

MARIA FORDERT UNS AUF, UNS FÜR DIE HEILIGKEIT ZU ENTSCHEIDEN

Auf unserem Glaubensweg sind wir immer begleitet von der mütterlichen Gegenwart Marias, die die Helferin der Kirche und der Familien ist in diesen nicht leichten Zeiten des Angriffes auf den Glauben. Es geht darum, offener und aufmerksamer auf das zu sein, was Maria von uns will, denn wir lassen uns leicht dazu verleiten, nicht auf den Willen Gottes zu hören und nicht seinem Ruf zu folgen.

Maria erinnert uns, **dass unsere wichtigste Berufung jene zur Heiligkeit ist**, das heißt in Freundschaft mit



Gott zu leben und zu leben als seine Söhne und Töchter. Für uns, die wir in der Spiritualität des hl. Franz von Sales verwurzelt sind, ist dies ein wichtiger Aspekt. Dieser große Heilige hat in seinem Werk *Einführung in das geistliche Leben* alle zur Heiligkeit aufgerufen: „Bei der Schöpfung hat Gott allen Pflanzen **aufgetragen, Frucht zu bringen**, jeder gemäß ihrer eigenen Art: in gleicher Weise will er, dass die Christen lebendige Pflanzen der Kirche, Früchte der Hingabe bringen, jeder entsprechend seiner Natur und seiner eigenen Berufung. Diese Hingabe wird auf je unterschiedliche Weise von einem

Adeligen, einem Künstler, einem Handwerker, einem Fürsten, einer Witwe, einer Baronin, einer Verlobten unterschiedlich gelebt; doch damit noch nicht genug! Die Hingabe muss auch entsprechend der persönlichen Kräfte, der beruflichen Gegebenheiten und der Notwendigkeiten der einzelnen gelebt werden. Wenn die Hingabe echt ist, dann zerstört sie nichts, sondern führt zur Vollkommenheit; doch wenn sie der eigenen Berufung entgegensteht dann ist sie zweifelsohne falsch. Das geistliche Leben aus der Kaserne des Soldaten, aus dem Atelier des Künstlers, aus dem Hof des Fürsten und aus der Intimität der Eheleute zu verbannen, ist ein Fehler, ja sogar eine Häresie. Es braucht wenig, um sie zu finden: **überall können und müssen wir die Hingabe leben**“. Der Weg der Heiligkeit lässt uns auf diese Weise entdecken, dass jeder von uns von Gott geliebt ist, dass jeder von uns in den Augen Gottes einmalig und unersetzbar ist.

In dieser Spannung sind wir nicht allein, sondern begleitet vom Beispiel und der Fürbitte so vieler Männer und Frauen, die in hervorragender und leuchtender Weise ein Zeugnis der Heiligkeit uns geschenkt haben. Denken wir nur an die Eltern der heiligen Theresa von Lisieux, Luigi und Zelia Martin, die kürzlich heilig gesprochen wurden. Denken wir auch an die unzähligen Martyrer, die mit größtem Mut ihren Glauben bis zur Vergießung ihres eigenen Blutes bezeugt haben.

Wir fühlen uns vereint in diesem wunderbaren Abenteuer, wie auch der Brief an die Hebräer erinnert: „ermahnt einander jeden Tag, solange es noch heißt: Heute, damit niemand von euch durch den Betrug der Sünde verhärtet wird“.

FAMILY CHRONICLE

TURIN - VALDOCCO - 25th MARIAN DAY



On Sunday 25 October 2015, in a Marian climate of communion and joy, the ADMA groups of Piedmont, Valle d'Aosta and Lombardy celebrated the 25th Marian Day. Before about 300 people, Sister Linda Pocher, FMA, introduced the second catechesis of the programme for this year in the life of the association, in tune with the Jubilee which will begin on 8 December 8, on the theme of Mercy: *With Mary and like Mary, reborn in His Mercy*. Mercy

is the womb of faith. This was followed by a time of prayer and reflection on the formation programme.

