



APRIL 23, 2026

3. WITH YOU MAÏN ON THE PATHWAYS OF LIFE

3.3 The Gift of Faith – Parish and Cemetery



***“I am the true vine and my Father
is the Vinedresser”
Jn 15,1***

(Chapel of Collegio)

Regina Caeli

Entrustment *(in preparation for World Gratitude Day)*

Guide: We entrust Mother Chiara and each one of us to Mary, our Mother and guide so that she can help us to joyfully sing of God's love for us, to live our vocation with commitment, renewed in faith, in love with Jesus, eager to communicate with passion and coherence the beauty of the Gospel to the new generations:

O Mary Help of Christians, You inspired in the hearts of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello a strong missionary impulse, giving life to an Institute all your own for the salvation of young people.

Rekindle in us the missionary boldness of our origins.

We thank you for the gift of Sister Maria Troncatti's holiness.

*May we, like her, an ardent missionary, hear the voice of Jesus inviting us,
«Go and do likewise».*

We entrust to you Mother Chiara,

a sign of communion and unity in the Institute.

Support her with your maternal intercession, so that she may continue to be a presence of joy, an artisan of peace and reconciliation.

Bless our educating and missionary communities.

Make us believers joyful and free,

to serve the young people you entrust to us. Amen.

MASS



(after breakfast in the meeting room)

PRAYER

(Ahead of time on the back of each Baptismal Certificate write the name of the participant. This will help facilitate the distribution of the certificates at another moment in the Church.)

Guide 1: The first years of Maria Domenica's life are revealed as a gradual and progressive opening to the life of grace and faith, helped by the education of her parents, the accompaniment of Fr. Pestarino and the parish environment. These are the years of initiation to the faith that will be the solid foundation in the molding of her personality, of her future vocation and educational mission.

Guide 2: Today we are invited to discover how the hand of God weaves the existence of Maria Domenica. Before she can be aware of it, on the very day of her birth, He calls her to be a “daughter of God”, he calls her to manifest the wonders of His goodness and to be able to say with her life: “Lord, all my trust is in You”.

Guide 1: May we today experience and discover God's predilection for each one of us, that we have been chosen and loved out of pure gratuity. Therein lies our greatness and dignity as daughters of God.

Instrumental Music (35)

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

(As the instrumental music plays each participant receives and completes her certificate. The guide will wait for everyone to finish completing their certificate before continuing.)

Guide: We too, are chosen and set apart by the God of all creation as His possession.

Song: God Has Chosen Me (36)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VWlpHq1Ctc>

God has chosen me, God has chosen me
to bring good news to the poor.
God has chosen me, God has chosen me
to bring new sight to those searching for light:
God has chosen me, chosen me

Refrain

And to tell the world that God's kingdom is near,
to remove oppression and breakdown fear,
yes, God's time is near, God's time is near,
God's time is near, God's time is near.

God has chosen me, God has chosen me
to set alight a new fire.
God has chosen me, God has chosen me
to bring to birth a new kingdom on earth:
God has chosen me, chosen me (Refrain)

God is calling me, God is calling me
in all whose cry is unheard.
God is calling me, God is calling me
to raise up the voice with no power or choice:
God is calling me, calling me (Refrain)

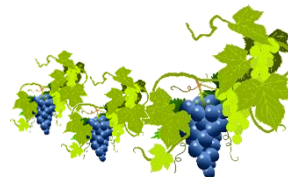
DT 26,16-19

This day the LORD, your God, is commanding you to observe these statutes and ordinances. Be careful, then, to observe them with your whole heart and with your whole being. Today you have accepted the LORD's agreement: he will be your God, and you will walk in his ways, observe his statutes, commandments, and ordinances, and obey his voice. And today the LORD has accepted your agreement: you will be a people specially his own, as he promised you, you will

keep all his commandments, and he will set you high in praise and renown and glory above all nations he has made, and you will be a people holy to the LORD, your God, as he promised.

Guide 2: In this moment of silence and acceptance, while we hold in our hands the certificate of our birth to faith, let it resound in our hearts:

- Observe these statutes and ordinances
- Today you have accepted the LORD's agreement
- He will be your God, and you will walk in his ways
- You will be a people holy to the LORD



(brief pause)

Chorus 1: Lord our God, from whom comes the initiative to love: You seek us and say to us: "I am your God, you are my people". You love us in Jesus Christ, your Son. Lord, may our response of love go far beyond the demands of any law.

