

ADMA

The Association of Mary, Help of Christians

l'Associazione dei Devoti di Maria Ausiliatrice
Founded by St. John Bosco
Torino, 1869



*Official Member Organization
of the Salesian Family of St. John Bosco*

Dear Friend,

From all over the world, pilgrims flock to the Basilica and Shrine of Mary Help of Christians at the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales in Valdocco, (Torino, Italy) to express their love and devotion to MARY and to ask for her HELP.

We, too, can be one of those pilgrims without leaving our country. How? By requesting to become a member of the Marian Association, ADMA, that St. John Bosco, himself founded at the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales in Valdocco.

You have been invited and have come to join us on our weekly Pilgrimage of Faith with Mary Help of Christians to the Heart of God, our Father. Read this leaflet attentively and with a Marian heart, so you understand what belonging to the Association implies.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

Immediately after St. John Bosco finished the church in honor of Mary Help of Christians in Turin, he founded the ASSOCIATION [April 18, 1869] to spread a true and profound devotion to Mary. It was approved by the Bishop of Turin 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 part 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"* (MB vol. VI, p. 602).

AIM. Don Bosco writes, *"The principal aim is to promote veneration to 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 of being from its reference to the mystery of Christ. Vatican II also affirms: *"The various forms of piety toward the*

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Mother of God [...] ensure that, while the mother is honored, 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" [LG 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" [MB vol. XII, p.570; vol. XIV, p. 212].

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 (Cf. *Salesian Family*, 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 an evangelical attitude of thanking God for the marvels He daily accomplishes and by being faithful to Him especially in times of difficulty
8. attend meetings regularly (N.B. – both the Regulations of the Association and the *Code of Canon Law* stipulate that members of ecclesial must participate regularly in meetings of said association)

SPIRITUAL BENEFITS

The members of ADMA participate in the merit 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 Turin, and in all the Churches around the world where the Association has been erected. 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; also on the principal feasts of the Lord and of our Lady.

“We need to unite ourselves in doing good.” *Don Bosco*

ADMA ADMISSION REQUEST

After having attended meetings, read this pamphlet, and prayed and reflected on my possibility to live the commitments of a member of the *Association of Mary Help of Christians*, I agree with everything and, confident in the help of Mary, our Mother,

I request to be admitted into
the *Association of Mary Help of Christians*:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

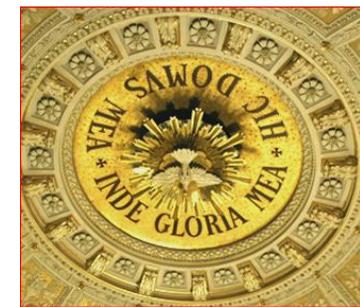
Date of this Application: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Occupation: _____

email: _____

Signature of the Person Making the Request:



“This is my House; from there my Glory”
Our Lady to Don Bosco (in the cupola of the Basilica)