

MARY EXHORTS US TO PRAY, WORK AND BEAR WITNESS TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD WITH LOVE

Dear friends, we are living a year of grace! Let us praise God, Mary Help of Christians and Don Bosco for all the gifts we are receiving as an Association and for the journey of renewal of ADMA. In the month of October, which Pope Francis wanted as an extraordinary missionary month, we revive the apostolic zeal of our Association. We are present in numerous nations of the world and therefore we can pray, work and bear loving witness to the Kingdom of God. Let us commit ourselves with sacrifice and passion so that many, especially those who are far away and those who do not believe, may be touched by the grace of conversion. With the Rosary in our hands, let us witness that we are Mary's and let us decide for the path of holiness.

Two great events of this 150th anniversary of the foundation of ADMA are approaching

1. On Sunday 6th October in Turin, Marian Day will be celebrated with the presence of numerous ADMA groups from all over Italy. The Rector Major will be with us to officially deliver his letter to the Association written on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the foundation: 'Entrust, have trust and smile'.

2. From 7th to 10th November, the VIII International Congress of Mary Help of Christians will be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina), entitled "With Mary, the woman who believes". It is an event of the Salesian Family promoted by ADMA.



Finally, as you can see from this issue, there is the formative journey for the year 2019-2020 in which we want to reaffirm the heart of ADMA: an association promoted by Don Bosco for the growth and defense of the faithful Christian people: **Anchored in the two columns: Jesus and the Eucharist and Mary-Immaculate Help of Christians**. It is a proposal for a journey that presents the centrality of the Eucharist celebrated, adored and lived and at the same time the entrustment to Mary Help of Christians, through the monthly renewal of the Letter of the Rector Major.

Sig. Renato Valera, President

Don Pierluigi Cameroni SDB, Spiritual Animator

"Entrust, have trust and smile!"

**Rector Major's Letter
on 150th anniversary of ADMA's foundation**

"Entrust, have trust and smile!" This is the title of the letter addressed by the Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, to the Salesians and to the whole Salesian Family on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA), promoted by Don Bosco on 18 April 1869, one year after the consecration of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians at Valdocco.

Fr Á.F. Artime urges renewing the Marian dimension of the Salesian vocation, examining the convictions and making a careful evaluation of own's devotion to the Help of Christians as Salesians of Don Bosco, undoubtedly a useful proposal for the entire Salesian Family throughout the world, and making current the appeal Fr Egidio Viganò addressed in his time when he invited Salesians to "make a place for Our Lady in our home."

With the desire to make Mary Help of Christians ever more at home with us, a simple reflection is offered on Salesian attachment to the Eucharist and to Mary Help of Christians on the path followed in these 150 years since ADMA's foundation, on the popular nature of the Salesian charism that was consigned over time as a treasure to be guarded, and on the path to embark upon "from the house of Mary to our own homes."

The letter goes on to say that in harmony with this year's Strenna, it must be remembered that there is no way to sanctity without the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the keystone for the radical conversion of the heart to the love of God. Trust in Mary is a condition for living the baptismal grace and maturing it through the journey of faith, convinced that She takes us "by the hand to a meeting with her Son Jesus, the Son of God the Father."

"Devotion to Mary Help of Christians was understood and promoted by Don Bosco precisely from the point of view of the help and the defense of the faith of the people of God, tempted by ideologies that removed the Christian sense of the meaning of life, and by many movements that attacked the faith and unity of the Church founded on the solid rock of Peter's profession of faith."

With ADMA, Don Bosco wished to offer Christians an itinerary of sanctification and apostolate that is simple and accessible to all, with the intent of defending and promoting the faith of the people and enhancing the contents of popular religiosity.

In conclusion, the Rector Major writes: "While we give thanks for these 150 years in the life of the Association of Mary Help of Christians let us commit ourselves in fidelity to the charism of the holy founder of our Salesian Family, to allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit in a renewed evangelizing and educative zeal... The essential aspect of this evangelizing zeal consists in the renewal of the Association and giving special attention to the family and to the new generations."

Following these guidelines, a call to remaining faithful to the footsteps or path traveled by Don Bosco whose devotion to the divine Mother of the Saviour characterized and strongly marked all his spirituality and his pastoral and educative actions.



Formative Journey 2019-2020
Anchored to the two columns: Jesus the Eucharist and Mary Immaculate-Helper

Luis Fernando Álvarez González, sdb

1. "Do this in remembrance of me" - First part



When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. (Lk 22, 14-20).

