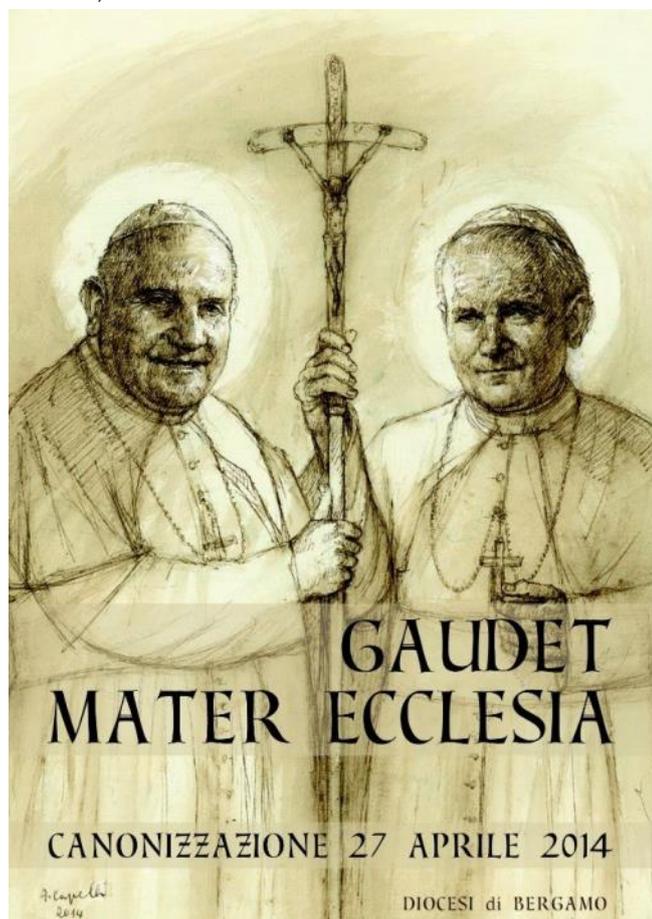


## MARY INVITES US TO CHOOSE HOLINESS

At Easter, the Church's liturgy invites us to **renew our baptismal promises**, reminding us that Christian life is an endless and unequivocal struggle against the world, the flesh and the devil, which lead us to sin. Sin is an absolute evil, because it separates us from God and makes us dead branches, devoid of life. Through the immense grace of the Cross of Christ our sins are forgiven, as long as there is repentance and a change of life. In particular, confession is the sacramental sign of our dying with Christ to sin and rising with him to new life. This renews **our decision to strive for holiness** which is the purpose of life. With her motherly love, Mary helps us to open our hearts so that her Son Jesus will rise again and live in us. She wants to take away the darkness and the shadow of death that surrounds us and seduces us, so that we can experience the joy of the blessing and promise of God as we walk the paths where his love leads us.

In this Easter joy we wish to entrust to you in a special way the new Rector Major and Father of the Salesian Family, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime. He was elected on 25 March, the Solemnity of the Annunciation. We, as the Association of Mary Help of Christians, assure him of our prayers and our filial docility and obedience.



At Easter we rejoice with the whole Church at the **canonization of Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII**. The life of Blessed John Paul II testifies to the truth of his arms and his motto: everything belongs to Mary and so belongs also to Jesus. We want to be with Mary at the foot of the cross, in order to be like Mary true disciples and passionate apostles of Jesus Christ, and faithful and generous servants of the Church. And in the words of Pope John XXIII, we ask Mary to intercede for the Church as Mother and Help of Christians:

*Holy Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, be now, at this anxious and mysterious time, truly the help of Christians. Intercede for all. Auxilium Christianorum , intercede pro nobis.*

We wish all our members and all our groups a happy and holy Easter.

Lucca Tullio , President  
Fr Pierluigi Cameroni SDB, Spiritual Animator

## NEWS FROM THE 27<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE SALESIANS

### 1 . FR ANGEL FERNANDEZ ARTIME THE NEW RECTOR MAJOR OF THE SALESIANS AND FATHER OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY



The Tenth Successor of St. John Bosco, Provincial of Southern Argentina, was elected by the 27<sup>th</sup> General Chapter on the first ballot on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation. He is Fr Angel Fernandez Artime, until now Provincial in Southern Argentina. Ángel was born on 21 August 1960 in Luanco - Gozon, Asturias, Spain and is now aged 53. He made his first profession on 3 September 1978 and his perpetual profession on 17 June 1984 in Santiago de Compostela. He was ordained a priest on 4 July 1987 in León. Originally from the Province of León, he was Delegate for Youth Ministry, Director of the School at Ourense, a member of the Provincial Council and Vice-Provincial, and then Provincial 2000-2006. He was a member of the technical committee in preparation for the 26<sup>th</sup> General Chapter. In 2009 he was appointed Provincial of Southern Argentina, a position he held until now. In this capacity he had the opportunity to meet and collaborate personally with the then Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis. He holds a degree in Pastoral Theology and a Licentiate in Philosophy and Pedagogy.

