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EDITORIAL

WHO HAS JESUS IN HIS HEART WILL SHOW IT IN ALL HIS EXTERIOR ACTIONS

Dear friends and Associates,

In our region of Europe, we are at the end of another academic year and we are preparing for the summer break, a time of rest and peace, peace of hearts and hopefully peace for our world that is shattered by war. We hope and wish that you find time to relax and enjoy the peace in heart and inner life during these months. May we together rediscover the gift of the Word and of Prayer, relaunch and grow in humility and in charity, and renew our relationships with the focus on the “two pillars”: Jesus and Mary, the two Risen Ones; the gifts of the Eucharist and the Rosary; the Sacraments of Communion and Confession.

We can find our inspirations in the words and invitation of St. Francis de Sales who reminds us of two very important inputs:

To go from the inside out: *“I have never been able to approve the method of those who, in order to reform man, begin from the outside, from the appearances, the clothes, the hair. It seems to me, on the contrary, that one must begin from within, the heart, the source of actions. He who has Jesus in his heart, will show it immediately in all actions.”*

Go quietly with gentle diligence: *“Rushing and agitation are of no use. The desire for a spiritual life*



is good which, however, must be without undue restlessness. The healing that is done quietly is always the safest.”

Following St. Francis’ instructions, therefore, not just a summer but a whole year!

In this online issue of ADMA, you will find the presentation of the ADMA training itinerary which we will follow during the year 2022-2023, beginning from September with the first stage. It is a journey born from the desire which so many have communicated to us: that of growing in the life of faith and taking a step forward in the personal relationship with Jesus and Mary.

To all of you then, our best wishes for a peaceful summer.

*Renato, Fr Alejandro and the whole council
 of the ADMA Primary in Valdocco*

FORMATIVE PATH

MARY AND JESUS, TWO SPECIAL FRIENDS: WALKING WITH TWO PILLARS

ADMA Formative Programme 2022-2023

In the year 2022-2023, we would like to go back to **the roots of the Association**: The devotion of Don Bosco to Mary Help of Christians found in the Association a simple and practical expression for the defence of the faith in popular circles. Don Bosco reminds us that *“We Christians must be united in these difficult times. Being among many who are doing good is a source of animation to us, without our being aware of the fact”* (MB 7,602) (Art. 1 of the ADMA regulations). **We wish, then, to propose an itinerary of faith which can lead us to an encounter with Jesus through the mediation of our Heavenly Mother and this itinerary of faith can propel us towards our apostolic activity.**



This traditional path of growth in the faith, as we cherish, is inculcated in us through the deepest sources of Christian, Salesian and Marian spirituality. It is new because each associate and each group in the world will live it according to their own life experience. It is enlivened as each associate adapting it to their individual reality. We shall keep inspiring one another for a year in the spiritual journey of Christian life, founded on two pillars, Jesus and Mary, being guided by the Word of God, by Don Bosco and by St Francis de Sales. Let us draw our inspiration from the Regulations of the ADMA, the Charter of Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family, the Magisterium of the Pope and the teaching of the Rector Major.

The aim of the programme is to deepen our life of faith and progress in our personal relationship with Jesus and Mary.

“...propose an itinerary of faith which can lead us to an encounter with Jesus through the mediation of our Heavenly Mother and this itinerary of faith can propel us towards our apostolic activity.”

The stages of the journey

1) Feeling loved by God

Our faith becomes life when we deeply experience the love of God.

The Word of God announces to us that *“God is Love”* (1 Jn 4: 7-16), that Jesus wants to enter into deep communion with each one of us: *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you”* (Jn 15:9-11); *“I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly”* (Jn 10: 7-15).

We will be invited to meditate on the Word in order to fully cherish God’s tender and boundless love for each one of us. From this experience of feeling loved just as we are, is born the sincere desire to respond to God. We can then understand better St. Francis de Sales when he says, *“First of all seek to please God: He is the centre of my soul and the immovable pole around which all my desires and all my movements revolve.”*

We will thus be helped to turn our gaze towards Him every day, to feel His love and to give it, in turn, to our brothers and sisters.

