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EDITORIAL

LOVE IN YOUR FIRMNESS

Dear ADMA friends,

We are beginning a new academic year in this part of the world and we would like to walk together with you on an inspirational path of spiritual growth accompanied by Mary. When we begin a journey, it is important to know where we want to arrive in order to direct our steps so as not to waste our time and energy. This year, we thought we would start from the origin and ask ourselves where our desire to grow comes from, why there is this desire for God in us.

St. Francis de Sales in the last chapter of his book, *Teotimo*, shares a significant reflection on our desire for God's love. He thus says:

“Teotimo, to know whether we love God above all things is not in our power, unless God himself reveals it to us; but we can know very well whether we desire to love him; and when we feel the desire for holy love in us, we know that we begin to love. The desire to love and love depends on the same will; therefore, as soon as the desire to love is formed, we know that we are beginning to love. As soon as the desire to love is formed, we begin to have love; and as this desire increases, so does love. He who ardently desires love, will soon ardently love. Who will grant us the grace, O my God, to burn with this desire, which is the desire of the poor and the preparation of their hearts, which God willingly hears?”

*He who is not sure of loving God is a poor man, and if he desires to love him, he is a beggar, but a beggar with that happy begging of which the Saviour said: **Blessed are the beggars in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. He who truly desires love, truly seeks it; he who truly seeks it, truly finds it. He who finds it has found the fountain of life, from which he will draw the salvation of the Lord.***

*Let us cry out, O Teotimo, night and day: **Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your Love.***

How beautiful then to begin with this desire that helps us to purify our hearts of other desires, to focus on what is really the most important thing in our lives: **to love, to feel loved by God as Father, as Saviour and Redeemer of each one of us.** When love directs our steps then our whole life is led by the Holy Spirit.

Mary desired God's love in such a way that she became, by the will of the Father, Mother of the Son, with the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary goes before us on this year's journey and shows us the way forward. She who is the **"humble servant"** becomes for us a teacher of love.

Dear friends, let us pray to Mary and ask for her intercession so that we may become her disciples at her school of prayer, with humility and desire for God's love.

*Renato Valera,
President - ADMA Primary.*

*Alejandro Guevara,
Spiritual Animator - ADMA Primary.*

"She who is the 'humble servant' becomes for us a teacher of love."



FORMATIVE PATH

FEEL LOVED BY GOD

1) Feeling loved by God

Our faith becomes alive when we experience that we are deeply loved by God.

“Then the Pharisees, having heard that he had closed the mouths of the Sadducees, gathered together, and one of them, a doctor of the Law, questioned him to test him: «Teacher, in the Law, what is the great commandment?» He answered him: «You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. The second then is similar to that: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.» On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Mt 22:34-40)

We all know that love is the main and the only commandment that Jesus teaches us. The early Christians recognised themselves in the way they loved and in the way they related to one another. It is indeed providential to take up this theme of **‘the LOVE of God and the LOVE of others’** at the beginning of our formation this year. We could not begin in a more evangelical, more fundamental and more Marian way. Let us ask the Lord with faith and conviction, every day of this journey, to help us experience his love as a Father, his unconditional love. It would be important for each of us to repeat every morning, every evening and every moment of the day this profound, intimate and heartfelt prayer: **“Lord, help me to experience your paternal love”**.

Our faith will remain a theory, a pure theology or only disembodied doctrine if it does not descend at every moment into our hearts and from there become life. By his incarnation, Jesus wanted to take on our human condition and bring us into relationship with God. It was a choice of love by the Father who from the beginning did not cease to love us and to show us this continuously. This is why I invite you to let yourselves be guided by the Word of God in this month’s formative moment. Read and re-read, but above all pray the text of Matthew 22: 34-40 and ask yourselves:

“How do I love the Lord? How do I love others? How can my love grow this year, beginning with my family, my children, my community, my friends and people that the Lord will put along my path?”