With joy we thank Jesus and Mary Help of Christians who have given us the new Don Bosco, Don Bosco for us! When Fr Pierluigi Cameroni, Spiritual Animator ADMA world greeted the new Rector Major, he replied by expressing his love for Mary Help of Christians and urged ADMA to continue its good work. On the evening of the Rector Major's

election, Mr Tullio Lucca, president of ADMA Primary, was privileged to greet him by phone and congratulated him, assuring him of our prayers . The Rector Major returned the greetings with love. He emphasized the importance he attaches to our pilgrimage and the charism of the Association: "*Forza ADMA!*" he said. Then, referring to his election he added: "You know, I am very happy!" We thank the Holy Spirit for this surprise. We pray together and entrust to Mary the ministry of the new Rector Major and the whole Salesian Family.



## 2 . SECRETARIAT OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY

An important new feature of GC27 is the setting up of a **Central Secretariat for the Salesian Family, directly dependent on the Rector Major**. With this choice, the Chapter Assembly reaffirmed that "the only charismatic point of reference for the whole Salesian Family is the Rector Major as successor of Don Bosco."

The Chapter took this decision because "a central secretariat established by the General Chapter and directly dependent on the Rector Major can better ensure that bond in a stable manner and ensure greater availability and continuity on the part of the members of the Secretariat".

This Secretariat has the task of animating the Congregation on matters relating to the Salesian Family; promoting communion between the various groups, respecting their specific nature and autonomy; directing and assisting the provinces to ensure that in their territories the association of Salesian Cooperators, the Past Pupils' movement and ADMA are developed in accordance with the respective statutes.

## 3 . FIRST VOLUME of the SALESIAN SOURCES

The first volume of the Salesian Sources by the Salesian Historical Institute was launched at the 27<sup>th</sup> General Chapter of the Salesians. It deals with Don Bosco and his work. This volume of sources is divided into four parts: Writings and documents on the history of Don Bosco and his work; writings and example of Don Bosco on education and school; writings and example of on Don Bosco's spiritual life; biographical and autobiographical writings in which the above-mentioned historical, educational and spiritual dimensions often overlap and enrich each other, to the point where they cannot be clearly distinguished.

This volume of Salesian Sources on Don Bosco and his work is entrusted to the Salesian Family, friends of Don Bosco, students of the Salesian work, young people, lay people involved in the spirit and mission of Don Bosco, and to families. All will be able to draw on the original sources of the Salesian charism, which is a gift of the Spirit for us and for the whole Church. All will be inspired by the pedagogy and spirituality of Don Bosco. We are happy to note that the section dedicated to Don Bosco the Founder includes the Association of Mary Help of Christians, as the second group he founded, while in the section dedicated to the *Marian Dimension of Salesian Spirituality* there are explicit references to texts composed by Don Bosco for ADMA .

The paper can be read at the following site:

[www.admadonbosco.org/index.php?lang=en](http://www.admadonbosco.org/index.php?lang=en)

and here: [www.donbosco-torino.it/](http://www.donbosco-torino.it/)

For every communication you can contact

the following email adress: [pcameroni@sdb.org](mailto:pcameroni@sdb.org)

