

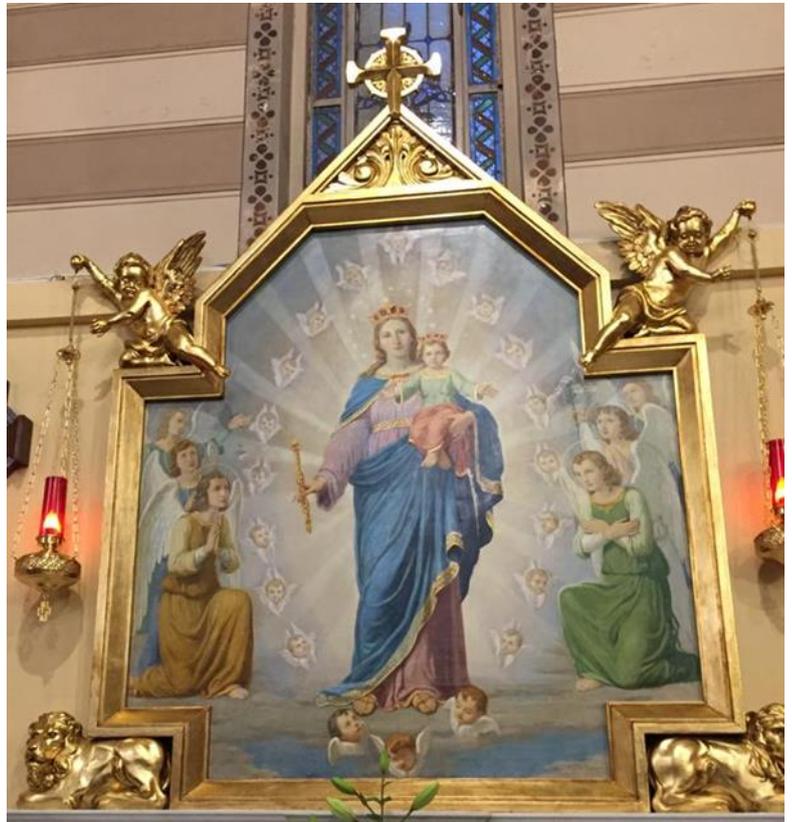
MARY URGES US TO BE WORTHY INSTRUMENTS IN THE HANDS OF GOD

Dear Friends,

We are celebrating more and more this year of grace of the 150th anniversary of the foundation of ADMA. In different parts of the world initiatives and meetings are being planned to commemorate this anniversary. A sign of vitality is the birth of new ADMA groups, among which we are happy to mention the first in Indonesia. On the Feast of Mary Help of Christians in Turin, we had a meeting of the World Consultative Body of the Salesian Family, the solemn Eucharistic celebration which recalled the 150th anniversary of the foundation of ADMA, and the celebration of the Eighth Congress of Mary Help of Christians. The Rector Major Don Angel emphasized how the Shrine of Valdocco is the **Home of Holiness**, where the first Salesian generations were formed, the **Home of Devotion** for our filial entrustment to the Immaculate Help of Christians, and the **Home of the Mission** from which the Salesian charism spread to the whole world under the maternal protection of Mary Help of Christians. We are truly experiencing Mary Help of Christians as **our Mother** who is with us, **our Teacher** who teaches us to be humble, strong and robust, and **our Guide** who accompanies us on the path of conversion and holiness, as she was for our father and founder Don Bosco.

We will celebrate this anniversary solemnly in Turin on Sunday **6 October** on the occasion of the **Marian Day** when the Rector Major will be present, and at world level we will have the opportunity to mark this anniversary in Buenos Aires at the Eighth International Congress of Mary Help of Christians from 7 to 10 November.

