

online ADMA



Associazione di Maria Ausiliatrice
Primaria - Torino - Valdocco

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Monthly message

Mary, woman of the future, show us the path!

Mary is represented as the good soil that has accepted, nourished and makes the seed of the Word sprout. To be entrusted to Her it means to be educated to discover the depths of life, overcoming the spiritual superficiality that dries up every gift and every grace that come from above; it means to become strong against the sharp thorns that creep into the human heart with the deceiving passions and bad desires, that choke every good seed; it means to become every day more a good and fertile soil that generates fruits. Mary turns us into lovers of what has a certain value, of what lasts forever. She makes us builders of eternity from this earthly life, creators of an immortal life.

Mary invites us and calls our attention to abandon the wrong paths and start walking along the way of life that is Jesus Christ, The Risen Lord that transforms us from darkness to life, from death to life, from slavery to freedom. Together with Mary we are experiencing the same moments of the life of Saul Of Tarsus, that was dazzled on the way to Damascus. We often walk along the ways of death, paths without any way out, roads full of dangers, ways without goals: we are like blind men who do not know where they are heading to. *“I know your doings: you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot ! But since you are lukewarm, that is you are neither cold or hot, I am about to vomit you from my mouth. You say: “I am rich, I have become wealthy, I do not need anything”, but you do not recognize to be an unhappy man, a miserable, a poor blind and naked man. I advice you to buy from me some gold purified by the fire, in order to turn rich, to cover yourself with white robes and hide the shamefulness of you nakedness, to acquire some eye-wash to spray your eyes and gain back your sight. I admonish and punish all those whom I love. Make yourself then zealous and change your life” (Ap.*

3,15-19). Mary leads us and helps us to live the Word of God, making it possible for us to start the way of our sanctification.

Certainly, the Word of God is demanding: *“As a matter of fact the Word of God is alive, efficacious and sharper than any doubled edged sword; it penetrates till the point of division between the soul and the spirit, of the joints and the bone marrow and scrutinizes the feelings and thoughts of the heart. (EB.4,12).* It is a radical word without exceptions, that requires *us to put God* at the first place and as the only Lord of our life. The word of God continuously separates us from our human way of seeing things in order to put us on the proper way of God.: *“Because our thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways” (Is. 55,8).*

In order to be able to carry fruit it is necessary to “cut”, “to prune”: *“you are clean due to the word that you have heard”.* Only in this way we can become alive persons, persons that have resurrected; only in this way we are really what we are supposed to be, otherwise we are “dead persons.” Mary helps us to seriously consider the Word of God:

To witness with our life and when it is requested, with the word and Christian faith, even at the risk to be mocked or slandered;

To obey to the will of God, before than that of men;
To get detached from any bond of evil or sinful relationship;

In order not to give up while facing certain kind of persons or things which want to take the place of God;

To accept any renunciation that implies the duty to follow the Lord; It may happen as well to lose one’s life in order to be faithful to our own faith!

Fr. Pier Luigi Cameroni
Spiritual Animator ADMA

This number of ADMAonline is a special edition that aims at sharing the experience of the Days of Spirituality, showing both the chronicle of the event, as well as some testimonies of the speech of the good night of the Mother General of FMA dedicated to Mary .

XXVII DAYS OF SPIRITUALITY OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY (ROME JANUARY 22-25 2009)

Our Association (with more than 30 members) also this year took part to the XXVII DAYS OF SPIRITUALITY of the Salesian Family, an annual gathering of the representative groups of the family started by Don Bosco, and that took place in Rome from 22 to 25 of January.