The question “*Master, in the Law, what is the great commandment?*” posed by a Pharisees to test Jesus becomes the core of the catechesis for his disciples. Perhaps, you too have some questions to ask Jesus and some doubts to clarify, you want to open your heart to him so that he can answer you simply, deeply and gently. Jesus wants to love you completely, entirely. **Let Jesus loves you.** Open yourself to the Father’s love through the presence of His Spirit. Put yourself in the presence of the Lord, invoking the Holy Spirit with your words so that this encounter may be an encounter of love, to savour Love and learn to LOVE by putting yourself in His presence, following the paths indicated to us by St. Francis de Sales:

- *The first is a lively and attentive awareness of God’s omnipresence: God is in everything and everywhere and there is no place or thing in this world that does not manifest His presence.*
- *The second is to think that God is present not only where you are but also in a special way in your heart and in the depths of your spirit.*
- *The third is to think of our Saviour, who, in his own humanity, sees from heaven all the people of the earth and especially those who are in prayer.*
- *The fourth is to think of our Saviour close to us in his humanity, just as our friends are close to us.*

1.1. Created by God’s love to love

God created us because he loves us through his free and disinterested love. This was the first way and sign of God’s love for each one of us: to create us. We were created by LOVE. We are the fruit of God’s Love. God need not have created us. Instead, He gave us the gift of life; He could have pronounced another

name. Instead, He wanted to pronounce ours; He could have taken another path, instead, He chose us, He thought of us, He loved us. When a man loves, his heart overflows, and the more he loves, the closer he comes to the heart of God. A heart that loves, shares its joy with others and this is the good wish of its Creator. God created us for an 'overflow' of his love. He wanted to share his infinite joy with us so that we would be immensely happy because we are creatures of his love. The true source of joy is love:

"The source of Christian joy is the certainty of being loved by God, of being loved personally by our Creator... with a passionate and faithful love, a love that is greater than our infidelity and our sins, with a love that forgives" (Benedict XVI). And the fullest, purest and truest love we will ever experience and receive is God's love.

We are on earth to know and love God, to do good according to his will, that is, to LOVE and to one day reach Paradise. We are pilgrims of faith because we come from God and go towards God. We have a more remote origin than our parents. We come from God in whom resides all the happiness of heaven and earth, and we are awaited in his eternal and unlimited bliss. Meanwhile we live on earth. Sometimes we experience the nearness of our Creator and at other times we struggle to feel His presence in our lives. For us to find our way home without getting lost, God has sent us His Son who has freed us from sin, saved us from all evil and leads us infallibly to true life. He is *"the way, the truth and the life"* (Jn 14:6).

God has placed in our hearts the desire to seek him and to find him. St Augustine says: *"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."* It is natural for human beings to seek God. Our whole search for truth and happiness is ultimately a search for that which sustains us, satisfies us and claims us absolutely. Man is fully himself only when he has found God. *"He who seeks truth seeks God, whether he is aware of it or not"* (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross - Edith Stein).

1.2. God's love is concrete and sensitive

We all know that God revealed himself because He wanted to be known. God was not obliged to reveal himself to humans but did so out of love. Just as in human love we can only know something of the

person we love when he opens his heart to us, we know something of God's innermost thoughts only because the eternal and mysterious God opened himself to us out of love. From the creation, through the patriarchs and prophets, to the final revelation in the Son Jesus Christ, God has spoken to humanity continuously. In Jesus, he has opened his heart to us and made clear his innermost being for all time. It is up to each of us to recognise that divine revelation is a sign of God's universal love for humanity in the history of our world. It may be a bit distant for us but our faith helps us to do so. It would be interesting to retrace God's revelation in the Old Testament by remembering how many signs, pledges and gestures of love he performed with our ancestors in faith.