2) “I stand at the door and knock” prayer

Having grown in our awareness of being profoundly loved, **we will focus on our relationship with the Lord, in prayer, with the help of Mary.**

Only in the experience of silent listening will we vitally understand Jesus when he says, *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock”* (Rev 3:20) and *“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and dwell with him”* (Jn 14:23) and *“discover the secret of the wise virgins”* (Mt 25:1-13).

The secret of life, says St. Francis de Sales, is *“to go from the inside out: I have never been able to approve the method of those who, in order to reform man, begin from the outside, from the appearance, the clothes, the hair. It seems to me, on the contrary, that one must begin from within.... He who has Jesus in his heart, has him immediately afterwards in all outward actions.”*

Prayer shall be the center of our lives which would lead us to all our practical suggestions.

3) Children are created in the image of God. Trust in God.

Surrendering to the Holy Spirit, through the hands of Mary, leads us to **grow in trust in God.** We will contemplate the mystery of God who is not afraid to trust in a human person.

We will deepen the knowledge how the mystery of the incarnation (Lk 2) fits into a wider project of love that precludes the cross: *“I come to do your will, O God”* (Hebrews 10: 5-10).

Jesus’ only desire is to make it clear by his life that all existence is explained by love, a love so compelling that it led St. Paul to say *“I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. This life I live in the flesh, I live in the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me”* (Gal 2:20). In this profound mystery of love, we are invited to become truly aware of our creatureliness. As St. Francis de Sales suggests, *“we must be what we are and be it well, to do honour to the Creator, whose handiwork we are.”*



“We must be what we are and be it well, to do honour to the Creator, whose handiwork we are.”

4. There is no greater love: the Eucharist

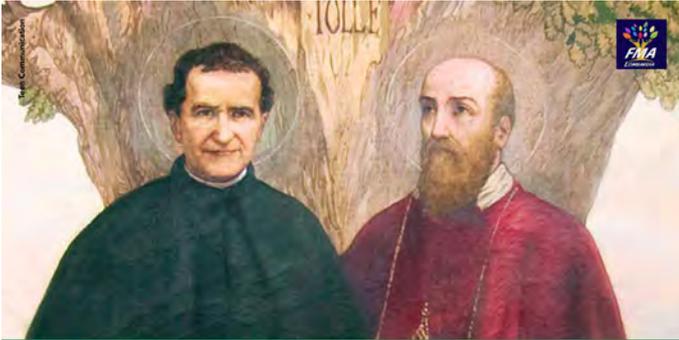
Eucharist is the source and summit of true life that is love and bread of life: **Love one another as I have loved you.** Do this in memory of me. Let us contemplate the gift that Jesus offers us as the premise and foundation of our adherence to love for Him and for our brothers and sisters. Let us dwell on the Washing of the Feet to understand how Eucharistic life inspires us to fully dedicate ourselves each day in the concrete service of others.

St. Francis de Sales too insists on our day to day service: *“Think of doing our things well today and when tomorrow comes, then we will think about it.”*

In the light of the mystery of the Eucharist, we will understand the importance of the present moment. In fact, the Eucharist is a real encounter with the Risen Lord in the Word and in the Eucharistic Bread. It assures us of His presence in our daily lives, helps us conform to Him, shows us His deep love for others and gives us true joy.

5) Mary, the bride in the Holy Spirit, teaches us to do everything out of love

The Holy Spirit enlightens and guides us in our life of faith. We will go to the source of the “yes” of Mary, bride in the Spirit. In the light of the Word, we will discover how Mary’s Fiat can be renewed in our lives. With Mary, mother and teacher, our life recovers its full meaning and is transformed into Magnificat. In this way, love takes on the features of



“You must do everything for love and nothing by force.”
Saint Francis de Sales

full freedom. St. Francis de Sales says: *“Nothing by force, everything by love.” Here is the general rule of our obedience: YOU MUST DO EVERYTHING FOR LOVE AND NOTHING BY FORCE.... I leave you with the spirit of freedom, that which excludes constraint, scruple and restlessness.”* As we read in the ADMA Regulations: *“Mary is a living presence among us and continues in the history of the Church and of humanity her maternal mission as mediatrix of grace for her children.”*

