

SIX-YEAR PLAN OF THE YOUTH PASTORAL MINISTRY SECTOR

General Objective:

To live pastoral conversion with the prophetic power of being with the young, outgoing communities, who witness and proclaim Jesus with hope and joy.

Strategy:

Encounter that forms and transforms.

Process:

Continuous formation to encounter and in encounter as an experience that transforms and generates life.

Choices:

Transformed by encounter, together with the young, missionaries of hope and of joy.

INTRODUCTION

Youth pastoral ministry is the inculturated expression of the educational mission, a charismatic gift expressed in the experience of Don Bosco, Maria Domenica Mazzarello and in the tradition of the Institute. It is the typical way of expressing the Church's attention to the younger generations, so that Christ may grow in their heart and they may commit themselves to active citizenship.

Youth pastoral ministry lies on the horizon of the Church's Gospel of joy and the social dimension of evangelization¹ in today's world. This implies pastoral conversion and it occurs when the Educating community wants to learn from reality, is open to dialogue, is willing to re-read, in the light of encounter with the living Jesus, and rediscovers "the young as our holy land."²

The educational mission is carried out in a variety of environments, from the perspective of the Preventive System, combining pedagogical perspectives that are closely integrated: *cultural, evangelisation, social, communications*.³

These educational environments, in different contexts and continents, take on different characteristics, methods and particularities. The FMA educational environments currently include: schools and vocational training centers; oratories-youth centers; institutes of higher education, hostels and other forms of campus ministry; schools for catechists; privileged forms of proclamation of the Gospel; houses of spirituality for young people and lay people; works for children, adolescents and young people at risk; centers for the promotion of women;

¹ Cf *Evangelii Gaudium* n. 176-258.

² Cf *Broaden your vision. With the Young, Missionaries of Hope and of Joy. Acts of GC XXIII*, Rome, FMA Institute 2015, n. 29 and pag. 61.

³ Cf Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, *That they may have life and have it to the full. Guidelines for the educational mission of the FMA*, Leumann (Torino), Elledici 2005, n. 41-57.

works in favor of ethnic and religious minorities; centers for migrants, refugees and other persons involved in the crisis of human mobility; volunteering, including the associations of volunteering (VIDES); various forms of youth associations.

Each educational presence, prompted by the ever-changing reality of youth, is called not only to be continually renewed, but also to innovate.

The Sector for Youth Pastoral Ministry, in its new configuration,

* *places itself in the school of Mary*, mother and teacher of the incarnation of the gospel, who teaches us to arrive at effective action, from the perspective of the periphery;

* *chooses to network* by creating synergy with organizations, movements and people of good will to build justice, peace, integrity of creation and democracy that is respectful of human rights;

* *pays attention to* the multi-religious, multicultural and digital *realities* in order to recognize differences and create harmony, believing that education can transform history;

* *recognizes that life is a gift from God*, a task, a call to love and a response to our vocation to love. In this sense, youth pastoral ministry is vocational, as it is oriented to the discernment of God's plan for their lives and for history;

* *promotes the leadership of young people* as missionaries among young people;

* *is committed to offering elements to re-consider education* in a systematic, foreseeing and proactive way so that, in the logic of the Incarnation, the Educating communities may be accompanied to interpret life in the light of the encounter with Jesus and to enhance quality relationships in ever-growing concentric circles;

* assumes an *interactive methodology* that

- involves the Provincial Councilors/Coordinators for youth pastoral ministry and their team,

- promotes circular and continuous communication,

- implements the spirituality of communion through convergence around charismatic choices and in subsidiarity,

- promotes innovative educational presences.