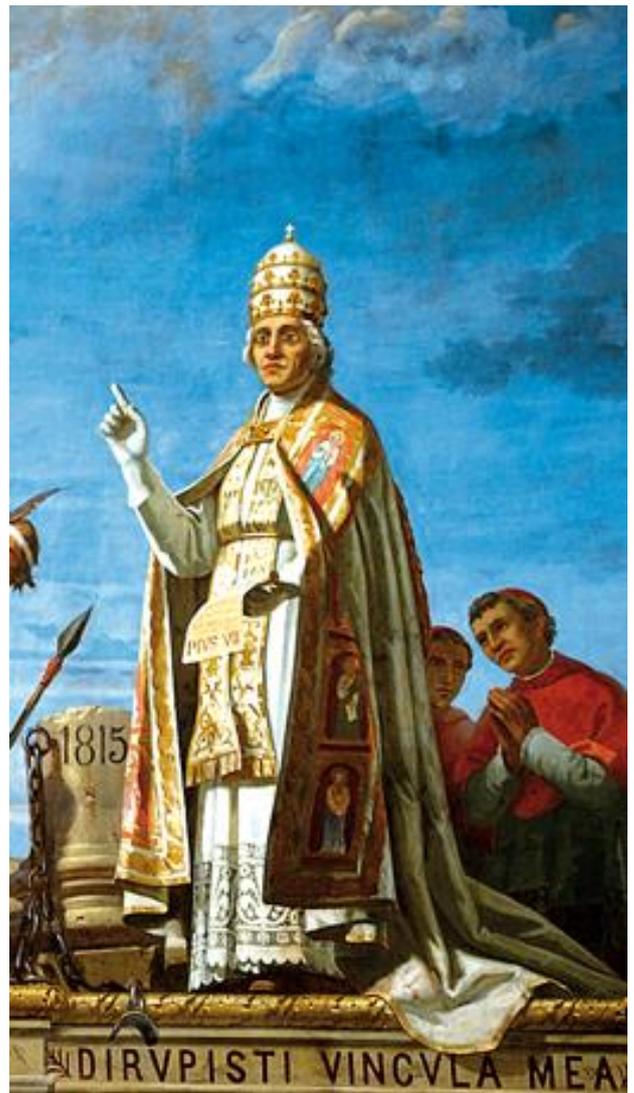
## 24 MAY 1814: POPE PIUS VII RELEASED FROM CAPTIVITY IN THE NAME OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

24 May of this year will mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the return of Pope Pius VII to Rome, after years of imprisonment (1809-1814), first in Savona and then at Fontainebleau, in France, as a prisoner of Napoleon. His release took place exactly on the day when Mary Help of Christians was remembered, and this prompted Pius VII to establish the liturgical feast in September 1815.

### Napoleon Turmoil

The period between April 1798 and May 1815 was a time of Napoleonic turmoil. Perhaps Europe has never seen such deep and decisive political and social upheaval in so short a time. For more than a decade, the will of one man became law for the whole of Europe. Old states and jurisdictions disappeared or were absorbed, and new kingdoms or states arose to replace them. The Church did not escape this whirlwind that so upset Europe.

Several measures foretold unhappy times for the Church: the introduction of divorce in the Civil Code, the imposition of the feast of St. Napoleon on 15 August at the expense of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, and the promulgation of the imperial Catechism issued in Paris on 30 May 1806. However, it was on 21 January 1808 that Napoleon ordered the occupation of Rome because the Pope did not participate in the continental blockade against England. From 2 February Pius VII remained closed in the Quirinal, considering himself a prisoner of the French. On 16 May Napoleon declared the Papal States annexed to the French empire with the result that the Pope excommunicated the emperor with the Bull *Quam Memorandum*. On the night of 6 July 1809, Pius VII, who was meek but determined to defend the rights of the papacy, was arrested in his palace on the Quirinal in Rome on the precise order of the Emperor. This was the start of a painful pilgrimage. The Pope was sent under escort to Florence, then Pisa and Sarzana and to the port of Genoa on the Ligurian coast. On 14 July, the Pope was taken to Alessandria in Piedmont where he remained for two nights, leaving for Rivoli and the Val di Susa on 16 July. He arrived in Grenoble on 21 July and stayed there until 2 August when orders came from Paris requiring him to return to Savona. On 3 August he left to go to Valenza with an overnight stay in Aix en Provence and a break in Nice. On 12 August he crossed the Col di Tenda and arrived in the evening at Cuneo. On 13 August he reached Mondovi where he stayed for two nights. On 17 August he arrived in Savona where he was held captive first in the palace of Santa Chiara, and then until June 1812 in the Bishop's Palace where he was brought back for a second time on 16 February 1814 after a forced stay in Fontainebleau in France. It seems that this move to France, as well as wearing down his resistance (the Pope almost died along the way), was also motivated by a desire to prevent access to the Pope by the faithful who, paradoxically, had grown in number over the years in Savona.