6) The primacy of grace: joy, gift of the Holy Spirit (the theological virtue)

The action of the Holy Spirit generates joy in us. It is the outcome of the working of the Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. We will rediscover the theological virtues by meditating on the hymn of charity (1 Cor 13:1-13) and other Pauline letters. We will deeply understand the foundation of Salesian joy: *“Go ahead with joy and an open heart as much as you can; and if you do not always go with joy, go always with courage and confidence”* (St Francis de Sales). This is the Cheerfulness Don Bosco inspired Dominic Savio to follow, *“We make holiness consist in always being cheerful.”* By following Don Bosco’s path of entrustment to Mary Help of Christians, we can concretely become a sign of God’s and Mary’s love, capable of spreading joy and love among people.

7) Grace presupposes nature: the exercise of the virtues

We are called to foster the action of the Holy Spirit through the virtues. In particular, **humility and meekness**, traits of Jesus’ character, will help us (Mt 11:25-30).

As St. Francis de Sales says: *“Bear with gentleness the little injustices, the small inconveniences, the losses of little importance that happen every day. These small occasions, lived with love, will earn you God’s heart and make it all your own.”* We will better understand how the development of virtues can help us grow in peace and love: patience, meekness, humility, poverty of spirit and avoiding backbiting and judgement will make us experience true communion. Not just loving others but making others feel loved by loving kindness, tireless work, temperance and Salesian optimism.

Let us remember the three words of Pope Francis: please, Sorry, thank you.

8) The blessed relationship - combating the most common temptations and the sacrament of reconciliation

The closer we come to the light, the more we learn to see our limitation and understand His mercy. God’s love never abandons us, even when we fall into the most common temptations. It is a love that envelops us in the blessed relationship that we experience in the sacrament of reconciliation.

Let us meditate on the parable of the Merciful Father (Lk 15:11-32). We will then be accompanied by St. Francis de Sales who reminds us that *“Every day we must begin our spiritual progress. While reflecting on it, we will not be surprised to find weaknesses in ourselves. There is nothing that is already perfect. We must begin again and with a good heart.”* The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not a time of judgement but an opportunity to experience the merciful and blessed embrace of the Father who grants us healing from our sins and the strength to begin again.

“Bear with gentleness the little injustices, the small inconveniences, the losses of little importance that happen every day. These small occasions, lived with love, will earn you God’s heart and make it all your own.”

9) In the school of Mary's holiness: *Fiat, Stabat and Magnificat*

If we allow ourselves to be conquered by God's love, we understand more and more the importance of **holy attitudes** which shine in Mary with her attitudes: fiat, stabat and magnificat. By looking at Mary's life in Luke's Gospel, we can see her human and spiritual journey which is also our journey. *"Nothing to ask, nothing to refuse. Remain in the arms of providence, without falling into any desire other than longing for what God wants of us."*

We will take Mary into our home to make her the cradle of life and love, of faith and of hope by cultivating attitudes of welcoming, hospitality, listening, concrete help and generous availability.



10. Union with God in daily life

At the culmination of our journey, we will finally be invited to seek **union with God in daily life**, assuming His Will: *"For me to live is Christ"* (Phil 1:21).

We will be able to experience this communion by remaining in Jesus: *"I am the Vine, you are the branches"* (Jn 15:5).

We will follow the example of Don Bosco for whom action and prayer became one:

"Don Bosco identified to the utmost perfection his external activity, indefatigable, absorbing, vast responsibilities with an interior life that began with a sense of the presence of God and which, little by little, became actual, persistent and alive so as to be perfect union with God". This spirituality becomes Apostolic Charity in *'Da mihi animas, cetera tolle'*. It is



the spirituality of the Grace of Unity that helps us to work in harmony of thought, feeling and will with God.

Our vertical relationship with God thus inspires our horizontal relationship with our neighbors.

Thus described, we will offer insights and suggestions for the different ages and situations of life: family, youth, adults. We will emphasise prayer, listening to the Holy Spirit and sharing. The suggestion is to live the journey not just intellectually, but also personally and existentially. At the same time, we will take care of the community dimension. The search for a personal relationship with the Lord always leads to communion with others and with the Church. At each session, an appropriate space for silence and a question for sharing in the group will be proposed. Furthermore, to ensure that the fruits of the session can leave their mark on our lives, we will make a concrete life commitment every month.

