularism (both the well-to-do as well as the working-force) and contemptuous of the ideals of the Gospel. Our civilisation is rich



in technology but poor in wisdom, open to consumerism but closed to sacrifice; it smothers the worker with a subtle and penetrating materialism; the worker is seen as the only one who matters and who has all the answers.

When interpretative studies are attempted, recourse is had to materialistic philosophies that reduce everything to a purely secularist basis. Thus the lay Christian who would realise his ecclesial vocation in the ordering of the world is made to appear dwarfed and effete. We must recognise that *the crisis in the lay vocation in its various expressions is truly colossal*.

This is an enormous problem that overwhelms us: but we are still involved. We shall not solve the difficulties of the Salesian Brother vocation with nostalgia for the good old days or with an attempt to patch things up. What is needed is a lively awareness of the meaning of the World and the mission of the Church — in which there is a privileged place for the multifarious forms of a renewed Christian laity. The indispensable drive of this laity must be brought to light and intensified. And this is exactly what is happening in the Church. We are on the verge of a new era that is positive and promising.

### *Trust in the Holy Spirit*

In the last ten years the Holy Spirit has helped us in the renewal of the People of God by means of Vatican II, giving a fresh relevance to the lay vocation. He has raised up new groups of people to form Secular Institutes who fulfil their consecration by committing themselves to extensive



areas of lay involvement. He has awakened the Church to recognise the signs of the times in the promotion of women for an immense and fruitful lay apostolate. He has inspired the many lay vocations for men in the religious life to excellent new ventures and updating to suit the times.

GC21 draws our attention to the fact that during our century of existence the lay dimension in our Society has truly flourished in its own inimitable way, and many of our Brothers have attained to heroic degrees of charity. "All of us know of such confreres in different places and circumstances achieving sanctity sometimes in the most hidden and self-sacrificing ways. Many have found a place in the annals of the Congregation. Some of them, martyrs for the faith or heroes of charity, have become candidates for canonisation" (GC21, 191). We are reminded of such men as Simon Srugi of Palestine and Artemides Zatti of Patagonia, whose causes for canonisation are in progress.<sup>5</sup> The many wonderful examples raised up by the Holy Spirit in the past and present are an invitation to us Salesians to marshall our forces in confidence and make an enlightened recovery.

The Christian vision of creation, the ecclesiology of Vatican II, statistics, cultural changes, the signs of the times, the deep travail of the Church — all challenge us to be up and doing in a united search for an answer to our problem as a vast new future looms ahead of us. Our solution will be based on faith and prophecy. We shall find encouragement in the renewal commitment of these years, the recent practical efforts to widen the scope of the Brothers' responsibilities, the significant successes in some zealous Provinces, and the serious post-capitular work in the areas of



vocation and formation. These are all positive steps towards a genuine renewal.

### **7. Today's most urgent task**

The SGC warns us that "the main point at the moment is the change in mind and attitude of the whole Congregation towards the Salesian Brother" (SGC 184).

Hence in the ensuing six years there were Provincial and Regional Conventions, followed by a World Convention. But we have to admit in all humility they were not sufficient. Therefore we must get busy on other initiatives according to the future thinking and guidelines of GC21, delving deeper and involving every single Province, every single house and every single confrere.

Quite a few Salesians really do need a veritable change in outlook — which, as we have seen, involves in the final analysis the very nature of the Congregation. I believe that to a certain extent all of us need to rethink, in all honesty and Salesian loyalty, this special aspect of our identity. Without this basic rethinking all our practical efforts could end up with just another shallow "categorising" of our vocation, another flash in the pan.

I began this letter with the intention of being brief and practical; but in dutiful deference to the vital urgency of the topic I have had to modify its content and length. Pardon me if I insist that we cannot afford to delude ourselves: this is not a case of patching up an old coat — we have to get busy on a brand new garment. It is not just a case of a "category" of confreres that is in crisis; it is the lay dimension of our Salesian Congregation



that is being challenged. We must rethink this dimension in genuine fidelity to Don Bosco and the times.

In line then with the Chapter's behests, let us make practical efforts to achieve the following aims:

— *A more accurate knowledge of the identity of the Salesian Brother* in our Congregation.

— *An acute awareness in all confreres and all local communities* of the whole situation.

— *A genuine effort to ensure the co-responsibility of the Salesian Brother* at all levels (GC21, 192-193, 210-211).

— *An efficient vocation apostolate*, seeking ways and means for an effective, significant and apostolic presence of the Salesian Brother among the young (GC21, 209).

— *Renewal in the formation of all Salesians.*

This final point could be considered the real key to the practical solution of the crisis.

Broadly and basically the problem of the Salesian Brother lies in this: How shall we bring fresh life and immediacy to the lay dimension of the Congregation without falling into the trap of certain secularist abuses seen here and there in some of our priests (the which is the opposite extreme of an exaggerated clericalism and is not only erroneous but at times smacks of the ridiculous)? How shall we ensure that the relaunching of the lay dimension will at the same time involve a clearer and more genuine priestly dimension? In the emerging culture of today how shall we initiate new and authentic Salesian presences, both priestly and lay? If we abandon certain institutions which



have made these presences a reality for a hundred years, what practical steps are we taking to ensure their continuance in the future? How shall we reestablish the vocation of the Salesian Brother and preserve our form of community life and the principles of the educational and pastoral project of Don Bosco? How can we set up a Salesian Brother vocation apostolate, making sure it is true to the "transcendent modernity" of the Salesian community? In these modern times how shall we present the religious ideal of the overlapping of the priestly and lay dimensions in our Congregation? Where shall we look for candidates, and how shall we train them for maturity? How shall we form them according to Salesian principles for each of the two options?

I beg of you to read again the "practical directives" of GC21 with renewed and enthusiastic commitment (206-201).

Our missionary ideals, our Project Africa, the adequate revival of our trade schools, the promotion of youth centres for young workers, Christian worker movements, (v GC21, 185), the cultural and social fact of youth problems in the work-force (GC21, 183) — all these factors must be included in our forward planning. Let us turn again to GC21 as it develops the principle of the Brother's full, active and responsible participation in the apostolic activities of the Salesian community in accordance with his lay dimension (GC21, 181), which is not limited to professional matters but extends to educating in the faith and to the non-sacerdotal ministries for those who feel themselves called thereto (GC 21, 182).

It goes without saying that it is the serious duty of the Congregation to make it possible for



the Brothers to reach the peak of their mission as Salesian educators (GC21, 184) in accordance with the talents and roles of each individual. Especially should each Brother be assured of the adequate spiritual elements we have been speaking of.

## 8. The crucial task of formation

Before concluding I want to insist on responsibility in the task of formation. After all that has been said, it is plain this is not limited to young Brothers, but extends to all conferes, both Brothers and priests, and embraces initial and ongoing formation. Without extraordinary and earnest emphasis of formation I believe it impossible to achieve radical change in a short time. But if the formation is given in a thoroughly renewed fashion, especially for the younger generation, there is good promise for the future.

For reasons already touched on (v GC21, 244), the last General Chapter, when discussing formation, determined that the priests and Brothers should have their formation in common, even though there would necessarily be a different slant for each (GC21, 240). We have to admit that despite the initiatives set afoot, much remains to be done in this area (GC21, 299-300).

