

MARY URGES US TO RETURN TO PRAYER AND TO OPEN OUR HEARTS TO CONVERSION

Our Lady reminds us that our past, present and future are in God's hands and that God has not forgotten his people. She is with us. She blesses us and she loves us. She listens to our prayers and supplications, and she intercedes for us with her Son Jesus. **She guides humanity**, despite the fact that the devil is trying to destroy, not only people's lives, but also the planet we live on. Our Lady is with us and is leading the battle against the power of the evil one. With her help we will win the battle if we abandon ourselves to God and begin to live holy lives as she asks of us. She is the star who gives us light and she tells us: "You are not alone. With the help and blessing of God, and with my maternal blessing, you should not be afraid. Death is not the end."

To our frightened humanity which is fearful of the future, Mary infuses courage and hope, inviting us to witness to the Gospel, to pray with confidence and to live holy lives. **Everyone, man and woman, is called to return to Jesus Christ**, to return to prayer and fasting, and to live by the commandments. Truly our life is fleeting and has no meaning without God. Mary is with us so that each one will discover the joy of living.



As you already know, the Rector Major has appointed Fr Alejandro Guevara as the new spiritual animator of ADMA to succeed Fr Pierluigi Cameroni who has accompanied the Association for over 13 years.

We praise the Lord and Our Lady Help of Christians for the journey we have travelled so far, anchored to the two columns of Mary Help of Christians and the Eucharist. Numerous expressions of gratitude and communion have come in recent days. We quote one that struck us as truly inspired. It represents a beautiful synthesis of life lived with Mary Help of Christians: "ADMA has a direct line to the heavenly Mariapolis. ADMA is the fulcrum of the whole Salesian Family. ADMA is an extremely important and precious association of spiritual volunteering. ADMA is the cornucopia, the symbol of plenty, of the special love of Mary Most Holy for everyone who turns to her or is entrusted to her by the fraternal, charitable and prayerful love of another. ADMA is the cradle of the purest and most merciful heart of Jesus, the innocent one par excellence, who is depicted reaching out joyfully and lovingly towards humanity in the image of Mary Most Holy, the Help of Christians. Our most powerful Mother in heaven is the owner and patroness of ADMA."

*Renato Valera, President
Fr Pierluigi Cameroni SDB, Spiritual Animator*

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

Luis Fernando Álvarez González, sdb

10. Come, let us adore him! - Second part



"My father gives you the bread that came down from heaven"

*They said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform? **Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness**; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; **my Father gives you the true bread from heaven**. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Lord, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. (Jn 6,30-35)*

The episode of the manna in the desert, the bread that God gave from heaven, is the image of Christ himself (cf. Jn 6). When the people rebelled not wanting to continue the journey in the desert, and began to long for the time in Egypt when they were seated with pots full of meat, God intervened and gave them bread from heaven. **The former was the food of slavery when they were seated; the second was food for a journey, food of vocation.** The chosen people are

a people on a journey because they are a people of vocation: their vocation has a beginning and a goal. With the manna, God wanted to teach his people how they were to get food and what food man really needs. Man needs only the food that helps him to cross the desert to reach the promised land, which in the New Testament is made explicit as full communion with God in Christ. If they wanted to store up the manna, it did not last, and the worms came. God provides for his people. Everything the body needs comes from heaven through the earth, as the manna did. Man gets what he needs not by his own strength and effort alone: "You prepare a table for me under the eyes of my enemies ..." (Ps 23.5). Everything that man needs to cross the desert of life and reach full communion with God the Father is found in Christ, in whom we are incorporated by our baptism. The Eucharist feeds this life and also teaches us how to live, work and eat. When the people ate manna, God wanted them to remember that he was the one who provided for them.

The paper can be read at the following site:

www.admadonbosco.org

For every communication you can contact

the following email address: pcameroni@sdb.org

In fact, we Christians learn to eat from the Eucharist because there we learn that bread is not only bread, but Christ, and therefore in every food we see some of God's love through the love of the one who procured and prepared it for us, that is, through communion with those with whom we eat it and through creation.

What is your faith in Jesus, Son of God?

Do you desire Jesus the bread of life?

"They ate their fill "

Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a multitude was coming to him, Jesus said to Philip, "How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" This he said to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "**There is a lad here** who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place; so the men sat down, in number about five thousand. **Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them** to those who were seated; so



also the fish, as much as they wanted. And **when they had eaten their fill**, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign which he had done, they said, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!" Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself. (Jn 6,4-15).

