

MONTHLY MESSAGE

n. 5 – 2019

Turin - Valdocco 24 May



MARY URGES US TO BE THE JOY OF THE RISEN JESUS

Dear friends, with great joy, gratitude and a spirit of adoration we celebrated the 150th anniversary of our Association's foundation on Holy Thursday, 18 April, in Turin and in many parts of the world. There is no better way to express what we experienced than with this prayer:



THANK YOU, JESUS, FOR YOUR GIFT OF LOVE
THANK YOU, JESUS, FOR YOUR PRESENCE AMONG US
*You willed to eat the Passover meal with us
You gave us your Mother, Mary.
You call us to wash each other's feet.
You want Don Bosco and his spirit to be alive
in our homes and in the new generations.
You entrust us to the Holy Family of Nazareth.
Thank you for the 150th anniversary of the Association of Mary
Help of Christians:
She is the woman who believes and a woman of the Eucharist.
She is our Mother, Guide and Teacher.*

Let us live the Easter season, time of resurrection, time of Cenacle, with Mary Help of Christians and Mother of the Church. Our Lady wants us to be love, because Jesus died on the cross out of love. Jesus is the one who healed and still heals today. He is the one who died and rose again and who fills so many hearts today and gives new life to so many people who were dead. Mary invites us and urges us to rise from sin, from a mediocre life, from a dead faith and start a new life. **To be members of ADMA is above all to be men and women of faith**, men and women entrusted to Mary Help of Christians who testify by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Lord's resurrection: Jesus is alive! Jesus is risen!

May Mary Help of Christians help us in the fight against Satan, who blows the wind of hatred, restlessness and disorder. Even today there are so many of our brothers and sisters who are persecuted and killed for Jesus, as happened on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka and as happens many missionaries. We need to witness our faith in Jesus and our experience of God.

When we have met Jesus, we have something in us that we can pass on to others. **We are proud and happy to be Christians**, and not afraid or ashamed of being Christians, because we are risen in Christ. We too with our experience, with our life and our faith, must say: "I have seen him, I hear him, I believe". We must bear witness. Too many Christians today lack the strength to testify in a simple and open way. Sometimes we are ashamed, we also let ourselves be taken by the wind of fear, of indifference or resignation. This is why Our Lady tells us to pray and to love, because when we pray and love the devil can do nothing.

As Don Bosco used to say: "*Let us therefore avail of this month of hers, her novena, and her feast to entrust ourselves to the Blessed Virgin Help of Christians*"

Renato Valera, President
Fr Pierluigi Cameroni SDB, Spiritual Animator

RMG - ADMA's 150th: video-message of the Rector Major



(ANS - Rome) - On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA), Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, Rector Major, sent his greetings and a message to ADMA members and to all the members of the Salesian Family, highlighting the value of the Eucharist and entrustment to the Help of Christians in Salesian spirituality.

Significantly, the Rector Major sends this message from the Basilica of the Sacro Cuore of Rome, before the altar of the Help of Christians, recalling how it was here that Don Bosco received confirmation of his mission carried out under the guidance and protection of Mary.

Finally, he announced the publication of a letter on the occasion of this anniversary and spoke of the celebration of the VIII International Congress of Mary Help of Christians, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 17 to 10 November this year.

