

The **Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA)** offers a path to holiness and an apostolate according to the Salesian charism.

ADMA promotes, as in Don Bosco's "Dream of the Two Columns," devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to Mary Help of Christians, in all forms, both public and private, that are approved by the Church. It pays particular attention to families and young people.

The Association works in communion and in fidelity with the pastors of the Church and in cooperation with other Church groups, especially those of the Salesian Family.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

Immediately after St. John Bosco finished the church in honor of Mary Help of Christians in Valdocco (a section of Torino, Italy), he founded the ASSOCIATION there on April 18, 1869, to promote and defend the Faith of the common people. It was approved by the Archbishop of Torino the same year. Then Pope Pius IX confirmed the approval on April 5, 1870. On July 5, 1989, Fr. Egidio Viganò, the then Rector Major of the Salesians, recognized the Association as an official group of the Salesian Family of St. John Bosco.

As with the rest of his works, in founding ADMA St. John Bosco had this idea as his driving force: *"Good people need to be united in doing good."* He often repeated, *"We Christians need to be united in these difficult times. Being among many who do good encourages us even without our realizing it"* (*Memorie Biografiche*, vol. VI, p. 602).

AIM: Don Bosco writes, *"The principal aim is to promote veneration of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to Mary, Help of Christians [...]."* As we see, Don Bosco cannot think of a devotion to our Lady as an end in itself. It finds its reason for being from its reference to the mystery of Christ. Vatican II also affirms, *"The various forms of piety towards the Mother of God [...] ensure that while the mother is honored,*

ADMA

The Association of Mary, Help of Christians

[l'Associazione dei Devoti di Maria Ausiliatrice]

Founded by St. John Bosco
Torino, 1869



***Official Group
of the Salesian Family of St. John Bosco***

the Son through whom all things have their being (cf. Col. 1:15-16) and in whom it has pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell (cf. Col. 1:19) is rightly known, loved, and glorified and his commandments are observed" [Lumen Gentium, no. 66]. St. John Bosco used to repeat frequently, "I beg you to first adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and then to honor Mary." "To be dear to her, we need to honor her Son." Biographical Memoirs, vol. XII, p. 425.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Don Bosco wished that ADMA members be involved in the spirituality and youth apostolate of the Salesian Congregation, especially in their families and at their place of work. Being a Member of ADMA = being a Salesian apostle among the young and among others, beginning at home.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

To be a member of the Association one needs to:

1. value and participate in the Sacramental and Liturgical life of the Church, especially Holy Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation
2. live and spread the devotion to Mary Help of Christians
3. invite others to participate in:
 - praying the daily Rosary;
 - the monthly commemoration of Mary Help of Christians on the 24th of each month;
 - the Novena in preparation to the feast of Mary Help of Christians on May 24.
4. live the spirit and the mission of the Salesian Family in the service of the young and the poor (*see the Salesian Family Charter, Articles 1, 10*)

5. pray for vocations in the Church: lay, religious, priestly, especially vocations to the Salesian Family.
6. imitate Mary by cultivating in one's family a Christian atmosphere.
7. live with a Gospel attitude of thanking God for the marvels He daily accomplishes and by being faithful to Him especially in times of difficulty
8. attend regularly the monthly meetings for prayer and formation in common

SPIRITUAL BENEFITS

The members of ADMA participate in the merits of the good works of the Salesian family. They also participate in the worship and prayer that takes place in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Torino, and in all the churches around the world where the Association has been established. When one member dies, all the members of his/her group are invited to participate in a Eucharistic Celebration of suffrage. Furthermore, the members can obtain a Plenary Indulgence, according to the usual conditions, when they first make or when they renew the PROMISE to observe faithfully the commitments of the Association and also on the principal feasts of the Lord and of our Lady.

“Vis unita fortior (united forces are stronger).”
Don Bosco

ADMA INTEREST APPLICATION

After having read this pamphlet, I would like more information about the date and time of the monthly meeting of the *Association of Mary Help of Christians*:

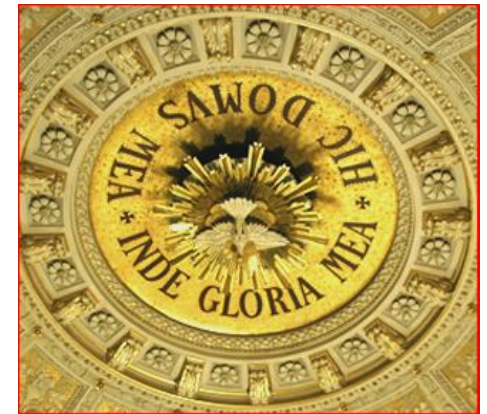
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“This is my House; from thence my Glory”
Our Lady to Don Bosco in his vision of the Shepherdess in 1844.
See BM vol. 2, p. 191. (the small cupola of the Basilica)