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EDITORIAL

“...SINCERE HEART OF CHILDREN”

Dear friends of ADMA,

Last month our Rector Major gave us the Strenna, inviting us to deepen our knowledge of Saint Francis de Sales by reviving his spirituality which inspired Don Bosco to offer us a path of sanctification. The very last chapter of the Strenna is entitled "All for love" and is an invitation to take care of our relationship with the Lord, especially personal prayer as the source of charity.

“Charity is the measure of our prayer, because our love for God is manifested in love for our neighbour. Here we meet the "prayer of life", so important for St Francis de Sales. It consists in carrying out all our activities in love and for the love of God, in such a way that our whole life becomes a continuous prayer. Whoever does works of charity, visits the sick, assists in the courtyard, gives time to others to listen to them, welcomes those in need, ... is praying. Commitments and occupations must not prevent the union with God, and those who practice this form of prayer are not in danger of forgetting God. When two people love one another - concludes Francis de Sales - their thoughts are always directed towards one another”

The simple means that he proposes to achieve the union with God - a theme so dear to our spirituality as sons and daughters of Don Bosco - can be recognised in the practices of piety that Don Bosco proposed to his boys and his first Salesians. To those who are occupied with temporal things, he advises to find moments, even very short ones, of recollection to unite the heart to God with short sighs, ejaculations and good thoughts, or to become aware of God in our spirit. While in the midst of conversations or activities, we can always remain in God's presence. In this way, true prayer does not neglect the obligations of daily life.

Precisely in this chapter the Rector Major invites us to turn to Mary, and invoke her maternal love for her. St. Francis de Sales established that the work of the Visitation, founded together with Joan of Chantal, would have as a symbol a heart pierced by two arrows, crowned by a cross, surrounded by a crown of thorns and with the sacred names of Jesus and Mary engraved on it.

First of all, Mary appears in the theology of Francis de Sales in a form similar to that which will be proper to the theology of the Second Vatican Council. Mary is in the heart of the Church. And her mission is to attract and bring us all to her Son. This is why Francis de Sales encourages us to join Mary, like her disciples, to receive the source of unity, the Holy Spirit..

«Honour, reverence and respect the holy and glorious Virgin Mary with special love: she is the Mother of our sovereign Father and therefore also our dear grandmother. Let us have recourse to her as grandchildren, let us throw ourselves on her lap with absolute confidence; at every moment, in every circumstance, we appeal to this sweet Mother, we invoke her maternal love for her and, making every effort to imitate her virtues, we have for her a sincere heart of children »¹.

Furthermore, the figure of Mary, model of all virtues, presented as "clothed in Christ", walks the path of humility like her Son. With her total dependence on God, her availability to Him, Mary abundantly receives God's generosity. When she sings the humility of her servant in her Magnificat, it is because she has attracted God's gaze.

“Charity is the measure of our prayer, because our love for God is manifested in love for our neighbour. Here we meet the "prayer of life", so important for St Francis de Sales. It consists in carrying out all our activities in love and for the love of God, in such a way that our whole life becomes a continuous prayer.

Finally, the Salesian trait of devotion to the Virgin, our mother and guide, corresponds to the trust that Don Bosco placed in Mary as the Consoler, Immaculate and Help of Christians of all the brothers of his Son. Mary cooperates in God's plan of salvation and,

in the words of Francis de Sales, God "made Mary pass through all the states of life, so that everyone can find in her what they need to live adequately their own state of life" ².

In her we see what God is ready to do with her love for her, when he finds hearts as available as Mary's. By emptying herself, she receives the fullness of God. By remaining available to God, she leaves room for God to do great things in her.

The contemplation of Mary, with her life and her yes to God, invites us to open ourselves to the love of God, in the awareness that the heart of Jesus, on the tree of the cross, contemplates and loves us. In Mary we see the true destiny of our heart, united with the heart of God.

Let us ask Mary for a filial heart, a heart that loves God in others with humility, that

¹ *Introduzione alla vita devota*, II,16.

