



EGWA 2024 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1: Synodality in Action for Past Pupils of Don Bosco

The Extraordinary General World Assembly (EGWA) offered a unique opportunity for past pupils and friends of Don Bosco to engage in a deep and meaningful process of synodality. By listening, reflecting, and collaborating, we can strengthen our commitment to the Salesian mission and better serve the needs of young people. In journeying together in a synodal approach to strengthen our mission with young people as an association and movement of past pupils and friends of Don Bosco, we propose these seven steps:

1. Listening Deeply: A Foundation for Synodality

In a synodal process, one of the most crucial steps is to listen deeply and with an open mind. We must embrace others without judgment and truly understand their perspectives.

Don Bosco exemplified this approach when he began his ministry. Guided by Don Cafasso, he visited young people in prison and listened with empathy to their struggles. Don Bosco's ability to listen with his heart was instrumental in his success in reaching out to these young people.

A synodal process cannot be achieved without genuine listening. We must engage in deep dialogue, allowing others to share their experiences and perspectives freely. Moreover, we must also listen to God speaking to us through the voices of others. By doing so, we can gain valuable insights and deepen our understanding of the issues at hand.

2. Reconnecting with our heritage: Embracing our mission

Past pupils are an integral part of the Salesian charism, called to recognize and fulfill their unique role in serving the youth. As we reconnect with our roots, we must acknowledge the importance of solidarity among ourselves and the Salesian mission with young people.

This mandate, rooted in Don Bosco's advice to Carlo Gastini during the establishment of our first association in Valdocco, defines the core of our mission. Our mission shapes our identity, values, and charism. It is the guiding force that unites us and inspires us to serve.

3. Nurturing the Whole Person: Our Mission with Young People

Our mission goes beyond education, nurturing, and care; it encompasses the spiritual well-being of young people. Like Don Bosco, we accompany them to be good and achieve happiness both in this life and the next. As past pupils and friends of Don Bosco, we must be beacons of light for the young people who cross our paths, guiding them towards a deeper understanding of God's presence in their lives.

Our pastoral work with young people is centred on helping them experience God's love. We must be role models, mentors, and confidants, offering them guidance, support, and a sense of belonging. By doing so, we can help them discover their own spiritual journeys and develop a meaningful relationship with God.

4. Synodality and Action – Communion and Collaboration

A spirit of synodality demands participation and unity on all levels: global, national, and local. By reflecting on our roots and discerning the present, we can shape a better future.

Just as in team sports, where success hinges on the coordinated efforts of the entire team, teamwork is essential in any endeavour. Scoring a goal requires the combined skills and strategies of the players. Similarly, as past pupils and friends of Don Bosco, we must work together to achieve our shared goals. By collaborating with the Salesian Family and members of the local church, we can create a stronger and more impactful force for good, benefiting both young people and our communities.

5. Discernment: A Cornerstone of the Synodal Journey

Discernment is a crucial aspect of the synodal journey, requiring a genuine commitment to contemplation and reflection. It involves delving deep into our motivations, values, and beliefs to understand our true reasons for being involved in the past pupils and friends of our organisations. By engaging in a process of discernment, we can move beyond superficiality and gain a deeper understanding of our identity, values, mission, and charism. This self-reflection allows us to support our actions with our core beliefs and ensure that we are truly living out the Salesian spirit.

6. A Synodal Journey: Listening to the Cries of the Poor Youth

A synodal process within the Salesian Charism requires us to listen attentively to the cries of the poor youth. In today's world, poverty manifests in various forms, not just material deprivation. It can be educational poverty, digital poverty, moral poverty, or spiritual poverty. Understanding the specific types of poverty that young people in our communities' experience is essential for providing appropriate and effective support.

By engaging in a process of deep listening and discernment, we can gain a better understanding of the different forms of youth poverty that exist. This knowledge

will enable us to respond to the needs of young people in a more authentic and professional manner. By addressing their unique challenges, we can help them overcome obstacles and reach their full potential.

7. Adoptive Youth Ministry: A Response to New Forms of Poverty

In our journey towards a synodal Salesian Family, we must recognize the importance of creating a strong family spirit. This is a fundamental aspect of our Salesian identity and a cornerstone of our educational and pastoral approach.

In today's world, young people face new forms of poverty that require innovative responses. One such approach is "adoptive youth ministry," which calls upon us to foster a sense of family among young people, particularly those who are orphaned or marginalized.

By embracing an adoptive family approach, we can address the unique challenges faced by these young people and provide them with the support, guidance, and love they need to thrive. This involves creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, building strong relationships, and offering opportunities for personal growth and development.

Through adoptive youth ministry, we can demonstrate the transformative power of the Salesian charism and make a lasting impact on the lives of young people.

Conclusion

As we embark on this synodal journey, let us commit to listening deeply, embracing our love and gratitude to Don Bosco, nurturing the whole person, fostering unity and collaboration, practicing discernment, responding to the cries of the poor youth, and embracing adoptive youth ministry. By doing so, we can create a more vibrant, inclusive, and effective way to our mission as past pupils and friends of Don Bosco to be "the salt of the earth and the light of the world".

