

August 14, 2011 – Salesian GHQ - Mother Yvonne Reungoat sends best wishes for the opening of preparations for Don Bosco bicentennial



(ANS - Rome) - On the eve of the annual celebrations for Don Bosco's birthday, and the official opening of preparations for the bicentennial of his birth (1815-2015), Mother Yvonne Reungoat has sent a letter to the Rector Major expressing hope and renewed fidelity.

Writing on August 15, Mother Yvonne wanted Fr. Pascual Chavez to know that she and the FMA Institute stood with him and the Salesian Family as three years of preparations for Don Bosco's birth bicentennial kick off. The celebration at which the Rector Major will preside in the Basilica of Don Bosco at Colle Don Bosco is significant because Don Bosco "grew up and dreamt in his Becchi home. This is where he left from to carry out God's dream for him. It was a dream that affects the whole Salesian Family, starting with the groups directly founded by him." It is God's dream for our times too, the FMA superior continued, demanding fathers and mothers, teachers, people who "know how to recognize a Father to whom to entrust their lives, projects, personal and social destiny." She emphasized that "Don Bosco's dream was developed under the protection of the Help of Christians, the teacher who became his guide in the task of educating young Christians."

The FMAs, who are likewise children of that dream and its dreamer, are committed to "rekindling Don Bosco's passion for education, and updating the Preventive System which he bequeathed to his spiritual family." The Salesian Family, comprising 28 groups, shares "the unique charism that animates the various groups, each with its specific calling."

The spirituality shared by the various branches of the Salesian Family is a witness that "will reveal the youthful face of the Church at a time marked by individualism and relativism. It will experience and share its joy and offer concrete signs of hope, especially to young people."

"In the network of exchange and communion of the Salesian Family," writes Mother Yvonne, "we want to be an active and vital node."

In preparation for the Don Bosco bicentennial, the FMA superior makes two pledges: "to be a sign and expression of God's love by living an authentic path of holiness in the footsteps of the Father" and "to take up the Salesian Family Charter of Identity with complete conviction."

Concluding, Mother Yvonne hopes that Don Bosco's spiritual children will know how to be a living memory of the young people's saint, she and gives thanks "for the pastoral service the Salesian priests offer to the FMAs across the many continents."

Responding, Fr. Chavez says: "It is so nice that we share not only our beloved founder, but also his dreams and our responsibility to carry it forward today, in our social and ecclesial context. Therefore, on behalf of Don Bosco, I ask you, and through you, all the Institute, not only for your closeness in affection and your charismatic sharing, but also for your courage and joy to 'revive,' as you have written, 'Don Bosco's passion for education and update the Preventive System he has bequeathed to his spiritual family.' Thus we will become better sons and daughters of our Father, experiencing a deeper fellowship and striving together for the common mission: talking about and offering God to today's youth."

The full texts of the two superior generals' letters are available in Italian, along with other resources, in the sdb.org bicentennial [section](#).