Besides the first four original groups, The Salesians, The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, the Salesian Cooperators and ADMA, founded by Don Bosco himself, were present the members of the other 22 groups of this “great movement of persons at the service of the youth”, as Fr. Pascual Chavez, Rector Major of the Salesians, underlines very often. He does this as a successor of Don Bosco, father and center of unity of the Salesian Family. Three new groups have been recognized during this event and in the same occasion: **Cancao Nova**, a lay apostolate of international structure devoted to evangelization, in a special way through the means of communication. Born in 1978 from a group of 12 boys guided by a Salesian father, Fr. Jonas Abib, **“the disciples”, or Secular Institute Don Bosco**, a public ecclesial association, male and female born in India in 1973 from the inspiration of the Salesian Father Joseph D’Souza. The disciples while getting inspired by the Gospel’s episode of the mission that Jesus gave to the 72 disciples, are devoted to the spreading of the Gospel, to the teaching of catechism, to the attention of the sick and at the service of the poor. **The congregation of the Sisters of Saint Michael the Archangel**, also called “Michaelite Sisters” was founded, at the end of the XIX century by Blessed Fr. Bronislao Marchewicz



and by the Servant of God Mother Anne Kaworek. The heart of the meditation of these days is the Strenna, a message that every year the Rector Majors, while continuing the tradition started by Don Bosco, gives to the members of the Salesian Family. This year strenna is really dedicated to the Salesian Family: **“Let us strive to make the Salesian Family a movement of persons for the salvation of the youth”**.

The atmosphere of these days has been particularly charismatic, due also to the strong presence of the Rector Major, who already at the “good night” of the first day, while commenting on the video of the strenna, with a strong emotion was saying:” I am so proud to be a Salesian, and in a special way to belong to the Salesian Family”.. The Rector Major introduced in such a way his message to the representation of the different groups

of the Salesian Family, a message in which he also mentioned the **“ the need to start from the Spirituality to build a communion having in view the mission”**. Together with the Rector Major, we must remember the endeavour and the animation of **Fr. Adriano Bregolin**, Vicar of the Rector Major and animator of the Salesian Family.

Father Juan Josè Bartolomè, has enriched the sharing guiding the members to the proper reading of the Bible, while viewing the Salesian sensitivity, of the parable of the mustard seed, evangelical icon recalled by the Rector Major in explaining the Strenna. “ Born from the grace of God, the Salesian Family will be grace of God for the youth, if we live recognizing him – and therefore grateful, that in his life God is present fulfilling his salvation “like the

small mustard seed”. To live as a Family, the common Salesian vocation is the prove to have understood the mysteries of the kingdom and to be able to see ourselves as final purpose of the gift of God.”

The giving to the different groups of the *Charter*



of Communion of the Salesian family, not a new document, but worthy of constant attention, was done in a shared manner by **Mr. Roberto Lorenzini, of the Association of the Salesian Co-operators, Fr. Pierluigi Cameroni, Salesian and Spiritual Animator of ADMA and Sr. Carmela Santoro, Daughter of Mary Help of Christians.** Together they highlighted that as Don Bosco, docile to the action of God, was at the origin of the Salesian Family and becoming the driving motor of that charisma that, adjusting to the different styles, necessities, cultures and different times, has inspired various ecclesiastical realities. The many groups of the Salesian Family are called to build a mutual understanding and respect, starting from the contemplation of the image of Trinity, model of every Communion. Two testimonies were shared as a concrete example of communion. **Located at San Severo, a small city in the province of Foggia, and in the North-East of Italy, the Salesians and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and the Cooperators,** work together collaborating with the social and diocesan realities in the first case and with projects focused on the youth in the second. In the afternoon they had meetings and shared groups. Divided into groups the 330 participants were invited, taking into consideration the points discussed in the morning, to evaluate and consider the ecclesial and charismatic dimension of the Salesian Family, while trying to pinpoint new sources in order to grow in commun-

ion. The day of the 23 of the month, was concluded with a joyous evening around the IX Successor of Don Bosco, Fr. Pascual Chavez. **Mother Yvonne Reungoat,** The Superior of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, offered to the participants the Good Night thought, with a Marian explanation (we share ahead).