² OEA IX, 342 in EUNAN McDONNELL, *God Desires You*, 134.

serves in a generous and trusting way, prolonging the prayer of life throughout our day.

FORMATIVE PATH

FRUITFUL LOVE

"Love always gives life. For this reason, conjugal love does not end within the couple. Spouses, while giving themselves to each other, give the reality of the child beyond themselves, a living reflection of their love, a permanent sign of conjugal unity and a living and indissociable synthesis of their being father and mother" (AL 165).



Thus opens chap. 5 of *Amoris Laetitia*. Love, as such, is always open to welcoming a new life and always gives life: the family is the place where life is generated, where life is welcomed and

Renato Valera, President ADMA Valdocco.

Alejandro Guevara, Spiritual Animator ADMA Valdocco

developed. Each new life comes as a gift from God, as a sign of his gratuitous love for him.

"Each new life allows us to discover the most gratuitous dimension of love, which never ceases to amaze us. It is the beauty of being loved first: children are loved before they arrive. This reflects the primacy of the love of God who always takes the initiative, because the children are loved before they have done anything to deserve it" (AL 166)

It is not for nothing that the most beautiful moments in a couple's life are generated by the birth of children, their growth ... When love opens up to life, to relationships, then joy and happiness are experienced. A closed love does not lead to a full love..

Living the marriage vocation means being open to life, not only a generative one in a biological sense, but generative also in terms of relationships with others, service, the apostolate.

FECUNDITY AND THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Fertility is inherent in the choice of the sacrament of marriage. Marriage implies that the fate of the spouses' love is not a private matter but has a public destiny. It is not just for me but it is for the others, for society, for the Church. In the Eucharist it emerges clearly that Jesus does not give himself only for the devotees but as he says: "This is the chalice of my blood for the new and eternal covenant, poured out for you and for all". Marrying in the Lord

therefore means affirming that love is not just a question of two, but is intrinsically open to the third: to the other, to the child ... to God. And this love, precisely because it is both fully human and 'divine' is always generative and fruitful. It produces life! The destiny of love is therefore generation, i.e., the fruitfulness of love. It means that the intimacy of the spouses is either generative or sterile. Because when love is true it generates life. Always.

Life in the relationship between spouses: dialogue, listening, tenderness, search for communion.

Life in relationship with others: welcoming, hospitality, openness, generosity.

Life especially in the generation of children: becoming fathers and mothers.

In Christianity, speaking of generation is what is most divine. In fatherhood and motherhood there is the beauty of the affections and also their destiny and not what sooner or later one must resign oneself to. It is the greatest joy and at the same time the deepest one, to perceive that love is fruitful and generative.

The greatest risk is that, in our culture, the good 'desire of the child' will turn into the 'child of desire'. In this way the other - and the child is always other, even if there is no one who resembles us like him / her - is brought back to himself, annulled in the self, reduced to an object of desire, a thing, our possession. or a 'need'. Hence the claim to fill one's 'needs', disappointments, claims, failures with the child. On the contrary, the child is an other self and as such he is received as a gift. Therefore it asks to be accepted with responsibility: it is a gift that solicits the response of those who generated it. The answer is called paternity and maternity

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTING

“When you are in the family and it comes to managing and educating your children, perhaps the most complex, but also the most important thing, is to maintain a strong alliance with your husband and wife.

The starting point is that parental responsibility, like any responsibility, is not a burden but a beautiful path. It has exactly to do with a path of fullness, of self-realisation.

Responsibility does not begin with a skill - no one has ever

been a parent before they have become one - but with ignorance. So don't be scared if you don't know how to answer, what to do, what to say. We are on the right path. The way is to become responsible, able to answer a certain question, then another one will come in which you will find yourself completely disabled and you will have to start over. You are a responsible person because you care, and you are responsible because you are answering a care question.

The difference between a biological dad and mom and a parent dad and mom is that the parent dad and mom are aware that they have a child. And this is not automatic. Responsibility is the attitude of answering a question that you do not ask, but that the other asks you. It is exactly the conscious listening to the other. Without this step, responsibility, as well as speaking of fertility, is pure rhetoric.