Chorus 2: Like Maria Domenica, may we know how to seek you and be in communion with you in the depths of our being. May we express our gratitude to you by going out from ourselves to our brothers and sisters, reaching out to young people with a sincere and committed love like yours.

Guide 1: To you, Lord, who are the true light and the very source of all light, we humbly ask that meditating on your word we may live ever faithful in the clarity of your light. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

St. Maria Mazzarello... pray for us

(The certificates are given back to the guide.)

THE GIFT OF FAITH

(Briefly present the ppt/pdf "The Gift of Faith" found in RESOURCE.)

Concluding Moment before the visit to the Parish

(Provide each participant with a small piece of paper.)

Guide: Just as with Main, each of you have had significant people who have accompanied you in the growth of your faith. On the piece of paper provided write their names.

(Each participant will bring her piece of paper to the Church.)

Song: On We Go to Jerusalem (37)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okU6yRltO30&list=RDokU6yRltO30&start_radio=1

Refrain

On we go to Jerusalem,
The city of the house of God.
Pilgrim people we seek the Lord,
The Lord of the house of rock.

Age on age proclaims his praises,
Each declares him Lord of all.
Countless millions sing his glory,
Answering his pilgrim call. (Refrain)

Peace he promised to our fathers
In the ancient desert land;
Peace he offers in abundance
To his faithful pilgrim band. (Refrain)

All we have is offered to him,
As we come to sing his praise.
Blessed is the Lord of heaven.
Mighty God of all our days. (Refrain)

Guide: Let us pray together: At the heart of the personal and foundational story of Maria Domenica Mazzarello is the exemplary family and ecclesial education, imbued with a sense of God and work, perfected by the first spiritual direction of Fr. Domenico Pestarino (*Acts GC XXIV*). Help us, Lord, to grow in faith so that we can achieve daily holiness. Amen.



VISIT THE PARISH

(The guide brings the main candle, small candles for each participant, lighter, small basket for the pieces of paper, container with holy water and baptismal certificates. Participants will bring their small piece of paper with the names of those who have accompanied her. Visit and explanation of the Church will take place before the renewal of Baptismal Promises.)



Renewal of Baptismal Promises

(The Baptismal Promises will be renewed close to the Baptismal font.)

Guide 1: As we gather here around the baptismal font of the Parish, we think of the countless people of Mornese who were baptized here. Among many, we naturally focus on the baptism of Maria Mazzarello.

- Here she was introduced by her parents,
- Here she was baptized in the name of the Trinity,
- Here she becomes a daughter of God,
- Here she was welcomed into the parish community full of faith
- Here she received the call to grow in love and trust in God
- Here she, like Jesus, was called to serve those who were at risk or in need
- Here she was called to honestly face herself and life's challenges
- Here she receives the invitation to open herself to the action of the Spirit within her
- Here she understood that her life was a gift to give to others
- Here she grew into a deep, personal love for Jesus

- Here she received from Fr. Pestarino the accompaniment she needed to see God's plan in her life
- Here she met others who, with their love and support, helped her strengthen her faith

Guide 2: Hold a picture in your mind of your parish church or the place where you were baptized and think of all the blessings this has brought into your life.

(brief pause)

Guide 1: Let us first think about the promises our parents made for us at our baptism:

They promised that we would renounce evil, that we would develop our faith by learning to pray and love God.

Let us renew our Baptismal Promises now here in the place where Main became a daughter of God

V. Do you reject Satan?

R. I do.

V. And all his works?

R. I do.

V. And all his empty promises?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

R. I do.

V. God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Guide 2: In silence let us approach the baptismal font one at a time bringing our candle and paper and, immersing our hand in the water, let us sign ourselves with the Cross of our faith. As you do so, in your heart thank the Lord for those who have accompanied you and about your commitment to living your faith more radically. We in turn will pray for those at the baptismal font.

(As each participant approaches the Baptismal Font she will light her candle, place it close to the Baptismal Font and put her paper in the basket. After she has blessed herself and leaves the Baptismal Font her baptismal certificate is returned to her.)

