

THE SPECIFIC FORMATION OF THE SALESIAN BROTHER

AFTER PRACTICAL TRAINING [C.116]

EAO Region • Manila Philippines

PROPOSED PROGRAM

1. PROFILE OF THE SALESIAN BROTHER

The Salesian Brother is a lay consecrated Salesian.

- 1.1. As a CONSECRATED person, he is called by God to live radically his baptismal consecration by exercising the threefold ministry of prophet, priest and servant-king, through the practice of the evangelical counsels in a community in order to accomplish a specific mission in the Church;
- 1.2. as a SALESIAN, he lives the spirit of Don Bosco and is trained to become an educator and pastor of the young in complementarity with the Salesian priest and with the lay mission partners;
- 1.3. as a LAY person, he lives, cultivates and prepares himself to serve God's kingdom with the values proper of his secularity.

2. ASSUMPTIONS

Following the Salesian Constitutions article 116, after the period of Practical Training, the Salesian Brother is offered a two-year specific formation program that consists in a reflection-integration process of his salesian vocation. This period of formation may also serve as a preparation for perpetual profession.

- 2.1. It is a proposal for the PERSONALIZATION of one's formation whereby the Brother becomes the protagonist of his own formation while accepting to be guided by a team of formators and by a spiritual director.
- 2.2. It is a multi-cultural and inter-provincial COMMUNITY of Salesians where the Brother completes his specific formation in connection with his vocational identity.
- 2.3. It is an appropriate TIME of an exposure-immersion-reflection process whereby the Brother deepens his grasp of his vocational identity within the one, unique salesian vocation.
- 2.4. It is a PLACE favoring an intense preparation for PERPETUAL PROFESSION, for those who may need it.

3. GOALS

Based on the Salesian Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis et Studiorum number 448, there are four major goals of the specific formation of the Salesian Brother.

- 3.1. To assess and complete his progress in his vocation and formation.
- 3.2. To reaffirm his lay identity, which he lives in a complementary manner with the priests, vis-à-vis the empowered laity of the Church, and also his own motivations.
- 3.3. To reflect, study and qualify himself in the theological and pastoral aspects of his Christian faith and in his Salesian consecrated life.
- 3.4. To consolidate an attitude and a pedagogy of continuing formation.

4. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES ACCORDING TO DIMENSIONS OF FORMATION

4.1. Human Formation

In this stage of specific formation, the Salesian Brother

- 4.1.1. Cultivates a pattern of relationships marked by simplicity, tact and serenity.
- 4.1.2. Acquires social virtues highly esteemed by people that make him accepted by everyone, including an ability to listen and to communicate.
- 4.1.3. Nurtures an experience of affectivity and an ability to meet different kinds of people in his educative relationships (the world of work).
- 4.1.4. Fosters daily contacts in the community and his relationship with the Salesian priest in a mutual exchange of gifts.
- 4.1.5. Develops a deep sensitivity to the world of work and culture, as well as an ability to size up situations objectively and adopt a professional approach.

4.2. Spiritual Formation

In this stage of specific formation, the Salesian Brother

- 4.2.1. Evaluates his experience of consecrated life and the way he walks in the Spirit, following the basic features of Salesian spirituality.
- 4.2.2. Experiences more deeply the pastoral love of Christ the Good Shepherd.
- 4.2.3. Strives to grow intensely in his commitment to the person, the style and the spirit of Don Bosco, his Founder and model.
- 4.2.4. Integrates the characteristics of his lay state with his pastoral concern, and cultivates those aspects that enable him to guide the young in their spiritual growth.
- 4.2.5. Develops the liturgy of life through an attitude of offering to God the whole of himself, together with his apostolic undertakings, his daily work, and the very difficulties he encounters in life.

4.3. Intellectual-Theological Formation

In this stage of specific formation, the Salesian Brother

- 4.3.1. Acquires an adequate theological preparation appropriate to his consecrated lay status.
- 4.3.2. Deepens his knowledge of the spiritual heritage of the Congregation.
- 4.3.3. Equips himself suitably, through study and reflection, to take his place in the complex world of work, technology and the economy, and also to deal with social and political situations.

4.4. Educative-Pastoral Formation

In this stage of specific formation, the Salesian Brother

- 4.4.1. Cultivates a particular sensitivity to poor youth and remains close to the world of work and the concrete problems of life.
- 4.4.2. Broadens his outlook on pastoral ministry and the Salesian Youth Spirituality, the basis of his work of education among the young.
- 4.4.3. Becomes sensitive to the aspects that concern the mission of the Church in the world, the evangelization of culture and the role of lay people.
- 4.4.4. Identifies himself ever more deeply with his mission as educator and evangelizer of the young, along the lines of his specific vocation and in collaboration with the Salesian priest.
- 4.4.5. Develops the ability to animate, plan and work in a team within the educative and pastoral community, sharing with the laity and taking care of his relationship with the Salesian Family.