Parenting is an answer: this is why we often feel incapable. It happens to everyone. It is precisely because it feels like this that we seek responsibility. If we all had a series of preconceived answers, it would not be called responsibility, i.e. answering. The questions are different and therefore the answers are always different. We are always caught off guard. This is why we need to share this fragility with others. When you are in the family and it comes to managing and educating your children, perhaps the most complex, but also the most important thing, is to maintain a strong alliance with your husband and wife.

BEEING FATHER AND MOTHER

Pope Francis specifies as follows:

"It is not just a question of the love of the father and mother taken

separately, but also of the love between them, perceived as the source of one's existence, as a nest that welcomes and as the foundation of the family. Otherwise, the son seems to be reduced to a capricious possession. Both, man and woman, father and mother, are cooperators in the love of God the Creator and almost interpreters of him. They show their children the maternal face and the paternal face of the Lord. Furthermore, together they teach the value of reciprocity, of the encounter between different people, where each brings their own identity and also knows how to receive from the other. If for some unavoidable reason one of the two is missing, it is important to look for some way to compensate for it, to favour the adequate maturation of the child (AL 172).

“Both, man and woman, father and mother, are cooperators in the love of God the Creator and almost interpreters of him. They show their children the maternal face and the paternal face of the Lord.

The feeling of being orphans that many children and young people experience is deeper than we think. We really need mothers and fathers who are with their children and educate them with the typical richness of motherhood and fatherhood that becomes a true and daily alliance.

"In fact, mothers are the strongest antidote to the spread of selfish individualism. They are the ones that testify to the beauty of life. Without a doubt, a society without mothers would be an inhumane society, because mothers

always know how to testify, even in the worst moments, tenderness, dedication, moral strength. Mothers also often convey the deepest sense of religious practice: in the first prayers, in the first gestures of devotion that a child learns. Without mothers, not only would there be no new faithful, but faith would lose much of its simple and profound warmth. The mother, who protects the child with her tenderness and compassion, helps him to bring out trust, to experience that the world is a good place that welcomes him, and this allows him to develop a self-esteem that favours the ability to intimacy and empathy.

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OPEN AND WELCOMING FAMILIES

The pope also reminds us that no family must conceive itself as too "different or separate". Christian families are not "strange" families but families open to all, both towards those who share the same values and towards those who do not fully share them while seeking support and help from them. Open above all to the poor and to those in need. Families who are capable of weaving friendships.

"With the witness of their lives, and also with words, families speak of Jesus to

others, transmit the faith, awaken the desire for God, and show the beauty of the Gospel and of the lifestyle that he proposes to us. Thus Christian spouses paint the grey of the public space, filling it with the colours of fraternity, of social sensitivity, of the defence of fragile people, of luminous faith, of active hope. Their fruitfulness expands and is translated into a thousand ways of making God's love present in society "(AL 185).

THE SOURCE OF FECUNDITY

Where to find the strength to experience the fruitfulness of love?

First of all, in the Eucharist. Families who feed on the Eucharist with the right disposition strengthen their desire for fraternity, their social sense and their commitment to the needy. They know they find the source of their self-giving in the Body and Blood given by the Lord.



So in extended, open families that meet and collaborate with each other. More

FRUITS OF JOY

A family that generates love, and makes its home a hearth for all, is a home of joy for all, is a cradle of love for children, for friends. Thus the family becomes a school of life, of love and of joy.

In the identity card of the Salesian Family (art. 33) we are shown three attitudes which foster joy and communicate it to

than ever, there is a need to establish networks of families, overcoming the

"Temptation to individualism that leads to withdrawing into a small nest. However, this isolation no longer offers peace and happiness, but closes the heart of the family and deprives it of the broad horizon of existence "(AL 187).

