



April 18, 1869 – April 18, 2024

We celebrate the 155th anniversary of ADMA by contemplating Mary in the dream at 9 years of age.

"Above all, I recommend to you a great, tender, true and constant devotion to Mary Most Holy. Oh, if you knew how much this devotion mattered, you wouldn't exchange it for all the gold in the world!" Don Bosco also invites us on this occasion to renew our love and our entrustment to Mary. Let us then offer her this Rosary with filial love and trust, contemplating her presence in the dream that is the foundation of our charism.

1. "I will give you a Teacher"

From the Gospel according to John: "His mother, his mother's sister, Mary the mother of Cleopas and Mary Magdalene stood by the cross of Jesus. When Jesus saw his mother and beside her the disciple whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her with him." (Jn 19:25-27)

From the cross, Jesus gives us Mary as a mother and entrusts us to her. In the dream at 9 years of age, the same scene is repeated: Jesus entrusts John to Mary: "I will give you a teacher...". It is always Jesus who entrusts us to Mary: our entrusting ourselves to her is first and foremost obeying Jesus.

Our Father

10 Hail Mary's

Glory be to the Father

Let us pray together: Mary Help of Christians, you fully accepted the testament of Jesus from the cross and you have truly taken us as your children. We entrust to you all the ADMA groups in the world and the whole Salesian Family. Help us to truly take you as our mother, to grow in the real entrustment of our lives to you and in love for Jesus who gives his life for us.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

Queen of Peace, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

2. "Ask my mother for my name"

From the Gospel according to Luke: "In those days Mary arose and went with haste to the mountainous region, to a city of Judah. Entering Zechariah's house, she greeted Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out with a loud voice: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? Behold, as soon as your greeting reached my ears, the child leaped for joy in my womb. Blessed is she who believed in the fulfilment of what the Lord said to her." (Lk 1:39-45)

In the Gospel passage of the Visitation, we see that Jesus joins the family of John the Baptist with Mary and in Mary. Even today, it is always Mary who brings Jesus to us and us to Jesus. This reality also manifests itself in the dream of the 9-year-old, when young John wants to know who is the man who commands him "that which is impossible". To him and to us, Jesus replies that, if we want to know him, we must turn to Mary: "Ask my mother for my name".

Our Father

10 Hail Mary's

Glory be to the Father

Let us pray together: Mary Help of Christians, you alone can lead us to Jesus. We entrust all children and young people to you: help them to know Jesus and to experience the joy of encountering Him through your Immaculate Heart.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

Queen of Peace, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us

3. " I saw a lady of stately appearance standing beside him. She was wearing a mantle that sparkled all over as though covered with bright stars"

From the Book of Revelation: "A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." (Rev 12:1)

The teacher that Jesus gives to John in his dream at the age of 9, is dressed in a royal mantle illuminated by stars. She is the "Queen of Heaven" and sees the world from God's perspective: for this reason, it is possible to become wise with her discipline, while without her "all wisdom is foolishness".

Our Father

10 Hail Mary's

Glory be to the Father

Let us pray together: Mary Help of Christians, too often we fail to look at the world from God's perspective, and so, instead of living as brothers and sisters, we live as enemies. We entrust to you the peoples who are experiencing the tragedy of war: help us to build peace with God and with one another every day.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

Queen of Peace, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

4. "She beckoned me to approach her. She took me kindly by the hand and said, "Look"

From the Gospel according to John: "On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you'" (Jn 2:1-5)

In the dream at 9 years of age, Mary encourages John to approach her, then takes him by the hand with maternal kindness, then invites him to look, showing him what he will be called to do. Even at the wedding feast at Cana, it is Mary who shows the servants what they should do, that is, listen to Jesus and put his will into practice. She continues to do the same with us, telling us to do what He tells us.

Our Father

10 Hail Mary's

Glory be to the Father

Let us pray together: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust to you spouses, families, the elderly, the sick: show us the way forward in every situation, in mutual love, fraternal accompaniment, trusting support and in following Jesus.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

Queen of Peace, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us

5. She then placed her hand on my head and said, "In good time you will understand everything."

From the Gospel according to Luke: "When they saw him, they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." and he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart." (Lk 2:48-51)

Don Bosco did not immediately understand the mission that God entrusted to him in his dream when he was 9 years old. Mary lovingly reassures him, placing a hand on his head and urging him to trust that the time to understand everything would come in due time. Mary can console John because she has experienced in her own life (for example, in the discovery of Jesus in the temple) that God's plans cannot be fully understood immediately, but must be kept in the heart and confidently put into practice day by day. Don Bosco would do the same, keeping this dream in his heart and realizing it throughout his life

Our Father

10 Hail Mary's

Glory be to the Father

Let us pray together: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust to you the Pope, the priests, the consecrated persons and the whole Church. Help us to keep the faith, especially when we do not understand the plans that God wants to accomplish through the people who give themselves to Him.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

Queen of Peace, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us

Hail Holy Queen...