Abbreviations

YP – Youth pastoral

SYM – Salesian Youth Movement

VIDES – International Volunteering Women Education and Development

SYS – Salesian Youth Spirituality

OYC – Oratory-Youth Center

VTC – Center for vocational training

SC – Social Communications

ISS – Institutes of higher studies

UN – United Nations Organization

	Paths	Actions	Means	Timeline
TRANSFORMED BY ENCOUNTER	1. Create the conditions so that the meeting with Jesus may transform us at the personal and community level to be free, joyful, open persons, capable of witnessing and evangelizing with their life.	To accompany the Provincial Councilors/Coordinators for Youth Pastoral Ministry and their team so that they may promote opportunities for sharing life in the light of faith and Salesian values, with the young and the Educating communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formation meetings with YP Ministry Provincial councilors/coordinators⁴ - Visit of animation - Interactive reflection with the Provinces⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2015-2017 at Interprovincial Conference level - Throughout the six-year period
		To live the Salesian Youth Spirituality in an attitude of discernment of reality, identifying its challenges and seeking adequate educational proposals that will also affect the cultural and political levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formation meetings with YP Ministry Provincial councilors/coordinators - Visit of animation - SYM meetings at different levels, encouraging the elaboration, together with young people, of reflection guides and updating the Salesian Youth Spirituality - Interactive reflection with the Provinces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2015-2017 at Interprovincial Conference level - Throughout the six-year period
		Highlight more appropriate criteria to guide young people to discover the plan of God in their lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive reflection with the Provinces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Throughout the six-year period

⁴ The formation meetings with Provincial Councilors/Coordinators for Youth Pastoral Ministry will be held for five days at Inter-provincial Conference levels from 2015 to 2017.

⁵ Interactive reflection with the Provinces may be through the YP Blog, the Blog of the Human Rights Office, the VIDES International website and the Databank.

	Paths	Actions	Means	Timeline
TRANSFORMED BY ENCOUNTER	2. Live the mystical and prophetic dimensions of Salesian life with passion for God and for the young.	Encourage the development of keenness to and competence in education to human rights, justice, peace and integrity of creation according to the social teaching of the Church and the Preventive System.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared reflection through the “Youth Ministry Series” - In the Educating communities, designing educational programs that integrate the Preventive system, human rights, justice, peace and integrity of creation - Meetings in the Interprovincial Conferences - Video conference - Theoretical and practical training sessions at the Human Rights Office 	- Throughout the six-year period
		Know and socialize good practices that promote inclusion and personalized attention in the process of formation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The process with the School/VTC Commissions ESA, CIAM, CIAO, PCI and SSEuropa, along with Educating communities and families 	- Throughout the six-year period

	Paths	Actions	Means	Timeline
TOGETHER WITH THE YOUNG	1. Build ourselves as a home where we welcome in faith, in respect and in the delicacy of goodness and of mercy.	Promote the creation and strengthening of Educating communities and the consolidation of the Animating core group of the different educational presences and environments.	- Interactive reflection with the Provinces	- Throughout the six-year period
	2. With a planning mentality, rethink animation and government in an evangelical and charismatic style inspiring us by Mary's maternity that generates life and brings growth .	Promote and strengthen co-responsibility in pastoral animation (provincial and local).	- Formation meetings with YP Ministry Provincial councilors/coordinators - Visit of animation - Reciprocal communication and information	- 2015-2017 at Interprovincial Conference level - Throughout the six-year period

	Paths	Actions	Means	Timeline
TOGETHER WITH THE YOUNG	3. Assume an "oratory heart" as the criteria for giving new meaning to our presences in synergy with the Educating community and the area.	Strengthen the educational strategy of volunteering as socio-political action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive sessions - Formation courses and meetings - Visit of animation - VIDES international seminars and conventions - Theoretical and practical training sessions at the Human Rights Office 	- Throughout the six-year period
		Together with the SDB YP Ministry Department, promote and consolidate the Salesian Youth Movement as a worldwide educational movement of "young people for young people".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formation meetings with YP Ministry Provincial councilors/coordinators - Visit of animation - SYM meetings at different levels - Participation in youth events, in particular, the World Youth Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2015-2017 at Interprovincial Conference level - Throughout the six-year period - 2016 (Krakow, Poland) -
		Support the choice of the <i>project Oratory-Youth Centre</i> in the various Provinces in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the OYC in its various forms adapted to a changing world • provide quality education in ongoing OYC experiences • look for creative responses to young people who are unemployed, in the streets, abandoned, migrants and are exploited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Process of formation-reflection-action "Here is your field" - Collective writing and publication of materials in the "YP Series Here is your field..." in five languages - Sharing of good practices through the website, blog and side events at the UN - Reflection on "geographic and existential peripheries" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Throughout the six-year period - 2015-2016 - Throughout the six-year period
		Promote the empowerment of young people within the Human Rights Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formation meetings with YP Ministry Provincial councilors/coordinators and other key persons - Visit of animation 	- 2015-2017 at Interprovincial Conference level

