If thou does not light our way,
Ever from thee must we stray;
Sinful man with grace inspire!

What is stained by sin, renew;
What is dry, with grace bedew;
Strength to wounded souls restore!
Coldness with thy ardor burn;
Willfulness to wisdom turn;
Crooked ways make straight once more!

To thy people come in love;
All our hope is from above;
With thy sevenfold grace descend!
Come with virtues high reward;
Come in death as living Lord;
Come with joy that knows no end!
Marian Prayer

PRAYER TO MARY

The certainty of belonging "to a religious family that is all Mary’s" and our duty to carry on her motherly mission among the young stimulate us to feel her presence in our lives. From early morning we proclaim her special cooperation in the mystery of salvation, and entrust our vocation, the Church and all of humankind to her motherly assistance. Whenever the meditation is substituted by a homily at Mass, to which Lauds are also joined, the prayer to Mary opens morning prayer.

Ordinary Time – The Angelus

Leader: Let us contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God with the angel's greeting to our Lady.

V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

V. Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
R. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to your word.

Invocations to the Holy Spirit

And Thee the Spirit of them Both
Thrice-blessed Three in One.

All glory to the Father be,
And to the risen Son;
The same to Thee, O Paraclete,
While endless ages run.

COME, O SPIRIT FROM ON HIGH

Come, O Spirit, from on high!
Shine upon our inward eye,
Pierce the blindness of our sight!
Come, O Kinsman, to our aid;
Come with gifts that never fade;
Come and bathe us in thy light!

Come, Consoler Spirit best,
Troubled Soul’s most welcome Guest,
Soothing hand on fevered brow!
Restful ease in toil and stress,
Cooling wind when heats oppress,
Comfort in all grief art thou!

Light of lights in darkness shine,
Flood our hearts with light divine,
Burn within us, living Fire!
VENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator come,
From Thy bright heavenly throne!
Come, take possession of our souls,
And make them all Thine own!

Thou who art called the Paraclete,
Best Gift of God above,
The Living Spring, the Living Fire,
Sweet Unction, and True Love!

Thou who art seven-fold in Thy grace,
Finger of God’s right Hand,
His promise, teaching little ones
To speak and understand!

O guide our minds with Thy blest light,
With love our hearts inflame,
And with Thy strength which ne’er decays
Confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our hellish foe,
True peace unto us bring,
And through all perils guide us safe
Beneath Thy sacred wing.

Through Thee may we the Father know,
Through Thee the Eternal Son,
Easter season – The Regina Caeli
Leader: Let us proclaim the Resurrection of the Lord, uniting ourselves to the joy of Mary.

V. Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
R. For he whom you did merit to bear, alleluia,

V. Has risen as he said, alleluia.
R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, 0 Virgin Mary, alleluia,
R. Because the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

V. Let us pray. O God, who, by the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, have vouchsafed to make glad the whole world, grant, we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life. Through this same Jesus Christ, our Lord.
R. Amen.

(The Gloria is said three times.)

The Entrustment to Mary
Leader: Let us entrust our fidelity to our vocation to Mary, our Mother and our Help.

Devotional Prayer
in order to live with them that Salesian holiness to which we are called. Amen.

O St. Dominic Savio,
you who learned at the school of St. John Bosco to pass in holiness all the days of your youth, help us to imitate you in love for Jesus, your devotion to Mary, and your zeal for souls. Pray that we, too, by resolving to die rather than sin may obtain our eternal salvation. Amen.

O Blessed Laura Vicuña,
little flower of purity, model of youth, lovely child of Our Lady, you who followed Christ to the point of heroism, hear our confident prayer. Obtain for us the graces we need. Help us, especially teenagers, to love and serve God with joy. Accompany us on our journey to holiness. Blessed Laura Vicuna, pray for us! Amen.
Prayers to Salesian Saints

O Mary, Most Powerful Virgin,
Great and illustrious defender of the Church,
Wonderful Help of Christians,
Formidable as an army in battle array,
You who alone have overcome every heresy in the world,
in our anguish, in our combats, in our difficulties,
defend us from the Enemy
and at the hour of our death
receive our souls into Paradise. Amen.

O St. John Bosco,
Father and Teacher of Youth,
you who worked so much for the salvation of souls,
be our guide in seeking good for our souls and
the salvation of our neighbor;
help us conquer our passions and human respect;
teach us to love Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament,
Mary Help of Christians, and the Pope;
and obtain for us from God a happy death,
so that one day we will join you in Heaven. Amen.

O Saint Mary Mazzarello
in docility to God’s work in you,
with creative fidelity
you lived Don Bosco’s educative project.
Intercede for us with the Father
that we may follow your example
and give ourselves totally to the young

0 Mary Help of Christians, Immaculate Mother of Christ and of the Church, we entrust ourselves entirely to you.

You inspired our Institute; continue to be its Mother and Teacher.