KNOW THE ASSOCIATION

10TH WORLD FAMILY DAY

A colourful and sunny Colle Don Bosco, with many voices, songs and many children and young people: this is how it appeared to those who attended the 10th World Family Day on Sunday, the 26th June 2022.

The event was born as a result of the wish of Pope John Paul II in 1994 and is now in its tenth edition. This year, as requested by Pope Francis, it took an even more splendid form because it took on a widespread and localised character in the individual dioceses and Shrines.

The Salesian Family (represented by the Salesian Cooperators, ADMA and Mary of Nazareth Contemplative Fraternity) which has always played a leading role in family education organised it together with the Family Forum Associations and the Archdiocese of Turin.

From the dawn of the first day, 80 volunteers gathered to set up the welcome arrangements for the 500 families of the diocese who began their day with a mini pilgrimage from the Pratone up to the Basilica. Divided into small groups, consecrated men and women, lay people, young people and adults walked along the paths trodden by Don Bosco, praying the rosary and entrusting to Mary the situations of joy and suffering that many are experiencing.

In a packed Upper Basilica, everyone gathered at 10.30 am for the Holy Mass celebrated by the Archbishop of Turin and the Bishop of Susa, Msgr. Roberto Repole, and concelebrated by Fr. Mario Aversano, director of the Office for the Pastoral Care of the Family, Fr. Alejandro Guevara, World Spiritual Animator of ADMA and Fr. Tiziano Baracco of the Salesian Novitiate. Fr. Michele Molinar, provincial vicar, coordinated the celebration. *“This Gospel tells us that there are not static families but dynamic families,”* the archbishop emphasized in his homily; *“And this dynamism also concerns their spiritual life. In the same way, our families are one of the privileged places for the proclamation of the Gospel with a style that does not force but fully respects the freedom of the other. Finally, our families are following the Lord to the extent that the spouses,*



parents and children look at each other and love each other, knowing, however, that no one can ever take the place of Jesus Christ.”

The celebration continued in the afternoon with the testimonies of many entities of the diocese: SERMIG, New Families, the Salesian Cooperators of the Opera Michele Rua of Turin, the Pope John XXIII Community, Marriage Encounter and Forum of Family Associations. They all stressed the beauty of being a family today, as well as the challenges they have to face and those that await them, with a common thread running through all the experiences, that only together and only by following God can one succeed in this journey which is not always easy and sometimes tiring.

Finally, we cannot forget the ‘age-old’ games that delighted the children, with their parents and grandparents, organised by the ‘Animating’ group.

At the home of Don Bosco and Mamma Margaret, under the gaze of Mary, the families shared a day of joy, hope and prayer, rediscovering themselves as families on the move and entrusting their hopes, worries and expectations to them.



REGULATIONS

ART.11 - IMPORTANT MOMENTS OF BELONGING TO THE ASSOCIATION

This article outlines some ways in which mutual understanding, communion, formation, exchanging experiences and apostolic commitment among the members of a local group can be made concrete.

For this purpose, the local Association organises:

- Monthly meetings (open also to members of the Salesian Family and any others who wish to take part) for the purpose of doctrinal formation, prayer and celebration or adoration of the Eucharist, if possible on the 24th of the month, the day when Mary Help of Christians is commemorated;
- The annual Marian day;
- Participation in celebrations or meetings of the Salesian Family;
- Spiritual Exercises for the members;
- Processions, pilgrimages, days of retreat;
- Other meetings programmed locally;
- Also see art. 4. The contents of art. 4 is also recalled, with the commemoration of the 24th of each

month, the Holy Rosary, the novena in preparation for the feast of Mary Help of Christians, the blessing of Mary Help of Christians, collaboration in parish life.

It is important to specify a monthly schedule for formation and prayer meetings, through moments of fraternal communion, exchange of information, sharing of experiences and projects; meetings for growth in faith (catechesis, conferences, retreats, ...); Eucharistic-Marian prayer meetings with Holy Mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Rosary.