January 24th was characterized by the remembrance of saint Francis of Sales, the Saint Don Bosco got inspired from and from whom we get the name and the style of the Salesians and of the whole Salesian Family. The presentation of the “**Charter of the Missions**” was done by **Mrs. Pina Bellocchi, VDB, by Fr. Angelo Santorsola, Salesian, and by Maritza Valentin, of the Association of Damas Salesianas.** The three speakers have developed this second document as referral for the groups of the Salesian Family, highlighting

the risks to be avoided and the battles to win. The second session was handled by Fr. Pascual Chavez, Rector Major of the Salesian Fathers, who presented his commentary on the 2009 Strenna. Fr. Chavez, while explaining the historical text of Dec. 18 1859, in which it is explained the birth of the Congregation, he mentioned that in it is not only present **the seed of the religious order, but also of the entire Salesian Congregation.** The successor of Don Bosco, in his presentation, invited the Salesian Family “ to acquire a new mentality, to change system, to think of itself and act always as a Movement”, a change that signifies three things: “**An intense spirit of communion**”, “**union of hearts**”, besides the addition of a spirit of communion with a convinced will of synergy” and “**a unity of purposes**” and with a mature ability to work on line”. In the evening of the 24th, all the participants went to Genzano Roma. Here they watched the musical on Don Bosco “**Let’s go boys!**” sponsored by the Salesian Family of Piedmont and Valle d’Aosta and brought to the scenes by the Stage company “L’Alfa e l’Omega de Joanne Bosco”.

Two of the appointments that characterized the last **Day of Spirituality of the Salesian Family,** Sunday January 25: the Sunday Eucharist, presided by the Rector Major and the conclusion done in the main Hall of the Salesianum. Fr. Chavez, while commenting on the readings of the third Sunday of the ordinary time, explained to those present the ne-

cessity of conversion and believe as it is requested by Jesus in the Gospel reading. The 18 young boys that followed Don Bosco in the establishing of the Salesian Congregation are like the first four Apostles that answered the call from Jesus: "This is what Don Bosco is expecting from the spiritual and apostolic family: a gesture similar to that of this group of boys who gathered in his room on the 18th of December 1859, 150 years ago, **decided to leave aside their own dreams and plans to turn into their own his plan: the salvation of youth. They, as well, after having left everything, followed him**". Later, during the assembly, the representation of the Salesian Family shared the conclusions and the suggestions that emerged from the group discussions. Three are the attitudes to which the groups of the Salesian Family are supposed to follow: **greatness of the heart, acceptance of the diversity and to walk together towards a shared goal**. A shared formation has been called for, a formation that takes into consideration the Salesian spirituality, the ethic problems, the social and political question. Different are the initiatives and the fields of action presented with the idea to bring them to completion.

Fr. Chavez while giving back to groups of the Salesian Family the conclusions and the suggestions



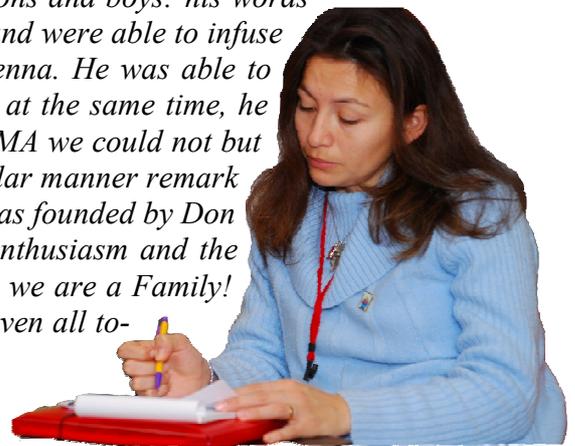
forwarded in the hall, shared a dream: **to open near our work in Cremisan, Israel, a center of international formation for the Salesian Family**, run with the collaboration of the different groups. A second desire, presented by the Rector Major, and for which he has promised his commitment so that he might be

concretized, is that to reach a certain **official recognition of the Salesian Family by the Holy See**. In order to bring this to realization it is necessary to write down a "**Charter of the Salesian Family**" that shows with clarity its identity. For this reason the Rector Major reminded how necessary it is that the "**Salesian Wood may be flooded with the blood of the martyrs, the sweat of fatigue and the tears of suffering**". "Don Bosco is a "father that has generated sons that continue also today his charismatic and spiritual formation", was explained by the Rector Major without fear of comparing Don



Bosco to the patriarchs of the Old Testament, because he is a carrier of a certain faith and innumerable blessings. The saint from Turin is not only a founder in the juridical and historical point of view, the four original groups of the Salesian Family belong to him: the Salesians, the Daughters of Mary help of Christians (together with S. Mary Mazzarello), the Salesian Cooperators, and the Association of Mary Help of Christians (**The Rector Major, speculating through the historical researches of Fr. Peter Braido, has strongly underlined that Don Bosco founded ADMA**) - but also in the theological sense: **carrier of a charisma that changes and diversifies in the various groups of the Salesian Family**. Don Bosco is also a forerunner of a way of sanctity that was covered by men and women, religious and lay people, adult and young, and bishops. The assembly was concluded on the festive notes of a song "We are Salesians" taken from the play "Let's go, boys" very much appreciated the previous evening by the participants of the days of the Salesian Family.