### *Unity of formation*

GC21 lays great stress on *unity of formation*. The Salesian priest or cleric who has no knowledge of the practical values of the lay vocation in the



Congregation lacks a true Salesian awareness; and the same goes for the Brother who knows nothing of the sacerdotal dimension.

Taking up article 103 of the Constitutions, GC21 confirms that "clerics and lay religious receive the same religious basic formation" with parity of programming. This means not only that the period of formation up to final profession goes through the same phases, but also the same complete content of Salesianity, avoiding the error of treating the groups as two different and separated categories. Hence "it is desirable that", both in the novitiate and immediate post-novitiate period, "clerics and Brothers lead a life in common in the same formation community, where they may gain an appreciation of both forms of the single Salesian vocation" (GC21, 303).

We are further reminded that "unity of formation is assured in the community when it has a harmonious formation team of priests and Brothers" (GC21, 245). The presence of a Salesian Brother in the formation team is a *new and important injunction*. In substance it comes to this, that if a confrere reaches maturity in his vocation without a clear awareness of the overlapping of the two elements, he runs the risk of being an incomplete Salesian.

To avoid this separate categorising of confreres, the Chapter goes on to add that "to be faithful to our founding charism, those in charge of formation should seek to know, to present, and to make better appreciated our Salesian identity in the twofold dimension of our Salesian religious vocation, lay and priestly" (GC21, 305). "Wherever possible" (and every effort should be made to make it possible) "the Brother should be present in the



formation structure, not merely through cultural and formation duties, but above all through responsibilities of formation to the religious and Salesian life. Therefore special care must be taken to prepare Brothers capable of playing a suitable role in such a formation team" (GC21, 305).

This is indeed a clear duty, albeit here and now an arduous one, given the present critical situation.

### *Specific formation*

After treating of this basic unity of formation, the Chapter goes on to enjoin a *specific formation*. So that the Salesian Brother or priest may truly enrich his confreres (be they priests, clerics or Brothers) with the wealth proper to his own specific calling, it is necessary that each cultivate and deepen his own proper formation (v GC21, 292).

The present situation makes it obvious that certain "specific contents for the formation of the Salesian priest and of the Salesian Brother are missing" (GC21, 247), and this is more so in the case of the Brother. Certain elements of the specific formation of the Salesian Brother are enumerated as necessary in all phases of the formation process, and a constant part of formation at the twofold level of "study-reflection" and "practice-experience". These are listed as:

- *a religious and Salesian formation*, which will help the Brother to grasp the special ethos proper to our Society;

- *an adequate pedagogical, cultural and Salesian training*;

- *a sufficient apostolic competence* in theology and catechetics;



— a *technical or professional training* suitable to the talents and circumstances of each individual in accordance with the pastoral and educational character of our Congregation; and

— a *social and political education* to prepare him for specific educational activities among the work-force (v GC21, 302).

Naturally, in all this, account must be taken of the many different facets of our lay dimension and the practical circumstances of each member.

All will be able to bring to bear the riches of their own personal experience and thinking and further enhance the above directives of the Chapter.

### *Ongoing formation*

Finally, special importance must be given today to ongoing formation. In this matter GC21 has presented us with a document rich in new ideas and prospects (v GC21, 307-342). This is required reading and study for our relaunching of the Salesian Brother vocation. When planning for ongoing formation, the sources to be accorded pride of place should be the Chapter documents on the Brother, this present letter of mine (and especially Father Rinaldi's), and the various studies and source material already available.<sup>6</sup> Every Province, every house, every confrere must shoulder this responsibility.

It is highly desirable that seminars, including live-ins, be organised with the aim of making an in-depth study of certain areas not yet well understood. (Several groups of Provinces must be praised for already having done this). Much good will result, not only in the personal enrichment of



the participants, but also in the contribution such study groups will make to the drawing-up of the Brother's formation curriculum required of all Provinces by GC21 (301 & 306).

## 9. Two authoritative appeals

In conclusion allow me to remind you of the anguished and fatherly appeals made by the two Rector-Majors who lived with Don Bosco and had profound convictions of the uniqueness and importance of the Salesian Brother's vocation.

First *Father Philip Rinaldi*. In his circular of 1927, addressed particularly to "his dearest Brothers", he wrote: "From the little that has been said so far, you will easily appreciate the *grandeur of your vocation*. Thank the Lord from your hearts for this vocation; love it; treasure it jealously.

"Never forget for a moment that you are Religious by God's special grace. He has called you to aim constantly at perfection. So let it be seen everywhere that you are everything our good Father expects you to be. Imitate him in his solid piety, in his ardent love of Jesus and Mary Help of Christians, in his constant self-discipline; in avoiding the occasions of sin, in dignity of demeanour, in unworldly and becoming simplicity of attire, in hard work, in love of the Congregation, and in the zealous Christian education of your young charges, attracting them more by the gentleness of your lives than by your words, so that they too will want to become Salesians and help other young people.

"Dear Brothers, to achieve all this, you will need to spend every moment you can spare in the



zealous study of religion and spiritual things. To be a Religious means being a spiritual man, a man consecrated to God. This is the way you will persevere in your vocation which will be beset by difficulties from all sides. This is the way you will become teachers and catechisers. Aim high, strive after sanctity, and beware of the danger of becoming too materially engrossed in your trade" (ASC 40).

The second appeal is from *Father Paul Albera*, in his circular on vocations, in which he invites the whole Congregation to work intelligently and tirelessly in a vocation drive for the Salesian Brothers.

He writes: "If we present to young people the mission of the Salesian Brother in all *its social importance*, in all its attractive beauty and variety, they will soon be drawn to embrace it themselves. These vocations, my dear confreres, are most urgently needed in our Society, for *without them it would be unable to carry out the high social aims that our present times require*. Furthermore, the vocation of the Brother is one of the most transcendent creations of charity and makes the ways of perfection more available for all.

"Let us be particularly zealous, then, in cultivating good Salesian Brother vocations. When we speak of the Salesian vocation, let us make it clear that it can be whole and entire without the priesthood, and that the Brothers in our Society are equal in all things to the priests in social rights and spiritual advantages.

"Let us bear in mind, dear confreres, that the most assiduous efforts to gain Salesian Brother vocations will be of no avail if the pupils do not see in practice that equality of brotherliness that



we speak so much of as a part of our Salesian lives" (ASC 4 May 1921).

Dear confreres, let us take heed of the burning concern in these two authoritative appeals. Let us reawaken in ourselves the knowledge and love of the integrated uniqueness of our Congregation. Let us stir up our spirit of initiative, our adaptability to the needs of the times. Let us use our capacity for prayer and organisation in achieving the revival of the Salesian Brother vocation that will guarantee us the lay dimension in our communities.

Following the example of Don Bosco, let us have confidence in Mary's special protection, for our origins were in her motherly care. She will help us put fresh enthusiasm and vitality into our wonderful Salesian vocation that in all difficulties has been under her quickening and guiding help.

In communion of prayer, and in sharing together our co-responsibility for this urgent commitment, let us hope and pray for an abundant harvest.

With affection and hope,

Father EGIDIO VIGANÒ  
*Rector Major.*

<sup>1</sup> v. *Laicità - Problemi e Prospettive*. Acts of the 47th Course of cultural aggiornamento, Catholic University of Milan, 1977. Contributions by various authors. Ed. "Vita e Pensiero".

v. *Il Problema della Società industriale - Plans for the growth and development of man*. Acts of the 48th Course of cultural aggiornamento, Catholic University of Milan, 1978. Contributions by various authors. Ed. "Vita e Pensiero".