Song: We Walk by Faith (38)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePlaXpUTo04>

(The song is played after all have finished approaching the Baptismal Font.)

We walk by faith and not by sight
No gracious words we hear
Of Him who spoke as none e'er spoke
Yet we believe Him near

We may not touch His hands and side
Nor follow where He trod
Yet in His promise we rejoice
And cry "My Lord and God"
Help then, O Lord, our unbelief
And may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near
And seek where you are found

That when our life of faith is done
In realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are
In full and endless sight

We walk and not by sight
No gracious words we hear
Of Him who spoke as none e'er spoke
Yet we believe Him near



VISIT THE CEMETERY

(Before the Rosary, a brief explanation about the cemetery is given.)



SPECIAL ROSARY

(The Rosary will take place near the tomb of Fr. Pestarino and the names of the Sisters.)

Guide 1: We are called to live life as a vocation with our specific Marian identity and to rediscover the Salesian charism in all its apostolic missionary dynamism (Acts GC XXIV p.8). Main cultivated devotion and had deepened the figure of Mary as Immaculate, Sorrowful Mother, Madonna of the Rosary. In these 3 Marian moments with Main we ask Mary our Mother and protector to be like her a prophecy of presence that generates life. We also pray for and with the people who preceded us in the final meeting with the Father.

First Moment: **The Annunciation**



Guide 2: We contemplate the angel's message to Mary who announces that she has been chosen to be the instrument of the Word who became flesh. She was scared, wondered how this could happen, and then accepted the calling as a servant of God, the handmaid of God. A wonderful process of faith, hope and love.

Guide 1: At the Mazzarelli and Valponasca, Maria Domenica entered into her continuous process of growing faith, hope and love, deepening her love for her Eucharistic Lord and seriously committing herself to a conversion of the heart, from being self-centered to being Theocentric, from wanting to make a good impression, to accept her vulnerability. (*Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be*)

Second Moment: **Mary at Cana**

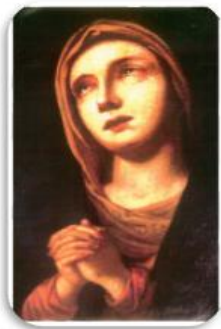
Guide 2: Mary's presence at the feast of Cana challenges our female identity and proposes an attitude of openness and active concern. It is a call to express the depth of our entire being. Maria becomes directly involved in this celebration which is about to be compromised by the lack of wine, a sign of joy. As a woman, she pays attention to details and as a mother, she cares about the happiness of others. (*Acts GC XXIV, 5*)



Guide 1: At the Mazzarelli family, Maria Domenica gradually became attentive to the needs of her sisters and brothers, helping her mother in whatever way she could. This concern at the Valponasca increased not only in helping the father in the fields and in still assisting the mother at home, but it is increasingly expanding through the friendship with Petronilla Mazzarello and the always active and attentive participation in the Pious Union of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate. (*Our Father, sing the Hail Mary, Glory*)

Sing: Hail Mary

Third Moment: **Mary at the foot of the Cross**



Guide 2: Mary is present at the foot of the Cross, not only as a loving Mother but also as a disciple who follows her Master until the hour of his exaltation before the Father. Jesus calls from the Cross, entrusting Mary to his disciple John as his mother and entrusting his disciple to Mary as his son. Mary truly becomes the Mother of this Church. A new era filled with the Holy Spirit was beginning as Pope Francis affirmed, “The journey of the Church,

our lives, the foundation of our joy, the reason for our hope – these are dependent on the Lord ...” (*Pope Francis, The Autobiography, 2025, 289*).

Guide 1: At Valponasca, things went well in the family and the parish for Maria Domenica until the family lost all their earnings due to an unexpected theft. Her parents saw this as a total disaster. Maria Domenica saw it as an opportunity to be closer to Jesus in the Eucharist and to the people of the parish, especially the young people. A new era filled with the Holy Spirit was beginning.

(Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be)



PERSONAL REFLECTION

(This will take place in the afternoon.)