The Spirituality days were for us a strong experience of communion and of sharing, during which we have lived a family spirit that transmitted to us the joyous sensation to feel at “home”, among friends and brothers. We have touched with our hands what is the meaning to belong to the Salesian Family, a united family, composed up today by 26 groups, where each one of them expresses his Salesian charisma in his own way. Our own family is like a tree from which so many branches spread around, a tree born from a seed planted 150 years ago, from the heart of our loved father San John Bosco, then grown, “watered down with the blood of martyrs and flown through with the tears and sweat of our forehead”. Our mission now is that of producing fruit among our groups, so that the tree may become a wood, that is the Salesian Family may become a large movement of persons for the salvation of youth”. We have been enriched then by the gathering of the members of the various groups of the Salesian Family and by the moments of sharing and dialogue of our personal experiences. The fact of knowing so many people that witness with their life an intense love for the youth, has given us joy and serenity. It made clear to us that we are not alone or forgotten. During these “Days” the whole Salesian Family gathered around our dear Rector Major Fr. Pascual Chavez Villanueva, who had for each one of us a smile, a gesture of attention and of acceptance. He spoke to us as a father to his children, as Don Bosco would have done to his sons and boys: his words were enlightening, with particular simplicity and spontaneity, and were able to infuse in us enthusiasm for the mission presented with the 2009 Strenna. He was able to transmit to us the pride to belong to the Salesian Family and, at the same time, he opened our heart to accept our differences. As members of ADMA we could not but be happy by the fact that the Rector Major wanted in a particular manner remark in front of everybody, in his final speech, that our Association was founded by Don Bosco. From this Rome experience we carry home so much enthusiasm and the desire to carry on “the great news” that was given also to us: we are a Family! And when we are a Family we have a great desire to go to heaven all together. (Alessandro e Laura ADMA Nave – Brescia).



This is an experience that every time recharges us. We come home with an enthusiasm full of ideas to be put



into practice. This fact struck me: the scattered seed cannot go forgotten! These things required patience, constancy, the care and the love of the peasant in order to turn this into a tree full of fruits and healthy. The Salesian Family is composed of 26 member groups, already recognized and others that are awaiting to be added: that is the fruit of work of so many Salesians that were able to take care of the soil entrusted to them. When we talk with the people that make up these groups it becomes a real spiritual enrichment.. The Rector Major is an example of responsibility towards those who have been entrusted to him: the attention, the sensibility that shows to everybody and to each one of us,

*his vitality, represent the strength of the Salesian charisma and they encourage us to face the duties that wait for us. These fruits depend from us as well! **Therefore, let's go on: we are Salesians!** (Giusy – ADMA Prioritaria President*

Good Night of Mother Yvonne, FMA Mother Superior At the Meeting of the Days of the Salesian Family (January 23, 2009)

Dear Rector Major Fr. Pascual Chavez, Father and center of unity of the Salesian Family

Dear Fr. Adriano Bregolin, Vicar of the Rector Major.

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Salesian Family,

I feel honoured to be standing in front of such an honourable assembly to offer a thought for the good night, at the end of a day devoted to the representation of the charter of communion of the Salesian Family and in preparation of the day set aside of the charter of the mission. Tomorrow is the feast day of our common Patron, Saint Francis of Sales, from whom Don Bosco got his spirituality that he handed down to us. It is as well the monthly commemoration of Mary Help of Christians, the mother and teacher assigned to us by *the mysterious appearance of the dream* to Don Bosco as a guide in our mission to educate the young generations.