The 24th of the month commemorates Mary Help of Christians and is a reminder to all groups to belong to the Association.

The annual practice of the Spiritual Retreat represents a strong moment of spiritual renewal for individual members and groups, encouraging prayer, listening to and meditation on the Word.

Andrea and Maria Adele Damiani



4TH CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES AND HIS PHILOTHEAS

As in the two previous videos, '[Man Explained by God](#)' and '[Salesian Sweetness](#)', Fr. Michele Molinar, who edited this series with the ICP Youth Ministry and Social Communication Departments, presents [the third video](#).

In the epistolary of St. Francis de Sales and also in his other writings, we perceive an exquisite sensitivity in bringing the world of women closer to the encounter with God and through the encounter with God, to the gift of self and to a deep friendship with Him.

Francis proposes all this both in the lay world and in consecrated life. This explains the title of this video '[St. Francis de Sales and his Philaletes](#)', those who are guided by him to an encounter with God.

It is very interesting to capture particular environments in Annecy, for example, a doorway in the oldest street in Annecy. A doorway, though very similar to the others, gives access to the house where Louise du Chantal who married Charmois, Bishop's cousin, lived. Thanks to her and the written advice that her cousin gave her, we still have today what is called '*Philothea, Introduction to the Devout Life*'.

With the gift of grasping and above all educating the spiritual desires in the world of the feminine sensibility, Francis also recognises and shares with Joan of Chantal precisely as a gift of grace received from God the Father.

"A truly strange thing. I think that, in the world, there are no souls who love more cordially, more tenderly and, to put it all very nicely, more lovingly than I do, because it has pleased God to make my heart this way."

There is a long history that exhibits this gift from our bishop, and this history certainly begins with Francis' relationship with his mother, Françoise de Syonnaz.

The difference between Francis and his mother was only 15 years while the difference between his mother and father was almost 31 years. It was evidently an arranged marriage. But it was a successful one.



Historians tell us that Francesco's mother had a very amiable character. A year after the marriage, she gave birth to her first son, while her second son, Gallois, would take nine years.

Historians still remind us that the first six years of Francis' life were the years with his mother. From his mother he received affection, education and certainly also a deep religious sensitivity.

His mother, when well advanced in years, would say of Francis: *"This is my son and my father"*. In fact, the mother was also one of the souls guided by her son.

The deep sensitivity was expressed in care and kindness towards all those our bishop encountered. For example, one day our bishop entered the house and found his servant busy writing a letter; something certainly not common for those times. He would say:

"My friend, when I came in, you were engrossed with pen and paper and hid everything. What were you writing then? Am I not sufficiently friendly for you to confide this to me?"

The young man, confused, handed over the paper to the bishop. It was a love letter. The bishop read it and then said: *"You cannot explain yourself well. Let me help you. Here, copy this; put your name on it and send it. You will see that all will be well."*

Another person who greatly nurtured Francis' faith and nurtured his understanding of the female, is the presence of Mary, the Mother of God, of whom Francis

would say *'the most lovable and loving woman of all creatures'*. Francis would always have a strong, filial and affectionate devotion to her.

In the Basilica of the Visitation which houses the reliquary of St. Francis and St. Joan of Chantal, we find a very significant letter written at the end of his life to Joan of Chantal.

André Ravier, a great and profound expert on our saint, defines this letter as *'the heart of Salesianity'* as if it gathers in it all the themes and attitudes dear to Salesian holiness.

"A truly strange thing. I think that, in the world, there are no souls who love more cordially, more tenderly and, to put it very nicely, more lovingly than I do, because it has pleased God to make my heart this way. And yet I love independent, vigorous souls, souls that are not female, because too great a relationship upsets the heart, makes it restless and distracts it from loving meditation on God, and prevents complete surrender to God and the perfect death of self-love."

The excellence of this intense and profound letter is in the last lines when the holy bishop declares,

"What is not God's, is nothing to us. I have the feeling that I love nothing outside of God and love all souls in God. I feel that the relationship that God has produced in me is extraordinary."

All this means that the space of their friendship is in the heart of Jesus and in the will of God the Father, and in the mutual gift. Nowhere else.

