



APRIL 22, 2026

3. WITH YOU MAÏN ON THE PATHS OF LIFE

3.2 The Gift of Life – Mazzarelli



***“I am the true vine and my Father
is the vinedresser”***

Jn 15,1

VISIT THE MAZZARELLI

(A guided visit will be given to the Birth house – little church – Sanctuary; additional reading regarding the Mazzarelli can be found in the book “With Maïn on the Pathways of Life” Stage 1.)

PERSONAL REFLECTION *after the visit to the Mazzarelli*



Guide: After having had the experience of her birth home, the little church of Mary Help of Christians and the sanctuary of Mother Mazzarello, we reread and write our life story of our own family in the light of God and through the key of *docibilitas*.

(Personal time is given until the group meets for the closing prayer moment. If time is not sufficient then the following questions can be incorporated into an examination of conscience or used for personal reflection before retiring for the night.)

How did our families accompany us?

- Say thanks
- Forgive – heal
- Celebrate the history of salvation in your life



PRAYER

(This prayer is to be prayed before departing the Mazzarelli. The ideal place to pray this prayer is in the space in front of the birth house. Benches/chairs can be placed in a semi-circle. Prepare two containers, one with soil and one that is empty. During the prayer moment soil will be transferred from one container to another container.)

Guide: During this day we touched the holy land, where Maria Domenica was born, and where every FMA is born, because when we look at Mornese, we too discover our HOLY LAND.

The Holy Spirit is preparing us today to listen to the message he wants, which we hear from this holy soil where he found such good soil, ready to welcome the seed of his silent word. Let us continue to feel this sacred ground as we sing this refrain.

Song: Touch the Earth (33)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NpDwOCGE20>

Refrain

Touch the earth with gentleness
Touch the earth with love
Touch her with a future
By the way you live today
God has given us the power
To create the world anew
If we touch the earth
Together, me and you.



The time is here
The time is now
We can change things
Give the earth your dream of harmony
She is waiting
Waiting for love,
Waiting for you, waiting for me (Refrain)

Show the earth you care about her future
Melt the walls of hate
And fear that keep us apart
Believe we can live
Together as friends of the earth (Refrain)

Be the reason
Be the hope
For others to believe
That the earth is meant
For beauty, goodness and peace (Refrain)



Genesis 2

At that time when God created the earth and the sky... there was still no one to till the soil. The Lord God formed man from dust from the ground, then breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, so man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden, which is in the east, and placed there the man whom he had fashioned. The Lord God caused all kinds of trees to grow from the ground, beautiful to look at and good to eat. God took the man and placed him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and care for it.

(Guide reads the following reflection.)



REFLECTION

- Reflect on the soil... the land you know.
- Reflect on the mystery of creation. Praise the breath of life that God breathes in you.
- The soil represents the inhabitants of the earth. People from the north and the south. People from the east and the west. We are one in his eyes. He made us belong to him.
- Some soils are rich and easily give people food and shelter. Other soil is poor, and people have to work harder to survive.
- Jesus compares different terrains to different types of people.

- Some are stony; some are choked with weeds, easily trampled, and rich.
- What kind of terrain am I in this period of my life?
- What do I hope to produce that will be life-giving for myself and others?

(pause)

Guide: Now, let's take the land of Mornese into our hands. Let's feel its temperature and consistency. Let's observe its colors and shape.

(One at a time each participant takes some soil from the container.)

Guide: Let us reflect. What does Mother Mazzarello tell me about her 'holy land'?

(pause)

Guide: Let us remember our land. The land where we were born, the land we walk on every day in our life and in our mission. What do I want to tell Mary about my Holy Land?

(pause)

Guide: Let us approach the empty container and place the soil we have in our hands as an expression of our desire to become HOLY EARTH... A MORNESE!

(Each participant is invited to express a prayer as she places the soil in the empty container.)

Guide: Being with Mary, let us take a moment of silence and remember Mary Help of Christians who has been close to us since the beginning of Main's birth with her maternal presence of tenderness... with the same tenderness of a mother, she stands next to each of us. Let us enjoy her presence because we can become, like her, a presence that generates life among today's young people.



Song: Hail Mary (34)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUey6ytEXqY>

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you,
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners now,
And at the hour of death, Amen.

Refrain

Gentle woman, quiet light,
Morning star, so strong and bright,
Gentle mother, peaceful dove,
Teach us wisdom, teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father,
You were chosen for the Son,
You were chosen from all women,
And for woman, shining one. (Refrain)

Blessed are you among women,
Blest in turn all women, too.
Blessed they with peaceful spirits.
Blessed they with gentle hearts. (Refrain)

Our Father

Guide: Together let us pray, God, you have led us to this sacred ground where we can spend quality time away from our usual daily responsibilities. We thank you for allowing us to discover you again in this place as we rediscover Mother Mazzarello and the roots of our Salesian vocation. Fill our being and this group with the sense of your presence. Allow us to remain open to what you want to reveal to us these days. Let us pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.