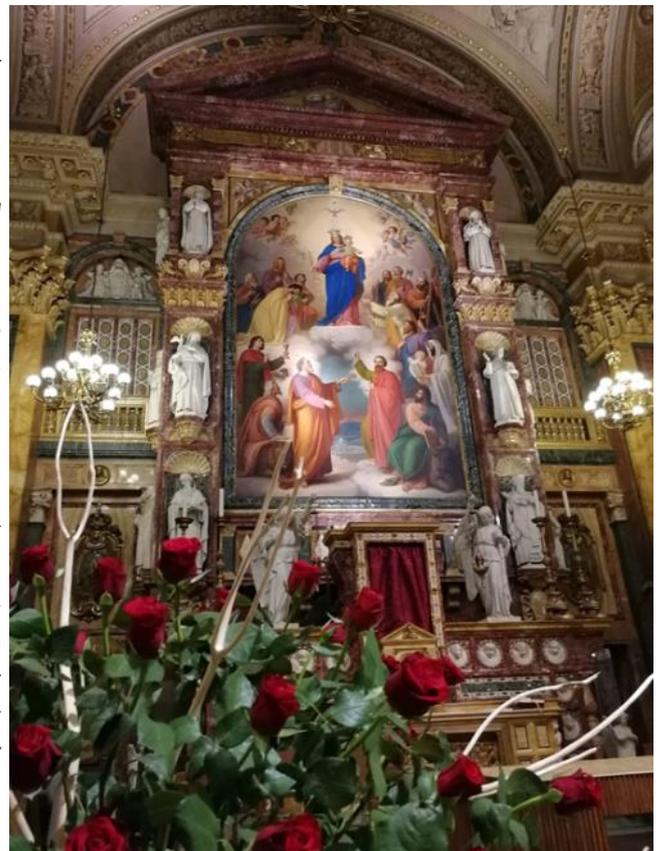
The following is the text of the message of the Rector Major:

My dear brothers and sisters of the Salesian Family throughout the world, receive my affectionate greeting on this Palm Sunday. I greet you today because on Holy Thursday, in four days, the 150th anniversary of the foundation of what we now call the "Association of Mary Help of Christians" will be celebrated which at the time was the Archconfraternity of Mary Help of Christians.

In the foundation document, one reads a text by our beloved Father Don Bosco.

"In the church dedicated to Mary Help of Christians in Turin and with the authorization of the Reverend Archbishop of Turin, the Association of devotees who intend to promote the glory of the divine Mother of the Savior is canonically constituted, to merit your protection, in life and in particular at the moment of death. There are two means offered as special means: extend the devotion to the Blessed Virgin and the veneration to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament".

We read it in the document of Catholic readings that communicate this message, because it is an occasion to say that what we are celebrating is something beautiful. Although what I have just read to you is the beginning of the letter that I am going to render public for the whole Salesian Family, today I just want you to get a greeting from the altar of this site, the altar of Mary Help of Christians in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.



The altar that I like to call "Don Bosco's tears and sobs", because in this place Don Bosco had that manifestation of what his life was, entirely accompanied, without doubt, by the Lord who has always guided him with the unique and special protection of the Mother.

Because "She did everything", as Don Bosco used to say. My words of today are congratulations for these 150 important years for the whole Salesian world, for our Salesian Family, for the 800 legally constituted groups of our "ADMA" Association.

And it is an invitation to fulfill what Don Bosco proposed: extend devotion to our Mother Mary Help of Christians, with the certainty that with the Eucharist and with Her, our Mother, we have these two great pillars that personally support our life, the Salesian Family and the Church.

I take this opportunity to remind the whole Salesian Family that, under the guidance of the association of Mary Help of Christians, we shall celebrate

at the end of the year, in the last part, the World Marian Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where Mary will be proposed as a model of faith for all of you, dear brothers and sisters.

My affectionate greeting, my words of encouragement and my prayer before our Mother Help of Christians, for all of you, for our Congregations, Institutes, Families and Communities.

See you soon!

The video message of the Rector Major is available online on ANSChannel.



The paper can be read at the following site:

www.admadonbosco.org

For every communication you can contact

the following email address: pcameroni@sdb.org

Formation Programme 2018-2019: With Mary, the woman who believes

150th foundation of ADMA (18 April 2019)
8th International Congress of Mary Help of Christians
(Argentina 7-10 November 2019)

Fr Pierluigi Cameroni
World spiritual animator



8. May: *The Rosary – A Compendium of the whole Gospel*

Del 7 al 10 de noviembre de 2019. Buenos Aires, Argentina

1. The Rosary, a gospel prayer

Thus, for instance, the Gospel inspiration of the Rosary has appeared more clearly: the Rosary draws from the Gospel the presentation of the mysteries and its main formulas. As it moves from the angel's joyful greeting and the Virgin's pious assent, the Rosary takes its inspiration from the Gospel to suggest the attitude with which the faithful should recite it. In the harmonious succession of Hail Mary's the Rosary puts before us once more a fundamental mystery of the Gospel - the Incarnation of the Word, contemplated at the decisive moment of the Annunciation to Mary. The Rosary is thus a Gospel prayer, as pastors and scholars like to define it, more today perhaps than in the past.