Six months after they met in Dijon, Francis de Sales wrote to Joan of Chantal:

"I saw in Rome a tree planted by Blessed St. Dominic. Everyone goes to see it and loves it for love of him who planted it. Well, I, having seen in you the tree of the desire for holiness that our Lord has planted in your soul, have taken to loving it tenderly."

What we have heard tells us that the holiness of Francis could not exist without that of Joan of Chantal. We could equally say that the holiness of Don Bosco could not exist without the deep desire for God which nurtured holiness in Dominic Savio.

The spiritual path of our Holy Bishop, the one he himself lives and proposes to the souls he guides, is so simple and adapted to our humanity. But we must not believe that it is totally spontaneous. Francis, too, knows a bug that threatens his relationship with God is the bug of self-love; of attachment to oneself, of seeing oneself as the sole master of one's life.

Self-love transforms ties, even the most beautiful ones, into restrictive bonds.

So, Francis educates his sisters in detachment; that form of detachment that they still maintain today:

"On the last day of the year, you will take your crosses, rosary beads and images and make a small bundle and draw lots to avoid preferences. But listen, here is the best. I cannot tolerate certain religious being called 'the chosen lady', such and such a lady. No, no preeminence and no word of seniority: we are all very little. At the first wrap you put number 1, at the second 2, and so on. And, my daughters, in this way we shall live detached from everything."

Source: Infoans

FAMILY EVENTS

New ADMA group in Canada



Dear friends,

Greetings from the parish of **Our Lady of Good Counsel**, located in British Columbia, the western end of Canada, thus the land of the sun setting.

Our **first ADMA group is the fruit of many years of work by our parishioners**. Finally, the Provincial, Fr. Tim Zak, sent the letter of erection of the ADMA on the 17th April 2021. Since then, we have been carefully preparing the first group of members who enthusiastically prepared for this memorable moment of grace on 24th May 2022.

The event took place in the presence of four Salesians, Fr. George, John, Lou and Sam and a large number of devotees of Mary Help of Christians.

After the crowning of the statue of Mary Help of Christians in the church, the procession followed with the recitation of the Holy Rosary, accompanied by the Knights of Columbus. During the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration, the Commitment Ceremony to ADMA took place. The candidates made the Commitment one by one, followed by receiving the medals, plaques and the ADMA regulations.

After the Holy Mass, photos of the newly professed ADMA members were taken with the SDBs. Afterwards, there was a joyful feast as a sign of gratitude and sharing of joy with all the participants at the Eucharist.

With gratitude, we remember all the benefactors and supporters of ADMA. May our Lord Jesus bless us and may our Blessed Mother Mary Help of Christians protect us always, and may St John Bosco guide and guard us.

P. Samson David Antony SDB

Feast of 24 May in Korea

On the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians this 24th May 2022, the ADMA members in Gwangju rejoiced as **8 aspirants joined ADMA** during the Mass at the **'Mother House of Listening'**. During the Mass celebrated by Fr. Kyung-min Woo Henrico Sdb who was appointed spiritual animator a few months before, they committed themselves to honor Our Lady and radiate her devotion among their neighbors. They were joined by 7 members of the Seoul ADMA who renewed their promises in the presence of the Salesian ADMA leader Sr. Seong-min Kim Geltruda Fma.



In his homily, Fr. Henrico stressed the importance of 'reflection of conscience' in the spiritual life, emphasised by St. Francis de Sales, and recommended taking time each day to reflect on ourselves.

This was followed by a joyful festive moment with a congratulatory video message from the FMA Provincial, Sr. Eun kyung Kim Cecilia, congratulatory songs from the Sisters of the 'Mother House of Listening', a choir performed by the novices and songs from the members of ADMA.

On the 23rd, the day before the commitment, the candidates had a retreat to contemplate the rules and listen to the following talks:

1. **“Do whatever he tells you”** (Jn 2:5): Attitude to conform to the Word of Jesus (Superior, Sr. Kyung-hee Yu Anna Fma).
2. **Understanding the reality of ADMA in Korea** (Animator of the ADMA in Seoul, Sr. Hyo-soon Lee Susanna Fma).

