

REGULATIONS

Article I | Convocation of the Congress

In accordance with Article 28, §3 of the Regulations of the *Project of Apostolic Life*, and together with the Provincial Council and the Local Councils of the Centers of our Province, the Provincial Coordinator hereby announces and convokes the 2024 Elective Congress of the Province of St. Philip the Apostle (USA East) to be held July 19 – 21, 2024, at the Sacred Heart Spirituality Center in Newton, New Jersey.

Article II | Organization of the Congress

- 1) The Coordinator of the Provincial Council assumes responsibility for the organizational logistics of the Congress, in agreement and in full collaboration with the members of the Provincial Council who together form the Congress Committee, responsible for the planning, organization, animation, and governance of the Congress.
- 2) From now on, both in these Regulations, and for the purposes of the Provincial Council, the Coordinator of the Provincial Council shall be called the Coordinator General of the Congress.
- 3) The Coordinator General shall appoint a Secretary of the Congress, who will work with the Coordinator General to oversee the planning and organization of the Congress, both of whom will be aided by a team possessing the adequate technical and human skills needed to carry out all of the necessary tasks efficiently and well, consisting of members of the Congress Committee and other promised Cooperators invited to assist.
- 4) The role of the Coordinator General is to:
 - a) Present the central theme of the Congress,
 - b) Explain the procedures which will be followed,
 - c) Define the mode and times of different presentations and Congress activities,
 - d) Prepare the list of eligible voters, and
 - e) Explain the procedures for voting.

Article III | Theme of the Congress

The theme of the Congress will be: **Renew the Dream.**

The theme draws inspiration from the 2024 Strenna of the Rector Major and the focus of the second year of preparation for the 150th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Association of Salesian Cooperators.

Article IV | Participants in the Assembly of the Congress

- 1) The Membership of the Assembly of the Congress consists of:
 - a) Provincial Councilors, and
 - b) Local Center Councilors.

- 2) Invited guests include:
 - a) Nominated Candidates for Election to the Provincial Council,
 - b) Promised Cooperators acting as Coordinators of Pre-Centers,
 - c) Promised Cooperators and Aspirants chosen by the Provincial Council and Congress Committee for their experience and impact on the Association,
 - d) Promised Cooperators and Aspirants interested in participation in Local or Provincial Council leadership roles,
 - e) Invited Speakers/Presenters,
 - f) Father Provincial of the St. Philip the Apostle Province of the SDBs,
 - g) Mother Provincial of the St. Joseph Province of the FMAs,
 - h) World Councilor for the Interamerica Region,
 - i) SDB Delegate to the Interamerica Regional Executive Secretariat,
 - j) FMA Delegate to the Interamerica Regional Executive Secretariat,
 - k) Northern America Representative of the Interamerica Regional Executive Secretariat,
 - l) Coordinator of the World Council of the Association,
 - m) SDB Delegate to the World Council of the Association, and
 - n) FMA Delegate to the World Council of the Association.

Article V | Chairmanship of the Congress

- 1) The Chairmanship of the Congress is made up of:
 - a) The Coordinator General, who will serve as the President of the Assembly,
 - b) The Provincial Councilors/Congress Committee Members.
- 2) In the absence of the President, a member of the Provincial Council will be appointed to assume this role.
- 3) The role of the Chairmanship is to assist the President in solving possible procedural difficulties or other concerns which may emerge during the Congress.

Article VI | Moderators of the Congress

- 1) In order to ensure a good and efficient working order, a sufficient number of moderators will be named by the Coordinator General.
- 2) The moderators will be named sufficiently in advance so that they can coordinate their work effectively.
- 3) The moderators will be responsible for managing the schedule, direct sessions, assign speaking orders, presenting general conclusions, and organizing any discussions throughout the Congress.

Article VII | The Tasks of the Congress

- 1) The tasks of the Provincial Congress consist of:
 - a) The election of members of a new Provincial Council,
 - b) The verification of the growth and development of the life of the Association of the Province, and
 - c) The establishment of concrete directives regarding formation and mission, following guidelines established by the World Council and disseminated by the Regional Executive Secretariat.
- 2) The Theme of the Congress will be expounded upon throughout the talks and activities of the Congress for the purpose of deepening and assuming, with renewed fervor, the vocation and mission of the Salesian Cooperator as envisioned in the *Project of Apostolic Life*, the *Province Handbook*, and documents promoted by the World Council & Catholic Church.