<sup>2</sup> Quoted by Congar in "Jalons pour une théologie du laïcat". Ed. Cerf, Paris, 1953, 548 pages.



<sup>3</sup> *Minutes of the GC3, September 1883.*

Two items on the agenda concern the Brothers:

Item IV: Care of the "confratelli coadiutori".

Item V: Matters concerning the workshop sections of Salesian Houses and ways of developing vocations among the young artisans.

"Don Rua opened the meeting with the usual prayers. Father Belmonte reported on the findings of the study of item IV.

Don Bosco arrived and item V was discussed...

The question was asked whether the lay confreres should continue to be called coadiutori or whether the name should be changed to Confr...

Confrere Barale here called attention to a certain negligence regarding the Brothers among the old, the young and the newcomers.

Don Bosco very opportunely referred to Ch. 2, art. 1 ('All confreres shall regard each other as brothers...').

Then Father Bonetti proposed: 'All the confreres, priests and laics, should regard each other...'

Don Bosco remarked that it was expedient to keep to the titles used by the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars: 'Fratres coadjutores'."

<sup>4</sup> v. "Statistics" in Documents & News Items, page 67 of this issue of ASC.

<sup>5</sup> v. biographies of the following:

SRUGI SIMONE: *Un buon samaritano concittadino di Gesù*, Forti Ernesto, Leumann-TO, LDC, 1967, 195 pages.

ZATTI ARTEMIDE: *El parientes de todos los pobres* - Artemide Zatti, Entraigas Raul A., Buenos Aires, Ed. Don Bosco, 1953, 218 pages.

— *Artemide Zatti, parente di tutti i poveri*, di Bianco Enzo, Leumann-TO, LDC, 1978, 40 pages.

Also:

BUZZETTI GIUSEPPE: *Un prediletto Coadiutore di Don Bosco*, Pilla Eugenio, Torino-SEI, 1960, 101 pages.

CONCI CARLO: *Conci - Boceto biografico de un hombre y de una epoca*, Belza Juan E., Buenos Aires, Colegio Pio IX, 1967, 399 pages.

CORSO JOSÉ FERMIN: *El maestro Corso, rasgos biograficos de un Coadjutor salesiano*, Fierro Torres Rodolfo, Escuela tipografica salesiana, Caracas, 1935.

DALMAU JOAQUIN: *Don Joaquin Dalmau, modele de Coadjutores salesianos*, Romero Juan, Sevilla(?), 1947, 171 pages.

FERRARIS PIETRO: *Brother Peter Ferrari S.D.B.*, Manni Alvin, Don Bosco Publications, New Rochelle, New York, 1976, 143 pages.

ORTIZ ALZUELA JAIME: *4026 Jaime Ortiz Alzuela, Coadjutor salesiano y martir de Cristo*, Burdeus Amadeo, Libreria Salesiana Barcelona, 1952, 112 pages.

ROSSI MARCELLO: *La sentinella dell'Oratorio*, Uguccioni Rufillo, Torino-SEI, 1954, 143 pages.

UGGETTI GIANBATTISTA: *Il fornaio di Betlemme*, L'Arco Adolfo, Leumann-TO, 1978, 81 pages.

— *Profili di 33 Coadiutori salesiani*, Ceria Eugenio, Colle Don Bosco, Asti, LDC, 1952, 294 pages.

— *Soldati senza divisa*, Uguccioni Rufillo, Leumann-TO, LDC, 1959, 83 pages.



— *Triptico modelo, rasgos biograficos de tres Coadjutores salesianos*, Del Real Luis J. Bogotá, 1942, 110 pages.

— *Una respuesta original*, Brambilla Dante, Editorial Don Bosco, Buenos Aires, 1976, 94 pages.

<sup>6</sup> v. AUBRY JOSEPH-SCHOENEBERG PIERRE: *Don Bosco li volle così*, Torino LDC, 1961, 89 pages.

BRAIDO PIETRO: *Religiosi nuovi per il mondo del lavoro. Documenti per un profilo del Coadiutore salesiano*, Roma-PAS, 1961, 290 pages.

BROCARDI PIETRO - CERISIO NICOLA - ROMALDI RENATO.

— *Atti Convegno Mondiale Salesiano Coadituore - Roma '75*, Roma, Scuola grafica salesiana, 1975, 699 pages.

*English translation:*

— *Acts World Congress The Salesian Brother*, Rome 31 August - 7 Sept. 1975, Printed at SIGA Madras-India, 1976, 539 pages.

CERIA EUGENIO: *I Coadiutori*, Cap. LXV del Vol. I degli Annali della Società Salesiana, SEI-TO, 1941, pp. 702-711.

— *Conferenza Ispettori d'Italia, Il Salesiano coadiutore*, Colle Don Bosco, Asti, 1967, 84 pages.

*French & Spanish translations:*

— *Le Coadjuteur salésien*, Rome 31 Janvier 1969, 44 pages (roneoed).

— *El Coadjutor salesiano*. Documento de la Conferencia de los Inspectores de Italia, Ed. Don Bosco, Quito, s.d., 75 pages.

— *Dei Adiutores*, Atti della due-giorni di studio sulla collaborazione tra Sacerdoti e Coadiutori nell'apostolato salesiano, PAS-Roma, 1963, 84 pages.

*Spanish translation:*

— *Jornadas de estudio sobre la colaboración entre los Coadjutores y Sacerdotes*, Casa del Coadjutor 'Institución Fernandez', San Isidro, Buenos Aires, 1964, 72 pages.

— *Il Salesiano coadiutore, una vocazione di 'religioso laico' a servizio della missione salesiana*, in Documenti Capitolari: CG21 della Società Salesiana, Doc. 2, Roma - Scuola grafica salesiana, 1978, n. 166-239.

MIDALI MARIO - BRUNO GAETANO - AUBRY GIUSEPPE: *Contributo di studio allo schema III del CG21*, Ed. S.D.B., Roma, 1977, 131 pages.

— *The Salesian Brother*, Special issue of the Salesian Bulletin, May 1980, New Rochelle, New York, 10802.



## 2. GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

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Father Juan Edmundo VECCHI, Councillor for Youth Apostolate

### Trade Schools

#### 1. The world of the worker

'Work-force' is a popular term these days. Work creates its own special world, its own vocabulary, mental outlook, habits, reactions and cultural developments.

Our SGC showed its awareness of this phenomenon when it stated: "Our mission for youth and the people implies our interest in the social and historical reality of the worker's world, the effort to discover its educative, human and Gospel values" (SGC 74).

GC21 develops this thought further when it says, "Today work is a new and vast phenomenon that makes all social categories interdependent and inter-related, determines the characteristics of a social group, creates new cultural models. By 'the world of labour' we refer not so much to the material aspect of work as to that quality that makes it an agent for cultural and social change" (GC21, 183).

We accept the solid reality of a worker's special "world" and realise that it calls for particular attitudes and pastoral action both in evangelisation and in education.

We limit ourselves to two of these: first, the need that our activities, our language, our proposals, our presence, be adequately tailored to the requests, the special needs and the values of the worker's world; and second, the need to go further than rescue action for the individual young worker and imbue with the Gospel message the very realities and aspirations which are part and parcel of the young person's life and development, a world that "plays a decisive part in the make-up of our culture" (Puebla 419).