As a humble servant of the Lord, Mary always sought the will of God. That is what we should all do in order to live in God's grace. By entrusting ourselves to Mary Help of Christians with the confidence of children, we can be sure that the Lord's plan of salvation is realized in each of us, through us and through our Association. We do so for those who are far away, those who do not pray, who do not worship, who do not believe, or who are in sin. We are called to be anchors of salvation, magnets that attract to God, to be God's joy and blessing others. For this it is necessary to be faithful, assiduous and persevering in prayer as were the apostles with Mary in the upper room waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Our task is to be docile to the Holy Spirit, to be signs and bearers of God's love, and **to be instruments of peace and goodness in God's hands**.



*Renato Valera, President
Fr Pierluigi Cameroni SDB, Spiritual Animator*

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



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

9. June: Help of Christians, pray for us!

Christ is the only way to the Father (cf. Jn. 14:4-11), and the ultimate example to whom the disciple must conform his own conduct (cf. Jn. 13:15), to the extent of sharing Christ's sentiments (cf. Phil. 2:5), living His life and possessing His Spirit (cf. Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:10-11). The Church has always taught this and nothing in pastoral activity should obscure this doctrine. But the Church, taught by the Holy Spirit and benefiting from centuries of experience, recognizes that **devotion to the Blessed Virgin**, subordinated to worship of the divine Saviour and in connection with it, also **has a great pastoral effectiveness** and constitutes a force for renewing Christian living. It is easy to see the reason for this effectiveness. **Mary's many-sided mission to the People of God** is a supernatural reality which operates and bears fruit within the body of the Church. One finds cause for joy in considering the different aspects of this mission, and seeing how each of these aspects with its individual effectiveness is directed towards the same end, namely, producing in the children the spiritual characteristics of the first-born Son. The Virgin's maternal intercession, her exemplary holiness and the divine grace which is in her become for the human race a reason for divine hope.

The Blessed Virgin's role as Mother leads the People of God to turn with filial confidence to her who is ever ready to listen **with a mother's affection and efficacious assistance**. Thus the People of God have learned to call on her as the Consoler of the afflicted, the Health of the sick, and the Refuge of sinners, that they may find comfort in tribulation, relief in sickness and liberating strength in guilt. For she, who is free from sin, leads her children to combat sin with energy and resoluteness. **This liberation from sin and evil** (cf. Mt. 6:13) - it must be repeated - is **the necessary premise for any renewal of Christian living**. (Marialis Cultus no.57).

1. Don Bosco, apostle of the Help of Christians

For Don Bosco, Help of Christians was not just a particular and original title, previously unknown. Rather, it was a call to the universal motherhood of Mary who intervened in the founding of her family, thus making it almost a shared work. It was a profound and unshakable conviction of Don Bosco that "She had done everything". We can have confidence in Mary. We can trust her. All this is in keeping with the Church's tradition which values the various public and private expressions of liturgy, doctrine, spirituality and popular piety recognized and authorized by the Church. In our time we will be able to implement the apostolic passion of "Da mihi animas, cetera tolle" only by anchoring ourselves to the great pillars of Salesian spirituality and pedagogy: the Eucharist and Mary Most Holy. From a renewed devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and to Our Lady Help of Christians new fraternal relationships will be built, capable of discernment and educational and pastoral action.

The defence and development of faith. Don Bosco's apostolic vision sees Marian devotion as an element of strength to consolidate and protect the Catholic faith of the Christian people. Preserving and defending the faith among the young and the ordinary people was Don Bosco's daily concern and the springboard of his apostolic initiatives. St John Paul II recognized this when he stressed that Don Bosco saw in Mary "the foundation of all his work now world-wide on behalf of youth and the promotion and defence of the faith. He loved to say that 'Mary had built herself a house', as if to underline how Our Lady miraculously inspired his entire spiritual and

apostolic journey as a great educator and, even more extensively, how Mary was placed by God as a help and support of the whole Church." (Angelus, 31 January 1988). This had been Don Bosco's purpose when he planned the church of Mary Help of Christians.

The choice for young people in need and the choice for ordinary working-class people go well together. The commitment of the Family of Don Bosco to accompany young people in their efforts to promote human development and faith highlights the Gospel values found among the poor, namely, the meaning of life and the hope of a better future.

