



WORLD CONFEDERATION
Past Pupils of Don Bosco

STRATEGIC PLAN

2022 - 2027



INTRODUCTION

As Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco, we have been gifted with a Salesian Education. Each one of us is called by God to give back from the blessings that we have received by living the Salesian Charism, by being witnesses to the values that we learned in our educational experience and by embracing a Salesian Educative and Pastoral Spirituality.

We are called to change minds, move hearts, and inspire lives. This requires strong conviction and deep commitment. Through our Salesian Education: we have gained knowledge, values, skills, competences; and have been empowered to partake in building up the Kingdom of God. But we have also been offered a spirituality. Bear in mind that Don Bosco asked us to serve one another, to support the Salesian Mission and to be a witness to the Gospel of Christ in all aspects of our daily lives.

As Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco, we are called to be upright Citizens and good Christians. We are asked to be “the salt of the earth and the light of the world” (Mt 5:13 -16). This is a call to all of us, and to the World Confederation.

CONTEXT

We live in a fast-evolving society which is constantly marked by change. The new millennium has rapidly set an agenda of globalization, economic instability, poverty, migration, digitalization, climate change and a pandemic.

We are experiencing the second major global crisis within a decade: the effects of the financial crisis, political and social conflicts, and now coping with a pandemic not seen in generations. These factors will make families and young people face serious challenges to their education, work, financial prospects, relationships, and mental health.

This generation has already been tarnished by environmental degradation,¹ increasing inequality based on gender, intergenerational gap, abilities, beliefs and ethnicity, different forms of violence, social upheaval from an internet-enabled transformation, and the continuing social inequality that brings about various forms of poverty.

STRATEGIC VISION AND PRINCIPLES

As we marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of our movement by Carlo Gastini and his colleagues who were guided by the inspiration of Don Bosco, we are committed to understand our roots, reflect on our journey on how we have arrived here and discern the signs of the times to inspire our way forward.

From the very beginning, GRATITUDE and LOVE were the key words which inspired Gastini, Reviglio, and the first group of Past Pupils. They gathered to unite and journey together with a spirituality, a mission, and a vision.

Our vision for the next six years is based on four dimensions: Journeying Together (Synodality), Spirituality, Mission and Solidarity.

¹ It is important to keep in mind the words of Pope Francis concerning the environmental and social crises: "We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental" (Laudado Si' 139).

JOURNEYING TOGETHER (Synodality)

The Church is calling us to deepen our journey through the synodal process. Humanity calls for a process based on participation and solidarity to face the new challenges of our world. As Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco, as we try to understand the meaning of being a Past Pupil and Friend of Don Bosco in the world today. We also believe that it is the right time for us to engage in this synodal process, journeying together to re-discover our identity in the present reality and how to be of service to young people and to the most vulnerable in society.

We invite every level of our organisation to embark on a journey where we seek to understand our roots, to discern our present and to shape our future. It is our responsibility to be more open, participative, and inclusive by listening and being in communion with each other.

SPIRITUALITY

In these coming years, we will continue in communion to re-discover the spirituality of being a Past Pupil in today's world. Reflecting on the very beginning of our identity, the sense of Gratitude and Love toward Don Bosco was primary. We are the fruits of a spiritual and pedagogical gift: the Salesian Charism. Within this gift, within this love toward Don Bosco, within the gratitude for our education and formation, there is the sense of being of service to the young, to the most needy in society, and giving back from what has been given to us.

Don Bosco based his Spirituality on reflecting God's everlasting Love and Mercy to those young people who were poor, excluded and on the margins of society. The Past Pupil who shares this legacy of Salesian education has the same priority as that of Don Bosco, that is of being of service to the young, the working classes and the missions (Charter of Identity of the Salesian Family Article 16), especially the poor.

MISSION

As a movement of Past Pupils, the 150th anniversary and the General Assembly 2021 asked the question: What kind of Past Pupil of Don Bosco in the 21st century are we committing ourselves for renewal? This theme

inspires us to be open to new opportunities, new methods, and new ways without being afraid.

As Past Pupils we need to search for new paths, different styles in our missionary approach THAT GOES FORTH, which avoids “the comfortable criterion of: it has always been done this way” (*Evangelii Gaudium* 33).

SOLIDARITY

Our movement is not about nostalgic and sentimental encounters but about the commitment of a Church, united with all the groups of the Salesian Family, to reach out, like Don Bosco, to the poor and excluded, especially the young. It is an expression of social action to promote social justice, charity, and social inclusion.