Recalling the mission that Fr. Egidio Viganò trusted to the FMA to keep **alive the Marian dimension of the Salesian Family**, I allow myself to underline some words, hoping not to leave behind in the background Mary, but assuming her own eyes as a mother and helper. **She is the inspirer of the mission of Don Bosco and of all the institutions she gave origin, of the Salesian Family as a whole.** She is the Mother that creates and keeps alive the communion, that encourages her sons and daughters to the mission to accept and make grow our life in the style of Salesian kindness. We get from Mary the complete look on reality, very important so that we will not get lost in the analysis of the situations, even though necessary, that are the starting points of a mission more precised and fertile. In the XXII general Chapter of our Institute, that we ended two months ago, we wanted to underline **the importance to feel accompanied by Mary in recognizing and accepting the signs of the anticipating love of God in our time**, in order to be ourselves signs of this love, in order to gather together the new signs also on the boundaries of education where the thirst of hunger and love of the youth call us to offer new evangelical answers and at the same time courageous and coherent. With his Strenna 2009 the Rector Major fr. Pascual Chavez,



has offered us very important elements not only on what we can do together as a Salesian Family, but on what we can be when we strive to create a new culture of the Salesian Family. We would like to accept the indications of the Ninth Successor of Don Bosco, that we recognize very vital in a period of time in which not only it is necessary to unite our forces while facing the new competitions that we are witnessing, but to unite in an all the more real undertaking of spirituality that characterizes us in the Church. As FMA we declare our availability in this sense.

Related to the Marian point of view, I would like to mention some **dimensions that Mary helps us to build and to nourish.** She is a teacher in the pedagogy of the preventive love that becomes service to the life and to the joy of young generations.

She is the masterpiece of the loving care of God. Mary carries within herself as no other creature the beauty of grace that shines on the face of Christ. San Francis of Sales starts the *Treaty on the love of God* with a prayer dedicated to Mary, that defines Mary as the creature more amiable and more loved by creatures. Mary is above all the mostly loved by God, who has put into herself his love putting her aside as the Mother of his Son and

of all of us. The most admirable fruit of the caring love of God, becomes the itself the caring love. This is the reason why Mary is an essential point of comparison for the Salesian Family. Under the qualification as the Mother of Christ and symbol of the Church, “mother of unity”, Mary contributes to make grow the communion in the great human family and to develop brotherhood among peoples and religions, all in need of a mother and of a guide to grow in love. We never find her alone in the Gospel. Mary is the figure that unites, gathers around herself, she is a seed if community and founder of communion. Mary is the Mother of the Salesian Congregation, in which we recognize ourselves: I believe that the culture of the Salesian Family can reach full expression only around Mary. Pope Benedict XVI affirms that only when God is great, also man can be great. When we allow God to enter into our heart, as Mary did, our humanity gets the full value: our feet start walking, our hands get open to the service, and words of acceptance and communion flourish on our lips. There is no place for useless words that reveal an empty interior, and our best quality do not make us proud but are used for the mission. The fact of discovering the signs of love with which God accompanies our life makes us full of joy and enables us to be a gift of joy for the others. Created after the similitude and image of God, we are called to show in our daily relations this identity in authenticity and freedom. The spirit of freedom, of which very often speaks in his writings and that he considers the biggest of his gifts, is really the freedom of love, taken every day from the life itself of God.

A pattern of every Salesian vocation. We find in Mary an alive presence and the help to turn successfully our life to Christ. If the vital deepening of the charismatic identity of every group of the Salesian Family is fundamental, so that the Family can create culture and movement, each one of them will find in Mary an element of beauty and of grace, of communion and unity that will foster the growth of the family itself and the convergence towards the accepted goals. The witnessing of the different vocations at the center of the Salesian Family renders a service to the life and the joy of young generations, it helps in the discovery of its own existence as vocation and as service. The global society shows a landscape of so many lost lives, useless

and thrown away lives.

For Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello useless persons were not existing, for them boys were not lost. All had something to offer. For all there was the joy of a *new wine* that is mentioned in the Gospel at the wedding of Cana. Even the most ordinary gesture used to become a sign of expression of love with which God loves every creature and He bends over them. In the perspectives of our founders the lost lives- the useless empty jars put aside – must be recalled to their proper role as water carriers, to a vocation of service. To know and to feel to be useful still for something, to feel personally reached to this word: *God loves you* is the greatest message that our life can proclaim. The culture of the Salesian Family is a promotion and defence of life starting from the smallest to the weakest. It is necessary then that we start living for something and for Someone. The Salesian spirituality is the sap that gives life to our personal existence and to our various vocations at the interior of the Family. It is the condition so that it will turn into that movement of which the Rector Major talks. The duty to return to the charismatic origins, while it powers the specific identity of each group, gives new life to the Family.

A presence that accompanies. Mary Help of Christians has been the inspirer of the Salesian Family, the one who accompanied the development and the mission and continues also today to be the *Mother and the Teacher*. Don Bosco and Maria Domenica, so many brothers and sisters of the Salesian Family have nourished their fidelity and courage to educate with trust in the presence and in the help of Mary. The misunderstandings, the obstacles, the fatigues involved in the trip, the difficulties of the mission are not for Don Bosco an obstacle for continuity. Mary is for him, the guide, the help, the mirror in which he sees reflected his special mission among the young. *She is the one who did everything*. He finds in her the strength to continue, while trusting completely God’s will. Even Maria Domenica, undelines the constant presence of Mary, the model to follow, the image to reproduce in order to be true *images of Mary* (See Cronistoria III 216).

To believe that she is present in our life, helps us to become as a family that renews itself in the Eucharist and expresses the communion in gestures of forgiveness and love given and received.

The love to Mary, the duty to resemble her, makes us less afraid, more valuable in proposing to the young boys and girls the new life donated to Jesus, in reawakening the attention to the project that God has on them

As a group of the Salesian Family we are called to carry the maternal mission of Mary to be *Helpers among the young generations in a difficult moment of educative emergency*, as it has been declared many times by Pope Benedic XVI. We could do this if we, together, will dare to propose to the youth the ideals of communion that helps us to overcome the prejudices., the lack of trust and the fact of being foreigners, that helps to free and power the resources making them available for a service to the life, and to the joy: if they will work out projects that will offer help to the persons and to the families in the different laps of their journey, starting from a sound education to affectivity in the early years of childhood and adolescence till to the care of the couples and the families. The endeavour for the culture becomes as well an invitation to develop a vocational dimension, hidden in the educative project and implies competent and authoritative guides. The love for life is a peculiar characteristic of the Salesian pedagogy and constitutes the climate where our lives are open and

ready can be brought to maturity, able to look ahead the future with a serene optimism.

Mary guides the whole Salesian Family to be that *large movement of persons* mentioned by the Rector Major. A Family made up of different groups that express the different vocations of the Church, find a common goal on certain choices inspired from the common spirituality and works out cultural proposals as a choice from the usual ones, bond together with the other movements of Christian inspiration. It lives and expresses the preventive system, that is the system of love, of respect, of defence of the human rights of all, taking into consideration the small one and the weakest. The movement is a fact of dynamism, of exchanged relationships. Mary helps us to foster a reciprocal trust at the middle of each group and among the different groups of the Salesian Family. It accompanies us in the duty to develop relations of reciprocity and to converge into the mission to donate to the youth motives of trust and joy.

Sister Yyvonne Reungoat

The following leaflet can be read here:

Italian: www.donbosco-torino.it/ita/adma
French: www.donbosco-torino.it/fra/adma
Spanish: www.donbosco-torino.it/spa/adma
Portuguese: www.donbosco-torino.it/port/adma
English: www.donbosco-torino.it/eng/adma

For each communication people can write to the email adress: pcameroni@salesiani.it

INTENTION OF PRAYER CONNECTED TO THE PRAYER APOSTOLATE – DECEMBER 2008

General: *so that the role of women may be more appreciated and valued in every nation of the World.*

Missionary: *So that the Bishops, the priests, the consecrated persons and the laity of the Catholic Church, in the popular Republic of China, following the letter sent to them by Pope Benedict XVI, may strive to be signs and instruments of peace, unity and Communion.*

For the bishops: *May the Lenten period teach us not to ask more than what it is necessary and make us attentive to those who lack the basic things.*

Marian: *So that the "yes" of Mary may become for the believers a lesson and an example to make the obedience to the will of the Father the way and the means of one's sanctity.*