These two points are also clearly expounded in the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (EN 19 & 63); and they are eminently practical (as long as we do not imagine practicality means mere improvisation or ad-libbing).

Salesians are committed to the world of the worker in various



ways, such as youth centres and parishes in industrial areas, and worker groups and movements for stimulating and enlivening, for formation and witness.

All these Salesian presences should boost the educative aspect, noting well the worker's set of values, the kind of relationships he considers relevant, and the way he expresses himself.

Our Salesian history is remarkable for its *educational centres* in this worker's world. These include our centres for work-experience and preparation, apprenticeships, vocational schools, technical and agricultural schools, and sundry emergency crash-courses.

The aim of this article is to consider the present condition of these schools and what direction they ought to take in today's changing circumstances.

## 2. Trade schools

Statistics presented to GC21 showed 1625 day-schools of various kinds and levels. 263 of these are in the technical and trade category. Of the 239 night-schools 57 belong to the technical sector. This proportion is hardly considerable. However, it is encouraging when one considers the problems confronting this type of school: the continuous progress in technology and the ever-varying teaching techniques this entails, the expensive equipment required, the dwindling number of trained Salesians available, and the many other complex problems that go hand in hand with this area of teaching.

Encouraging too in certain places is the forward planning of many of our centres, their long, fruitful experience in devising various aids, tests and training courses for young workers and arranging meetings with professional organisations and individual consultants.

Another encouraging aspect is that we are considered specialists in this type of work not only by Church but by lay authorities too. Furthermore, in certain places where our presence as educators would normally be forbidden, we are tolerated (nay, even invited) when it is a question of conducting educational centres of this kind.

This is one of the most urgent requests of the newly-emerging nations as they rightfully aspire to keep abreast of modern progress;



and they cast about anxiously for a solution to their problem. And in this regard, Africa is a real challenge to us.

In the redimensioning that at times calls for reducing, combining or taking on new pastoral commitments, two matters are concerns of importance.

The first is that the problems mentioned above are causing some Provinces to withdraw from trade schools and take on other works; and the second is that not everywhere have we managed to answer the new call of the poor and take on simple initiatives in keeping with our training.

Whilst in some places the problems are worsening, in others good opportunities are emerging. In these situations each is called on to make every effort, whether his contribution is in expertise or simple availability. In no case should we abandon this work or lose our commitment thereto.

### **3. In the wake of evolution**

Our aim is an educational presence in the worker's world, and no change or evolution should ever weaken this basic purpose.

Right from the beginning our trade schools have had to undergo gradual evolution; and this is only to be expected where technologies are concerned. Every success had to be preceded by trial and experimentation. As Don Bosco used to say, "We build a fire with what wood we can get".

During GC4 (1886) Don Bosco explained this evolution of this trade schools as a four-phase development: phase one — work contracts for his boys; phase two — the Valdocco boarders attending outside schools; phase three — the building of our own Salesian workshops run by externs with varying degrees of participation; and phase four — the organisation and direction of workshops by the Salesians themselves, thanks to the emergence of the Salesian Brother (with the active participation of the priests).

Don Bosco did not defer this necessary help for his boys just because conditions were poor; and the achievement of the satisfactory did not stop him from changing for the better when possible.



Our trade centres underwent further transformation when workshops became "schools of arts and trades", then "technical schools", then "technical institutes".

#### 4. Certain invariables & lines of development

In this process of evolution there is a hard core that remains unchanged. We do not produce a mere work-force: we educate workers. This involves introducing a true vision of the world and life into our programme of instruction. (Circumstances will dictate whether this will be leisurely or crash-course type).

Even at the time when there were only workshops for apprentices, GC4 issued the following directive: "The aim of the Salesian Society in educating youngsters in trades is to train them so that when they leave our houses at the end of their course they will have learned a trade that will earn them an honest living, they will be well instructed in religion, and they will have had sufficient schooling for their state in life" (GC3 & GC4 doc 4, pp. 18-22).

This statement clarifies the salient aspects of our education in the trade school: religious, moral, intellectual and professional.

Any student of history will note with pleasure the constant effort our schools have made to avoid the temptation to become mere factories, industries, farms or instant-labour-producers. Indeed, we have always striven to remain true centres of education whilst programming according to the capabilities of both Salesians and pupils.

The Councillor General for Trade Schools, Father Joseph Bertello, in a circular of 24 July 1906, wrote: "Outside people work feverishly to impart to workers a broad and suitable instruction; and there is no reason why our pupils should not be a step ahead by comparison".

Not mere labourers, then, but good Christian men. This recommendation could be far from irrelevant in our own situation today.

As we strive for a well-balanced whole, and appreciate the value of work and professionalism, we shall be helped by our *Educational Project*, for in it we see theoretical principles translated into the



combined and unified action of the educators: theory and action are moulded into an integrated whole.

There is another "constant": we must tailor our initiatives to suit the poor and needy. Higher technical levels can be a necessity in some cases; in others, a temptation to be resisted.

Every Salesian presence in the world of labour must always be a witness and a service to evangelisation. Where there is the need, we should not refuse to lift the level of our schools. But our specialty should always be the simple service for the young and the poor. The impossibility of running high-level technical schools should not cause us to close them down when we can render a relevant service by simplifying them on a lower level.

Finally, we educate working lads through a lively awareness of Christ and his word. This will help us see a positive goodness in professionalism, technology and social participation. In a special way too will it help in a more profound faith-development by not isolating faith from the youngster's experience in the workshop.

Often one hears it said that catechetical content and language belong to another world and go well over the heads of our young people, being quite out of touch with their lives.

Mayhap we have seen groups of confreres and layfolk making real efforts to present the faith in a way that is comprehensible to young workers. This kind of effort is part of our Salesian heritage. "We are all and at all times educators in the faith" (Const 20).

From the above remarks we draw a number of conclusions.

Our development should include a substantial number of educational enterprises in the worker's world; a proper proportion in our commitment to trade schools and other works.

At times we narrow down our apostolate to church services or activities lacking religious soul; and we too easily engage in certain types of work. At times the scarcity of trained personnel for trade schools, and our past formation, cause us to multiply "academic" schools. Provincial development that is not guided by charismatic sensitivity but by "ad hoc" solutions could cause the loss of one of our "characteristic presences".

It should be borne in mind that the Salesian trade school is not



a sole domain of the Brother — although he has a determining role in its development. It is a community effort: priests and Brothers combine their forces, each complementarily enriching the other. This has always been our tradition.

From the first conclusion a second follows: the training of personnel for these trade schools both in their mental attitude and in professional qualifications. An important aspect is to foster Salesian Brother vocations; we know that this vocation has many functions (v GC21, 182). But as GC21 also states, "Considering the importance and the incidence of the working classes in many countries, it is clear that activities connected with this area will certainly be the most significant apostolic field of action for the Brother in these regions, even if not exclusively so" (GC21, 183).

It is also important to create a warm attitude towards the worker's world, a deep understanding, and a fostering in the clerics of corresponding qualifications in their educational and pastoral training. As was noted above, this is a mission that belongs to the whole Salesian community and not just to some of its members.

Another point. Education in the worker's world these days requires updating not only in the area of instruction but also in politics.