Let us remember that Pope Francis tells us that our actions of solidarity are the expression of the “inseparable bond between our faith and the poor” (*Evangelii Gaudium* 48).



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: *Spread the charism and mission of the Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco in today's reality.*

Spreading our Salesian charism involves understanding and recognising the gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed on Don Bosco in his mission to educate and care for the young. Don Bosco's charism focuses on caring for the person so that he or she can achieve "happiness in this life and the next".²

Objective 2: *Provide meaningful and relevant opportunities to foster the holistic formation and ongoing education of the Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco*

Based on education and formation in the Salesian way of life, the aim of every Past Pupil and Friend of Don Bosco is to live the life of 'upright citizens and good Christians'. The organisation aims to help and assist Past Pupils and Friends to be 'the salt of the earth and the light of the world'.

Objective 3: *Reach out to the young, especially "those who are poor, in danger and abandoned" and support Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco by showing social solidarity through the most appropriate means e.g., youth ministry, family, formation, cultural animation ...*

Enriched by the Christian formation and charism of Don Bosco, Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco are witnesses in their daily life through our apostolic engagement. Since our Foundation, our purpose has been twofold:

- (a) to support Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco to live a fulfilled life of happiness with their families, in their workplace and in the communities where they live.
- (b) to further and assist Salesian work with the young.³

² John Bosco, Letter from Rome 1884.

³ First International Statutes Article 3; BM, Vol. 13, 581).

Objective 4: *Build our individual, organisational and institutional capacity in the world that we live in today and become more relevant and effective by using all the available resources which complement our values, our aims, our priorities and our strategic plan.*

We recognise that capacity building involves a long-term process requiring a systematic approach based on bringing about change in individual, organisational, and institutional capacity. Our aim is to continue to improve the ability of our organisation on a global, regional, national, provincial, and local level, to recognise and improve our capacity and to harness organisational culture and optimise our performance at all levels of governance.



STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

Based on the four strategic objectives, we are offering strategic activities which bring together all our objectives and dreams for the World Confederation in the period 2021-2027:

JOURNEYING TOGETHER (SYNODALITY)

- Form a network of Regional Presidents and SDB Delegates to animate the regions.
- Build a network of established secretariats of National Federations and encourage collaboration between them.
- Create a forum of Salesian Delegates to support each other in their role as animators of organisations.
- Come up with a six-year strategy for "Exallievi in Africa".
- Develop a vision for the organisation outlining "What kind of Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco for the 21st century?" involving significant SDBs, lay people, those involved in Salesian mission and young people.
- Revise, in communion with all the Federations in the world, the Statutes to reflect the vision of Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco for the 21st century through a process of wide consultation and holding a mid-term extraordinary General Assembly.
- Organise Regional meetings every year either online or in person.
- Maintain Regional Congresses at least every four years.
- Propose twinning projects on a worldwide level as a way to support developing countries in their projects.
- Write a set of Statutes for the "Exallievi Academy" and appoint a Commission to oversee the development and implementation of formation and training courses. Explore the possibility of having recognition for certification of formation and training courses.
- Organise Seminars and other events on World, National, Provincial and Local level on relevant themes such as family, youth, social justice, peace, ecumenism, sustainability, etc.

SALESIAN FAMILY

- Foster a sense of belonging to the Salesian Family among members of the association at all levels.
- Participate in the various Forums of the Salesian Family and contribute actively to the events of the Salesian Family.
- Disseminate information about the Salesian Family and the annual Strenna of the Rector Major.
- Improve on the relations with other organisations in the Salesian Family especially Co-operators and FMA Past Pupils.

SPIRITUALITY

- Encourage the active participation of Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco in the Salesian Family Spirituality Days.
- Create a new formation programme for every year with the aim of having six programmes of formation which can be delivered both online and in person.

MISSION

- Offer support to found new National Federations and encourage the active participation of National Federations in the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco.
- Encourage and support National, Provincial and Local Associations to register their organisation as an NGO to be more effective in their Country/Region.

GEX

- Provide opportunities for GEX to organise a School of Leaders and/or similar activities in all Regions.
- Provide the space for young people to come up with youth experiences and events at all levels.
- Collaborate with GEX in forming a network of GEX Representatives on a Regional level.