2. ADMA

This year 2019 we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Don Bosco's founding of the Association of devotees of Mary Help of Christians. Don Bosco also started a movement of education to the faith for the ordinary people. He valued popular devotion and combined it with the wisdom of the gospel which answers the great questions of life. Our faith makes us intervene with initiatives that encourage us to commit ourselves to human promotion and the education of youth. Prayer, membership of the Association, Eucharistic life, fidelity to the Pope and to the pastors of the Church are expressions of our commitment and our testimony of life.

"The Association highlights and spreads popular Marian devotion in the Salesian Family, as an instrument of evangelization and advancement of the popular classes and needy youth." (ADMA Regulations art. 3).

ADMA's membership the Salesian Family is not generic but is rooted in the particular Marian devotion lived and spread by St John Bosco. The Marian character of the Association is one of the constitutive elements of the Salesian charism and spirit. It is from this membership that ADMA derives the commitment to participate in the youth and popular mission of the Salesian charism, enhancing the commitment to care, increase and defend the faith among the people of God.

"Today, when the faith is tested severely, and many sons and daughters of the People of God are exposed to tribulation because of their fidelity to the Lord Jesus, when humanity ... is experiencing a serious crisis of spiritual values, the Church feels the need for Mary's motherly intervention: to restore people's adherence to the one Lord and Saviour, to evangelize the world with the freshness and courage of early Christian times, to illuminate and guide the faith of communities and individuals, and in particular to educate young people to the Christian sense of life, following the example of Don Bosco who gave his whole life as father and teacher of the young." (John Paul II, *Angelus* 31 January 1988).

3. Popular piety

To defend and increase the faith of the people of God, the Church has always valued and supported the expressions of popular piety, in close relationship with and dependence on the liturgy. In particular, in the Salesian Family **the Commemoration of Mary Help of Christians on the 24th of the month is widespread, as well as the Novena and the Feast of Mary Help of Christians.** When we pray, when we recite the rosary, when we commemorate Mary Help of Christians, when we go on pilgrimage, we bring us all the people who need us. We cannot remain indifferent to family, educational, social, employment, political, and ecclesial situations of poverty, exploitation, violence, and loss of faith, without questioning ourselves about our task. Young people who are abandoned, full of fear, disoriented, with no prospect of the future, are the people to whom we are sent. They are entrusted to us by Mary Help of Christians as they were entrusted to Don Bosco in his dream at the age of nine. To the extent that we devote ourselves to the vulnerable members of society and in particular to young people, the world will recognize that we are sons and daughters of the Madonna of Don Bosco.

Our piety is not an end in itself. It is embodied in apostolic, educational and charitable works within the parish to which we belong, as a concrete expression of communion and collaboration with the local Church and manifestation of the Salesian charism in the ecclesial environment to which it belongs.



24 Maggio 2019
Festa di Maria Ausiliatrice



PRAYER TO MARY OUR HELP

*O Mary Help of Christians,
You who are immersed in the sea of light of the Trinity
and seated on a throne of clouds,
You who are crowned with stars as Queen of heaven
and earth,
You carry the Child, the Son of God,
And with open arms offer his grace to those who come
to you.
You are surrounded by a human crown
with Peter, Paul, the Apostles and the Evangelists,
who proclaim you as their queen.
You unite heaven and earth,
You who are already in heavenly glory, Mother of the
Church,
and of the pilgrim Church in the world,
make us tireless builders of the Kingdom,
fill us with the passion of "Da mihi animas",
make us signs of God's love for the little ones and the
poor,
protect us from the enemy and at the hour of death lead
us to eternal glory. Amen.*

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



RMG – 8th International Congress of Mary Help of Christians: all logistical information available

On the occasion of the beginning of the Marian month - May -, Fr Eusebio Muñoz, Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family, renews the invitation to the groups of the Salesian Family to participate in the VIII International Congress of Mary Help of Christians, to be held from 7 to 10 November 2019 in Buenos Aires (Argentina); its title: "With Mary, Woman who believes". All information on how to participate is available on the web cited below.