Then Mr Tullio Lucca, President of the Primary ADMA, explained the meaning of being "Devotees of Mary Help of Christians", referring to the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, in the light of his fundamental work *Introduction to the Devout Life*. Two testimonies followed from Frederick Rissone and Teresa Furlan. They described their experience as young people from ADMA during the world meeting of the Salesian Youth Movement marking the end of the bicentenary year of Don Bosco. Then Sergio and Cecilia Durighello, a married couple from the Primary ADMA, shared their experience of the International Congress of Mary Help of Christians. Five young people had joined the Association. The atmosphere at the Shalom Community of Palazzolo sull'Oglio was one of openness and service.

In the afternoon, at the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, after the community recitation of the Rosary, there was the solemn Eucharist at which Fr **Franco Lotto**, Rector of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, presided. During the celebration twenty-six people joined the association: in the Primary (6 young people, 5 couples, 3 senior members), Arese (1), Ivrea (1) and the Shalom Community of Palazzolo sull'Oglio (5 young people).

This Marian Day confirmed how Mary Help of Christians accompanies and supports her Association by renewing it and demonstrating the mercy of God from generation to generation.

CONGO - BEGINNING OF ADMA



The first meeting of prayer, meditation and mutual understanding to start ADMA in the Province of Congo (Central Africa) took place on 24 September 2015. The meeting was coordinated by Father Albert Kabuge. It included a formative moment on the theme: "Mary invites us to pray for families and for the sanctity of the

family." An introduction to the Regulations followed and some sharing on the monthly activities and the frequency of the meetings. The participants stressed the need to get established first of all with a core group of well-formed members before starting local groups.

SICILY - MEETING OF LOCAL COUNCILS



A meeting of the local councils of ADMA in Sicily, was held at the San Cataldo Institute of the FMA on 4 October 2015. During it the elections of the new Provincial Council took place. Among those present were Fr Pierluigi Cameroni, world spiritual animator and the Provincial animators of Sicily, Fr Angelo Grasso and Sister Carmelina Cappello. There were more than 120 participants representing almost all the ADMA centres on the island.

It was a particularly busy day and it was exciting to hear, in the early morning, Fr Pierluigi Cameroni speaking about the Seventh Congress of Mary Help of Christians which took place in Turin from 6 to 9 August. He recommended giving greater attention to families as the primary place of education and evangelization. We need to educate families to educate young people. ADMA should not be reduced to devotional practices, but should be a shared experience of faith that changes lives. This means working for Our Lady, bringing joy to people's heart and doing so in the spirit of the Magnificat; serving our brothers and sisters for the good of society that is losing the essential values of human existence.

These are the commitments he left us:

- Renewing the preventive system in families through dialogue, mutual love and prayer.
- Being docile to the Spirit in order to be used as the Spirit wants.

In the first part of the afternoon there was the election of the new Provincial Council of Sicily, consisting of four members at the regional level and six at zonal level.

Those elected at regional level are: Auteri Giuseppe, Calvino Angela Rita, Fichera Grazia Maria and Petitto Venera.

At zonal level, eastern Sicily: Anticonome Lucia, Gravagna Maria and Leonardo Anna.

At zonal level, Western Sicily: Martiradonna Maria, Puccio Agnese and Valdes Teresa.

(Venera Petitto)



AOSTA (ITALY) - MEETING FOR FAMILIES

"Spouses and parents - Experiencing the joy of the Gospel in a family" was the title of the retreat organized by ADMA on 11 and 12 October at the Priory of Saint-Pierre. A hundred people came to hear two talks given by Fr Roberto Carelli (SDB, professor of theology and expert on family issues). He offered couples a few thoughts on "Happily married: the grace of marriage" and on "Bonds of freedom: the education of children in the light of faith." On these two important topics Fr Carelli



proposed two different 'Decalogues' - practical suggestions and spiritual reflections to strengthen the relationship between spouses and, as a consequence, the relationship between parents and children.