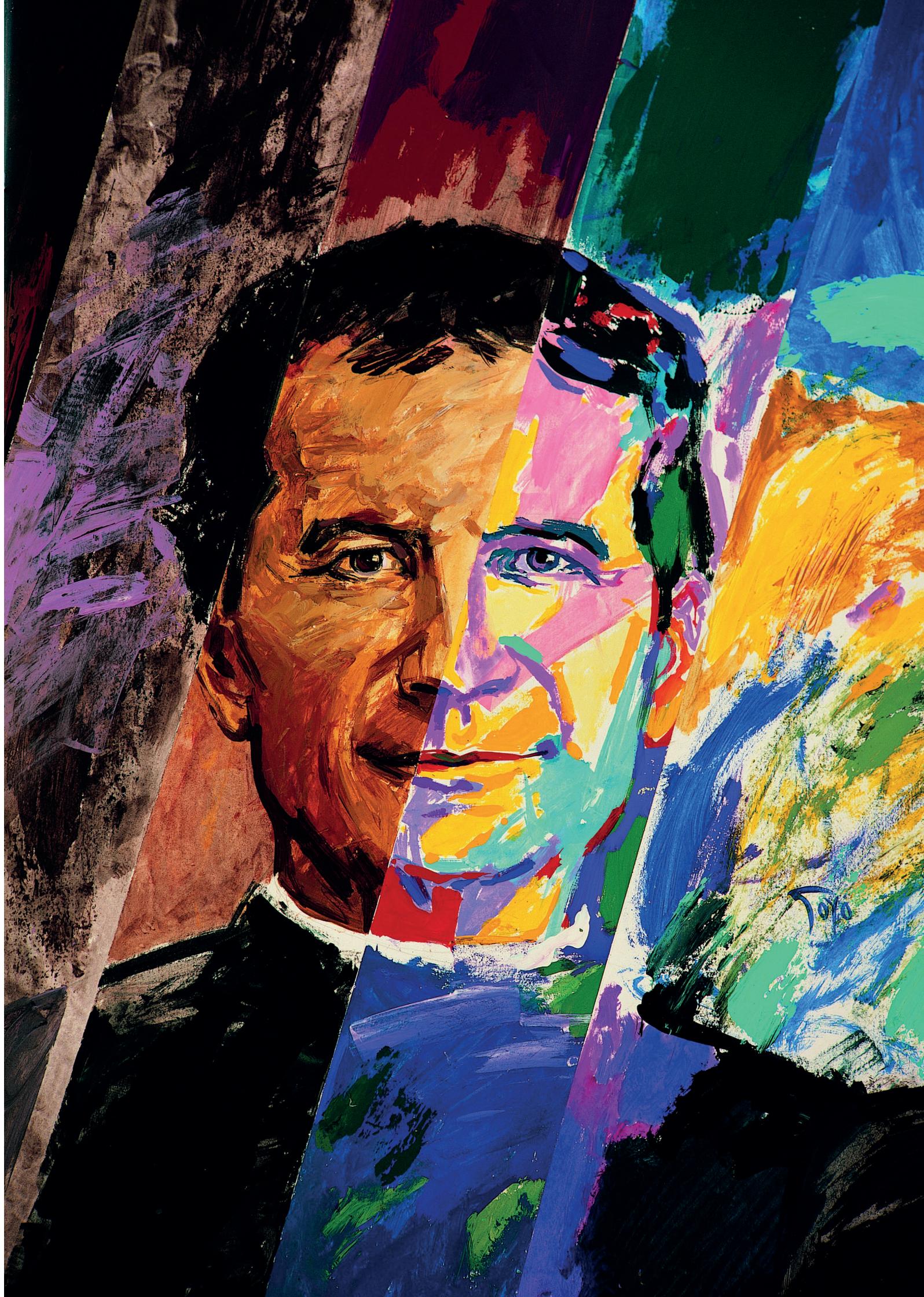
- Promote Voluntary Service through various National and Regional Schemes.
- Maintain a close relationship with Youth Ministry teams at all levels and engage in joint youth projects.

COMMUNICATION

- Develop a Public Relations Strategy to increase our impact in society and Church.
- Promote and maintain the official website and our presence on social media networks.
- Re-brand and develop branding guidelines for the association.
- Establish a team of volunteers to offer translation services based on a Regional level to improve our communication.
- To collect data from all National and Provincial Federations and Local Unions, to communicate better and have the necessary information to take the right decisions at World Level.

SOLIDARITY

- Set up the Don Bosco Solidarity Fund.
- Strengthen DB Connex as a planning and development office for the World Confederation.
- Review the membership fee policy in consultation with National and Provincial Federations.
- Identify projects and funding to increase our social commitment especially with the young.
- Continue to build on initiatives to set up Networking Platforms and/or Business Platform.
- Offer support to National and Provincial Federations as well as Local Associations on how to organise their associations to be able to access funds for projects.





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