It has also been more easily seen how the orderly and gradual unfolding of the Rosary reflects the very way in which the Word of God, mercifully entering into human affairs, brought about the Redemption. The Rosary considers in harmonious succession the principal salvific events accomplished in Christ, from His virginal conception and the mysteries of His childhood to the culminating moments of the Passover - the blessed passion and the glorious resurrection - and to the effects of this on the infant Church on the day of Pentecost, and on the Virgin Mary when at the end of her earthly life she was assumed body and soul into her heavenly home. It has also been observed that the division of the mysteries of the Rosary into three parts not only adheres strictly to the chronological order of the facts but above all reflects the plan of the original proclamation of the Faith and sets forth once more the mystery of Christ in the very way in which it is seen by Saint Paul in the celebrated "hymn" of the Letter to the Philippians - kenosis, death and exaltation (Phil. 2:6-11).

As a Gospel prayer, centred on the mystery of the redemptive Incarnation, the Rosary is therefore a prayer with a clearly Christological orientation. Its most characteristic element, in fact, the litany-like succession of Hail Mary's, becomes in itself an unceasing praise of Christ, who is the ultimate object both of the angel's announcement and of the greeting of the mother of John the Baptist: "Blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Lk. 1:42). We would go further and say that the succession of Hail Mary's constitutes the warp on which is woven the contemplation of the mysteries. The Jesus that each Hail Mary recalls is the same Jesus whom the succession of the mysteries proposes to us - now as the Son of God, now as the Son of the Virgin - at His birth in a stable at Bethlehem, at His presentation by His Mother in the Temple, as a youth full of zeal for His Father's affairs, as the Redeemer in agony in the garden, scourged and crowned with thorns, carrying the cross and dying on Calvary, risen from the dead and ascended to the glory of the Father to send forth the gift of the Spirit. As is well known, at one time there was a custom, still preserved in certain places, of adding to the name of Jesus in each Hail Mary reference to the mystery being contemplated.

And this was done precisely in order to help contemplation and to make the mind and the voice act in unison. There has also been felt with greater urgency the need to point out once more the importance of a further essential element in the Rosary, in addition to the value of the elements of praise and petition, namely the element of contemplation. Without this the Rosary is a body without a soul, and its recitation is in danger of becoming a mechanical repetition of formulas and of going counter to the warning of Christ: "And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will

be heard for their many words" (Mt. 6:7). By its nature the recitation of the Rosary calls for a quiet rhythm and a lingering pace, helping the individual to meditate on the mysteries of the Lord's life as seen through the eyes of her who was closest to the Lord. In this way the unfathomable riches of these mysteries are unfolded. (Marialis Cultus nn. 44-47).

2. The Mysteries of Light

In his Apostolic Letter "*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*" Pope John Paul II introduced the "Mysteries of light" into the recitation of the Rosary, stating that "Moving on from the infancy and the hidden life in Nazareth to the public life of Jesus, our contemplation brings us to those mysteries which may be called in a special way "mysteries of light". Certainly, the whole mystery of Christ is a mystery of light. He is the "light of the world" (Jn 8:12). Yet this truth emerges in a special way during the years of his public life, when he proclaims the Gospel of the Kingdom. In proposing to the Christian community five significant moments - "luminous" mysteries - during this phase of Christ's life, I think that the following can be fittingly singled out:

- (1) his Baptism in the Jordan,
 - (2) his self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana,
 - (3) his proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with his call to conversion,
 - (4) his Transfiguration,
- and finally, (5) his institution of the Eucharist, as the sacramental expression of the Paschal Mystery.