The Eucharist is the most repeated and celebrated sacrament of all. However, never is one Eucharistic celebration the same as another. Nevertheless, some Christians celebrate it with routine, reducing it to a simple rite or to any devotion. Others do not fully understand its importance in the life of the Christian. Some live it with great faith, recognizing in it the strongest bond that unites them to Jesus Christ. And how do you live it?

It is worth remembering that in celebrating the Eucharist the followers of Jesus do not do so out of simple devotion, but to put into practice the last recommendation of the Master on the night on which he was delivered: "Do this in memory of me".

These words of Jesus, spoken at his farewell from this world and from his own, create a profound relationship between Christ and those who celebrate the Eucharist: the closest bond of friendship that exists between the disciples and the Lord. "You will be my friends, if you do what I command you.

The Eucharist that the Lord commanded us to celebrate

The Church, from its origins, has never stopped obeying this command of her Lord. And she celebrated the Eucharist with a rite that has remained unchanged since the second century: the gathering, the proclamation of the Word, the Eucharistic liturgy and the sending. The two central moments are the liturgy of the Word and the Eucharistic liturgy. This fundamental structure is also found in the narration of Emmaus (Lk 24), when the risen Jesus presented himself to Cleopas and the other disciple, who, discouraged, went away from Jerusalem: he met them in person along the way, explains the Scriptures, sits at the table with them: "He took the bread, pronounced the blessing, broke it and gave it". This is exactly what we still do today "in memory of Jesus", our friend, our brother, our only Lord.

According to this, in the celebration of the Eucharist, a double table is prepared for us: the table of the Word and the table of the Body of the Lord. This basic ritual scheme determines the distribution of the celebratory space (ambo and altar) and has been enriched over time with rites and prayers that have been gradually added.

The Church: a people who come together

The first thing that is observed in the Mass is a group of people gathered. The Church that Jesus wanted does not exist in order to be continually reunited, but rather to live daily dispersed in the world as salt and light, yeast in the dough; precisely in order to be able to carry out this mission well, the Church gathers together, especially on Sunday or on the day of the Lord, to keep alive her identity as People of God to which Christians belong by Baptism and Confirmation and to fill her own life with Christ in listening to the Word and in the communion of the one broken Bread.

In reality, the Church cannot live without the Eucharistic assembly. This meeting is so important that the Church herself takes her name from the fact that it is gathered: **Church=Assembly**. The Second Vatican Council goes so far as to say that the **Eucharistic meeting is "the principal manifestation of the Church"**. It is known that since the day of the Lord's Resurrection, the Church has never ceased to gather. On some occasions this fidelity to the Sunday assembly cost the lives of some Christian martyrs. And still today Christians die in churches burned or attacked during the celebration of the Eucharist. How do you live your belonging to the Church and your participation in the Sunday assembly?

The meeting begins with the initial rites, the key that opens our access to the encounter with the Lord: the processional song of entry, the greeting, the act of penance, the *Lord have mercy* with the Glory and the prayer of the Collect contribute that the people gathered feel like a true community and are prepared to listen to the Word and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

It has already been said before that Christians do not meet on their own initiative, but out of fidelity to the Lord's invitation. That is why **the Eucharistic assembly has a president**, who is a baptized person like the others, but who has received for his priestly ordination the mission of manifesting the presence of Christ as Head of his Body, which is the Church. Through this president, Christ himself is the principal author of the Eucharist and who presides over it. The president, in the name of Christ: presides, takes the floor after the readings, explains them and helps to live them, receives the offerings, says the Eucharistic prayer, breaks and distributes the Bread and sends the assembly to build the Kingdom of God in the world.

From the letter of the Rector Major on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of ADMA 'Entrust, have trust and smile'

A memory for which to be thankful

In masterly fashion the Salesian historian Pietro Braidò describes the foundation of the ADMA by Don Bosco in this way: «A born organizer, Don Bosco did not leave devotion to Mary Help of Christians to simple spontaneous devotion. He gave it stability through an Association that took its name from her. First-hand witnesses saw in this institution one of the initiatives closest to Don Bosco's heart and one with the widest impact after that of the two religious Congregations and of the Association of the Cooperators. He himself described its origins in the leaflet *Association of the Devotees of Mary Help of Christians* canonically erected in the Church dedicated to her in Turin with historical information about this title – by the priest John Bosco. Following the presentation to the Reader, some short chapters give an account of the history of the title *Help of Christians*, from the Bible to the battle of Lepanto (1571), to the liberation of Vienna in 1683 and, finally to the institution of the feast by Pius VII in 1814. Short pages were dedicated to the Devotion