Many are the ways in which the Salesian Family continues the dream of Don Bosco, present in all the places where the poorest and least expect a response of humanity, with the sole desire of Don Bosco: "My dear children in Jesus Christ, near or far, I always think of you. I have only one desire: to see you happy in time and in eternity."

But this dream cannot be fulfilled with human strength alone: we must acknowledge, as Don Bosco did, that: "She did it all!"

Under the motto "With Mary, Woman who believes", the Salesian Family now wants to renew this entrustment to Mary Help of Christians, persevering in the commitment to receive and transmit the gift of faith. Promoted by the Association of Mary Help of Christians on the 150th anniversary of its foundation, the Congress is an **event aimed at the whole Salesian Family** that feels brought together by Mary Help of Christians, to thank her for the gifts she continually donates.

Directly addressing the superiors and leaders of the Groups of the Salesian Family, as well as to the Provincials of the Salesians of Don Bosco and to the Provincial Delegates of the Salesian Family, Fr Muñoz writes: "We are therefore all invited, especially the Groups of the Salesian Family, to promote and adhere to this event: we would like it to **encourage the participation of families and young people**. The Congress will in fact be dedicated to the accompaniment of young people and families on the path to holiness: "With Mary, Woman who believes", let us look at her who is not only a model, but also a guide and help in the journey of the young and those who accompany them. A commitment that is passed on from generation to generation."

By visiting the website dedicated to the International Congress it is possible to obtain all the necessary indications and logistic information: www.mariaauxiliadora2019.com.ar

FAMILY CHRONICLE

EAST TIMOR - "MARIA CI CHIAMA": 218 NEW ADMA MEMBERS FROM 35 AGGREGATED GROUPS



The ADMA of East Timor met on Saturday 11 May at the Marian Shrine of Fatumaca to celebrate the enrolment of 218 new members, belonging to the 35 aggregate groups present in East Timor. Thus, in this year when ADMA celebrates the 150th anniversary of its foundation, the Timorese national ADMA records a "boom" of memberships never

seen before bringing the total number of its members to 1070.

A total of 800 people attended the Fatumaca celebration, including the President of the national ADMA, **Maria de Fatima Imaculada Correira da Costa Belo**, and the national spiritual animator, **Fr Manuel da Silva Ximenes**.

The program of activities opened with the initial prayer by don José de Sá. Subsequently the President welcomed all the participants and made a brief introduction on the importance of the vocation of ADMA, saying in the local language "**MARIA mak BOLU ITA**" - "**Maria calls us!**". He then emphasized how the members of ADMA continue to spread devotion to the two columns of Don Bosco's spirituality: Jesus in the Eucharist and Mary Help of Christians.

The day then continued with a presentation of the history of ADMA by don da Silva Ximenes, developed from the motto "**Hic domus mea, inde Gloria mea**" (Here is my home, hence my glory). The speaker also presented the messages sent by the President of the Primary ADMA, Renato Valera, and by the World Spiritual Animator, Fr Pierluigi Cameroni: "Love your vocation in ADMA not only for the quantity, but by being quality members."

Then a short video message from the Rector Major was shown for the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the ADMA, much appreciated by all present, and the Secretary General of the national ADMA, Joao Brito, illustrated the calendar of activities for the 150th anniversary in East Timor. It includes choral, poetry and quiz competitions on the history of ADMA, and will conclude with a triduum of events, from 13 to 15 December, at the cathedral of Baucau.

The activities of the national gathering came to a climax with the final Eucharist, presided over by the Superior of East Timor, **Fr Apolinario Maria Ornai Neto**.