He called Abraham to make him the *'father of a multitude of peoples'* (Gen 17:5b) and to bless in him *'all the families of the earth'* (Gen 12:3b). The people of Israel, born of Abraham, will be his personal property. God makes himself known to Moses by name. His mysterious name, transcribed Yahweh, means *"I am"* (Ex 3:14). He frees Israel from slavery in Egypt, seals a covenant at Sinai and, through Moses, gives his people the Law. Repeatedly, God sends prophets to call his people to conversion and renewal of the covenant. The prophets announce that God will establish a new



"We were created by LOVE. We are the fruit of God's Love."

and eternal covenant which will bring radical renewal and final redemption. This covenant will be open to all people. Finally, in Jesus Christ, God shows us the fullness of his merciful love. Through Jesus Christ the invisible God becomes visible. He becomes man like us. This shows us the extent of God's love.

After the revelation in the Old Testament comes the most obvious sign of God's love: Jesus Christ, his beloved Son. He is the sign par excellence, the greatest manifestation of God's commitment to man. This is what Jesus wanted to reveal to his friends, especially his closest friends on Mount Tabor. Jesus is the sign; **Jesus is the LOVE**. The best way the Father found to love us was to give us his beloved Son to love us as the Father loves us.

“At that time, Jesus took Peter, James and John, went up with them alone to a high mountain and was transfigured before them. Their clothes became dazzling white such as no fullness in the world could have left them. Elijah and Moses appeared to them, conversing with Jesus. Then Peter raised his voice and said to Jesus: «Master, it is good for us to be here. We will make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah”» They were frightened and he did not know what he was saying. A cloud formed and covered them, and out of the cloud came a voice: «This is my beloved Son, listen to him!».” (Mk 9:2-8)

It is our task to discover in Jesus the Son, the love of the Father through faith. The Father has sought to manifest his love in a perceptible way for us and has found no better way than Jesus, his Son.

Let us ask ourselves:

- Is Jesus a sign of LOVE for me?
- Do I feel loved in Jesus?
- Do I feel the love of Jesus in my life?

It is true that Jesus does not love us bodily, like a father, a mother, a friend... his presence is not as tangible as that of an ordinary human being. But it does not mean that his love does not exist, is not true and is not deep. He loves us every day in his Word, in the Eucharist, in Reconciliation, in the people he gives us, in the depths of our hearts when we understand what we were created for.

Faced with this love that God has for us, we must be amazed, contemplated... let God love us so that it becomes a source of service and love for others. When we powerfully experience the Father's love in our lives, it impels us to reciprocate His love with love for others. In the words of St. Paul, “the love of Christ urges us.” The first commandment to love God finds its fulfilment in the commandment to love our neighbours. Through our faith, we love God in others.

That is why our faith is a response to love and at the same time it is God's love in the service of others.

1.3. Faith is the response to God's love

Whoever wants to believe needs **“an attentive heart”** (1 Kings 3:9). God tries in many ways to make contact with us. In every human encounter, in every moving experience in nature, in every apparent case, in every challenge, in every pain, a message from God for us is hidden. He speaks to us even more clearly when he addresses us with his word or with the voice of our conscience. He speaks to us as a friend. Therefore, we must also respond to him as friends and believe in him, believe in him completely, learn to understand him better and better and accept his will without reservation.

Faith is knowledge and trust; faith is a pure gift from God, which we receive if we ask for it ardently; it is the supernatural power needed to achieve salvation; it requires the free will and clear understanding of man when we accept the divine invitation; it is absolutely certain because it has the guarantee of Jesus; it is incomplete until it is effective in love; it increases if we listen more attentively to God's voice and through prayer experience a living encounter with Him. Faith already allows us to taste the joy of heaven in advance.

This faith enables us to love and it increases the love more and more. Only when we believe can we love without expecting anything in return. Only when faith sustains our love can we heartily forgive those who have offended us.

“God tries in many ways to make contact with us. (...) He speaks to us as a friend.”