Work is an aspect of humanity; in the light of Christ's teaching it takes on a new meaning — which means we need to face up to various aspects of the worker's world, seek help therefrom and give our complementary co-operation. Our activity is not a private affair but involves the developing of a culture. Unity in organisation, a conscientious presence when decisions are made regarding our educational centres, the determination to carry the Gospel into civil life, co-operation with the good forces in the worker's world — these are all aspects we must consider indispensable; they will better our evangelising efforts within the workforce and our efforts for our young people.

Our trade schools will thus become centres with plenty of give and take; they will be active referral areas for interchange of ideas and personal dialogue.



## 5. Spiritual & pastoral aspects

The charism of a Founder is a gift of the Spirit and it imbues his life experiences.

The life of Don Bosco's early years was one of work — work that was joyous and creative as well as difficult and essential for subsistence; he accepted it as honourable; he sanctified it in love for his mother and his prayerful sense of responsibility. It became consecrated work befitting the dignity of man. Don Bosco was a worker at the Becchi and at the Moglia farm; he laboured as he studied at Chieri and when in the seminary.

His first priestly contacts were with the young workers. "In general the Oratory was full of young bricklayers, stone-dressers, pavement-makers and others from far places (MO 129). In fact the early group had so many of that particular trade that in 1842 the Oratory celebrated the "Feast of the Stonemasons" (MO 130). "During the week Don Bosco used visit them at work, in the factories and the workshops. It was a great comfort for these young labourers to have a friend who cared for them. The employers too were glad to have their young workers thus helped during the week" (MO 130).

It was for these lads that our workshops were set up. They represented their own small world of labour, their first steps in industry.

Work was the binding force in the spirituality of the early Salesians; with temperance and prayer it became their motto, their mystique; it was their way of worshipping God; it was the mark of their religious consecration, their spirituality and practical apostolate. Their labour did not exclude other expressions of Salesian spirituality: in fact it put them in relief. It was a labour that was manual and attuned to the masses.

Our preferences are dictated by the charity of the Holy Spirit. They are real and practical preferences. One of the main ones is thus described in our Constitutions: "Working-class boys who are starting to earn their living often have difficulty in finding their place in society and in the Church, even though they may not live in conditions of poverty. Just as Don Bosco had a special solicitude for young workers we too must guide them to find their rightful place in their own social, cultural and religious environment" (Const 11).



## 4. ACTIVITIES OF THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL

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### 4.1 Plenary session, June-July 1980:

A) *Normal administration*: appointments, approvals, authorisations, dispensations, extensions, ratifications, etc.

B) *Other matters of importance*:

— Reports of Rector Major and Councillors on visits made from January to May (v Acts 296).

— Reports on canonical visitations of the following Provinces: Barcelona, Belo Horizonte, Bogotá, Catania, Dublin, Genoa, Holland, Lima, Manaus, Tokyo, Valencia, Venice, the Delegations of Seoul and Opera PAS-UPS.

— Examination of Acts of Provincial Chapters of following Provinces: Ancona, Australia, Belgium North, Belgium South, Calcutta, Chile, Dublin, France North, France South, Generalate-Rome, Germany North, Germany South, Guadalajara, Holland, Hong Kong, Korea, Liubljana, León, Madrid, Milan, Naples, Oxford, Poland North, Poland South, Thailand, Venezuela, Zagreb, Zaire.

— Report on Central Archives.

— Report on Salesian Historical Institute.

— Transfer of Delegation of Malta to Irish Province (v page 69 this issue).

— Approval of new Statutes of New Rochelle Missionary Office.

— Examination of projected Rector's Manual.

— Madrid Salesian Catechetical Centre: relations with Superior Council and Iberian Conference.

— Project Africa: assessment of achievements so far.

— Salesian Spiritual Review for the Salesian Family: study of the project.

### 4.2 The Rector Major

On 26 July the Rector Major was at Valdocco for the conclusion of the "Retreat-pilgrimage to the sources" of the French-speaking confreres. He then went to Milan to administer the Sacrament of the Sick to his brother, Father Angelo Vigano, Provincial of the Milan Province.

He then travelled to Lugano for the 4 August to be present at the World Committee meeting of the Past Pupils; then to Brussels, and



at "Farnières" he spent 5 to 9 August with the French-speaking Provincials and their Councils. With him were Father Vanseveren and Father Raineri.

On 15 August he celebrated the Feast of the Assumption in the presence of the Holy Father in our parish at Castelgandolfo and later at our Salesian House there.

He left Rome on 29 August for Latin America, with a day's stop-over in Madrid. He visited Guatemala, Salvador and Nicaragua, meeting both bishops and confreres.

After three days in Mexico he journeyed to California and was present (7 - 12 September) at the meeting of Provincials and Provincial Councillors of the English-speaking Region. With him were Father Williams, Father Raineri and Father Vecchi. He also called at New Rochelle and visited the new Salesian foundation in Harlem.

He returned to Rome 16 September and at the moment of going to print is about to attend the World Episcopal Synod.

#### **4.3 The Councillor for Youth Apostolate**

Father Juan Edmundo Vecchi

From 1 to 6 June 1980 the Department for Youth Apostolate collaborated with the Faculty of

Educational Science (UPS) in a seminar on the topic "*Planning education today with Don Bosco*".

Preparations for the seminar had spread over a whole year, with the organising committee arranging various meetings with lecturers and seeking suggestions and help from participants.

The aim was to study certain salient aspects of the Preventive System, to suggest helpful theories, and propose practical ways and means to implement them.

Some thirty consultants from various parts of Europe took part in the seminar; and the UPS will publish the findings in due course.

July was taken up in preparing three documentary aids soon to be forwarded to all Provincial Councils. They deal with Salesian Pastoral and educational projects in parishes, oratories, youth centres and schools. These aids are a follow-on to Documents I & II already forwarded to the Provinces. Also sent was a document enjoining close attention to our Salesian presence among the work-force and inviting participation in a possible seminar on this topic.

Work has been done on the preparation of a course of ongoing formation (spiritual and pastoral renewal) for Provincial Youth Apostolate animators. This is planned for Autumn 1981.

From 6 - 9 August Father Vecchi accompanied other Councillors on



a visit to the French-speaking Provinces.

In August Father Carlo Borgetti (member of the Department for Youth Apostolate) visited Hong Kong, the Philippines and Bangkok at the request of these Provinces to discuss matters relating to youth apostolate, the Preventive System, education, and the educative community.

#### 4.4 The Councillor for Salesian Family

Father John Raineri

In the Department of the Salesian Family preparations have continued apace for the week of spirituality for the Salesian Family to be held in the Generalate from 26 to 31 January 1981.

The centenary of the death of St Mary Mazzarello has prompted the organisers to choose as the theme *The charismatic presence and contribution of women within the Salesian Family — with special reference to St Mary Mazzarello*. As soon as the speakers have confirmed their acceptance of the topics assigned to them, all Provincials and Salesian Family group-leaders will be duly apprised of relevant details.

Together with representatives and group animators the Department has continued its study of the projected publication on *spirituality for the*

*Salesian Family*. The concept has received the approval in principle of the Superior Council.

Meantime Father Raineri has attended the Farnières meeting of Provincial Councillors of the French-speaking Provinces; Father Coglianadro, World Delegate for the Co-operators, was present at the first National Congress of Young Co-operators in Argentina; and Father Aubry assisted at the National Italian Convention, "Roma 80".