WORLD CONSULTATIVE BODY OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY 2019: SYNODALITY, HOLINESS, SPIRITUALITY

The consultative body met in Turin immediately before the feast of Mary Help of Christians in fraternal sharing and in common Marian devotion to discern together how to cooperate for the good of the youth of the world. This was the purpose of the gathering of the World Consultative Body of the Salesian Family, held from Tuesday 21 May to Thursday 23, at the Mother House in Valdocco, Turin. About 60 people attended the event, including Superiors, leaders, spiritual assistants or Delegates of the various groups of the Salesian Family representing 25 of the 32 Groups of the Salesian Family.

The days were initially dedicated to the Salesian study of the Synod of Bishops on young people, with the help of some suggestions offered by Fr Rossano Sala, SDB, Special Secretary of the Synod: entering the synodal path; being open to the missionary spirit, allowing oneself to be shaped by the Eucharist and putting the grace of Baptism to good use; being part of the youth situation with the compassion of Don Bosco; learning the *humus* of discernment.

Later the time was dedicated to **a study of the 2019 Strenna on holiness**, through the contributions of Dr. **Lodovica Maria Zanet**, Collaborator in the office of the Postulator. She presented the theme of the **anthropology of holiness and the principles and dynamics of life according to the Spirit**: ability to love the poverty of one's own path; in agreement with other ecclesial spiritualities and sensibilities; animated by the principle of reality.

Fr **Pierluigi Cameroni**, Postulator General of the Causes of Saints of the Salesian Family, presented the holiness of the Salesian Family in all its variety and richness and in the beauty of the various incarnations that flourished over time and in history. He also presented a **theological-spiritual reading of the charismatic identity card**, which deals with Salesian spirituality. The mini-pilgrimage to Valdocco as "the land of holiness" was also celebrated with fervour.

A much appreciated moment was the **presentation of some of the groups of the Salesian Family**: the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians with a rich history of sanctity and educative-pastoral commitment; the Association of Mary Help of Christians celebrating its 150th anniversary this year; the Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart, founded by Msgr. Giuseppe Cognata, who incarnate the self-sacrifice dimension of the charism in a special way; the Sisters of the Resurrection who work with the indigenous peoples of Guatemala; the Sisters of St Michael the Archangel and the Daughters of the Divine Saviour.



INDONESIA - WEEPENGALI (SUMBA) - FIRST ADMA GROUP



On the occasion of the solemnity of Mary Help of Christians and the 150th anniversary of the foundation of ADMA, the first ADMA group in Indonesia was established on the island of Sumba. The group consists of a number of women from the municipality of Palla, who for some years had gathered with the intention of sharing their love for Mary and imitating her virtues, especially through attention to those in need and to the sick. The group met once a week to pray the Rosary together and was always available to visit the sick and

pray in their homes.

The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians arrived in the country and met with the members of the group. After some time, they began to share with the group their devotion to Mary Help of Christians and the Salesian charism. Attracted by the proposal, the group began its journey some years ago, meeting every 24th of the month for a formative meeting and the Eucharistic celebration, finally arriving today at the admission of 25 new members, the first in Indonesia!

Now there are already other people who want to join, some are the husbands of the ladies who are part of the group, and who have begun to participate in the activities. We entrust this newborn group to Mary Help of Christians to produce fruits of charity in the territory in which they live.

THAILAND - CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ADMA

Bangkok, Thailand - April 2019 - On the evening of 24 April, members of the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA) of Thailand gathered to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the association (1869-2019). Fr John Lissandrin, first chaplain of ADMA, presided over the Eucharistic celebration, concelebrated by Fr Francis Cais, Provincial Delegate for the Salesian Family, Fr John Tamayo, formerly ADMA chaplain, and Fr Aaron Alcosoba, current ADMA chaplain. During the celebration, attended by numerous faithful of the Church of Mary Help of Christians, the members of ADMA renewed their promise. At the end of the Eucharist there was a procession with the statue of Mary Help of Christians in the area adjacent to the church. ADMA in Thailand was founded 16 years ago by Fr Cais when the first 20 members of the Association made their promise. Currently there are 50 members.