For personal prayer and meditation

1. Meditate on these sentences and pray:

“The measure of love is love without measure.”
 (St. Francis de Sales)

“Love is joy in the face of good; good is the only foundation of love. To love means: to want to do good to someone.”
 (St. Thomas Aquinas)

2. What do you want to do in order to welcome God’s love and perceive it in your daily life?

3. How can you cherish God’s love during this year? How to love Him and feel loved by Him?

Monthly commitment

Pray and insistently ask the Lord every day... **“Lord, help me to experience your love – the love of an endearing Father towards his child.”**



KNOW THE ASSOCIATION

ADMA IN KENYA

- First of all, kindly tell us briefly about yourself.

- I am Fr. Peter Mugo, coming from Kenya, East Africa.

- Tell us something about your experience of life and faith?

- I am a Salesian priest, perpetually professed 27 years ago.

- How long have you been an animator of the Association?

- I have been an animator of the Association for 10 months.

- What about your Salesian ministry till now?

- I have been involved in various apostolates as a Salesian: Association of the Sacred Heart (Maridi, South Sudan); Altar boys (Maridi, South Sudan); Minor Seminarians (Mafinga, Tanzania).

- And now to ADMA... What about the situation of the Association in your Province/Region?

- In my AFE Province (East Africa), the Association has been formed in Nzaikoni thanks to the initiative of my predecessor Fr. Paul Luseno with the blessing of Fr. Simon Asira (the Provincial).

- Kindly tell us about the number of local groups and members?

- There are seven local groups: Nzaikoni: 47 members, Mithanga: 18 members, Kathiani: 44 members, Muthala: 27 members, Kaalini: 71 members, Kithunguni: 17 members, Kikawani: 18 members. Total 242 minus one, Kathiani, who died. **Those who are in Formation:** Kikunuani: 13, Kauti: 15, Nzaikoni: 7, Mithanga: 5, Kathiani: 3, Kikawani: 4, Katulya: 5, Muthala: 2.

- How is the Association organised at provincial and local level?

- The association in our province is managed by our provincial office.

- Can you tell us about your life and your involvement in the Association?

- The Association is growing with monthly courses on Mariology and in particular on Mary Help of Christians.

- How do you maintain your relationship with other groups in the Salesian family?

- The Association is also growing by encouraging members and the entire parish to reflect on and celebrate the various feasts of our blessed Mother and to go on pilgrimage to the shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Nairobi, Don Bosco Upper hill.

- Thinking of the future, what ideas and plans do you have to preserve the faith among the people and promote love for Jesus in the Eucharist and entrustment to Mary?

- We would like to **promote the love for Jesus in the Eucharist and the entrustment to Mary**, to frequently make the Stations of the Cross as ADMA groups, families and faithful, to organise seminars, pilgrimages to Maria shrines, retreats on the feasts of Mary (Nativity, Assumption of Mary etc).

- And what would you do for young people?

- This is the responsibility of the Youth Ministry department with whom we collaborate.

- What would be your suggestion to the ADMA Primary for carrying out its work of animation worldwide and increase sharing and dialogue among the groups?

- **We propose to create opportunities for the meeting of various groups.**



REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS OF ADMA TO DEEPEN AND ACTUALIZE OUR IDENTITY



In this issue, we offer you a summary of the final articles of the Rules of Association dealing with organisational and management aspects.

Taking up the text, deepening it and bringing it up to date, allows us to renew our membership of the Association.

Article 12 - Council of local Associations

Each Local Association is coordinated by a Council, elected by the Assembly of members from a list of candidates who make themselves available for this service. The Local Council consists of:

- **President** (chairs the Council and represents the Association in external relations);
- **Vice-president;**
- **Treasurer** (administers the assets according to the laws of the country, submits a final balance and budget);
- **Secretary** (announces the convening of meetings, takes down the minutes and maintains the archives);
- and **an appropriate number of councillors**, as required. **The Animator or Spiritual Animator** also participates by right.

They remain in office for four years, and a second term is possible for a further four years. The Council meets once a month.