	<p>Nome: Giovanni</p> <p>Cognome: Bosco</p> <p>Data impegno: 18 aprile 1869</p> <p>Gruppo di appartenenza: Valdocco</p>
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to *Mary Help of Christians in Munich and in Turin* and to spiritual favours granted by Pius IX to the Turinese sanctuary. Documents followed relating to the canonical approval of the *Association*. The first was in April 1869: the *Supplica* of Don Bosco to the archbishop of Turin, “for the canonical approval of the *Association*”. In it he begged him to “take in benign consideration” the “pious project” and to examine its Statutes and – professing the accustomed unlimited readiness – “to add, to delete, to change” whatever might be judged opportune, “with all the conditions” “that might be judged most appropriate to promote the glories of the August Queen of Heaven and the good of souls.” The approval of Mons. Riccardi on 18 April was benevolent and generous, in harmony with the brief of 16 March with which Pius IX had granted extensive indulgences valid for ten years to the *Association* about to be erected. The last part of the leaflet contained the text of the statute, a long series of prayers and devout practices with the indication of the relevant indulgences, a short catechesis *On indulgences* in general, the decree of 22 May 1868, with which Pius IX granted a plenary indulgence to all those who might “religiously” visit «the church dedicated in Turin to Mary the Immaculate Virgin under the title of *Mary Help of Christians*, on the titular feast of the same church or on one of the preceding days ».

As was his custom in the presentation of important documents, Don Bosco attributed the origin of the *Association* to “repeated requests”, coming «from all parts and from people of all ages and conditions» during and after the building and the consecration of the church. The idea was for associates «who united in the same spirit of prayer and piety might honour the great Mother of the Saviour invoked with the beautiful title of *Help of Christians*».

In these circumstances too Don Bosco quickly drew up statutes that were no masterpiece in doctrinal or juridical terms but which were outstanding for immediacy and practicality. He retained the close link that he usually made between devotion to *Mary Most Holy* and to *Jesus* present in the Holy Eucharist. The subject matter was divided into three sections without separate initial headings: *the purpose and the means, the spiritual advantages, admission*. [...] For wider diffusion of the *Association* Don Bosco managed to have it erected as an Archconfraternity, with the faculty of aggregating to it similar associations already existing or to be erected.»

A renewal to be undertaken

The Archconfraternity of *Mary Help of Christians* as it was called by Don Bosco (today ADMA), from the very beginning acquired a worldwide dimension, alternating between periods of great vitality and wide diffusion and stages of crisis and oblivion. In 1988, the year of the centenary of the death of Don Bosco, an historic relaunching occurred on the part of the Rector Major Fr Egidio Viganò. A significant recognition came from the 24th General Chapter of the Salesians (1996), which declared: «Don Bosco also started up the *Association of clients of Mary Help of Christians* involving them in the spirituality and mission of the Congregation by commitments readily realizable by the majority of simple people.»

It could also be said that the Congregation and the Salesian Family have gone through a maturing process in their devotion to *Mary Help of Christians*. In fact our Salesian spirituality cannot be separated from devotion to *Mary Help of Christians*. It would be the same as trying - absurdly - to separate Don Bosco from *Mary Help of Christians*. Our devotion to the *Help of Christians* is intimately connected both to the Salesian “mission” and to the “spirit” proper to the Salesian charism that we have received from Don Bosco as a *gift* of the Holy Spirit.

The paper can be read at the following site:

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FAMILY CHRONICLE

ITALY - MEETING BETWEEN THE ADMA OF SPAIN AND THE ADMA OF TURIN



To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA), from 3 to 8 July, about 120 members of the Association and other members of the Salesian Family of Spain made a pilgrimage to the Salesian Places. Led by Don Juan Carlos Pérez Godoy, Salesian Provincial of Madrid, by Sister Isabel Pérez, Vicar and Delegate for the Salesian Family of the FMA of Spain, and by several other SDB and FMA spiritual animators, the pilgrims visited Valdocco, Chieri, Colle Don Bosco and Mornese.

In particular, on Friday, 5th July, they shared a charismatic and formative day with the Primary ADMA of Turin Valdocco, taking advantage of the accompaniment and animation of Fr Pierluigi Cameroni, world spiritual Animator of ADMA, who presented them, the origin and history of the Association. On the same occasion, a meeting was also held with the members of the Primary ADMA Council and its President, Renato Valera.

