



ASSOCIATION OF SALESIAN COOPERATORS

Torre Annunziata, May 11, 2026

To the World Councilors, to the World Delegates and to all the Salesian Cooperators of the world

Dear friends,

Now that my term as World Coordinator has concluded, I feel a profound need to address each of you. What I'm writing to you is not a formal report, but a letter born from the heart, inspired by a feeling that surpasses all others after these eight years of journeying: gratitude.

My first thoughts go to those who have shared most closely with me in the running of the Association: the World Councilors and World Delegates. Together, on the World Council, we have lived years that I have no hesitation in describing as extraordinary. We have faced unexpected challenges, such as the pandemic, which forced us to reinvent our way of being close, discovering that communion does not end in front of a screen. We have worked to consolidate our identity, to foster that co-responsibility that today is no longer just a word, but a living, breathing organizational culture. We have experienced the beauty of an economic and human solidarity that has been able to reach out to those in need, demonstrating that the Salesian family spirit is capable of embracing the entire world.

I want to thank each of you by name, my precious traveling companions. Thanks to our World Delegates: Father Giuseppe Casti, Duc Nam Nguyen, Sister Leslie Sandigo, and Sister Lucrecia Uribe, for their spiritual guidance and constant reminder of the heart of the charism.

Thanks to all the World Councilors who have succeeded one another over the years, representing the voice and life of our Regions and the Executive Secretariat: Filippo Servilli, Franz Defaut, Stanislav Veselsky, Antuvan Amali, Patrick Hinvi, Philip Yu, Francisco Burciaga, Asmirian Montilla, Orazio Bidarra, Alzira Maraes, Carlo Pellegrino, Raul Fernandez, Italo Canaletti, Barbara Klose, Jan Daems, Blazka Merkac, Jennifer Nkonde, Athanasie Baranykwa, Alphonse Mukaya, Devasia Kuriakose, Imelda Benitez, Martin Calderon, Miguel Zevrnja, Darlene Reis, and Deliana Almendras. Thank you for your dedication, for the hours you took from your rest, for the frank discussions, and for always seeking, alongside me, the best for the Association.

A special thank you and best wishes go to Borja Perez, who takes over as the new World Coordinator. I joyfully and confidently entrust him with the leadership of



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our Association, confident that he will inspire it with wisdom and passion.

In this moment of grateful remembrance, my heart aches in fond remembrance of two sisters who shared this journey with us and who now accompany us from heaven: Cinzia Arena and Rosanna Katangu. Their testimony of faith and love for the Association, right up to the end, remains a priceless gift for all of us.

But my gratitude extends, like an embrace, to the entire Association, to every single Salesian Cooperator, male and female, spread across the five continents. Over these eight years, I have had the invaluable privilege of traveling, of meeting you, of witnessing firsthand the vitality of our charism. I have seen with my own eyes the richness of our global diversity. I have met enthusiastic young formators, families who, despite their difficulties, become homes of welcome, and communities that give unstintingly to the poorest. You are the beautiful face of Don Bosco today. It is you who, in the silence and daily routine of the secular world, bring our Project of Apostolic Life to life.

Looking back on what we've experienced, Mary's song, the Magnificat, comes to mind. We too can say that the Lord has done great things through our smallness. He has looked upon our humility and made us instruments of his mercy, from generation to generation.

And precisely by looking at what we have become, I invite you to never stop dreaming. Dreams, as Don Bosco taught us, are the engine that drives us forward. I offer you the dreams I have nurtured over these years: the dream of an education that truly touches the heart; the dream of young people who are not just recipients, but courageous protagonists of our choices; the dream of an Association that is a healing home for wounded families and a laboratory of synodality for the entire Church.

I ask you to continue dreaming of a future for us and, above all, for our young people. They need our joyful witness, our lay expertise, our ability to be "Salesians in the world."

I leave you with the "holy indifference" of Saint Francis de Sales: I entrust these years and these dreams to you not as a goal achieved, but as a seed entrusted to the good soil that is you, confident that the Holy Spirit and Mary Help of Christians will continue to guide our steps.

Thank you so much for walking with me. Together we can, and together you will continue to accomplish great things.

With love and gratitude,