In March of 1814 the Pope left Savona, passed through Bologna, Cesena and Loreto, and returned triumphantly to Rome on 24 May. It is worth remembering that throughout the painful time of his imprisonment in Italy and France, Pius VII was accompanied and comforted by demonstrations of respect and sympathy from the silent but concerned people who paid tribute to him. On his return journey to Rome, the Pope was everywhere received with great popular demonstrations of faith and enthusiasm. The chroniclers record several miraculous events and numerous conversions, signifying the reputation for holiness which accompanied the figure of the Pope Pius VII. He was regarded as a saint and a martyr, and his firmness of conduct inspired sentiments of respect even among non-Catholics. History relates that the Pope still had to flee during the *Hundred Days* of Napoleon and only after the final defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo was he able to return to Rome on 7 June 1815.



The spirit with which the pope passed the years of imprisonment is well reflected in the first request he made on arriving at the episcopal palace of Savona, which was to be able to pray daily before the Blessed Sacrament. Here the Pope spent many hours each day in prayer and worship, asking God's help for the Church and forgiveness for his persecutors. He recited the Rosary every night, together with some of the papal household. The people of Savona soon followed his example, praying before the tabernacle and reciting the Rosary for the Pope's intentions.

### Mary Help of the Church and the Pope

The liberation of Pope Pius VII from captivity on 24 May 1814 is the event that led to the institution of the feast of Mary Help of Christians, fixed precisely on May 24. Pius VII crowned the image of the Mother of Mercy in Savona and instituted the feast of the Help of Christians in perpetual remembrance of his liberation and the freedom restored to the church. In this way, the title and the feast are seen to refer in particular to the ministry of the Supreme Pontiff and the freedom of the church in its mission.

The bicentenary of the liberation of Pope Pius VII and his return to Rome on 24 May, prepare us for the bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco, during which we will remember also the bicentenary of the institution of the liturgical feast of Mary Help of Christians.

Providentially the name of Don Bosco is associated since his birth with devotion to the Help of Christians. As Pope Benedict XVI said on his visit to Savona, this devotion "teaches us courage in facing without compromise the challenges of the world: materialism, relativism, secularism, willing to pay the price in person in order to remain faithful to the Lord and to his Church. The example of serene firmness given by Pope Pius VII invites us to maintain unaltered trust in God, even in time of trial, knowing that even though God may allow his Church to go through difficult times, he never abandons it. The experience endured by this great Pontiff invites us to trust always in the intercession and maternal care of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

## CHRONICLE



ALCALÁ DE HENARES (SPAIN) - The book *"Help of Christians of Alcalá: History, Art and Devotion,"* was launched on 15 February in the chapel of the Carmen of the Salesian College. The book was written by Enrique Ruiz Portillo, on the occasion of the canonical coronation of Mary Help of Christians at the Salesian House of Alcalá de Guadaíra. The work brings together historical research and artistic devotion to Mary Help of Christians in the city of Alcalá.

### ADMA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING AFO (FRENCH-SPEAKING WEST AFRICA)

The members of the ADMA Provincial Council of Our Lady of Peace Province met in Cotonou (Benin) on 15 March 2014. The meeting took place at the headquarters of ADMA AFO, with their animator Fr Jean Aurélien Lemondo. It was the second regular meeting of the year. There were five points on the agenda: the international pilgrimage of ADMA AFO, scheduled for 17-18 May in Dassa-Zoume (Benin). They also presented and distributed leaflets on the third provincial congress, held in Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso) 12-14 July 2013. These brochures will be sent to all parts of the province. The



formation plan and the accompanying support caught the attention of the members of the Council. Many talked about the 27<sup>th</sup> General Chapter and the participation of members of ADMA AFO at the World Congress on Mary Help of Christians, to be held in August 2015, and the importance of the information sheet ADMA -online. We finished our meeting with a visit to Mr. Como HOUNDETE, former president of the association of ADMA-AFO.

**MODICA (SICILY).** On 3 March, at the opening of the diocesan cause for the beatification of the Servant of God Antonio Baglieri (1951-2007), Volunteer with Don Bosco, Fr Pierluigi Cameroni, Spiritual Advisor, met with the local ADMA group for a time of prayer, of information on the life of the association and a time of friendship. The Modica ADMA is animated by the local council, consisting of: John Occhipinti, President; Silvia Amore, Vice-President; Francesco Cannata, Secretary; Giovanna Cerrato, Treasurer; and Council members, Giovanna and Marianna Modica. The group meets every 24th of the month under the guidance of the parish priest, Father Giuseppe Favaccio, their spiritual animator. They follow the formative path proposed through ADMAonline. Their meetings include the recitation of the Rosary and the celebration of the Eucharist. The group is committed to contributing alms for the needs of the church, and together with Caritas they assist needy families.