Then, through a video, the story and the diffusion of ADMA in Spain were told and together with them also some significant moments in the life of the groups. In this way it became clear that this second group of the Salesian Family in Spain has a rich history of faith and popular religiosity, with numerous presences in all regions of the country. The ADMA of Turin, for its part, illustrated the path of renewal that is underway, in particular the experience with families, young people and adults.

Then, in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians the Eucharist was celebrated, in Spanish and in Italian, presided over by Fr Cameroni and concelebrated by the Salesians present. And to celebrate the meeting, and in memory of the 150th anniversary of the foundation and the pilgrimage to Valdocco, there was also a significant exchange of gifts, followed by a moment of celebration and a joyful and fraternal evening in a real family spirit.

In his conclusion Don Cameroni commented that "This pilgrimage to the Salesian Places was a call to transmit what was experienced in the groups to which it belongs, to continue the journey of faith inspired by the Salesian charism, renewing the mission to go to the young and to the weakest and most vulnerable, preceded and guided by Mary Help of Christians".

PHILIPPINES - A SHRINE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS ON OLANGO ISLAND



Olango Island, Philippines - July 2019 - On 14 July Fr Godofredo Atienza, Superior of the Salesian South Philippines Province (FIS), Fr Keith Amodia, Delegate for FIS Social Communication, and a group of ADMA members, accompanied a statue of Mary Help of Christians from the

city of Lapu-Lapu to the Isle of Olango. The delegation was welcomed in the port by faithful and devotees who marched together with the statue in procession to the parish of "St Augustine of Ippona", in Barangay Santa Rosa, where the statue's enthronement ceremony was held before parish priest Fr Melton Medida. During the ceremony, 11 aspirants of the ADMA of the Island of Olango were officially

BRAZIL - 19TH PILGRIMAGE OF SALESIAN FAMILY IN APARECIDA

On August 17, under the theme "Holy Mother of God, pray for us", the Salesian Family of Brazil experienced moments of emotion and recollection in the house of Mother Aparecida, where the 19th Pilgrimage of the Salesian Family took place. All the communities of the Province of Brazil-São Paulo (BSP) and the representatives of the other Provinces of Brazil participated in the Pilgrimage. Also present, representatives of ADMA, the Association of Salesian Cooperators, the Past Pupils and Canção Nova. The Pilgrimage took place in the presence of Fr Justo Ernesto Piccinini, Provincial, and of Sr. Elena Gesser, FMA Superior. During



the Pilgrimage, ADMA - which celebrates its 150th anniversary - received from the hands of Fr Silvio Cesar, Salesian, the image of the Aparecida, which will now travel among all the Salesian houses in the Province where ADMA is present.

ITALY - ADMA FAMILIES SPIRITUAL EXERCISES 2019

Over 600 people experienced the Spiritual Exercises of Families, led by the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA), Primary of Turin, in the Alpine retreat of Pracharbon, Val d'Aosta, from Sunday 28 July to Saturday 17 August in four shifts of 5 days each. This is a 360° family experience. The main protagonists are in fact the families that find themselves together, where each generation has its own way of living these days with intensity.

Parents have time and space for liturgical and silent prayer, following a path of meditation that this year had as its theme the exhortation of Pope Francis *Gaudete et exultate* and the Strenna of the Rector Major "Holiness for you, too". Through the meditations prepared and proposed by Fr Roberto Carelli, SDB, it was recalled how the journey of faith is a journey of holiness that flourishes in the witness of the good and joyful life of the Gospel. The following thematic nuclei were developed: joy and holiness; the enemies of joy and holiness; holiness in the light of the Master (The Beatitudes); combat and spiritual discernment.

The days are marked by intense moments of catechesis, reflection and prayer. Of particular value is the time of sharing where in the light of the proposed themes life experiences are communicated, joyful and painful facts, in a climate of intense listening, respect and profound participation. One experiences the joy of walking together and sharing the journey of faith, centering one's life in Jesus in the Eucharist and entrusting it to Mary Help of Christians.

While parents live the experience of spiritual exercises, children, teens and young people, under the guidance of the animators, spend their days with distinct and well-groomed paths of play, prayer and formation, the result of careful preparation, carried out during the year.

This year the experience is particularly significant because it coincides with the 150th anniversary of ADMA's foundation: a truly special year during which we are experiencing the joy and beauty of to share the grace for the gifts received, accompanied by Mary, a believing woman.

