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Dear Salesian Cooperators and Salesian Cooperators,

In these days when the Holy Father, by opening the Holy Door, has begun the Jubilee, a time of grace and renewal for the whole Church, ***I wish to address you***, my dear brothers and sisters, called to live, together with me, the Salesian apostolic vocation in the world, as lay people committed to bringing the light of Christ into society by embodying the Salesian charism.

In his homily for the beginning of the Jubilee, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on the theme of **hope**, which he has placed at the centre of this Holy Year.

As the Rector Major's Strenna for 2025 reminds us: ***"Anchored in hope, pilgrims with the young"***, we are called to be **witnesses of hope** for the young people with whom we enter into relationships, making us traveling companions on their journey of human and spiritual growth.

The Final Document of the Synod provides the backdrop to the Pope's invitation and the food for thought in the Strenna, which urges us to follow a path of synodal conversion, which will make us a more participatory and missionary Church.

This invitation is also addressed to us, Salesian Cooperators and Salesian Cooperators, called to live synodality within the Association and in the different areas in which we operate, especially in this second year of preparation for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of our Association which has as its concrete action "renew".

As reiterated in the Statute of the Association, membership in it nourishes the experience of faith and ecclesial communion and represents a vital element for the support of the apostolic vocation.

Here are some points on which I would like to dwell in light of the theme of the Jubilee, of the Strenna 2025, of the Final Document of the Synod:

- ***Hope as the foundation of our action:***

Don Bosco, a man of great faith and profound hope, taught us to look to the future with optimism, trusting in God's Providence and in the action of grace.

We too, as Salesian Cooperators and Salesian Cooperators, are called to be bearers of hope, witnessing with our lives the joy of the Gospel and *the beauty of the Salesian vocation*.

Our commitment is realized in the **evangelization of culture and social life**, taking inspiration from the apostolic project of Don Bosco and *living in communion with the other members of the Salesian Family*.

Don Bosco taught us that Christian hope is an invitation to move "without delay", to not stand still, to prevent our faith from becoming corrupted.

The PVA reminds us that *"still water is the first to corrupt"* and urges us to act with courage, not to be afraid to compromise ourselves for the good of others.

- ***The synodal path as a lifestyle:***

Synodality is an invitation to walk together, to listen to each other, to discern God's will for our Association and for the entire Church.

As Salesian Cooperators, we are called to promote a culture of dialogue and collaboration within our local, provincial and global centers.

We must be attentive to the voices of all, especially young people, who question us with their sensitivity and their desire for a more welcoming Church, attentive to the needs of the world.

The PVA reminds us that responsibility in the mission translates into co-responsibility in action,



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where every member of the community is called to give his or her contribution, with particular attention to young people and their creative capacity.

The Synod also invites us not to "limit consultation within the Catholic Church", but to open ourselves to ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, a sign of a Church that knows how to walk together with all men and women of good will.

- ***The shared mission as a common commitment:***

The Salesian charism calls us to dedicate ourselves to the education and evangelization of young people, especially the poorest and most needy.

As Salesian Cooperators, we are called to collaborate with the Salesians of Don Bosco, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and the other Groups of the Salesian Family to carry out this mission, making the most of our skills and our experience as lay people.

As stated in the PVA, this commitment is expressed in various typical activities, including catechesis, the animation of youth and family groups, social service among the poor and commitment to social communication.

We are called to "take on the weight of these wounded relationships so that the Lord, the Living One, may heal them", concretely witnessing God's mercy and love for every person.

The Jubilee is a time of grace to start again with renewed impetus.

I invite you to generously accept the Holy Father's invitation to live this Holy Year as an opportunity to grow in faith and hope, in communion with the whole Church.

In this Jubilee Year, we must "abound in hope" and walk together with young people, as the Salesian Family, to give a credible and attractive testimony of our faith, even if poor.

I urge everyone, including myself, to enthusiastically continue our commitments as Salesian Cooperators and Salesian Cooperators, bearing witness to the beauty of the Salesian charism and contributing to building an increasingly synodal and missionary Church.

Let us entrust ourselves to the maternal guidance of Mary Help of Christians, who accompanies us on this journey of hope and grace.

A fraternal hug in Don Bosco and best wishes for the now approaching 2025.

World Coordinator
Association of Salesian Cooperators