1. When and where were you baptized? What name were you baptized with and what does this name mean?
2. Who are the people who helped you grow in faith as a child?
3. Indicate two or three aspects of the faith that they passed on to you. What aspects have remained part of your experience as a Christian or religious to this day? Name them and thank God for this blessing.
4. Can you recall an experience of who God was to you as a girl? Describe it with an image, a word, a phrase or a passage from Holy Scripture. Main fell in love with "her" Eucharistic Jesus- but struggled to receive the sacrament

of Reconciliation. Is there a sacrament that you absolutely love and another that you struggle with? Stay with your answer and think about why this is so.

Write your baptismal promises in a personal way

- I believe in God – Father who is
- I believe in Jesus Christ who is.....
- I believe in the Holy Spirit who is
- I believe in -----



GROUP WORK

(In the meeting room small groups will be created. Each group is invited to find a place for their moment of sharing. Once a group has finished, the participants are free until the next scheduled event.)

Guide: In small groups share a significant experience of this rich journey of strongly feeling the love of a God who has made us not only his creatures but his daughters in baptism. In this moment of attentive listening to my sisters let us allow the spirit of God to act in us and enrich us with His fraternal and profound love.



PRAYER

(This will take place outdoors, if possible.)

Guide: We come here as pilgrims. Let us spend some personal, quiet time opening our hearts and our very being to Mornese, to its people, to its sights, to its sounds... to Main of Mornese... to its vision for young people and the poorest of the people of God... to her dynamic relationship with the Lord... she found the Lord right here in this simple place. He brought us into his life-generating presence.

Instrumental music (39)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TI1k6uFhTPo>

(Instrumental music is played during the reading of the next two voices.)

Voice 1:

There was a time before maps when pilgrims traveled by following the stars
Now is the time for the pilgrim in me to journey into the darkness.
To learn to read the stars that shine in my own soul.
I will walk deeper into the darkness of my night;
I will wait for the stars, I trust their guidance,
And let their light be sufficient for me.

Voice 2:

Faith in the heart!
Faith is in your heart,
To get that one perfect start,
It's all because of hope,
There will be the right space,
If faith is in your heart,
Nothing can ever go wrong,
Nothing will ever fall apart,
So, keep your hopes high,
And you'll get answers to why,
Have faith in your heart!
Give me Lord faith in your goodness and mercy!

Guide: Together let us say, Thank you, Lord, for your generative presence!

Voice 3: God of the journey, God of the encounter, faithfully walk every step of the way with us, guiding us, encouraging us as we stumble and falter. Over and over again you wait for us. Carry each of us when we are weak and cheer us up when we are strong. We thank you!

All: Thank you, Lord, for your generative presence!

Voice 4: You give us your Spirit of Wisdom so that we can walk with integrity. When we turn to you, you show us the path that leads to life. We thank you!

All: Thank you, Lord, for your generative presence!

Voice 5: When we turn to you, you give us companions who share our efforts, who guide us in our search and who accompany us in times of need. We thank you!

All: Thank you, Lord, for your generative presence!

Voice 6: God of our pilgrimage to Mornese teach us to read the stars that shine in our soul and thus discover you more every day while we are here. We thank you!

All: Thank you, Lord, for your generative presence!

Voice 7: God of our journey, give us your grace so that with humility, tenacity and hope we commit ourselves to the community search for the will of God, in fidelity to the spirit of the origins for a passionate following of Christ and a new apostolic dynamism (*Acts GC XXIV*). We thank you!

All: Thank you, Lord, for your generative presence!

Song: Strength for the Journey (40)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1UQ1g1HO9I>

Refrain

I will be, I will be, I will be strength for the journey (2x)

There is a road meant for you to travel,
narrow and steep is the shepherd's way.
And as you say. "Yes." letting me guide you,
I will be strength for the journey. (Refrain)

There is a cross meant for you to carry,
there is a cross meant for you alone.
And as you bow down in humble surrender
I will be strength for the journey. (Refrain)

How many times have you doubted my word?
How many times must I call your name?
And as you say. "Yes." letting me love you,
I will be strength for the journey. (Refrain)

Guide: Together let us pray, help us, Lord, to believe that the Creation you created for us, the faith you gave us, and the charism you awakened in us is not a museum piece; it does not stop but develops, transforms, and moves forward. So our great responsibility is to collaborate with the creativity of the Holy Spirit to ensure that everything expresses its vitality today for Your glory and the good of the Common Home and of the many people entrusted to us. Through Christ our Lord! Amen. (*Charismatic Elements – Sr. Nilza*)

