

**Address of Mother Yvonne Reungoat, FMA**  
**Salesian Cooperator World Congress**  
**November 8, 2012**

Special greetings to:

The Rector Major, Don Pascual Chavez, Father and center of unity of the Salesian Family

Don Adriano Bregolin, who animates the Salesian Family Sector

Sr. Maria Luisa Miranda, FMA General Councillor for the Salesian Family

Dr. Rosario Maiorano, World Coordinator of the Salesian Cooperators

Don Giuseppe Casti, World Delegate to the Salesian Cooperators

Sr. Maria Trigila, World Delegate emeriti to the Salesian Cooperators

Sr. Leslye Sandigo, new World Delegate

World Councillors of the Salesian Cooperators

All present.

I wish to thank the Rector Major, Don Bosco's Successor and the first one responsible for promoting communion within and the mission of the Salesian Family, for his introductory words to the Fourth World Congress of the Salesian Cooperators.

At the same time, I am the bearer of best wishes from all the FMA of the world to him for his restoration to complete health. We have been very concerned and have prayed much for this and for the preparations for General Chapter XXVII for your Congregation.

I thank Dr. Rosario Maiorano, World Coordinator of the Salesian Cooperators, for the enthusiasm he has transmitted to the Association in these past years; for the network of communion among the members of the Association and with the other groups of the Salesian Family which he promoted; and for the work done in revising the Statutes and Regulations of the *Project of Apostolic Life*, which was approved *ad experimentum* in 2007 and now put before the Congress for definitive approval. I am also grateful to Sr. Maria Trigila who, as FMA World Delegate, collaborated, giving vitality to the Association, and who supported diverse Centers, dedicating herself with passion and great love to the mission which had been assigned her. I ask the Lord to continue to make new life spring up in the Association in the entire world.

The program of these days is very well and richly structured. Personally, I am here to witness to our presence as a historical Salesian Family group that, with the SDB, the Salesian Cooperators, and ADMA share the privilege and responsibility of having been founded directly by Don Bosco.

Together with the other groups, we feel co-responsible for the development of the spirituality and of the educative charism which were born from the heart of our common Father, Don Bosco.

The Congress takes place in the Year of Faith, announced by Benedict XVI to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Vatican Council II and twenty years since the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. We welcome this gift from the Holy Father as a precious consignment which commits us to give witness to Christian life on the various continents.

With our Baptism, we have *crossed through the Door of Faith* and we desire to enter ever more into that "place" where God lives and to encounter His children: the "place" of preventive love.

The Lord gathers us to Himself so that with Him we can be witnesses to this love in this time when the fundamental reference points which give meaning and sense to life and which nourish hope seem lost.

The Synod on the New Evangelization, at which the Rector Major and I participated, has as its goal “the transmission of the Christian Faith.” Sometimes, this chain of transmission seems to have been interrupted due to the fragility of the family and of other traditional institutions, but, above all, due to the loss of faith on the part of believing educators who are tempted to renounce their mission to hand on the Christian Faith as God’s collaborators when giving life and hope to the young generations. But the Church is alive all around the world and places its trust in all the Baptized that they will be joyous witnesses of the *Good News of the Gospel*, beginning from their own experience of the Risen Christ who is present in the heart of the world and of history.

The *Project of Apostolic Life*, which will be placed before the Assembly for its approval and promulgation in its definitive form by the Rector Major, represents an important step. It will offer greater quality, I am sure, to your being “extern Salesians” who intend to live and to work with the same spirit, the same apostolic boldness, the same great intuitions of the Saint of Youth.

It’s a step which will help you be more aware of your own identity as Christians – laymen and women – capable of living your faith with coherence, fidelity, and contagious joy and to give witness to it by involving many more persons in an ever-enlarging network of collaboration and communion.

If the new *Project of Apostolic Life* highlights the specific identity of the Salesian Cooperators, the *Charter of Identity of the Salesian Family*, which the Rector Major gave us last January 31<sup>st</sup>, underlines the importance of the common roots of Salesian spirituality of our diverse groups. We all participate in the one charism which creates unity and a sense of belonging, giving significance to the entire Salesian Family, while in a diversity of vocations within itself.

The deeper these roots are, a greater enthusiasm and spread will find that “union for good” which constituted Don Bosco’s dream.

Last August 16<sup>th</sup>, the Rector Major inaugurated the second year of the triennium in preparation for the Bicentenary of the birth of St. John Bosco. On August 5<sup>th</sup>, the FMA closed the year celebrating the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our Institute. I thank the Rector Major who gave great solemnity to that occasion by his presence in Mornese. I also wish to express my gratitude to the many groups of the Salesian Family who were present in varied ways, thus allowing the event we were celebrating to be shared by many others.

The rich and well-structured composition of the Groups of the Salesian Family constitutes an indispensable network, a firm anchoring so we may live in our times, so characterized by great changes, in a fruitful way. We find ourselves living in a completely different reality from the time in which Don Bosco lived and worked. Nonetheless, even if the times are different, his love for the youth, the passion he expressed in his “Da mihi animas, cetera tolle” form a great inheritance which we cannot lose.

The world, today more than ever, needs fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters who will lay the foundations for a new life together, marked by communion, hope, and peace. It needs authentic faith from the great religions; it needs the Christian faith: to re-discover, to live, to transmit to new generations.

The Synod of the New Evangelization offered us some very precious points and pointed out to us places, ways, and initiatives which we will keep present when orienting our educative and evangelizing action.

Together we wish to rediscover the dimension of our existence that is a sign to others, giving witness that communion is not only possible, but is easier for those who share the same charismatic vision and the same mission. We wish to educate to relationships, human rights, a citizenship without borders in a world that is becoming ever more multi-cultural and multi-religious, poor, and illiterate on the plane of feelings and faith. We intend to make good use of the Strenna for 2013 which the Rector Major has anticipated for us in the foundational themes he placed before us and which center around the Salesian pedagogy of joy and of goodness.

We would wish that our young people, all young people, would begin to dream and to hope anew. Short of this possibility, adults have something to fear. A slogan during the demonstration of the young at Puerta do Sol in Madrid went this way: "Since you (adults) do not allow us to dream, we will not allow you to sleep."

As Salesian Family groups, we could write an open letter to youth saying: "Not only do we allow you to dream, but we dream together with you for a world that is more open, more in solidarity, more peaceful. And we commit ourselves to color it along with you in our daily life and to fill it with light: the light of faith, the light of God."

If we take on the believing gaze of Mary when reading reality, we will know how to catch sight of the signs of communion and of hope which it is sprinkled, the buds of a future which is already springing up on the horizon.

We will then all be cooperators of the God Who is Love!