Help us carry on the salvific mission of Christ that, wherever we go, we may be a sign and expression of his love, according to the spirit of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello.

Open our hearts to receive the Word of God that we may witness to it in joyful simplicity, purity of heart and foreseeing goodness.

Grant that we may be living stones of the Church to carry on her mission, working in communion of life and action with the Pope, our bishops and the entire Salesian Family.

Grant your special protection to our relatives, benefactors, past pupils and all the young people to whom we are sent to bring the good news of salvation.

Faithful Virgin, strengthen our fidelity, especially in times of trial, so that, day by day, we may be fully available for the education of the young, walking with them along the way of holiness for the glory of the Father. Amen.
Prayer for Peace in Our House and in the World

Leader: Through the intercession of Mary let us ask God for peace in our House and in the world.

Hail Mary...

Don Bosco wanted the Hail Mary said for the grace of removing whatever might disturb inner or outer peace.

Contemplative Prayer

Contemplatio: Read the passage a final time and allow God to speak in the silence. Allow three or four minutes of silence. (There is no mental activity in this part. Just “be” with God, allowing Him to speak to You. Ignore distractions. Let them pass by as clouds; do not give them any attention or try to drive them away. Just be with God.)

Oratio: Be aware of any prayer that rises up within that expresses the experience. Allow a minute or two of silence.

Share a prayer about what God said to you today.

Actio: After the resting, take the phrase, sentence, or word into your daily activity and listen to it, reflect on it, pray over it, and rest in it as time allows during the day. Allow it to become part of you.

Share the word, phrase, sentence, or resolution that you will live today

Conclude with a prayer of Thanksgiving, Hail Mary, invocation to Mary, and Sign of the Cross.
You will not see anyone who is really striving after his advancement who is not given to spiritual reading. And as to him who neglects it, the fact will soon be observed by his progress.”

-from an Easter letter by Saint Athanasius.

A Modified Scholastic Form of Lectio Divina combined with Faith Sharing

The scholastic form divides the process into stages or steps in a hierarchical pattern. The scholastic method is a good way to learn Lectio Divina whether privately or in a group.

Begin with a hymn or prayer to the Holy Spirit. (q.v.)

Lectio: Read the passage, encouraging everyone to listen with the "ear of their heart." What phrase, sentence or even one word stands out to you?

Share the word, phrase, or sentence which is tugging at your heart

Meditatio: Read the passage again and on the word of God. Encourage everyone to be aware of what touches them, a thought or reflection that is meaningful. Allow a minute or two of silence.

Share a reflection on the thought above – what it means to you now, today

THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION – HOLY MASS

The Eucharist is the center of our day, the moment in which our community life is built up and renewed. It is the source and culmination of our prayer.

The celebration consists of two complementary parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. "These are so intimately connected that they form one act of worship. Indeed, in the Mass, the table of the Word of God and of the Body of Christ is prepared for the instruction and nourishment of the faithful."

"When the Sacred Scriptures are read, God Himself is speaking to His people. His Word enlightens the mind and moves the heart; it arouses faith, conversion and commitment. The assembly, animated by the Holy Spirit, responds to the Word by celebrating, making present the mystery that is proclaimed; that is, by ‘making Eucharist,’” re-enacting the mystery of Christ.

Every community shares in the priesthood of Christ in the Eucharistic Assembly, by offering the Eucharistic sacrifice in union with the celebrant, learning to offer itself in charity for the building of the community. Shunning every kind of individualism and division, our common participation is expressed also in the movements and gestures we make together,
and in giving our joyful service, without neglecting our own daily, personal preparation.

PRAYER BEFORE THE EUCHARIST

Prayer before the tabernacle helps us relive the dimensions of the Eucharistic Celebration: offering, thanksgiving, imploring universal salvation and the Trinitarian dimension."

Our Constitutions exhort us to remain before Jesus, present in the tabernacle, "placing ourselves before Him in love and trust, to listen to Him and to thank Him, letting ourselves be fired by His desire for our salvation and learning the secret of authentic dialogue with our neighbor."

The structure of our community prayer before the Eucharist will normally follow that of our practices of piety: the proclamation of the Word and a response.

Besides the formulae presented by way of suggestion, texts from the Liturgy of the day may also be used. This prayer is addressed to the Lord Jesus, or to the Father, through Christ, in the Spirit. Within this framework of contents other elements of our Salesian piety may be introduced (e.g., the invocation to Mary, the prayers to Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, for the Pope, etc.)

Leader: Merciful Lord. you called your priest Saint John Bosco, to be a father and teacher of youth and with the help of the Virgin Mary to work with tireless zeal for the Church.