Soon the Salesian Family Department will have a new member: the Rector Major has invited *Father John Fàvaro* of the Genoa Province to assume the duties of World Delegate for the Past Pupils.

At the meeting of the World Committee of the Past Pupils at Lugano (3-4 August) the Rector Major proclaimed Joseph Castelli the new World President. He also officially pronounced the retiring José Gonzales Torres "World President Emeritus" charged with leadership formation among Latin America's past pupils; and Father Umberto Bastasi "World Delegate Emeritus". Both will thus play an active part in the World Council for the next six years.

The Secretariate for the Media has been working on the short film, "Maria, una Strada", to boost devotion to Mary. The final version will be ready for the New Year (1981). Also in preparation are a number



of documentaries entitled "Vatican Schaug", on the life of the Church, in accord with the Pontifical Commission for the Media. It will be edited in six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

In the next few months Father Segneri, Director of the Secretariate, will have meetings with Italian and German "formatori" to discuss *Salesian formation for the media* according to a programme drawn up by the Secretariate and the World Advisory Council.

#### **4.5 The Councillor for the Missions**

Father Bernard Tohill

The Councillor for the Missions has presented to the Provincial and Mission Officer of the New Rochelle Province the official *Mission Office Statutes* with a covering letter from Father Gaetano Scrivo, Vicar to the Rector Major.

The Statute was drawn up by a Superior Council commission, bearing in mind the suggestions of the Provincial Council of New Rochelle and its Mission Officer; it was definitively approved by the Superior Council at its sitting of 24 July 1980. Its sixteen articles define the scope and organisation of the Mission Office and detail its relations with the Province and Superior Council.

On 24 August Father Tohill

represented the Rector Major at the episcopal consecration of our Salesian confrere of Gabon, Basil Mvé. The function was solemnised in a packed sports ground in Oyem in the presence of the (Moslem) State President, the Pronuncio and nine bishops from four African nations. The visiting hierarchy took occasion to urge their requests for Salesian foundations in their respective dioceses.

Father Tohill was in Africa from 19 August to 3 September, and was able to pay brief visits to a number of our foundations there.

In the capital of Gabon, Libreville, he visited the Paris Province missionaries in their minor seminary and parish. He also visited the large Salesian parish and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians at Port Gentil. At Oyem he saw the missionaries of Fougamon and Cameroun. Again in Libreville he met the Paris Provincial and Provincial Economist to discuss a number of local missionary matters.

In the Congo Republic he made a stop-over at the large parish of St John Bosco at Pointe Noire and the two parishes of St Charles Lwanga and St Michael in the capital, Brazzaville. Here the Salesians also have a youth centre.

This year some eighty confreres have written to the Rector Major volunteering for the missions.

At the time of writing at least



twenty-four have already reached their missions in Latin America and (mainly) Africa. Another forty are ready to leave for various African nations and are hoping there will be no long delay for visas.

The new missionaries are due for Angola, Benin, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia; and they hail from Brazil, England, India, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Spain, Scotland and Uruguay.

The Manila Province has already sent six confreres to New Guinea this year.

During 1980 certain Provinces in

Latin America will have welcomed fifteen confreres from other South American Provinces and from Italy, Poland and Spain. The receiving Provinces are Brazil, Chile, Central America, Ecuador, Mexico and Paraguay.

One Indian confrere is already in Bhutan and a Spaniard is on his way to the Philippines.

Our special thanks to Divine Providence too, so quick to come to the aid of this great missionary renewal. On the 19 August the Brotherly Solidarity Fund (set up in 1968 by the then Rector Major, Father Ricceri) reached ten figures in Italian lire and has been of immense help to so many missionary ventures.



## 5. DOCUMENTS AND NEWS ITEMS

### 5.1 Brotherly Solidarity (33rd report)

#### a) PROVINCES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED

##### AFRICA *Italian Lire*

Central Africa - Lubumbashi 8,400.000

##### NORTH AMERICA

USA East 3,347.515

USA West 5,000.000

##### SOUTH AMERICA

Chile - Santiago 2,000.000

Mexico City - Mexico 1,308.445

##### ASIA

Hong Kong (for Makalé) 1,000.000

South Korea - Seoul 442.550

India - Bangalore 1,000.000

Thailand - Bangkok 1,000.000

##### EUROPE

Italy - Verona 30,000.000

Italy - Udine 1,600.000

Italy - Soverato 300.000

Anonymous 43,300.000

*Total monies received from 15 May 1980 to 3 September 1980:* 98,698.510

*Plus cash in hand* 7.584

*Amount for distribution as at 3 September 1980* 98,706.094

#### b) DISTRIBUTION OF MONIES RECEIVED

##### AFRICA

Central Africa - Lubumbashi: for the church 1,000.000

Africa: for general fund (from Soverato) 300.000

Ethiopia - Makalé (from Hong Kong) 1,000.000

##### SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina - Buenos Aires (San José Obrero): for the oratory 800.000

Argentina - Rosario: for Paraná 1,000.000

Brazil - Recife, Carpina: for provisions for the Home 1,000.000

Central America - San Salvador: for dispensary 1,480.000

Central America - Nicaragua, Masaya: for catechetical material 500.000

Mexico - Puebla: audiovisuals for Help of Christians parish 1,000.000

Mexico - Puebla: catechetics, Don Bosco Oratory 1,000.000

Mexico - Puebla: catechetics, Rinaldi Oratory 1,000.000

Mexico - Mixes: for vocations 500.000

Peru - Lima, San José:



|  |           |  |               |
|--|-----------|--|---------------|
| answer to request for help   | 872.000   | fitting out international residence for theologians  | 75,000.000    |
| ASIA   |           | Portugal - Cape Verde: for building a chapel   | 1,000.000     |
| India - Bangalore: for promotion of vocations                            | 1,000.000 | <i>Total monies dispersed as from 15 May 1980 to 3 September 1980</i>  | 98,699.681    |
| India - Bangalore, Kumbalam: for repairs to the church                   | 1,000.000 | <i>Plus cash in hand</i>   | 6.413         |
| India - Calcutta, Ranchi: for the chapel                                 | 1,000.000 | <i>Total</i>   | 98,706.094    |
| India - Gauhati, Arunachal Pradesh: initial-catechesis area              | 1,000.000 | c) GENERAL SUMMATION OF BROTHERLY SOLIDARITY FUND  |               |
| India - Gauhati, Mon: for the new mission                                | 1,000.000 | <i>Total donations received up to 3 September 1980</i>   | 1,022,146.963 |
| India - Gauhati, Umsning: for the needs of the mission                   | 1,000.000 | <i>Total disbursements up to 3 September 1980</i>  | 1,022,140.550 |
| India - Gauhati, Shillong: for Catholic literature                       | 1,000.000 | <i>Cash in hand</i>  | 6.413         |
| India - Madras, Vyasarpady: for the poor, the lepers and the handicapped | 1,500.000 | <b>5.2 Appointments</b>  |               |
| India - Madras, D'Castor Road: for the homeless                          | 1,000.000 | <i>Pontifical appointment</i>  |               |
| EUROPE   |           | The Holy Father has transferred Bishop GONÇALVES AMARAL EDVALDO (Auxiliary in the Archdiocese of Aracajú) to the Cathedral Church of Parnaíba, Brazil.   |               |
| France - Congo, Brazzaville: for a youth centre                          | 1,300.000 | Bishop Gonçalves is 53 years of age, was born in Recife, Brazil, ordained at Sao Paulo in 1954, and was several years Rector in the Province of Recife. He was appointed auxiliary bishop by Paul VI and promoted to the titular see of Zallata in 1975. |               |
| France - Congo, Abraham: for implementations                             |           |  |               |
| Italy - "Gerini" students: for books                                     | 447.681   |  |               |
| Italy - "Gerini":  |           |  |               |



*Provincial appointment*

To replace Father Luigi Bosoni, now Regional Councillor for Italy and the Middle East, the Superior Council has elected as Provincial to the Novara Province Father Piero SCALABRINO.

