



ADMA

Associazione di Maria Ausiliatrice

Famiglie

ADMA Families: committed so that families can become schools of life and of life.

“We need to say that Don Bosco understood everything: he thought of a family, he brought Mama Margaret to the oratory, he thought of consecrated persons and lay, desiring that his children be happy “in time and in eternity” and “in time” means not only while playing ballgames in the playground, they study and learn a trade, but also when they marry and become parents. Having put everything under the mantle of Mary Help of Christians, they have taught everyone to immerse themselves in Jesus.” (Chiara e Davide)

As Association of Mary Help of Christians we have as foundation the two columns constituted of the Eucharistic Jesus and of Mary Help of Christians and as mission left to us by Don Bosco the defense of popular faith by Don Bosco.

Let us actualize the dream of Don Bosco thinking of a journey of a family of families, open to the young, where accompanying and sustaining each other, a simple journey: in short in a word a journey built for families. This is how:



To live trusting, knowing that the two columns sustain us: the Eucharist and Mary – all our married life happens everyday: for this we feel it important to learn how to put prayer at the center to preserve the presence of Jesus and Mary in various situations. Each one lives it according to his own measure, according to their possibilities: a level or a predefined scheme is not proposed, but to begin in a simple way even only with the sign of the cross in the morning to entrust the day and at night to give

thanks and ask pardon is suggested. Then it is prayer itself that gives space in our life and we arrive at the recitation of the rosary and at the reading of the Word of the day and even at the participation of the Eucharist during the week. In real life experience we see that the rosary is often spaced out in the recitation of the Hail Mary during the day, in the car, while house work is being done, while the dismissal from school of a child is awaited, while one is in line at the supermarket. This attitude, which we call trust, which is a way to be simple that gives enormous fruits of peace in the heart and can be an assurance in the frenetic rhythm of our life, functions as an admirable mechanism.

Formation of self to learn how to be husbands and wives and parents – Life continually puts us in discussion, for this, the need to take care of the formation of being husbands and wives and Christian parents is seen strongly. As babies do not know how to walk or talk when they are born, also spouses must learn what it means to live out married life and be parents. And to learn, one must know, share experiences, not isolating oneself and losing hope as Mariangela and Gianluca recounts to us:



A family of families – Perhaps involving the whole family, excluding nobody is what we like in our journey: at the monthly recollections and at the week of spiritual retreat during the summer, everything is built for families: from one side are the parents and from another

side the children divided according to age. To the parents, a journey based on prayer of the Word of God that is interwoven with formation to live the daily dynamics of a couple and the educative challenges is proposed; to the children, animation divided by phases of age (kindergarten and elementary) and becomes then a spiritual journey from mid-school to university is proposed. To the older ones, beginning from the eldest, to cooperate in animation is asked.

It is beautiful to see the older youth taking care of the younger ones as if they were their younger brothers: we know that they do it thinking of giving back what they have received.



Priests and sisters together: complementarity – One of the more beautiful things that we want to share is the presence of priests and sisters. This collaboration is not only advantageous for families and for priests and religious, but represents a true gift for the marvel of discovering everything in journey with their

proper riches as Chiara and David recounts to us:

“A family left to itself dies. A family needs friends and we have found them: in the priest who follows our journeys, personal, as couples and as parents. In the other families with whom we share the struggles but also the strategies to overcome them. The amazing thing, the extra gift that Our Lady has given us is that other than finding friends for oneself, this becomes friendship for others. We have discovered how religious flourish again in the sharing with families, such as mutual vocations are clarified and consolidated. Religious need to live near families that seek to be holy, as much as families need to find a secure guide in the religious. We experiment daily the connection in educating children in comparison with other families. A dear friend says always that friendships that grow in Jesus are those in which one finds more joy and more strength. This is what Mary Help of Christians has guided us to understand in these years of journey: to pick up the pieces of a society going crazy, to help the young as Don Bosco wanted, there is need to put at the center the care for the spiritual life beginning from the family. To take care of the spiritual life not in an abstract way, but in the manner of Don Bosco: feet on earth and the heart in heaven!” (Chiara and David).

This family of families becomes a school of life and of love as it emerges from the testimony of young people of the ADMA, the motto of which is: E questa famiglia di famiglie diventa scuola di vita e di amore come emerge dalla testimonianza dei giovani dell’ADMA il cui motto è : **“Entrust, confide and smile”**, as narrated by Elena and Elizabeth:

“Entrusting is this – to place in the hands of the Lord difficulties and uncertainties. What comes in mind is an image, seen a long time ago, of

the child Jesus who, like all children, in the moment of need call insistently their mother clinging to her dress. We see it again in this so familiar scene in the moment in which we have felt with our hands the force of such confiding, praying insistently in different situations of difficulty. And when hundreds of persons are seen, among them many children on their knees praying the Rosary, one gets the certainty that miracles will be seen.” “So we learn also to confide, and to build our house on rock.

It is in contact with the ADMA family that we try concretely an extraordinary testimony. In a time in which one can no longer speak of faith, chastity, fidelity and above all vocations, touching on these ideals with the hands that they will not collapse if grounded in Christ, is the most beautiful hope that we young people can nourish. (..) And it is thanks to this intermingling of family and youth ministry that our security becomes reinvigorized. And will someone who puts his future in the hands of the Lord still have fear? It is seeing priests, sisters and couples that live their calling in fruitfulness is what we learn. Growing up with these families, fear and uncertainty are mitigated and our future looks brighter and rich with significance. (..) And finally, with a smile on the lips, we seek to be witnesses of the joy of the gospel, under the invitation of Pope Francis. St. Dominic Savio highlights "True friends for the things of the soul", in the regulations of the Company of the Immaculate. And who else is better than him who knows how to show the way for youthful holiness that consists in staying very happy?" (Elena e Elisabetta).