Finally, if we are able to reconcile ourselves with time, we will understand the fruitfulness of waiting. Against the culture of immediate enjoyment that wants everything immediately, man knows that authentic desire is strengthened and purified over time, that love grows with time, that affections take shape and strength only if we give them time, that bonds can be faithful and happy only if they are the result of a prolonged time of knowledge, respect, attention.

others. *La fiducia nella vittoria del bene. In noi e attorno a noi. C'è sempre un punto accessibile al bene su cui far leva.*

1. *Confidence in the victory of good. In us and around us. There is always an accessible point to the good on which to leverage.*

2. *The appreciation of human values. Don Bosco's disciple grasps the values of the world and refuses groaning about his time: he retains all that is good. No more complaints and prophecies of doom. Let's train ourselves to say only words of blessing.*
3. *Education to daily joy. We ask for the grace of a patient effort to learn and*

learn again, to taste with simplicity, the many human joys that the Creator puts on our path every day: meals, evenings, going out, playing together, daily dialogue ... "Rejoice in the Lord always, I repeat: rejoice" (Phil 4: 4)

FOR PERSONAL AND GROUP REFLECTION

- What are the most beautiful signs of fruitfulness and openness that you see in yourself and in your family? Which, on the other hand, are those of closure and selfishness?
- Are you building a network of families where friendship and sharing are at home? What steps should you still take in this direction?
- What is the attention paid to the poorest people and / or families in need of help and closeness?
- How are you living your parenting in the time you invest to be with your children, to talk and play with them? Do you pray for them while offering your small and big sacrifices? Are you aware that the more you grow in concrete love for your spouse, the more you nourish your motherhood and fatherhood?

GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

PRIMARY ADMA COUNCIL: APPOINTMENT OF ADMA WORLD EQUIPE

Dear ADMA devotees from all over the world, a fraternal greeting from the Council and from all the Primary ADMA of Valdocco.

With we have never seen many of you personally, but we feel close and we feel a strong desire to know and meet you.



Distances and circumstances sometimes do not allow us a personal embrace, but we all feel close in a common embrace

under Mary's mantle.

As you know, a new Primary Council has been elected in the past few months and we are now in the process of defining and implementing the programme for the next four years.

One of the initiatives that, as a Council, we have the desire to carry out specifically concerns you, the ADMA groups around the world.

In this regard, a councillor was appointed and a team set up with the specific mandate of:

" Understanding how to carry out the role of world animation entrusted to Primary ADMA with greater intensity, continuity and strength.

Begin to get to know the various realities of the world together with the animator - at the provincial / national level - and undertake forms of dialogue and sharing to help us better understand the role of world animation that we must play and what are the

main expectations and needs that the local realities express and hope to be satisfied by our animation."

How can we do this?

A first need is obviously to know who we are, where we are, how many we are ...

Over the years, also through the great job done by the world animators and the secretariats, we have collected and recorded various information on the various groups in the world. However the richness and number of fruits that constantly blossom from Don Bosco's holiness never cease to amaze us..

How many ADMA groups are there in the world? Where am I? We often become aware of new groups and initiatives that still amaze and move us.

We thought of asking for your help and taking advantage of the availability of your representatives, presidents, SDB and FMA animators, etc..

Write to us!

We have opened a contact channel via email adma@admadonbosco.org or through the site.

We will certainly be happy to answer you, correct and complete the data etc. Over time, the groups' registry and our map will become more and more complete, correct and useful.

A sincere thanks in advance for your friendship and for your contribution.

In prayer we entrust all of us and our projects into the hands of the Help of Christians, let her lead and support them.

A warm greeting

The adviser for world animation Giovanni Scavino with the whole team

REGULATION

ARTICLE 7: ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

As already anticipated last month, in this section, the Regulation describes the organisational aspects of the Association according to the provisions of the Code of Canon Law (abbreviated to CIC, from the Latin title Codex Iuris Canonici), the normative code of the Catholic Church of the Latin rite. The new Code was promulgated by John Paul II on January 25, 1983 and entered into force on November 27 of the same year



Specifically, ADMA is a public association of the faithful. It is erected by the competent apostolic authority and enjoys legal personality with rights and duties. Its president becomes the legal

representative and, if he acts in the name and on behalf of the Association, he responds with the assets of the same.

The canonical erection of local groups is carried out by the SDB Inspector for all SDB and FMA works by means of a decree of erection.