Among its tasks are: planning and coordination of formative and apostolic initiatives, taking care of the ties with the Salesian Family through participation in the Council, promotion of initiatives favouring the active participation of members.

Article 13 - Spiritual animators

They are appointed by the Provincial (SDB for SDBs, FMA for FMAs) and take care of formation in Salesian spirituality and communion with the journey of the local Church.

Article 14 - Provincial and national Council

Wherever possible, the Association is organised with a Council at the Provincial level which animates, coordinates and directs the local Associations and takes care of relationship with the other groups of the Salesian Family. It establishes initial and ongoing training courses with the local councils.

The National Coordination is the responsibility of the individual Provinces and nations where the need is felt.

Article 15 - THE ROLE OF THE PRIMARY

The ADMA at the Shrine of Turin-Valdocco is the heir to the first Association founded by Don Bosco and is therefore called 'Primary'. It performs the role of animation, liaison and information of the Association at world level. By tradition, the President and Spiritual Animator of the Primary are also of the entire Association.

It is nice to be reminded that it is Our Lady of Don Bosco who is the centre of our Association life and the Primary School acts in her name: *Mary Help of Christians is our President!*

Article 16 - World Council of the Association

It is an instrument of coordination and animation in communion with the Salesians and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. It meets ordinarily every 6 years, with the participation of the Vicar of the Rector Major, the General Councillor of the FMA and, for the Primary, the President, the Spiritual Animator and a Councillor, with a majority of lay people with respect to the consecrated.

Article 17 - Material goods of the Association

The Association has the right to acquire, possess, administer and sell goods according to civil and ecclesiastical legislation in the various countries.

Article 18 - Translation of the rules

The translation of the Rules and Regulations must be faithful and compliant and submitted to the Primary Council for its opinion.

Fr Pascual Chavez wrote: *"Mary guides our steps, sustains us in difficulties, comforts us in tribulations, educates us to love her Son."*

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us!

Andrea and Maria Adele Damiani

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

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES THE COMMUNICATOR. INTERIOR PILGRIMAGE, WISDOM IN THE ART OF COMMUNICATION

Saint Francis was an effective communicator!

While he knew how to accompany people in an interpersonal relationship, he was also a man of vision, of dialogue, of discernment, of choices and decisions, of governance! Considering the context of religious tension in which he lived, we can say that he built an organisational and institutional communication strategy because he believed deeply in his mission as a man of God and pastor of the Church.

Francis de Sales built a communication policy that allowed him to build unity among his clergy and people at the diocesan level and, at the same time, represented the Catholic Church with a strong sense of fidelity and responsibility.

Pope Benedict expresses this spiritual and communicative competence very clearly:

“He is an apostle, a preacher, a writer, a man of action and prayer; committed to realising the ideals of the Council of Trent; involved in controversy and dialogue with Protestants, experiencing more and more, beyond the necessary theological discussion, the effectiveness of personal relationship and charity; entrusted with diplomatic missions on a European level, and with social tasks of mediation and reconciliation” (Benedict XVI 2 March 2011).

Francis communicated with a great shepherd’s heart and with the vision of one who cares about defending the Church’s doctrine, accompanying its people, training its clergy, and creating a good relationship with people in the Church and society. Convinced of the importance of the art of printing, he wrote in a letter in Italian to the Nuncio in Turin in May 1598 expressing the need for a printing press:

“Among other necessary things, one is that one should have a printer in Annessi. The heretics are sending out

pestilent little books every hour, whereas many Catholic books remain in the hands of the authors without being able to send them to Lyons and do not have the convenience of a printer” (L I 337).

During his lifetime, Francis de Sales, with wisdom and holiness, built a vision of intrapersonal, interpersonal, communitarian and institutional communication into a unified and connected whole. After his death, his life and teaching had an enormous influence on the Europe of his time and in the following centuries, throughout the Church and the world. As the patron saint of journalists and writers, he continues to be a model communicator even today in our digital and virtual universe.