Father Scalabrino was born at Masserano, Vercelli, in 1928, made his first profession in 1948 and was ordained in 1956.

He has fulfilled various important roles in the Novara Province, including rectorship (1957), and has been the Provincial Economer since 1974.

**5.3 Statistics Regarding the Salesian Brother**

*Legend:* L = 'Laic' (Brother)  
 C = 'Cleric' (priest, deacon, cleric)  
 t = temporary vows  
 p = perpetual vows  
 LN = lay novices  
 CN = cleric novices

**1. Comparison between L & C and LN & CN**

|       | L     | C     | Total |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1880  | 182   | 369   | 551   |
| ratio | 1     | 2     |       |
| %     | 33.03 | 66.99 | 100   |
| 1980  | 2962  | 13764 | 16726 |
| ratio | 1     | 4.62  |       |
| %     | 17.70 | 82.29 | 100   |

|       | LN   | CN    | Total |
|-------|------|-------|-------|
| 1980  | 44   | 435   | 479   |
| ratio | 1    | 9.88  |       |
| %     | 9.18 | 90.81 | 100   |



2. *Falling numbers compared (L & C and LN & CN)*

|         | L     | C     |         | LN    | CN    |
|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| 1966    | 4294  |       | 1965    | 293   |       |
| 1967    |       | 17346 | 1966    |       | 1225  |
| 1980    | 2962  | 13764 | 1980    | 44    | 435   |
| drop %  | 31.02 | 20.65 | drop %  | 84.98 | 64.69 |
| diff. % |       | 10.37 | diff. % |       | 20.49 |

3. *Regional distribution of L and LN (1980)*

|                          | No. of<br>Provs. | Provs.<br>with LN | Total<br>LN | Lt  | Lp   | % forecast if present<br>conditions continue |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----|------|--|
|                          |                  |                   |             |     |      | + —  |
| R2 English-speak-<br>ing | 6                | 0                 | 0           | 15  | 216  | 100.00                                       |
| R3 Asia                  | 10               | 5                 | 7           | 54  | 188  | 21.52  |
| R4 Atlantic              | 13               | 2                 | 2           | 14  | 250  | 68.15  |
| R5 Europe                | 13               | 3                 | 10          | 22  | 334  | 18.06  |
| R6 Iberian               | 8                | 4                 | 19          | 70  | 438  | 57.15  |
| R7 Italy & ME            | 12               | 3                 | 4           | 22  | 882  | 81.41  |
| R8 Pacific               | 11               | 0                 | 0           | 11  | 286  | 100.00                                       |
| D9 Poland                | 2                | 1                 | 2           | 3   | 71   | 13.63  |
| Various                  |                  |                   |             |     | 86   |  |
| Totals                   | 75               | 18                | 44          | 211 | 2751 | 37.60  |



4. *Distribution of LN in Provinces (1980)*

| LN         | Ispett.     | %   |
|------------|-------------|-----|
| 0          | 57          | 76  |
| 1          | 9           |     |
| 2          | 7           |     |
| 6          | 1 (Cologne) | 24  |
| 15         | 1 (Madrid)  |     |
| Totals: 44 | 75          | 100 |

5. *No LN since:*

| Since | Province | No. of years |
|-------|----------|--------------|
| 1967  | 1        | 14           |
| 1968  | 1        | 13           |
| 1970  | 2        | 11           |
| 1971  | 3        | 10           |
| 1973  | 3        | 8            |
| 1974  | 3        | 7            |
| 1975  | 1        | 6            |
| 1976  | 7        | 5            |

**5.4 Transfer of Malta Delegation to Irish Province**

We, Father Egidio Viganò, Rector Major of the Salesian Society of Saint John Bosco,

- after full consultation with the confreres of the Salesian Communities of Malta;
- having listened to the opinion of the Provincial Councils of the



Salesian Province of St Thomas of Canterbury in Great Britain and the Salesian Province of St Patrick in Ireland, and the Council of the Provincial Delegation of Malta;

- having listened to the opinion of the competent Regional Councillor;
- with the intention of promoting the participation of the Salesian communities of Malta in that missionary commitment in Africa at present entrusted to the Irish Province;
- having received the consent (according to the Salesian Constitutions, article 136) of the Superior Council in the meeting of 24 July 1980;

with the present *decree we transfer the Salesian communities of Malta* from the Province of Great Britain to the Province of Ireland.

We direct furthermore that the Maltese confreres at present resident in Great Britain for the purpose of formation or study be transferred to the Irish Province.

Other cases of a special nature will proceed according to article 140 of the Regulations.

This decree takes effect on 22 August 1980.

Rome: Fr EGIDIO VIGANÒ  
*Rector Major*

Fr DOMINIC BRITSCHU  
*Secretary General*

## 5.5 Deceased confreres

"We keep alive the memory of all confreres now asleep in the peace of Christ. Their remembrance is for us a stimulus to continue faithful in our mission" (Const. 66).

L **ACERNI Celestino** (AUL)  
aged 85

L **AMMAN Rafael Otto** (GEM)  
aged 82

L **BERTOLOTI Celestino** (ILT)  
aged 90

L **CUCCO Domenico** (INE)  
aged 74

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| * Specchio (Italy)         | 23-9-95  |
| Ivrea (Italy)              | 17-10-21 |
| † Melbourne (Australia)    | 18-7-80  |
| * Ettringen (Germany)      | 17-5-98  |
| Ensdorf (Germany)          | 29-7-34  |
| † Kempten (Germany)        | 28-6-80  |
| * Abbazia Alpina (Italy)   | 10-11-89 |
| Borgomanero (Italy)        | 16-9-28  |
| † Varazze (Italy)          | 17-8-80  |
| * Verolengo (Italy)        | 20-7-06  |
| Borgomanero (Italy)        | 8-9-34   |
| † Borgo S. Martino (Italy) | 20-8-80  |



