

Area Salesian Family Spirituality Day(s)

Basic Elements: Welcome; Prayers/Holy Mass/Rosary/Confessions; Festive Family Moments; Sharing; Good Night(s); Talks and Presentations of Experiences based on *Strenna 2017* and *Amoris Laetitia* -- following the model of SFS Days, as regard the topics;

I. WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

I cordially greet you and I hope my salutation reaches to every member of your Groups. This is an appropriate time to welcome you, because in these days, we share many values, significant and important for us, as to the Groups affiliated to us.

This gathering for the Salesian Family Spirituality Days is transformed into a special invitation that God gives us in order to achieve a rich experience of human, Christian, and Salesian communion. These Spirituality Days help us to become more mindful of what it means to belong to the Salesian Family.

In these days, we will reflect together on the *Strenna*, the central annual message of our Rector Major. We will encounter people with whom we have a surprising spiritual affinity. We will understand better that what the Holy Spirit did with Don Bosco continues to recur in our time. The whole setup of these Spirituality Days can also shed light on our ongoing challenge for formation. The contents, group experiences, personal sharing, community prayer, and the Salesian Family environment is a good summary of what we call formation and can illumine our formation process and programs of our respective Groups so to respond appropriately to the different situations that life offers us.

This year's Spirituality Days focuses on the family. Many people expect a lot from us, as there is a constant need for personal accompaniment in these complex times of ours. To gaze on the family is both an opportunity and a challenge for our groups to which we must respond with generosity and wisdom. Our gathering will also propose many reasons to consolidate better the response that we are called to give.

Eventually, this gathering will enable us, above all, to strengthen the spiritual experiences that have brought us here. I am convinced that this encounter will allow us to make our own the internal experiences of many believers. In a special way, it will also be the same for us: to respond as Mary did with inner conviction after the Angel's greeting.

Right from the very start to the end of these Spirituality Days, let us thank the Lord who constantly continues to work wonders in us. Every member of our Groups bear witness to God's omnipotence for He is genuinely capable of caring for people and of transforming us so we may transform society.

I invite you to participate actively in this meaningful encounter. Then, upon returning to your homes, you can share with others the lived experience of these Days, which in turn can enrich the journey and accompaniment of your Groups.

I entrust these Spirituality Days into the hands and the heart of Don Bosco and Our Mother, Mary Help of Christians, organized and prepared with so much enthusiasm and dedication.

I wish you a peaceful and fruitful encounter.

(adapted from the welcome of the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family, Don Eusebio Muñoz, SDB, given to the participants in the Salesian Family Spirituality Days 2017 in Rome, on January 19)

PRAYER FOR THE SALESIAN FAMILY FROM *THE SALESIAN FAMILY CHARTER*

Father and Teacher of youth,
Saint John Bosco,
who docile to the gifts of the Holy Spirit,
bequeathed to the Salesian Family
the treasure of your special love
for “the small and the poor ones,”
teach us to be
each day for them
signs and bearers of the love of God,
cultivating in our souls
the same sentiments of Christ
the Good Shepherd.

Ask for all the members of your Family
a heart full of kindness,
constancy in work,
wisdom in discernment,
courage to bear witness
to a sense of the Church and to missionary generosity.

Obtain for us from the Lord
the grace to be faithful
to the special covenant
that the Lord has made with us,
and help us so that, guided by Mary Help of Christians,
we may follow with joy,
together with the young,
the path that leads to love.
Amen.

II. TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS OF EXPERIENCES (all of which are available on the Portal homepage)

Talks (*Theological, Magisterial, Ministerial Formation*)

- ◆ Presentation by Don Eusebio Munoz, SDB (of the Days and the Members/Mission of the Secretariat)
- ◆ Salesian Magisterium: Presentation of the Strenna “We Are Family” by Don Angel, SDB
- ◆ Sacred Scripture: “The Family Experience of Jesus of Nazareth” by Don Bartolomé, SDB
- ◆ Ecclesial and Salesian Magisterium: “Salesian Youth Pastoral and the Family: Heritage and Future” by Don Attard, SDB
- ◆ Salesian Magisterium: “Salesian Reading of *Amoris Laetitia*” by Don Bozzolo, SDB
- ◆ “Accompanying Families: Keys for Listening and Discernment” – from the psychological point of view: recognizing the signs of families/young at-risk and interventions necessary – Sra. Cagigal, Psychologist

Presentations (*Apostolates already in progress which seek to help families and young at-risk*)*