“Francis de Sales built a communication policy that allowed him to build unity among his clergy and people...”



FAMILY EVENTS

Primary ADMA – Spiritual Exercises: “More precious gift than life”

Over 450 people between July and August participated in spiritual exercises led by Fr. Alejandro Guevara Rodriguez and Fr. Roberto Carelli. It was an all-round family experience: parents had time and space for liturgical and silent prayer, following a meditation path that this year had as its theme “**Your grace is worth more than life**” (Ps 63:4), inspired by three themes:

1. New Thoughts: rediscovering the Word and Prayer; **2. New Life:** relaunching the growth of the virtues, particularly Humility and Charity; **3. New Relationships:** the “two pillars” dreamt of by Don Bosco, the persons of Jesus and Mary, the two Risen Ones; the concreteness of the Eucharist and the Rosary, the Sacraments of Communion and Confession; Advice and inspiration found in some passages from the Philothea of St. Francis de Sales.

While the parents lived the experience of the spiritual exercises, under the guidance of the animators, the children and young people of these same families spent days with distinct and well-prepared paths of play, prayer and formation. It was the fruit of careful preparation carried out during the year and practicing the precept of St. Francis de Sales, ‘**do everything out of love, nothing by force.**’

Following are some testimonies of the participants:

*“God’s love goes before me and is greater than all my sins, fears, misery, distance. I am loved, I am desired, I am awaited, I am sought by the Father who wants to give me the greatest gift: Jesus. I “only” have to open my heart and accept this gift, **to allow myself to be loved by God and reciprocate this love: love God and love others.**”*

*“From these exercises, I returned home with the desire to grow in the life of Grace and to watch out for everything that is an obstacle to deep humility, the only condition for **allowing ourselves to be filled with God.**”*

*“**It is an experience that celebrates the primacy of God in our lives,** creating the conditions necessary to dedicate time and heart to prayer and meditation; the mountain-setting inspires the heart with its beauty that speaks of God; meetings with other families open the heart to sharing. For us, it was an experience enjoyed and rejoiced by everyone, parents and children, and their experience of playing and sharing with other children and with the animators also brought great happiness. It has been a regular stop for us for years now and we thank the Providence for this annual spiritual and formative refreshment.”*

*“I really needed to stop, to empty myself of all anxieties and worries in order to be ‘filled’ with God’s Grace. How many gifts we receive each day and how many gifts I received during the retreat, through prayer, adoration, sharing and common moments. They all lead us to Jesus!!!
What I took home: ‘Charity is Love.’
Through it we are able to love Jesus above all else and it is that which makes it possible to love our neighbour as ourselves out of love for Jesus.”*



East Asia - Oceania - **ADMA is growing in the region with new and young members**

Since the second Congress of the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA) of the Salesian Region of East Asia - Oceania (AEO) was held in September 2021, with the countries and Circumscriptions that compose it, a consistent and enthusiastic growth of this important group of the Salesian Family is being noted with new groups, new aspirants, new ADMA youth and even the first ADMA members in some countries such as Pakistan and the Solomon Islands. There are three key words in this process: **Growth - Youth - Formation**.

After the ADMA Congress in the AEO Region in 2021, Fr. Godofredo Atienza, the former Provincial of FIS, was appointed Regional Coordinator of Spiritual Animators. Many Salesians and Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA) have been guided and inspired in their task of accompaniment at the local or Provincial level. And now that there are fewer restrictions on movement and meeting, the ADMA of East Timor is also preparing for its National Congress (October 2022). Here are **some concrete and recent signs of the charismatic growth of ADMA in the AEO region**:

- **The Northern Philippines Province (FIN)** held the **ADMA national leadership training** in Manila on the last 16th July with the presence of Salesian and FMA spiritual animators. The aim was to strengthen the motivation and identity of the respective leaders of ADMA centres throughout the country.