R. Impelled by love like his, may we seek souls and serve you alone.

Leader: Lord, you made Saint Mary Mazzarello, renowned for her humility and charity, a shining example of Christian and religious life.

R. May we seek the truth with simplicity of heart and bear witness to it with our deeds. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONCLUSION

Blessed and praised every moment be the most holy and divine Sacrament.

Leader: Mary, Help of Christians, R. pray for us.

In the Name of the Father...
INVOCATIONS TO DON BOSCO AND MOTHER MAZZARELLO

Leader: Let us invoke Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello that, following their example, we may make our lives a continuous gift of self to God, the community, and the young. Together let us say: Pray for us.

- That, following your example, we may spend our lives in continuous union with God...
- That we may be diligent in our work as you were...
- That we may love youth as you did...
- That, like you, we may live the Eucharistic mystery and Imitate Mary Help of Christians...

Leader: Let us pray to Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello that/following their example, our lives may become a continuous gift of self to God, working for the salvation of young people. Together let us say: Pray for us.

That, inwardly unified in the will of the Father, we may be true contemplatives in action, we ask you...

That our love for Christ and for Mary Help of Christians may help us to live our pastoral charity toward the young with responsibility and optimism, we ask you...

or

INTRODUCTION

Leader: In the Name of the Father...

The love of Jesus Christ has called us together in his presence. United in him, let us pray:

R. Lord Jesus, reign forever among us. Grant that one day, in company with all the Blessed, we may contemplate your face in glory, and delight in this great and unique joy for all eternity. Amen.

V. That, as a pledge of our love for the living God, we may love one another with sincere affection. Let us pray.

R. Lord Jesus, reign forever among us; grant us your Spirit and help us to overcome all selfishness that we may love everyone as our brother and be signs of the foreseeing love of the Father in our mission. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE THE EUCHARIST - FRIDAY

PRAYER TO INVOKE THE MERCY OF GOD

Leader: The Eucharist makes God’s gratuitous and total love present among us, for in Christ Jesus, his Son, He has loved us to the point of giving his life for us.

To celebrate the Eucharist means to accept this merciful and faithful love of God, for it is more powerful than our unfaithfulness.
Reader: "Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness." (1 Pt. 2:21-24)

or

"When the kindness and love of God our Savior for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our Savior. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life." (Ti. 3:4-7)

or

"My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended You? Answer me!

I led you out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom, but you led your Savior to the cross.

My people, what have I done to you? How
loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still-running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me." (Phil. 3:7-12)

brief pause

Leader: Let us ask God for fidelity to our vocation, saying together: Lord, grant us your Spirit.

R. Lord, grant us your Spirit.

• That, animated by the spirit of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, we may be faithful to our vocation, living the evangelical beatitudes radically, we pray:

• That, faithful to the commitments we assumed at our religious profession, and nourished daily at the Eucharistic banquet, we may hasten the coming of

brief pause

Leader: Let us implore the forgiveness and mercy of the Lord Jesus for ourselves and for all men. Together let us say: Show us your mercy, Lord.

R. Show us your mercy, Lord.

• For your Church, which is both holy and ever in need of conversion; that she may draw courage for her continual service to the brethren, from communion at the sacrificial banquet, we pray:

• For all those who believe in God, but fail to recognize that he has spoken through you; that you became a man for us, and that you are present in the Church and in the world, we pray:

• For all those who abuse every kind of power to hinder dialogue, peace, justice, the search for truth and the freedom of peoples, we pray:
For all those who fail to appreciate the gift of life or who impede its growth through different forms of manipulation and violence, we pray:

- For our community, which is not always ready to be converted to the demands of its consecration to you for the Christian education of the young, we pray:

Leader: *Let us call on Mary who stood by the cross, suffering deeply with her Son. With a mother's heart, she united herself with his sacrifice and his offering of self to the Father.*

R. *Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope, to you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. 0 clement, 0 loving, 0 sweet Virgin Mary.*

**INVOCATIONS TO DON BOSCO AND MARY MAZZARELLO**

*(q.v.: follow Saturday’s Prayer Before the Eucharist)*

**Eucharistic Prayer**

**PRAYER BEFORE THE EUCHARIST - SATURDAY**

**PRAYER FOR FIDELITY TO OUR VOCATION**

**INTRODUCTION (q.v.)**

Leader: *In the Eucharist the Spirit makes us sharers in the life of Christ, and calls us to become, like him, a total offering to the Father for the salvation of the young. In the grace of the Spirit, we can live like Mary, detached from all that is vanity, and fully available to the will of God.*

Reader: "His mother and brothers now arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you.' He replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.' (Mk. 3:31-35)

or

"Because of Christ, I have come to consider all these advantages that I had as disadvantages. Not only that, but I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the