



SOCIETÀ DI SAN FRANCESCO DI SALES

CASA GENERALIZIA SALESIANA

Via della Pisana 1111 - 00163 Roma

Il Rettor Maggiore

Prot. 17/0294
Rome, 28th July 2017

To my Salesian Confrères To my dear brothers and sisters of the Salesian Family

My dear Salesian Confrères,
My dearest Salesian Family the world all over,
Let me fraternally and affectionately embrace you!

I am writing this personal, family letter to share with you a piece of news and explain it to you.

With great peace, serenity and with a profound sense of interior liberty, I must inform you that the Rector Major with his Council, after long reflection and many consultations with some experts, ***has unanimously decided*** – in the litigation concerning the “Gerini case– ***to definitely leave the General House (La Pisana) and thus conclude this long process which has been going on for over ten years.***

I know that this news will cause in many of you a strong emotion. I can assure you that, in faith and in openness to the Spirit, we are all very serene for and sure of the decision we have taken in the light of the present circumstances.

The whole community will temporarily move to another house in Rome and will normally continue their life and service to the Congregation and to the Salesian Family; in the meantime, during about one year’s time, we will plan and prepare the future headquarters of the General House in another presence in Rome: a smaller house, one thought out for today’s needs, with dimensions adequate to today’s life and with the testimony that we must give today.

What brought us to this decision? The simple fact that, despite all “legal struggles”, the judge who was called to pronounce his verdict on the civil process of the litigation known as “Gerini case”, decided to assign the property of the General House (La Pisana) to our creditors, as a way of paying, according to them, what, by right, would be their due.

I already explained once that, regretfully, the Direzione Generale Opere Don Bosco was bound in solidarity (i.e. as a guarantee) to the “Gerini” Foundation, and this evidently turns against us before turning against the “Gerini” Foundation. In fact the creditors reckon that, in the controversy, it is easier to obtain from us many tens of million Euros.

We tried to reach an agreement on something that might be good for us, but their requests showed to be unacceptable. And throughout these months they put great pressure on us on the loss of the General House, trying to obtain in this was the money instead of the House itself.

Since we feel very free and detached, we thought that the walls of this House are not worth so much money, which must be destined to the mission and to the service of the poorest – an amount of money that, in addition, we do not have and that we could only obtain by asking loans from the banks. Thus, *we want to conclude, once for all, these relations with these creditors and with those that might come up with the same claims and requests.* The best solution is to cut radically and decisively all negotiations and abide by the value decreed by the judge.

We are confident that by the end of the year this long process will definitely come to an end.

There is a very small hope – as I call it – a possible “miracle”. It is the appeal submitted to the Supreme Court for the entire process, from its beginning to date. This Court will deal with the recourse on September 13th, 2017, and in the span of three months we shall know the verdict. Were the sentence to be in our favour, then the House will continue to be our property and we should not pay anything to our creditors. Anyhow, we preferred to put ourselves in the worst situation, simply to be prepared.

In any case, beyond whatever may happen, we have a date limit, according to the verdict of the civil cause, according to which, on October 10th, 2017, we must leave the House. And we shall leave it.

My dear brothers and sisters of the entire Salesian world, with these words of mine we wish to be close to you, to share this reality with you and at the same time to convey to you all the serenity we feel. Our Salesian life and mission – also in our community of the General House – will continue, as ever, with the usual decision, energy and availability.

Let us live this moment as *a sign of the times for us* that will help us be faithful to our charism and to the service of the poorest and most needy youth.

I thank you because you accompany us and follow us, united in affection and prayer.

I fraternally greet you.



Angel Fernández Artime
Angel Fernández Artime, sdb
Rector Major