5. THE SETTING OF THE SPECIFIC FORMATION PROGRAM

- 5.1. A Formative Community, close to the Don Bosco Center of Studies in Better Living, Paranaque Philippines, is the setting of the specific formation of the Salesian Brothers of EAO.
- 5.2. A team of formators is provided by the East Asia Oceania Provincials; it is composed of a Rector trained in Spiritual Direction, a Salesian Brother as the Prefect of Studies who will liaise with the Dean of the Don Bosco Center of Studies and an Economist.
- 5.3. The Program for the theological and pastoral studies specified in the program is under the auspices of the Don Bosco Center of Studies.
- 5.4. Salesian Brothers holding a four-year Bachelor's degree are eligible to pursue the three-year Graduate School Program of the Don Bosco Center of Studies with specialization in Catechetics and Youth Ministry. This, however, requires an explicit and written permission from the respective Provincial Superior of the Salesian Brother.
- 5.5. The Prefect of Studies together with the Dean of the Don Bosco Center of Studies helps the Salesian Brother in the drawing up of his two-year plan of studies according to the program delineated in the appendix and MRS program in Catechetics and Youth Ministry.

6. THE IMMEDIATE PREPARATION FOR PERPETUAL PROFESSION

In the case of a Salesian Brother who needs to prepare for his perpetual profession, this will happen on the second year of this two-year cycle. For this reason, the Salesian Brother needs to:

- 6.1. Seek the written opinion of one's respective Provincial Superior to begin this process of immediate preparation for perpetual profession..
- 6.2. Participate in the same iter which the cleric-students of theology of the Seminario ng Don Bosco are taking.
- 6.3. Discuss with the Rector his personal iter for this preparation.
- 6.4. Ensure that throughout this year of intensive preparation for perpetual profession he has a special spiritual accompaniment.

7. EVALUATION [FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR PERPETUAL PROFESSION]

- 7.1 The Team of Formators meets every trimester [August / November / February] to evaluate formally the progress of the Brothers.
- 7.2. The process of evaluation is as follows:
 - 7.2.1. The Salesian Brother is asked to evaluate himself according to the tool that will be used by the Team of Formators.
 - 7.2.2. The Prefect of Studies meets with the Brother to discuss how the Brother sees his progress.
 - 7.2.3. The Team of Formators meets to give their evaluation of the Brother.
 - 7.2.4. The Rector communicates to the Brother the comments given by the House Council.
 - 7.2.5. The Rector sends a copy of the trimestral evaluation to the respective Provincial of the Salesian Brother.

APPENDIX: THE PASTORAL-THEOLOGICAL CURRICULUM

I Areas of study and their respective credits

1. Sacred Scripture	12
2. Systematic Theology	18
3. Moral Theology	12
4. Pastoral Theology	9
5. Spirituality	6
6. Salesianity	8
7. Human sciences	15
TOTAL CREDITS	80

II Courses and their respective credits

1. Sacred Scripture	12 credits and 6 courses
- Introduction to Sacred Scripture	2
- Pentateuch & Historical books	2
- Prophets, Wisdom and the Psalms	2
- Synoptics and Acts	2
- John: Gospel, Letters, Apocalypse	2
- Paul, Hebrews, Catholic Letters	2
2. Theology	18 credits and 7 courses
- Revelation and Faith	3
- Christology and Mariology	3
- Trinity and Pneumatology	2
- Ecclesiology and the Sacraments	3
- Anthropology and Eschatology	3
- Fundamental Liturgy	2
- Church History	2
3. Moral Theology	12 credits and 4 courses
- Fundamental Moral Theology	3
- Sexual and Family Morality	3
- Morality of Life	3
- Social Morality	3
4. Pastoral Theology	9 credits and 4 courses
- Catechetics	2
- Pastoral Theology	2
- Theology of Religions	3
- Theology of Culture	2
5. Spirituality	6 credits and 3 courses
- Spiritual Theology	2
- Theology of Consecrated Life	2
- Theology of the Laity	2

6. Salesianity**8 credits and 4 courses**

- Don Bosco the Founder 2
- Salesian Spirituality 2
- The Salesian Mission 2
- Salesian Youth Pastoral Work 2

7. Human sciences**15 credits and 5 courses**

- Social Communication 3
- Personnel Organization & Training 3
- Social Psychology 3
- Sociology of Work 3
- Sociology of cultural processes 3