	Paths	Actions	Means	Timeline
MISSIONARIES OF HOPE AND OF JOY	1. Consolidate and manifest with joy the educational identity in its missionary dimension as a path to the future.	Promote awareness and skills-development to be able to intervene in the territory to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and impact on youth policies of the countries where we are present, in educational issues.	- Training sessions at the Human Rights Office with YP Ministry Provincial councilors/coordinators and other key persons	- For two weeks every year: March, June-July and September
		Identify strategies and content to educate young people to know and understand the practical implications of human rights, justice, peace and integrity of creation, for a sustainable future for each person and for all peoples.	- With the School/VTC Commissions ESA, CIAM, CIAO, PCI and SSEuropa - Theoretical and practical training sessions at the Human Rights Office	- Throughout the six-year period
		Enhance the dedication and skills of those responsible for School/VTC, VIDES delegates and educators of centers for children and youth at risk, for the full realization of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on its aspects that call for the participation of children, young people, educators and families.	- With the School/VTC Commissions ESA, CIAM, CIAO, PCI and SSEuropa - Visit of animation - Training sessions at the Human Rights Office	- Throughout the six-year period - For two weeks every year: March, June-July and September

	Paths	Actions	Means	Timeline
MISSIONARIES OF HOPE AND OF JOY	2. As communities, go out to the youth peripheries and let yourself be questioned by the poor, especially by children, young people, women, families in precarious conditions, by migrants...	Start and/or strengthen the pastoral journey with families and in Educating communities in order to educate together the new generations.	- Accompaniment of the Educating communities in their reflection regarding the family	- Throughout the six-year period
		Motivate the choice of pastoral processes with university students, working and unemployed young people.	- Accompaniment of campus ministry at Institutes of Higher Studies, in colleges and university hostels, etc. - Commitment in vocational animation and training of young professionals - Socialization of best practices with innovative methodology	- Throughout the six-year period
		Give importance to existing educational presences among children and young people most marginalized, the abandoned migrants, refugees, indigenous youth. Encourage bold choices to reach children and young people most at risk, wherever they may be, believing in the power of prevention.	- Participation in the new places where young people gather - Identification of new ways of animating places where young people gather	- Throughout the six-year period

	Paths	Actions	Means	Timeline
MISSIONARIES OF HOPE AND OF JOY		Ascertain the formation together of FMA and lay people of the Centers for children and youth at risk according to the guidelines published in <i>Preventive System and difficult situations. The animation of a process for the life and hope of future generations.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Translation of the text in other languages (already available in Italian and Spanish) - Shared reflection through the “Youth Ministry Series” - Sharing of resources (personnel, best practices, materials, etc.) - Visit of animation - Periodic meetings at provincial or interprovincial level 	- Throughout the six-year period
		Promote in the Provinces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the creation or strengthening of women's groups so that they may acquire soft skills (relational), professional and entrepreneurial skills; • platforms at local levels to promote the sharing of ideas, projects, problems, challenges, looking for new opportunities together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formation meetings with YP Ministry Provincial councilors/coordinators and other key persons - Exchange of experience and networking between the various groups of women (at all levels) - Socialization of good practices - Visit of animation 	- Throughout the six-year period

	Paths	Actions	Means	Timeline
MISSIONARIES OF HOPE AND OF JOY	3. For a more incisive and visible educational impact in today's society, reinforce a network mentality and participate in synergy with Institutions involved in the education and evangelization of the young.	Identify trends and socio-educational challenges of today through a <i>youth observatory</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflection together with SC Sector, with collaborators of the YP Ministry and SC Sectors, with the Faculty of the Sciences Education <i>Auxilium</i> and other ISS-FMA, with the Human Rights Office and VIDES International * for the youth observatory → <i>collaboration with the Pontifical Salesian University and the SDB Youth Ministry Department</i> - Sharing reflections, online formation, "Youth Ministry Series" and other participatory and engaging methods 	- Throughout the six-year period
		Re-read the identity of the FMA as a Salesian educator today.		
		Deepen <i>pedagogical perspectives</i> of the <i>Guidelines for the educational mission</i> (cultural, evangelisation, social, communications) in their dynamic and innovative interdependence.		
		Motivate the importance of being present with young people in the digital world to share reasons for hope and meaning of life.		
		Get to know networks and movements that work for human dignity (for example, the inter-congregational network of promoters of justice, peace and integrity of creation - JPIC) and establish contacts with them in view of education.	- Development of a worldwide database of networks and movements for a possible collaboration along the lines of education	- Throughout the six-year period
		Initiate review of the Institute's guidelines regarding a Policy aimed at the protection of children in our educational environments.	- Evaluation of our collaborators' awareness and practical application of the Policy for the protection of children	- Throughout the six-year period