In particular, Sr. Susanna referred to the two ADMA youth groups in Korea. She recommended that the members, though joining in different situations of the groups, should follow the spirit of Don Bosco and live a righteous devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, thus living the mission of family sanctification and the salvation of the youth.

The new members from 2018, through direct or video meetings with the superior of the ‘Mother House of Listening’, Sr. Jeong-hee Choi Cecilia - Sr Yu Anna, had studied the ADMA Regulations, the ADMA monthly Messages online, Salesian Family Strenna and the Doctrine on Mary.

Under a clear blue sky, the festive day was an experience of hope, a moment in which the ADMA members and the FMAs spiritually felt the love and the special presence of Mary our Heavenly Mother.

XV Marian day of Sicily ADMA: **“Loving more as Mary loves”**

On the 5th June 2022, on the Sunday of the feast of Pentecost, at the shrine of Gibilmanna (Cefalù), the 15th Marian Day of the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA) of Sicily was celebrated. Thanks to the solicitous and admirable organization, coordinated by the members of the Sicilian regional council with its president Mr. Salvo Di Maio, about two hundred people from about ten of the numerous ADMA groups, a living reality on the island, took part. Also present at the meeting was ADMA's World Spiritual Animator, Fr. Alejandro Guevara Sdb, who led the catechesis together with three councillors from the primary ADMA of Valdocco with their families, sharing with their Sicilian friends the joy of their journey at Mary's school.

The Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Guevara together with Fr. Luigi Calapaj and Fr. Santo Muratore. Gratitude and the spirit of service were the key words in the homily by Fr. Guevara and the members of the Association who spoke giving testimonies.

The heart of the catechesis was a reminder of the four foundations of belonging to the association: a journey of sanctification and apostolate in the footsteps of Mary; formation as a way of life; mission as ‘Salesians’; heirs of Don Bosco: looking to those who came before and those who will follow.

In conclusion, the spiritual guide issued challenges to all those present and, in general, to all members, which can be summed up in the phrase **‘to love more as Mary loves’**. It is only by imitating Mary more that it is possible to learn from her to accept the gift of the Holy Spirit and move closer to Jesus.

There was friendly and joyful family celebration in which the brotherhood and unity that has always characterised the ADMA was breathed in.

The *‘good bye’* among the participants expressed their longing to meet again. In fact, everyone already expressed their desire to participate in the World Congress of Mary Help of Christians in Fatima in 2024.



International Congress of Mary Help of Christians 2024: Fatima, Portugal > 29th August to 1st September of 2024

During the last meeting of the World Council of the Salesian Family - held at Valdocco from the 19th to the 22nd of May 2022- the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA) Primary of Turin-Valdocco joyfully announced to the leaders of the 32 groups of the Salesian Family present, the date and place of **the next International Congress of Mary Help of Christians: Fatima, Portugal, from the 29th August to the 1st September 2024.**

The announcement was made after the confirmation by the team of the Salesian Family of Portugal which has the task of coordinating the preparation of the event. It had picked up the baton at the end of the previous Congress held in Buenos Aires in 2019.

The one in Fatima - a Marian and prophetic place par excellence, where on 13th May 1917, three shepherd children (Lucy, Francis and Jecinta) saw the Virgin Mary with a Rosary in her hand - will be the IX International Congress of Mary Help of Christians.

It is a powerful moment which involves and unites the whole Salesian Family to entrust our educational, missionary and charitable commitment to Mary, in order to live Don Bosco's only goal: ***“My dear children in Jesus Christ, near or far, I always think of you. Only one is my desire, to see you happy now and in eternity.”***



WE ARE ASKING EVERYONE TO SEND US AN ARTICLE, A PHOTO OF A FORMATION MEETING, THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 24TH OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, A VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY BEING CARRIED OUT. The article (.doc format, max. 1200 characters without counting spaces) and a maximum of 2 photos (.jpg digital format and no less than 1000px wide), with a title and/or brief description, must be sent to adma@admadonbosco.org. It is necessary to indicate in the subject line of the e-mail **“Family Events”** and in the text the author's data (name, surname, place of the shot, affiliation Adma, city, country).

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