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>P DANEK Francesco</b> (PER)<br>aged 72       | * Velehrad (Czechoslovakia) 7-10-08<br>Arequipa (Peru) 24-1-29<br>Lima (Peru) 15-8-37<br>Magdalena del Mar (Peru) 7-7-80                      |
| <b>P DE LA BRETECHE Pierre</b> (FPA)<br>aged 74 | * Argentan (France) 10-2-06<br>Binson (France) 13-9-34<br>Cambrai (France) 14-5-44<br>† Rheims (France) 13-6-80                               |
| <b>L DEL CURTO Vittore</b> (IME)<br>aged 64     | * Piuro (Italy) 2-3-16<br>Villa Moglia (Italy) 24-9-39<br>† Locri (Italy) 23-8-80   |
| <b>P DELPUTTE Oscar</b> (BEN)<br>aged 84        | * Moorseele (Belgium) 15-12-95<br>Groot Bijgaarden (Belgium) 25-8-32<br>Oud-Heverlee (Belgium) 29-6-39<br>† Leuven (Belgium) 11-6-80          |
| <b>L FABER Peter</b> (GEK)<br>aged 79           | * Montenich (Germany) 15-5-01<br>Ensdorf (Germany) 4-8-35<br>† Marienhausen (Germany) 29-6-80   |
| <b>P GARNERO Vicente</b> (ACO)<br>aged 78       | * Santa Fé (Argentina) 4-8-01<br>Bernal (Argentina) 11-1-19<br>Turin (Italy) 10-8-27<br>† Córdoba (Argentina) 29-5-80<br>(8 years Provincial) |
| <b>P GIACOMUZZI Paolo</b> (ISI)<br>aged 97      | * Ziano di Fiemme (Italy) 30-6-83<br>Fogizzo (Italy) 30-9-20<br>Fogizzo (Italy) 21-8-10<br>† Riesi (Italy) 9-7-80                             |
| <b>P GIMENEZ José</b> (ARO)<br>aged 63          | * Rosario (Argentina) 27-1-17<br>Vignaud (Argentina) 25-1-36<br>Córdoba (Argentina) 25-11-45<br>† Luján (Argentina) 22-6-80                   |
| <b>P GOMEZ José Maria</b> (ARO)<br>aged 77      | * Pra del Rey (Spain) 5-6-02<br>Bernal (Argentina) 27-1-20<br>Buenos Aires (Argentina) 2-2-30<br>† Paraná (Argentina) 30-7-79                 |
| <b>L GORKIC Louis</b> (IVE)<br>aged 71          | * Veroibac (Italy) 25-3-9<br>Cumiana (Italy) 23-9-29<br>† Udine (Italy) 24-7-80   |
| <b>P GUERRA Oscar</b> (ABA)<br>aged 69          | * Buenos Aires (Argentina) 25-4-11<br>Bernal (Argentina) 26-1-29<br>Córdoba (Argentina) 26-11-39<br>† Buenos Aires (Argentina) 24-4-80        |



|  |   |
|--|---|
| P <b>INKRATA Casimir</b> (PER)<br>aged 75  | * Miovecias (Lithuania) 14-12-04<br>Villa Moglia (Italy) 18-9-31<br>Santiago (Chile) 30-11-40<br>† Lima (Peru) 5-7-80                 |
| L <b>JURADO Manuel</b> (SCO)<br>aged 83    | * Seville (Spain) 28-5-97<br>Utrera (Spain) 24-8-18<br>† Ronda (Spain) 11-3-80  |
| P <b>LE LOUARN Yvon</b> (FPA)<br>aged 62   | * Plouha (France) 7-12-17<br>Binson (France) 13-9-37<br>Pleudihen (France) 1-7-47<br>† Coat-an-Doc'h (France) 25-8-80                 |
| L <b>LLABRES Juan</b> (SBA)<br>aged 75     | * Ciudadela (Spain) 2-2-05<br>Sarriá (Spain) 15-7-26<br>† Barcelona (Spain) 1-7-80  |
| P <b>MACHI' Biagio</b> (ISI)<br>aged 68    | * Frazzanò (Italy) 14-5-12<br>San Gregorio (Italy) 9-9-33<br>Bollengo (Italy) 25-6-43<br>† Messina (Italy) 10-8-80                    |
| P <b>MIANO Vincenzo</b> (UPS)<br>aged 70   | * Canicattini (Italy) 28-6-10<br>San Gregorio (Italy) 2-10-26<br>Canicattini (Italy) 5-8-34<br>† Rome (Italy) 28-6-80                 |
| P <b>PANCIERA Alberto</b> (VEN)<br>aged 78 | * Zoldo Alto (Italy) 10-4-02<br>La Vega (Venezuela) 20-11-28<br>Turin (Italy) 5-7-36<br>† Valencia (Venezuela) 4-6-80                 |
| P <b>PENZ Franz</b> (AUS)<br>aged 69       | * Luimes (Austria) 28-1-11<br>Ensdorf (Germany) 2-8-31<br>Vienna (Austria) 10-9-39<br>† Hall (Austria) 9-6-80<br>(6 years Provincial) |
| P <b>PUPPIN Tiziano</b> (MEG)<br>aged 61   | * Schio (Italy) 2-6-19<br>Este (Italy) 21-8-38<br>Turin (Italy) 6-7-47<br>† León (Mexico) 21-4-80                                     |
| L <b>RING Alois</b> (GEM)<br>aged 77       | * Sirchenried (Germany) 21-11-02<br>Ensdorf (Germany) 2-8-31<br>† Pfaffendorf (Germany) 22-6-80                                       |
| L <b>RIVAS Alfredo</b> (CIL)<br>aged 88    | * Yungai (Chile) 9-1-92<br>Santiago (Chile) 22-2-13<br>† Santiago (Chile) 16-7-80   |



|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| L <b>RIVERA Antonio</b> (SCO)<br>aged 68     | * Osuna (Spain)<br>S. José del Valle (Spain)<br>† Malaga (Spain)                                 | 9-12-11<br>16-8-44<br>9-5-80             |
| P <b>ROGOWSKI Czeslaw</b> (PLS)<br>aged 70   | * Jeziora Male (Poland)<br>Czerwinsk (Poland)<br>Crackow (Poland)<br>† Crackow (Poland)          | 22-1-10<br>23-7-32<br>24-6-41<br>13-6-80 |
| L <b>SOBCZAK Stanislaus</b> (PLE)<br>aged 68 | * Tarnowa (Poland)<br>Czerwinsk (Poland)<br>† Lodz (Poland)                                      | 4-4-12<br>1-8-36<br>5-7-80               |
| P <b>TORRALBA Juan</b> (SCO)<br>aged 54      | * Villa del Rio (Spain)<br>S. José del Valle (Spain)<br>Córdoba (Spain)<br>† Córdoba (Spain)     | 27-3-26<br>16-8-53<br>24-6-60<br>14-6-80 |
| P <b>TUSEK Izidor</b> (JUZ)<br>aged 66       | * Krapina (Jugoslavia)<br>Radna (Jugoslavia)<br>Ljubljana (Jugoslavia)<br>† Krapina (Jugoslavia) | 1-5-14<br>3-9-32<br>29-6-41<br>6-7-80    |
| P <b>VACCHINI Giovanni</b> (ISU)<br>aged 58  | * Sostegno (Italy)<br>Pinerolo (Italy)<br>Turin (Italy)<br>† Turin (Italy)                       | 26-9-21<br>27-3-38<br>4-7-48<br>25-6-80  |
| L <b>VILLENEUVE Daniel</b> (FLY)<br>aged 85  | * Nantes (France)<br>Châteaux d'Aix (France)<br>† Lyons (France)                                 | 10-9-94<br>29-3-21<br>9-10-79            |
| P <b>WESSEL Josef</b> (GEK)<br>aged 66       | * Damme (Germany)<br>Ensdorf (Germany)<br>Benediktbeuern (Germany)<br>† Munster (Germany)        | 7-6-14<br>15-8-36<br>29-6-51<br>21-7-80  |
| L <b>WNUK Franciszek</b> (PLE)<br>aged 75    | * Lacha (Poland)<br>Czerwinsk (Poland)<br>† Sokolov Podlaski (Poland)                            | 3-2-05<br>2-8-49<br>24-6-80              |



