

# FAMILY ASSOCIATION "METACOMETA"

## WHO – WHERE – WHEN – HOW – WHY?

**WHEN:** The Association **MetaCometa** came to life in December of 1998 and still exists and endures today.

**WHERE:** The Family Association **MetaCometa** was begun in Giarre, a small town in the province of Catania. The place was not chosen at random but purposefully so it could be close to the Salesian Spirituality Center, "Casa Tabor," which is still now a place of formation and of prayer for the entire Association.

**WHO:** Salvo and Linda are the parents of many children and also of **MetaCometa**. Today, thanks to the untiring daily witness of both Salvo and Linda, throughout Italy there are about 25 foster families, group homes, and family-style communities that take in and welcome the young.

**WHY?:** "No one on this earth is an orphan." This phrase of Don Bosco accompanies us along with the realization that we are loved and are children of a God who loves us. Our way of Witnessing to Him and of Thanking Him is by regarding whatever befalls us on this earth as a Providential opportunity not only for those of us who do the welcoming, but also as an occasion for growing together; not only for giving but also for receiving, discovering with awe that we receive far more than we are able to give.

**HOW:** Through welcoming the young, "especially the most poor and abandoned": we have welcomed about 500 minors through Family Court placement and a powerful Social Service network. Since 2012, at first sporadically, and now since October 2015 almost daily, the Family Association **MetaCometa** has welcomed unaccompanied immigrant minors who arrive on our shores. The welcome begins right in the port area and continues in our homes. Normally, the minors are under 14 years of age and are particularly vulnerable: the youngest and those who have the greatest need of a family.