Each of these mysteries is a revelation of the Kingdom now present in the very person of Jesus. "In these mysteries, apart from the miracle at Cana, *the presence of Mary remains in the background*. The Gospels make only the briefest reference to her occasional presence at one moment or other during the preaching of Jesus (cf. Mk 3:31-5; Jn 2:12), and they give no indication that she was present at the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist. Yet the role she assumed at Cana in some way accompanies Christ throughout his ministry. The revelation made directly by the Father at the Baptism in the Jordan and echoed by John the Baptist is placed upon Mary's lips at Cana, and it becomes the great maternal counsel which Mary addresses to the Church of every age: "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5). This counsel is a fitting introduction to the words and signs of Christ's public ministry, and it forms the Marian foundation of all the "mysteries of light". (RVM, n. 21).

3. Don Bosco and the Rosary

All who knew John as a child testify to his love for prayer and his great devotion to Mary. "John must have been very familiar with the holy rosary, because from the earliest days of the Oratory up to the last years of his life, he always insisted that his boys recite it every day. He never subscribed to the idea that a religious community could be exempt from reciting these prayers for any reason at all. **In his view, it was a necessary practice of piety for proper living**, as important as his daily bread in sustaining his strength and keeping him alive."

Young John Bosco learned to love and pray the Rosary at the school of Mamma Margaret, as he himself recounted: "Her greatest care was given to instructing her sons in their religion, making them value obedience, and keeping them busy with tasks suited to their age. When I was still very small, she herself taught me to pray. As soon as I was old enough to join my brothers, she made me kneel with them morning and evening. We would all recite our prayers together, including the rosary." Mamma Margherita excels as a teacher of prayer, and prayer is a matter of family, of sharing of faith.

Describing the most common practices of piety in the Oratory, it was said: "... dearest to his heart was the holy rosary. For this reason, he had included [in the Companion of Youth] brief meditations for all fifteen mysteries. He had the boys recite a third part of the rosary every Sunday and holy day, and he exhorted them fervently to say it daily in their own homes, if at all possible. As long as he was the only priest at the Oratory, he would recite five decades with his mother every day; when boys began to board there, he had them recite it during Mass on weekdays. From the time the Oratory was established in Valdocco until the present day, its walls have echoed every morning to the words of this prayer so dear to the heart of Mary and so effective in times of trial for the

Church. Only once a year, was the rosary recited in its entirety in the chapel, on the eve of All Souls' Day, for the souls in purgatory. Don Bosco never failed to take part in it, kneeling in the sanctuary and often leading it himself."

It is good to remember that in his native village, the Becchi, on the ground floor of the house belonging to his brother Joseph, a small corner was adapted for use as a chapel and Don Bosco dedicated it to Our Lady of the Rosary. This little chapel was inaugurated by him on 8 October 1848 and the saint celebrated the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary there every year until 1869, solemnizing it with the presence of the band and the choir of the boys from Valdocco. This little chapel was Don Bosco's first centre of Marian devotion and it was to be a privileged witness of the beginnings of the Salesian Congregation. Here, in fact, on 3 October 1852, Michael Rua and Joseph Rocchietti received the clerical habit. Dominic Savio also prayed in this chapel on 2 October 1854, on the occasion of his first meeting with Don Bosco, and again in the next two years during the autumn holidays at the Becchi.

4. Family prayer

We now desire, as a continuation of the thought of our predecessors, to recommend strongly the recitation of the family Rosary. The Second Vatican Council has pointed out how the family, the primary and vital cell of society, "shows itself to be the domestic sanctuary of the Church through the mutual affection of its members and the common prayer they offer to God." The Christian family is thus seen to be a domestic Church" if its members, each according to his proper place and tasks, all together promote justice, practice works of mercy, devote themselves to helping their brethren, take part in the apostolate of the wider local community and play their part in its liturgical worship. This will be all the more true if together they offer up prayers to God. If this element of common prayer were missing, the family would lack its very character as a domestic Church. Thus there must logically follow a concrete effort to reinstate communal prayer in family life if there is to be a restoration of the theological concept of the family as the domestic Church.