- The ADMA leaders of the **South Philippines (FIS)**, with the animation and training of the ADMA leadership of both the lay leaders and the provincial spiritual animator including Fr. Atienza, **are accompanying a new local centre** being set up **on the island of Olango**, with a majority of ADMA members being young. This new centre is among the few ADMA centres far away from any Salesian or FMA community, and thus constitutes a true **“ADMA missionary experience”**.

- **The ADMA Youth group of East Timor (TLS) is growing**. Recently, the ADMA centre in Venilale is coming up with its formation programme for ADMA youth. In a national context of a strong presence of the Association with over 900 members in East Timor but mostly elderly, the presence of youth groups has an inspiring impact. The spiritual animator of the FMA groups, Sr. Caroline, is also always available.



- **In Papua New Guinea (PNG)**, in Port Moresby, **the second formation course for ADMA Youth** started, with sessions animated by Sr. Alice Fulgencio, FMA, the spiritual animator of the group.

- **In South Korea (KOR)**, the two ADMA centres - in Gwangju and Seoul - both mark **new additions and new aspirants** who begin their formation. With new spiritual animators from the Salesians and the FMA and the support of both Provincials, a bright future is in sight.

- **In Thailand (THA)**, the ADMA Centre in Bangkok **is engaged in formation and apostolic activities**, accompanied constantly with

patience by Fr. Aaron Alcoseba and the lay animators of the centre.

On closer look, devotion to Mary Help of Christians is a treasure common to the whole Salesian Family, but ADMA is called to cultivate and spread it in a special way. In addition to the central ADMA website, **the new international website dedicated to Mary Help of Christians**, open to all the 32 groups of the Salesian Family, has also been active since 2022: ausiliatrice.org

According to the World Spiritual Animator of the ADMA, Fr. Alejandro Guevara, SDB, *“This new space wants to be a simple way of thanking God for the great gift he has given us in the Blessed Virgin Mary, making us all her children; it is an opportunity to renew our Marian devotion, received and transmitted in the style of Don Bosco, and also an invitation to gather around Mary who gathers us and brings us together.”*

South Korea – First historical meeting of ADMA group



Seoul, South Korea - July 2022 - In recent years, *two groups of the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA) were founded in South Korea: the first in Gwangju (2017) and the second in Seoul (2021)*. Because of the pandemic, the first ever ADMA meeting in the country was held from 21 to 23 July in Neri, in the Salesian retreat house on the south-western coast of the country. 24 ADMA members, including 3 aspirants, had common prayer, time for discussion, training, information and recreation, in order to strengthen their identity. There are many signs of growth, including the care of spiritual animators, thanks to the support of both the Salesians and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians of South Korea.

The two centres in Seoul and Gwangju are slowly growing in number. On 24th May, for example, another 8 new members made their promise in Gwangju, during the Eucharist celebrated by Fr Fr. Henry Woo, the ADMA spiritual animator of the SDB Province.

ADMA at Chainça - Portogallo



This group was born in 2012 with 32 members. It is part of the parish community of S.Vicente in Abrantes, diocese of Portalegre/Castelo Branco - Portugal, more precisely in a rural area called Chainça that has the church of Nossa Senhora das Graças (Our Lady of Grace). The parish priest is in the city. The FMA came here in 2005 for pastoral service. In 2019, five more members joined and we were regularised with the request for aggregation after explicit authorisation from the Bishop and the Provincial. During the pandemic, we were in touch with one another over the telephone and the initiative called, *'One for all, for Mary Help of Christians'*. *This group is the one that ensures assiduous prayer for the pastoral and catechetical care of this section of the People of God.* 90% of those who attend the Rosary and the Sacrament

of Reconciliation are ADMA members. We are trying to rejuvenate the Association, starting with catechesis to families who are more spiritually sensitive.

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).

By sending, you automatically authorise Adma to process, publish, even partially, and disclose the article and photographs in any form. The images may be published, at the editorial staff's discretion, on the website www.admadonbosco.org, and/or in other Adma websites, accompanied by a caption.