## NORTHERN PHILIPPINES - ANNUAL PLANNING

We would like to share one of the most significant activities of ADMA in the Philippines: the annual planning session that was held on 9 March 2014 at Don Bosco Hall, DBTI - Makati City. It was attended by 30 members of different groups : Metro Manila, Pampanga, Tarlac, Laguna, and Marinduque. During the meeting, members had the opportunity to revisit all past activities and assess their importance, especially in terms of formation and study of Marian devotion. The President of the Council, Mrs. Mary L. Junifer Maliglig, presented the following points at the meeting: 1) Vision: ADMA Philippines is a dynamic association, committed to knowing and loving Jesus in the Eucharist and Mary Help of Christians in the spirit and with the style of Don Bosco; 2) Mission: To reach all people, especially families and young people, spreading and defending the Catholic faith and emphasizing devotion to Mary Help of Christians. The Vision and Mission will guide the members in their mission to promote the love of Jesus and to deepen and spread devotion to Mary Help of Christians. The spiritual director, Fr Nestor C. Impelido, SDB, presided over the Mass during which he prayed for the Rector Major, Fr Pascual Chavez. He was asked to bless and guide the meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> General Chapter that is taking place in Rome. The members also prayed for the sick members of the Salesian Family (Junifer).



## TESTIMONY OF YOUNG ADMA, VALDOCCO, TURIN

**"Anyone who finds a friend finds a treasure."** "True friends for the things of the soul," said Dominic Savio when he started the Sodality of the Immaculate Conception. Even today, we all have in our hearts a desire to be a real friend and to have real friends. We want to find people who will be able to correct us and with whom we can grow together towards a common goal. In the Sodality they made holiness consist in being cheerful. In Italian it was called the Company of the Immaculate Conception. Company come from the Latin "cum- panis" which means sharing bread. **It was a company that was based on sharing the Eucharistic bread, trusting in Mary...** just as was said in Don Bosco's dream of the two columns.

YOUNG ADMA seeks to become a company of real friends, following the example of the young saint Dominic Savio and his friend John Massaglia. The members live side by side with their families and priests, people who help us by showing both the perspective of married life and that of a vocation to religious life, maintaining and re-creating that bond between the generations which is now increasingly at risk of being supplanted or destroyed. "Young people do not be afraid, open wide the doors to Christ." This call of Pope John Paul II is very much alive in all of us. And who better than Mary can help us to keep our hearts turned to her son? A good, true, healthy friendship helps us on this journey. It helps us also to be a living Church, lively and above all youthful, as Pope Francis never ceases to repeat ... a Church that evangelizes and bears witness, reaching out to as many as possible, not only in words but also with a smile, with the vitality and confidence of Don Bosco. He is waiting for us all in heaven. (Elena Scavino).

## TESTIMONY OF GIUSY PERO ( ALCAMO - SICILY)

Belonging to ADMA means playing an active role. It means participating, praising the Lord, thanking the Blessed Virgin, rejoicing in small things, feeling at home. I have belonged to ADMA for two years now, but I have been coming to ADMA for three years. In the first year, Our Lady showed me how many beautiful things she was preparing for me. She was preparing my heart to receive the call that would bring me to say, on 23 May 2012, "HERE I AM". Every call that comes from heaven is a call that cannot be refused ... it is a sweet sound that one never grows tired of. Instead, the desire to listen grows more and more.

Here tonight, seeing these aspirants who are about to entrust themselves to Our Lady for life, I feel an immense joy. I could see from the light in their eyes the joy they are experiencing at having accepted this journey. They met the Lord through Our Lady. It is true ... anyone who meets Mary inevitably meets Jesus. Do not waste this meeting, my friends. My hope for these aspirants is that they may live their relationship with Mary and Jesus in the most spontaneous way possible. There is no need of big words. Just talk to them as you would talk to a trusted friend.

Mary and Jesus already know what you need, but allow them to open your heart. The sponsors must acknowledge that what we have been given is not a trivial task, but it is an enormous responsibility. We are entrusted with the souls of men and women who have decided to walk with Mary and for this they need a guide who will support and encourage them... We must be committed, determined to bear fruit, remembering that we are "pencils in his hands." (Giusy, ADMA associate, and proud of it!).