But there is no doubt that, after the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, the high point which family prayer can reach, the Rosary should be considered as one of the best and most efficacious prayers in common that the Christian family is invited to recite. We like to think, and sincerely hope, that when the family gathering becomes a time of prayer, the Rosary is a frequent and favoured manner of praying. We are well aware that the changed conditions of life today do not make family gatherings easy, and that even when such a gathering is possible many circumstances make it difficult to turn it into an occasion of prayer. There is no doubt of the difficulty. But it is characteristic of the Christian in his manner of life not to give in to circumstances but to overcome them, not to succumb but to make an effort. Families which want to live in full measure the vocation and spirituality proper to the Christian family must therefore devote all their energies to overcoming the pressures that hinder family gatherings and prayer in common. (*Marialis Cultus* nn. 52.54).

5. How to recite it

The Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, according to the tradition accepted by our predecessor St. Pius V and authoritatively taught by him, consists of various elements disposed in an organic fashion:

- a) Contemplation in communion with Mary, of a series of mysteries of salvation, wisely distributed into three cycles. These mysteries express the joy of the messianic times, the salvific suffering of Christ and the glory of the Risen Lord which fills the Church. This contemplation by its very nature encourages practical reflection and provides stimulating norms for living.
- b) The Lord's Prayer, or Our Father, which by reason of its immense value is at the basis of Christian prayer and ennobles that prayer in its various expressions.
- c) The litany-like succession of the Hail Mary, which is made up of the angel's greeting to the Virgin (cf. Lk. 1:28), and of Elizabeth's greeting (cf. Lk. 1:42), followed by the ecclesial supplication, Holy Mary. The continued series of Hail Mary's is the special characteristic of the Rosary, and their number, in the full and typical number of one hundred and fifty, presents a certain analogy with the Psalter and is an

element that goes back to the very origin of the exercise of piety. But this number, divided, according to a well-tried custom, into decades attached to the individual mysteries, is distributed in the three cycles already mentioned, thus giving rise to the Rosary of fifty Hail Mary's as we know it. This latter has entered into use as the normal measure of the pious exercise and as such has been adopted by popular piety and approved by papal authority, which also enriched it with numerous indulgences.



d) The doxology Glory be to the Father which, in conformity with an orientation common to Christian piety concludes the prayer with the glorifying of God who is one and three, from whom, through whom and in whom all things have their being. (cf. Rom. 11:36). (Marialis Cultus n. 49).

FAMILY CHRONICLE

MEETING OF ADMA FAMILIES IN LOMBARDY

Between autumn 2018 and spring 2019, with the fraternal and active support of the PRIMARY ADMA, a group of Lombard families in the province of Milan and Brescia, with the participation of families from more distant places, started a common formation course with the theme "Couples and Families". The accompaniment and guidance of Fr Roberto Carelli, SDB, theologian and spiritual assistant of many ADMA families, was invaluable.



The meetings were held in three different Salesian Houses in the Province to facilitate communion and closeness to individual families.

As is now the tradition, a group of ADMA Youth entertained the youngest children, allowing parents to have time for formation and reflection. For meals and prayers, all came together in joy.

All the participants found great spiritual benefit. They discovered and rediscovered the beauty and joy of their sacred mission as parents and spouses, a reflection and sign on earth of God's love. They experienced the concrete possibility of this journey of holiness as a couple, with the support in friendship of other families, the richness of Salesian spirituality and the will of Don Bosco to entrust the families and their precious fruit, their children, to the maternal embrace of Mary Help of Christians and to the revitalizing comfort of the sacraments.

Every meeting was reinforced by the prayer of the Rosary and by the Holy Mass, all together under the mantle of Mary.

ADMA PUGLIA

On Sunday 31 March 2019, about 150 members of the Southern ADMA Province from Puglia and Campania, gathered at the Salesian Institute of Christ the Redeemer in Bari. After a festive welcome, Fr Angelo Draisci, Regional Delegate for the Salesian Family, presented the Monteroni group (LECCE), a diocesan group of 30 members from the parish church dedicated to Mary Help of Christians. Then the history of ADMA and the various initiatives planned at local and national level to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the foundation were presented.



Some testimonies of experiences lived during the year were given. The Eucharistic celebration followed. The Eucharistic celebration and the recitation of the Holy Rosary concluded this family meeting (Micheline Fares, Provincial President)