The other ADMAs, both diocesan and other Religious Institutes, as well as other Salesian Family Groups, are erected by the competent SDB Provincial, but with the written consent of the Bishop of that diocese which must be noted in the document of establishment.

The founding moment of the Association coincides with its erection and gives rise to rights, obligations and the ability to admit new members; at the same time, the establishment as a legal person determines not only the existence of the Association, but also the nature and legal regime.

Andrea and Maria Adele Damiani

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

LET'S LEARN FROM MARY HER ABANDONMENT IN GOD



“Do not think that the Lord is further away from you while you dedicate yourself to the matters to which your vocation commits you than if you were among the delights of a peaceful life. No, it is not the external tranquility that brings him closer to our hearts, but the fidelity of our love; not the feeling we have of his sweetness, but the consent we give to his holy will. Our Lord loves with particular tenderness those who are happy to abandon themselves totally to his paternal solicitude, letting themselves be governed by his divine providence and doing together with great attention all that is his will. Very sure

that nothing could be taken away from them from that paternal heart full of love and that He will not allow anything to happen from which he does not make them benefit, as long as they have put all their trust in Him.”

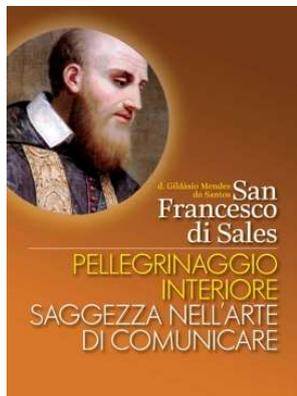
((from Theotimus - Treatise on the Love of God, St. Francis de Sales)

Let's pray:

Teach us Mary to place all our trust in God and to open our hearts to Him.

FAMILY CHRONICLE

"SAN FRANCESCO DI SALES COMMUNICATOR. INNER PILGRIMAGE, WISDOM IN THE ART OF COMMUNICATING"



"Everything in the Church is love: everything lives in love, for love and for love"

It is with this expression that Saint

Francis de Sales, unique in his time, began a real revolution in the way of communicating. The word communication is the key to the theology and spirituality of the saint, who made an interior pilgrimage in the wise and loving search for God.

EAST TIMOR - ANNUAL RETREAT OF THE ADMA IN COMORO AND OATH OF NEW MANAGERS



Comoro, East Timor - December 2021 - On December 18, at the parish of "Mary Help of Christians" in Comoro, the members of

the ADMA of Comoro and Balide, and various aspirants, gathered for the annual retreat and the swearing-in ceremony of the new elected directors of ADMA for the new structure which will be led by Mr. José Filipe Nunes Soares. The event was attended by 148 people, including the spiritual animators, Sr. Brígida Sousa, FMA, and Sr. Ermelinda Silva, FMA, and was presided over by Fr Apolinário Neto, Superior of the Salesian Vice Province of East Timor (TLS).

BRAZIL - VIGIL FOR THE IMMACULATE OF ADMA PORTO VELHO



Porto Velho, Brazil - December 2021 - On the evening of 7 December, in the chapel of Mary Help of Christians in the Salesian parish of "Our Lady of Fatima" in Porto Velho, Rondônia, in the Salesian Province of Manaus (BMA), a vigil was held Salesian Marian in honour of the Immaculate Conception.

SEND AN ARTICLE AND PHOTOS

An article and a photo of a formation meeting, the commemoration of the 24th of Mary Help of Christians, a volunteer activity that you carry out

The article (.doc format, max 1200 characters without counting spaces) and a maximum of 2 photographs (digital format jpg and not less than 1000px wide), provided with a title and / or a short description, must be sent to adma@admadonbosco.org

It is essential to indicate in the subject of the email "Family Chronicle" and in the text the data of the author (name, surname, place of the shot, Adma group you belong to, city, country)

By submitting, you automatically authorise ADMA to process, publish, even partially, and disseminate the article and photographs in any form. The images may be published, at the discretion of the editorial staff on the site <https://www.admadonbosco.org>, and / or in other ADMA publications, accompanied by a caption.