In Chapter 6 of St John's Gospel **the divine origin of Christ** is affirmed with the multiplication of the loaves. The unbelieving Jews ask him for signs like those that Moses had given when he procured manna in the desert. Christ is amazed that they have not yet understood that it was not Moses who gave them manna, but their Father in heaven. The Israelites who ate manna are dead, but whoever eats this new bread, the real bread which Christ calls living bread, will not die, but will live forever. Christ declares that he is offering the world a life that knows no end and that whoever welcomes him welcomes this life, because it is as intimately united with him as bread for the life of man. Christ says that the Father's will is that whoever sees the Son and believes in him will have eternal life and he will raise him up on the last day (cf. Jn 6.40). Shortly afterwards he says that whoever eats this bread and drinks his blood will live eternally and He will raise them up on the last day (cf. Jn 6:54). Christ stresses that believing in him means seeing him and living with him a relationship as total and concrete as eating and drinking his flesh and blood. **Believing is a true participation in the life of God, in Christ.**

Christ is food for the life that we received in baptism and which is now linked with his blood. At the same time, Christ points out that **the question of bread belongs to the Father**: eating bread means drinking the love of the Father. The bread transmits the life of the Father and Christ is precisely this communication. Christ as bread is therefore the revelation of the Father and of his love for us. Even on a human level, tradition tells us that procuring bread was normally the work of the father. The bread for the life that will overcome death cannot be provided by man alone. Indeed, he cannot add even a single day to his life. In the multiplication of the loaves, Christ shows that when we welcome him **the Father takes care of his people**, starting from the gift of life that goes beyond the grave. Any other care or work arises from this primacy of the gift of divine life and exists in view of this life and in function of it.

In the account of the multiplication of the loaves, John underlines a detail, namely that the five loaves and the two fishes were given to Christ by a boy. This detail allows us to underline another theological and liturgical truth: **in his hands even the smallest gift that we deliver to Christ becomes immense and unlimited** like his love, which is universal. Many prayers after the offertory make clear how our humble gift becomes a gift for many people. The Body of Christ is the Church. What is offered in the liturgy becomes Christ and is transformed into a universal gift: the bread is changed into the true bread which is Christ, bread that is offered for many, which means for an infinite multitude. Our charity is more than simply our heroic offering. It is a dimension of God's charity and the sacramentality of love. Charity has only one source which is Christ. Since the Eucharist includes Christ's Paschal offering to the Father, the Eucharist "produces" the effect of charity in people and multiplies the gift.

Do you believe that the Eucharist is the mystery of faith?

What do you put into Jesus' hands?

"He walked with them"

*"That very day **two of them were going** to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and **went with them**. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him." (Lk 24,13-16)*

By recognizing the Lord at the breaking of bread, the disciples of Emmaus became witnesses of the resurrection. The two of them were making their way to Emmaus, commenting on and analysing what had happened. The same thing happens in many church gatherings and meetings. We are all well used to commenting and analysing. Their minds were darkened by their concerns and their eyes were covered in mist, so much so that they were unable to recognize the Lord who was walking with them. Indeed, they thought he was a stranger - the only stranger - even though he was the protagonist of the events they were discussing.

Slowly he himself revealed to them that what they were unable to accept was failure, crucifixion. Christ helped them to understand that it was truly necessary that he be sent by the Father to reveal to us the Father's love. For this reason, he was delivered into our hands. And since we are an evil and sinful generation, we maltreated him and killed him. Precisely in this he revealed his love, by allowing himself to be treated in this way. At that moment, the disciples understood what St. John and St. Paul were to write later, namely that **only love remains** and that everything that is received in love will rise again for eternal life. Without hesitation the disciples got up and ran towards Jerusalem, back to the community.

The disciples were living a sort of Easter triduum. In a way, what happened to them was Christ's Passover: they go from sadness, disappointment and failure to an experience of the love of God. From people who were running away from the community, they become people of communion who return to the community to witness the Risen One. Then the two disciples were directed towards Jerusalem which represents the

church. The Eucharist is, in fact, the Body of Christ and therefore also a revelation of the truth of the Church. When we pray before the Blessed Sacrament, we must never forget that **we are also contemplating the truth that we are Church, the Body of Christ**. Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament must not become an individualistic mysticism. It is to be seen in a healthy ecclesiological, apostolic and charitable dimension. Anyone who prays in this way will come out of the church through the door of the two disciples of Emmaus and will enter the creative dynamic of the Church and, through the Church, of the whole world in which the Church dwells

How do you live the Easter journey of death and resurrection?

Have you an experience of Christ walking with us, opening our eyes, warming our hearts?

Don Bosco and Adoration

John Bosco always spoke to his boys about the Eucharist, with that peculiarity typical of a heart in love. Frequently, when he preached, when he described Jesus' infinite love for men, his tears came down and touched those who were listening to him. Also, in moments of relaxation, when talking about the Eucharist, his face lit up and he used to ask: "Do we want to be sad or happy? Let us love Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with all our hearts." "There is no greater happiness on this earth than the happiness that comes from a well-made communion," he used to say.

Don Bosco used to tell the boys and the confreres: "There is nothing that the devil fears more than these two things: a well-made communion and frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament: Do you want the Lord to give us many graces? Visit him often. Do you want the Lord to give us only a few? Visit him rarely." His last recommendations to his spiritual sons and daughters were: "Spread devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Jesus and Mary Help of Christians and you will see what miracles are."