- ◆ “Cerchi d’Onda” (“Ripples”) – Borgo Ragazzi, Rome – reaching out to at-risk young and their families in a variety of ways
- ◆ “MetaCometa Association of Catania” Sicily – taking in unaccompanied refugee minors to give them a family, and NGO
- ◆ “ADMA Families” – Primary, Torino – family and prayers gatherings and retreats to accompany families in all aspects of growth
- ◆ “Don Bosco Homes” – Spain – families helping families who wish to enhance the good there already
- ◆ Kremeniook and Family Garden – Slovakia – families providing a myriad of services to struggling families

*either best practices already in progress in your area of in our Salesian North America or some ecclesial or civic group or person working with families already

IMPORTANT: If we are to draw younger people and young families to this, we will need to supply “baby-sitting”, fund and catechetical activities, and alternative formation for the older youth present (Theology of the Body for pre-teens and Teens?) This is where our Youth Ministry young people can start to get involved with apostolate as true leaders and trusted teens to take care of the younger ones in play, prayer, and education/evangelization so that the parents can make a true retreat (see ADMA presentations in E-Service of March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 for a model)

Materials necessary:

Laptop, LCD Projector, and Internet

Copies of all handouts

Folders, pens, and a holy card with the Prayer for the Salesian Family

Copies of *We Are Family* (also available on Don Bosco Salesian Portal in multiple languages)

Nota bene: Successive sessions will require an additional section on the RM’s comment on the chapter being studied

Please see reverse for complete schedule of the Days held in Rome in 2017

THURSDAY 19: WE ARE FAMILY!

- 16:30 Inauguration (Aula Magna)
 - Prayer
 - Greetings of the Rector Major, Don Angel Fernández Artime, SDB
 - Presentation of Groups Participating
 - Presentation of the Days: Don Eusebio Muñoz, SDB, Delegate of RM for the SF
- 17:30 Conference
 - Family Experience of Jesus of Nazareth
 - Don Juan José Bartolomé, SDB

19:00 Break

19:30 Supper

21:00 Family Gathering

- Presentation of the participants
- Prayer
- Good Night by the Rector Major

FRIDAY 20: WE WORK SO THAT FAMILIES MAY BECOME SCHOOLS OF LIFE AND OF LOVE

07:30 Breakfast

08:30 Prayer (Aula Magna)

08:45 Presentation of the Strenna

Don Angel Fernández Artime, RM

09:45 Conference

- The Family and Salesian Youth Ministry: Heritage and Future. Don Fabio Attard, SDB, General Councillor for Youth Ministry
- Dialogue

10:45: Break

11:15: Experience (I)

- Cerchi d'Onda (Ripples) Onlus
Mario O. Llanos and Team

12:00: Holy Mass Concelebration.

Rector Major, President
Homily: Don Francesco Cereda, SDB, Vicar of the RM

13:00 Dinner

15:30 Experience (II)

- Family Homes. MetaCometa Association of Catania. Salvatore Adamo and Linda Castaldo
- Accompanying Families: Keys for Listening and Discernment. Virginia Cagial. Collaborator with the SYM of Spain

17:00 Break

17:30 Group work according to Language

19:30 Supper

21:00 Family Gathering

- Prayer
- Good Night of Sr. Yvonne Reungoat, FMA
- Free meeting

SATURDAY 21: IN THE CHURCH, GOD'S FAMILY

07:30 Breakfast

08:30 Prayer (Aula Magna)

09:00 Conference

- Salesian reading of *Amoris Lætitia*. Don Andrea Bozzolo, SDB
- Dialogue

11:00 Experience (III)

- ADMA Family. ADMA Primary of Turin
Tullio Lucca and Team

12:00: Holy Mass Concelebration

Rector Major, President
Homily: Don Eusebio Muñoz, SDB

13:00 Dinner

15:30 Experience (IV)

- Don Bosco Homes. SSCC of Spain. Andrés Redondo y Carmen García
- Family Accompaniment. SSCC of Bratislava. Kamil and Katerina Bagin

16:30 Group Work according to Family Group

18:45 Family in Prayer

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

19:30 Supper

21:00 Meeting of family

- Prayer
- Good Night by Mother M. Chiara Mellace, General Vicar of ASF
- Recreation

SUNDAY 22: CALLED TO WALK AND TO ACT TOGETHER AS SALESIAN FAMILY

08:00 Sunday Mass Concelebration

Rector Major, President

09:00 Breakfast

10:00 Concluding Encounter (Aula Magna)

- Prayer
- Video
- Presentation of Group Work according to Family Group
- Evaluation
- Talk by the Rector Major

12:30 Dinner

Farewell