Resolution 2: Opzione Valdocco

As Past Pupils of Don Bosco, we want to follow Pope Francis' advice and generate "Opzione Valdocco" as World Confederation. We are decided to focus on the poorest youth in the years to come, by creating more Local Unions from Salesian Social Works and assume the educational task of accompanying young people in their transition to the adult life, and become their "older brothers". In this sense, we will fulfil Don Bosco's advice to Carlo Gastini when starting our Association.

Resolution 3: Involvement of GEX: A Priority

EGWA24 highlighted the importance of greater GEX participation. Recognizing young people as the foundation of the Salesian mission, their involvement is essential for our association's growth. To attract and engage them, we must articulate a clear strategy for youth involvement and purpose, actively listen to their needs, and empower them with support and autonomy. We must commit to a synodal approach, creating spaces for young people to contribute to governance and initiatives. Let's invest in programmes like the School of Leaders and mentoring to actively involve young people and provide opportunities tailored to their needs.

Resolution 4: Communication and Digitalization

Whereas the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco is a global network of associations dedicated to the Salesian charism and its mission of expressing solidarity between its members and supporting Don Bosco's work with young people. and

Recognising that effective communication is essential for fostering unity, cooperation, and the exchange of ideas among our organisation worldwide; and

Acknowledging that digital technology offers unprecedented opportunities for enhancing communication and collaboration on a global scale.

Therefore, as an organisation we agree to prioritise the development and implementation of effective communication strategies at all levels of governance, including world, regional, national, and local.

Therefore, we make use in all best possible means the digital infrastructure and tools that is within our means to support efficient communication and collaboration among our members.

We engage to make the best use of the innovative ways to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies to enhance communication, engagement, and knowledge sharing.

We shall promote the training and development of our association in digital communication skills and best practices.

We shall foster a culture of open communication and transparency within our organizations encouraging the free exchange of ideas and information.

By adopting this resolution, we commit to harnessing the power of communication and digitalization to strengthen our mission, foster unity, and create a more connected and vibrant global community of past pupils and friends of Don Bosco.

Resolution 5: Sharing Good Practices of Past Pupils of Don Bosco

The World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco remains committed to its roots promoting the Salesian work and serving young people; and recognizes the importance of sharing best practices and inspiring one another to achieve greater impact in our communities.

We acknowledge that there is a wealth of valuable experiences and projects undertaken by our associations and Federations worldwide.

Therefore, we resolve:

- **Compilation of Good Practices:** The World Confederation shall create and maintain a comprehensive online compendium of successful projects and services implemented by its associations across the five continents.
- **Accessibility and Sharing:** The compendium shall be easily accessible to all to everyone and the general public, providing detailed information, including project goals, outcomes, and lessons learned.
- **Inspiration and Collaboration:** The compendium shall serve as a source of inspiration for federations and associations to learn from one another's successes and identify opportunities for collaboration and support.
- **Promotion of Education and Care of Young People:** The sharing of good practices will strengthen the World Confederation's commitment to promoting the education and care of young people in the Don Bosco way.
- **Call to Action:** The World Confederation encourages all member associations to contribute their stories of success to the compendium, helping to create a vibrant and informative resource for the global Salesian family.

Resolution 6: Establishment of a Secretariat for the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco

The Confederation seeks to enhance its operational efficiency and effectiveness in supporting its member organizations worldwide; and

Whereas the establishment of a Secretariat would provide a centralized hub for coordination, communication, and resource management;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco shall establish a Secretariat as an integral part of the Salesian Family.

The Secretariat's primary functions shall include:

- Supporting the operations of the World Confederation as a network of worldwide organizations.
- Promoting the identity, values, and mission of the Confederation as reflected in its Statutes.
- Facilitating communication and collaboration among member organizations.
- Providing administrative and logistical support.
- Managing resources and finances.

To compliment this initiative, Regional Secretariats shall be established to work in synodality between regions at the world level.

The Presidency of the World Confederation shall oversee the establishment of regional Secretariats in conjunction with National and Provincial Federations.

Resolution 7: Promoting Mentoring among Past Pupils of Don Bosco

Mentoring is a vital expression of the past pupils and friends of Don Bosco's commitment to serving young people, particularly those in need; and there is a strong interest among past pupils in incorporating mentoring programs into their organization. Online training can enhance accessibility and global participation in mentoring programmes.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco will explore the development of online mentoring programmes to support past pupils in their efforts to serve young people.
2. The Confederation will consider various formats for online training, including webinars, interactive sessions, and a dedicated online platform.
3. The Confederation will collect feedback from past pupils to identify specific topics of interest and tailor the mentoring programmes accordingly.

By adopting this resolution, the Confederation can provide valuable resources and support to past pupils who wish to engage in mentoring activities and make a positive impact on the lives of young people.