- 3) The new Provincial Council will adopt a three-year resolution to be carried out in the Local Centers as a means to:
 - a) Unify the Local Centers with the Association at the World, Regional, and Provincial levels,
 - b) Continue and deepen the work and reflection begun at the Congress, and
 - c) Nurture the Salesian Cooperators in their vocation and strengthen them in their apostolic commitments.
- 4) All sessions, including talks and presentations, will be recorded in order to distribute them throughout the Province for further study, reflection, and assimilation.

Article VIII | The Voters

- 1) Those eligible to vote in the election of Provincial Councilors are:
 - a) Local Center Councilors (including Delegates) present at the Congress, and
 - b) Provincial Councilors (including Delegates).
 - c) Proxy or Remote Voting is not permitted, thus Local Center Councilors, Provincial Councilors, and Delegates that are not physically present at the Congress are not eligible to vote.
- 2) Those eligible to vote on all other matters are:
 - a) Promised Cooperators present at the Congress, and
 - b) Delegates present at the Congress.
 - c) Promised Cooperators and Delegates that are not present at the Congress are not eligible to vote.
- 3) The number of Religious with the right to vote cannot exceed one-third of the total number of voters. Should the number of Religious eligible to vote exceed this threshold, the Religious will meet separately to designate the individuals among them who will be eligible to vote, the number of which will be confirmed by the Congress Committee.
- 4) The Congress Committee will confirm the number and names of eligible voters based upon the official registration roster for the Congress and the Province Census.

Article IX | The Candidates

- 1) Eligible Candidates for election to the Provincial Council must meet the following criteria:
 - a) Promised prior to the date of the election,
 - b) Presented by a Local Center in the St. Philip the Apostle Province.
- 2) The Provincial Council and Congress Committee will solicit nominations for candidates for the Provincial Council. Any Cooperator may nominate an eligible Candidate from any Local Center using the nomination form provided by the Provincial Council. Any Cooperator may nominate themselves if desired.
- 3) The Congress Committee will confirm that each nominee accepts their nomination and request a Curriculum Vitae from the nominee. Upon confirmation of acceptance of the nomination and receipt of the CV, the candidate will be added to the ballot.
- 4) The ballot will be announced, and CVs distributed to the Province, in advance of the Congress.

Article X | Voting Modalities

- 1) The election of 10 (ten) Provincial Councilors will be carried out by secret, paper ballot.
- 2) The 10 (ten) Candidates who receive the most votes will be elected to the Provincial Council.
- 3) The Electoral Committee will distribute the paper ballots to all eligible voters at the beginning of the election period. Upon completing their ballot, each voter will deposit the folded ballot in a marked receptacle and once all ballots have been received, the Electoral Committee will count the ballots and validate the results.

The Coordinator General will announce the results of the election. The Coordinator General will verify the public acceptance of each Councilor elected.

Article XI | The Electoral Committee

- 1) The Electoral Committee will be made up of 3 members chosen by the Coordinator General selected from the Chairmanship of the Congress: one acting as secretary and the two others as scrutineers. The Coordinator General may select the committee members from any member of the Assembly of the Congress, except for those who are on the List of Candidates for election to the Provincial Council.
- 2) For each decision or election carried out during the Provincial Congress, the Electoral Committee has the responsibility of directing each vote, checking the count, and ensuring the validity of the votes.

Article XII | Editorial Committee

- 1) The Editorial Committee is a team composed of four members elected by the Chairmanship of the Congress.
- 2) The Editorial Committee is responsible for the review and verification of documents submitted with the aim of accurately reflecting the contributions of the Assembly in order for there to be an accurate record of the Congress.

Article XIII | The Action Committee

The Action Committee, composed of the newly-elected members of the Provincial Council, is a post-Congress team which has as its objectives to:

- 1) Document the results of the election,
- 2) Publish the Resolution taken and the Goals for the Association in the coming triennium, and
- 3) Produce the final document of the Congress which will be used as a guide for the on-going deepening and assimilation of the Project of Apostolic Life for the growth and the vitality of the Association in the Province.

Approved by Martin Alonso Calderon Vargas, World Delegate for the Interamerica Region,
on behalf of the World Council of the Association of Salesian Cooperators on July 10, 2024.

Adopted by the Council of the Province of St. Philip the Apostle
of the Association of Salesian Cooperators on DATE.