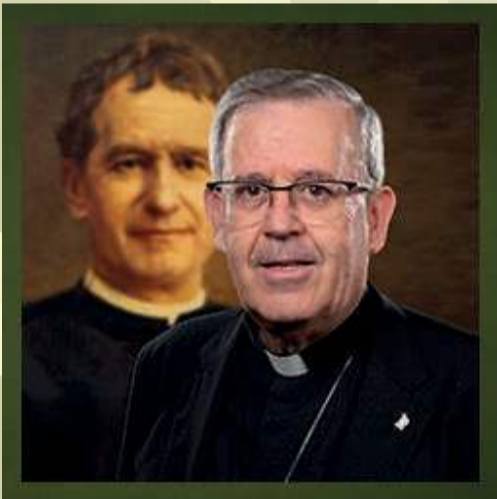


Salesian Family NEWSLETTER

XLIV SPIRITUALITY DAYS

A fraternal greeting to all participants in the Salesian Family Spirituality Days from the coordination team that is preparing them with such interest. With this greeting **we share with you all a reflection** that will help us prepare for this experience of communion and spirituality that we are about to have in Valdocco (Turin) and online in many other places around the Salesian world. Let us help one another so that **the message of the Strenna that the Rector Major will propose to us may revive and sustain our apostolic spirituality on behalf of young people.**

Strenna presentation *(august 2016)*



don Fabio Attard
Rettor Maggiore dei Salesiani

Our beloved Rector Major, Father Fabio Attard, presented the Salesian Family with the theme for Strenna 2026: **“Do whatever he tells you”. Believers, free to serve.** The Strenna is a tradition going all the way back to Don Bosco and his boys when he proposed a maxim (motto or principle) for the year that was about to begin. Today, for the Salesian Family, the Rector Major's proposal is an invitation to live and radiate faith, the foundation of our spirituality.

In his presentation, Father Fabio closely links his proposal to the theme of the Jubilee and the Strenna for the year that is coming to an end, hope: “Anchored in hope, pilgrims with young people.” He writes:

“Around the theme of the hope that does not disappoint, we were able to contemplate how the mystery of a creator God who visits us in his Son continues to sustain us today through the power of the Spirit. It has helped us to recognise the signs of God in daily life. The event of the 150th anniversary of the first Salesian missionary expedition has been a very concrete and real opportunity, through which we have rediscovered how the strength of hope for Don Bosco generated the courage in his heart that sustained him in discovering God’s plan and the firm commitment to put it into practice. The first Salesians sensed the strength of hope that animated Don Bosco’s heart and mind. It is no coincidence that later on, they themselves would understand and interpret it as ‘Don Bosco, man of faith, Don Bosco, believer, Don Bosco, united with God.’ **If the strength of hope is based on faith, a life truly full of hope leads to a deeper and more authentic relationship of faith with Jesus, the Son of the Father, made man for us and who continues to be present among us with the strength of the Spirit.”**



**FAMIGLIA
SALESIANA**



the depth faith of MARY'S

From the Secretariat, we suggest that you begin your preparation for the Days by reading and contemplating the account of the Annunciation that the liturgy of these weeks of Advent and Christmas presents at various times. By listening to and meditating on the proclamation that the Archangel Gabriel addresses to Mary, we discover the quality of her listening, the sincerity of her dialogue with the Lord, the decision of

her availability, and her acceptance of God's will. The Annunciation is the story of Mary's vocation and the beginning of the work of Redemption; **it is ultimately the tangible sign of the depth of Mary's faith.**

This the faith with which she tells the servants at Cana: "Do whatever he tells you." This is the faith that Mary, as the first believer, communicates to us with her simplicity as a young woman in love. The liturgy of Advent and Christmas offers us the most appropriate context to enter with our hearts into the meaning and experience of 'Looking', 'Listening', 'Choosing' and 'Acting' to which the Strenna will lead us, verbs to be conjugated as passionate apostles among today's young people and on which we have developed the programme for the Days.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her (Lk 1:26-38)



Stay with me, Jesus | John Enry Newman

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Your fragrance wherever I go.

Flood my soul with Your spirit and life.

*Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly,
that my life may only be a radiance of Yours.*

*Shine through me and be so in me that every soul
I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!*

Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine,
so to shine as to be a light to others.
*The light, O Jesus, will be all from You; none of it will be mine. It will be you,
shining on others through me.*

*Let me thus praise You the way You love best, by shining on those around me.
Let me preach You without preaching, not by words but by my example,
by the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do,
the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to You.*