FAMILY CHRONICLE

RECTOR MAJOR NAMES NEW DELEGATES FOR SALESIAN FAMILY

With an official statement, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation and Father and Center of Unity of the Salesian Family, communicated the names of the new Delegates of the Rector Major for those groups that foresee direct spiritual animation by the Sons of Don Bosco. Below, the text of the press release.

Dear Salesian Confreres, dear Members of the Salesian Family, My heartfelt greetings to all of you. After the celebration of the 28th General Chapter of the Salesians of Don Bosco, some changes are taking place in the various services of animation. One of these concerns the Secretariat of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family. In this line I would like to notify the Salesian Family worldwide about the Delegates of the Rector Major for those groups where is required a direct spiritual animation by the Salesians of Don Bosco.

The Delegates of the Rector Major are:

Fr Joan Lluís Playà, Delegate of the Rector Major for the Secretariat of the Salesian Family; he will continue to be the Ecclesiastical Assistant of the VDB (Volunteers of Don Bosco) and CDB (Volunteers with Don Bosco). Fr Joan Lluís is already well known, since he worked in this field during the previous years. We also appreciated him as a good Coordinator of the Animation Team of the Spirituality Days of the Salesian Family.



- Bro. Duc (Dominic) Nam Nguyen, Vietnamese Salesian Brother, will be the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Association of the Salesian Cooperators and the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Past Pupils of Don Bosco. Bro. Dominic has a good knowledge of the European and the Italian context and undoubtedly he is a reference point for the Asian culture. My intention is to avoid a Europeanisation or Westernization in the animation of the Salesian Family; rather I wish to make it more universal, and also to value at the best the vocation of the Salesian Brother in its more specific characteristics, including the animation of the Salesian Family, in particular of the two groups within it composed mainly by lay people.

Fr Alejandro Guevara, at present the Delegate for the Salesian Family of the Province Mary Help of Christians in Seville (Spain), will be the Delegate of the Rector Major as Spiritual Animator of the Association of Mary Help of Christians, accompanying first of all the ADMA PRIMARIA in Turin and, from there, the whole Association in the Salesian world. His dwelling will be in Valdocco and from Valdocco he will carry on his service of animation.



- Fr Pier Luigi Cameroni, Postulator General for the Causes of Saints, will also be part of the team of the Secretariat, in order to enrich the Salesian Family with the vision and better understanding of Salesian holiness, to which we are all called.

I am very grateful to these four confreres for their availability and generosity in accepting their assignments; I also thank Fr Eusebio Muñoz, Fr Giuseppe Casti and Fr Raphael Jayapalan for the dedicated and qualified service they have rendered in the previous six years to our Family. My best wishes for the years ahead, praying for the continuation of a lively and beautiful animation of the whole Salesian Family, and at the same time for the innovation and renewal that the Church and Don Bosco's charism requires today from all of us.

Yours sincerely,

Ángel Fernández Artime, SDB
Rector Major

LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ADMA MR RENATO VALERA

Dear

I am writing to you following the appointment by the Rector Major Fr Angel Artime of the new delegates for the Salesian Family and in particular the appointment of Fr Alejandro Guevara as World Spiritual Animator of our association, replacing Fr Pierluigi Cameroni, who maintains the role of Postulator General for the Causes of the Saints and who in any case will be part of the team of the Secretariat for the Salesian Family.

I am writing to you first of all to extend together with you our welcome to Don Alejandro and our thanks for his willingness to accept this assignment. Fr Alejandro has worked as Delegate for the Salesian Family in Spain (Province of Seville) where he collaborated very much with the Association of Mary Help of Christians in many contexts.



I think that his appointment is the result of a great inspiration from our Rector Major and I think that he is truly part of a great design whose direction is entrusted to Mary as always. We are truly happy for his appointment and from the bottom of our hearts we entrust to Mary Help of Christians all his intentions and his new task among us.

I am also sure that I can address in the name of each one of you, in the name of the entire Association and with the same emotion that all of you today feel a huge thanks to don Pierluigi Cameroni, for the service rendered in these years with dedication and passion for the good of Adma.

Fr Pierluigi really wanted to spread the love for Mary Help of Christians and for Jesus in the Eucharist, he spiritually animated our groups, he knew how to create and consolidate fraternal relationships, which go beyond the borders of the world and which make us feel united today more than ever in entrusting our life to Mary and in sharing grace with our brothers.

We want to thank Don Pierluigi for his constant presence, for his endless journeys, for the care of Adma on Line, for the enormous work of publishing the notebooks of Mary Help of Christians, for the promotion of international congresses, for the development of the association in the world.

We want to thank him above all because he has always been able to respond to such a great and worldwide role with a familiar style, with sympathy and energy and with a truly special and personal presence for each and every one: those who have had the joy of meeting him and getting to know him can witness it.



Don Pierluigi will certainly still be present and active in promoting the Association and working with us on the project of a great Salesian Family in the world.

So let us entrust him too to Mary Help of Christians to protect him and fill him with grace for the good that he wanted us to do.

United in Mary and Don Bosco,
Renato Valera and the entire Council of the Primary Adma of Turin-Valdocco