The Family ADMA offers a programme to help the love between spouses to be renewed every day, to promote their spiritual growth as individuals and as families, and a training course for parents in the difficult task of education, developing a friendship with their children that will enable them to share their faith and to witness it to others. Being at the school of Don Bosco implies cultivating different aspects of the Salesian charism in the family: the joy of living, attention to prayer, union with God in daily life, service to others, particularly the young and the poor, trust in God, who is our provident Father and entrustment to Mary, who is our Mother and Teacher.

BILBAO-DEUSTO - START OF THE YEAR FOR THE ASSOCIATION

On 17 October 2015 ADMA started its programme for the year at the Salesian House of Bilbao-Deusto with 110 members present. It all started with a fervent Eucharist to give us strength and encourage us on our journey.

We reviewed the programme of last year: the different places where we were, the programme, the area meetings, the retreats and the pilgrimage.

Then we were presented with the new stages proposed for the current year 2015-2016. This year we intend to focus our attention on the Congress of Mary Help of Christians recently celebrated; on the Year of Mercy that is about to begin; on the Synod on the family and on the Rector Major's Strenna. We have plenty of material to draw upon depending on the interests and needs of each centre.

We finished with a shared meal and a lively exchange of ideas.

May Mary Help of Christians bless our good intentions and our work, as she always does! (P. Arcadio, SDB, Spiritual Animator).





PARANAQUE CITY (PHILIPPINES) - MARIAN MEETING OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY

The Salesian Family of the Northern Province of the Philippines held a Marian rally on 24 October 2015 at the National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians. ADMA was the main organizer of this event. There were several branches of the Salesian Family: students of the SDB and FMA Schools and Training Centres, young people from the Youth Centres and youth of the SDB and FMA parishes, and lay collaborators of the Salesian Family. This event was intended to deepen devotion to Mary Help of Christians in the hearts of those who belong to Salesian centres, following the example of St John Bosco and encouraging everyone to be active in the spread of the devotion among the people they meet. The subject was the life of Don Bosco, highlighting his devotion to Mary, in line with the Strenna for 2015: "Like Don Bosco, with young people and for young people."

The ADMA animator, Fr Nestor Impelido, SDB, gave greetings on behalf of the authorities. Sister Maria Asela B. Chavez, FMA, Cl. Keith Amodia, SDB and Mrs. Angie Ebriega led the group in the recitation of the Holy Rosary. The Laura Vicuña Club of San Ildefonso Parish, Makati City, led the opening prayer with the song "Mary's Song of Love".

The five decades of the Rosary were accompanied by five reflections based on the life of St John Bosco with Mary, our Mother.

- 1: The *Casa Biglione* where his life began.
- 2: The *Becchi* where he took his first steps.
- 3: The seminary at Chieri where he made the leap of faith.
- 4: The *Convitto* where his ministry began.
- 5: The Pinardi shed: the light of the mission.

After every decade there was either a hymn inspired by the young people or a testimony from an individual or group.

The Auxilium choir of the parish of St. Dominic Savio sang "In the Beginning" after the first decade. The Jimenez family from the San Juan Nepomuceno ADMA group gave a testimony to Mary after the second decade. After the third, Sr. Mylene Sanchez, FMA and Sister Leila Montero, FMA told the stories of their vocation. After the fourth, Mr. Stephen Borja gave his personal testimony as an educator of youth. And after the fifth decade Fr Remo Bati, SDB, spoke about his ministry among Filipino migrants in Italy.

After the recitation of the Holy Rosary, the Hulag Dancers of the College of Mary Help of Christians, Canlubang, Laguna, and the young people of the Don Bosco Youth Centre, St. John Bosco Parish in Tondo, performed their tribute to Mary, to the delight of all.

This was followed by the offering of flowers by all present. This tribute was accompanied by Marian songs by the pre-novitiate and post-novitiate communities of Canlubang. Fr John Tamayo, SDB a missionary in Thailand, presided at the Eucharistic celebration. Among the concelebrants was Fr. Paul Bicomong, Provincial of the Northern Province of the Philippines. VIVA MARIA!

