

Intercultural Formation program
ITA province in union with the German Sub-Zone
(Overseas Training Program OTP)

1.0

The Italian SVD province is a province that extends to three different countries (Italy – Romania – Moldova Rep.), countries different from each other also in their culture, history and religious experience. In our province three or four languages are spoken, and also the pastoral activities and commitments adapt themselves to the needs of the local and ecclesiastical situation of the places we find ourselves in, even if the same charisma and the same SVD mission, as described in our constitutions, do unite and create communion among us. In this horizon also the OTP experience is placed.

The program of intercultural formation has developed in the last decades in our congregation and has generally offered to the participants a rich intercultural experience. Because of this the OTP has become an important element in our missionary formation. The provocation from such an experience is important for the formation of our students and so it must become a main track in the life of each province (cfr Nuntius XIII, pag 487-489).

- 1.1 The base motivation for OTP is to be found in c.515.3, which encourages the possibilities of the intercultural experiences and destinations of temporary work for Brothers in temporal vows, and in c. 516.4 which accentuates for the seminarians an apostolic involvement, prolonged and accompanied. (Regency). Where this appears to be realizable and convenient, this period of time can be lived with proficiency in another country and in another culture. In this way the confreres in temporal vows strengthen their vocation, examine their capacities and are strengthened for their future service (cfr. Appendix X4)-
- 1.2 OTP must last at least two years (Nuntius XII, pag 704, 3b).

2.0 The finalities of OTP (Nuntius XII, pag 704, 1)

- 2.1 Help the religious individual in examining and deepen his own identity and his openness to formation.
- 2.2 Develop the individual capacities, which concern our ,missionary commitment
- 2.3 Deepen his personal relationship with Christ, church and the people of God through the missionary service.
- 2.4 Develop a positive start to auto-criticism, theological reflection, professional competence and deepen his own conscience in relationship to the missionary role.
- 2.5 Acquire concentration, direction, enthusiasm and critical interest in the studies during the remaining years of formation.
- 2.6 Develop a close tie of collaboration in formation of the future missionaries among the members of our congregation between the sending provinces and the receiving ones.
- 2.7 Strengthen the sense of missionary international consciousness in the formation houses and to promote a fructuous exchange of experiences, which includes various intercultural encounters or contacts between the oversea churches.

- 2.8 Make an early beginning in the learning of languages and in entering into a different culture.
It is typical of the OTP that it requires availability, which consists in the intercultural provocation, which includes the learning of the language and the characters of the population. (ibid. Id).

3.0 Context

- 3.1 The pastoral work of the local western church has assumed a missionary character. Even if among the Catholics only about 30% are reached by the church, it is sure that a smaller part of youth is reached. It exists therefore, also in the SVD interior, the commitment to an evangelization contextualized in respect of the Christian history of Europe.
- 3.2 In the growingly globalized world also the European context is growing always more intercultural and interreligious. Here we encounter the important partners of dialogue, like for example in the pastoral work among the migrants. Also are still standing the traditional commitments to formation of missionary consciousness also in our communities, magazines, schools and parishes more urgent at the basis of our finalities.

4.0 Participants

- 4.1 Every confrere after one or two years in temporal vows, who desires take part in OTP, can address his request to his Formator and/or to the direct Superior (Nuntius XII, pag 704, 30).
- 4.2 Because from the OTP we expect a strengthening of the vocation of the single confreres, the confreres taking part in it must show firmness in his vocation and his ties. Experience teaches that the students with personal problems or with a vocational crisis have not been capable to gain advantage from the OTP.

5.0 Some urgencies

- 5.1 It is important to find capable confreres who are well disposed and capable for a supervising and accompaniment of the participants.
- 5.2 When they are sent back to their provinces of origin attention must be given to their re-insertion.
- 5.3 It is necessary to insist on a systematic and regular evaluation during OTP period (Nuntius XIII, pag. 486, 1)

6.0 Duties of the sending province

- 6.1 Among the duties of the sending province is the choice of the participants to the OTP and preparation and planning until the candidate reaches the scope of his trip. (cfr. Programs 5.0)
- 6.2 In order to help efficaciously the responsible for accompaniment in the place of his commitment it is important that the sending Province transmits to the receiving province a number of informations, like, for example, his health status, his openness to adapt himself to other cultures, his commitment of his vocation, his interest in a specific missionary work, etc.

- 6.3 The confrere will be considered as returned to the sending province when, at the end of his OTP experience he is really back there. The Generalate must be informed of his return.

7.0 Duties of the receiving province

- 7.1 When a province invites the confreres in temporal vows to take Part in its OTP, she assures openly that she has a program and a qualified Formator for the OTP, and that she will make available a tutor who will accompany the participant in his experience of life and mission in our congregation. Therefore the receiving province assumes the responsibility over the participant to the OTP for the whole time he will be present in the province.

8.0 Language and culture

- 8.1 The OTP of our province consists of two parts: the first is introduction to the language and culture of the country so that he will be able to insert himself into the work inside the province. The language learning period will last from six to a maximum of 12 months. The following commitment will therefore vary from a length of 18 to 12 months. The total duration is of 24 months.
- 8.2 The commitment. Many commitments can be offered: pastoral commitment in an SVD parish, vocational pastoral work, work with groups of emarginated people, youth pastoral work, work in the mass media, and in pastoral work with elders.

9.0 Accompaniment of the OTP

The local tutor must be a confrere responsible, that assumes his responsibility in these three aspects: introduction, reflection and evaluation. For the carrying out of this tutorship there different methods according to the situations. The following plan must be considered as a directive, if the province does not offer another specific direction.

Introduction. Together with the trainee the responsible Confrere defines the finalities and establishes the times. Makes clear the duties of the trainee and see to it that the appropriate condition for learning are present together with an accompaniment in the missionary effort.

9.1 Reflection. The Supervisor meets with the OTP intern at least once a month, to reflect on personal questions and define the experiences, the experiences, the pastoral experience as a phase of the learning phase. As an orientation for these encounters is necessary a written summery of the experiences of the intern.

9.2 Evaluation. Regular reflections and written evaluations are an essential part of the OTP.

9.3 A more detailed evaluation must be made twice a year. This evaluation will be written by the intern and after that discussed with the Supervisor. After this encounter the evaluation of the intern will be re-examined and a copy will be sent to the Supervisor of the sending province and one to the OTP Supervisor of the receiving province. It is also recommended that the Supervisor himself will be writing an evaluation of his own.

9.4.2 The local Supervisor and the Responsible of the Province will, at the end of the program, write an evaluation which, after being discussed with the intern, will the send to their provincial Direction. This evaluation can be useful to the Supervisor of the sending province for an additional accompaniment of the confrere.

10.0 Financing

- 10.1 The costs of travels and of language and introduction to culture courses will be paid by the sending province, from her own budget under to voice Formation, and not by the Mission Procure (Directives 4.4.2)-
- 10.2 The daily expenses for the sustainment will be assumed by the receiving province, as long as the trainee is involved in the receiving province.

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