



APRIL 26, 2026

3. WITH YOU MAÏN ON THE PATHS OF LIFE

3.7 Life Generates Life – Community Dimension – Collegio



“I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.”

Jn 15,15

(Chapel of Collegio)

Regina Caeli

Entrustment

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

Introduction

The 4th Sunday of Easter is called Good Shepherd Sunday because the Gospel readings focus on Jesus as the "Good Shepherd". It highlights Christ's care for his flock, his willingness to lay down his life, and his role in guiding his people. What a fitting theme to celebrate the worldwide Feast of Gratitude in honor of our Mother General, Mother Chiara Cazzuola.



In her recent circular letter she states, "...the Institute prepares to celebrate the 2026 World Day of Gratitude as a great opportunity to express the joy of being Daughters of Mary Help of Christians; to feel ourselves a living part of a religious Family that belongs "entirely to Mary"; and to walk together with all those who share the educational mission with renewed passion" (circular letter 1057).

We gather here in Mornese from many countries around the world to express our joy at this Eucharistic celebration of walking together with her as she leads and guides us as our shepherdess, truly exemplifying the theme of the Feast of Gratitude to "be missionaries everywhere". Let us rejoice in song and praise for the animated leadership of our Institute which, as she wrote, "belongs entirely to Mary".

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Almighty and ever-loving God, you have made us your children, confident to call you Father. Hear our prayers and increase your spirit of love within us as you call us to mirror Christ the Good Shepherd in our daily lives.

- **For the Church:** That Pope Leo XIV, bishops, priests, and pastoral leaders continue to model themselves on Christ, the Good Shepherd, leading the flock with compassion and guiding the lost back to the fold. *Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

- **For World Leaders:** That they may shepherd their people with justice and care, working to protect the vulnerable, defend life, and bring peace to a fractured world. *Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*
- **For Vocations:** That young people may hear the voice of the Shepherd calling them to serve as priests, deacons, or religious, dedicating their lives to the Gospel. *Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*
- **For the Lonely and Lost:** For those who feel abandoned, forgotten, or lost, that they may experience the Shepherd's embrace and find comfort in each local community. *Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*
- **For our Mother General, Mother Chiara Cazzuola:** That as she celebrates the Feast of Gratitude in Ecuador today, we affectionately unite with the whole Institute asking every blessing upon her in her missionary zeal of shepherding the whole Institute with the mind and heart of Christ and the joyful availability of Mary Most Holy. *Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*
- **For the Sick and Deceased:** For those suffering in body or spirit, and for all FMA and our loved ones who have died, that they may find rest in the green pastures of heaven. *Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Celebrant: O God, our Good Shepherd, you know each of us by name. Hear our prayers and guide us to eternal life, through Christ our risen Lord.

Amen





(meeting room Collegio)

VISIT THE COLLEGIO *morning*

(Before starting, a brief historical introduction is given about the beginning of the Collegio.)

Guide 1: Talking about the first FMA community of Mornese, this Collegio is about



a house full of life, of a community in which relationships are marked by the family spirit that eliminates distances, facilitates familiarity, brings generations closer together, and creates a climate of trust in which people can grow in freedom and collaborate in reciprocity.

We now invite you to join us in visiting some places that recall not only the history but also the characteristic features of FMA community life through the values lived by Mother Mazzarello as an example of life that generates life.

Now, let's walk down towards the *Old Entrance*, where we can talk about acceptance.

(The group moves to the different locations.)

Old Entrance to the Collegio *maternal acceptance*

Guide 1: For us, FMA, welcoming is more than paying attention to who comes to meet us or when we take the initiative to go out to meet others. It is, above all, an atmosphere that you breathe when you meet people.

One is capable of welcoming if one is capable of loving. The Salesian spirituality lived by Mother Mazzarello and the first Sisters is the spirituality of welcome that generates life.

Guide 2: How do I experience the acceptance of my Sisters, and how can I grow in this aspect so that my relationships are genuine places of mutual acceptance?

Pope Francis reminds us that, “the human heart is also the first step along every path of reconciliation” (*Pope Francis, The Autobiography, 2025, 44*).

Guide 1: An embrace is a sign of a fraternal welcome and the desire to live it with who God places beside us. Let us take a moment to embrace and welcome those standing near to us.

(pause for an embrace)

Now, let's go towards the *orchard* and see what characteristics this place awakens in us.

Orchard, place of good night

simplicity in daily routine, importance of the good night

Guide 2: Don Bosco leaves us with this educational tradition: “Every evening, after the usual prayers and before the boarders go to bed, the rector or who takes his place shares a few affectionate words and gives the boys advice on what to do or what to avoid. The talk should not exceed two or three minutes.” Therefore, the content of the *goodnight* should be about current events relating to young people. This encounter must be translated into a deeply respectful and affectionate relationship so as to impact the lives of young people and our own.

The duration should never become a long discourse since young people long for movement and become bored when having to concentrate for long periods of time.

Guide 1: For this reason, Mother Mazzarello learned this very well because she has the art of leading back to the essential spoken from the heart rather than with long speeches.

(brief pause)

Guide 2: Let us pray a Hail Mary, asking Our Lady to teach us to be instruments of God's will wherever the Lord sends us. Hail Mary...

Let's go towards the *statue of Mary Help of Christians* and see what characteristic this place awakens in us.

Statue of Mary Help of Christians (*previously in garden*) **Marian Devotion**
spiritual motherhood of our dear Mother Mazzarello

Guide 1: In times of uncertainty, doubt, and fears, we need maternal support, and that is why we seek the hand of someone who supports us, comforts us, and gives us security.

This experience helped Salesian spirituality rediscover Mary and rekindle the great love for her in the Salesian family. In life, we learn to recognize her as Helper, then we experience moments of transformation and uncertainty, and Mary shows us the path to take and gives us hope. We affirm, “Devotion to Mary is a bridge that unites us, and that bridge of dialogue is the style of life that we are called to protect and promote” (*Pope Francis, The Autobiography, 2025, 82*).

Guide 2: Mary is a faithful woman even at the foot of the cross, as Jesus asks of those who dare to share His cause. As FMA, we must learn to be spiritual mothers like Mother Mazzarello. This motherhood is expressed in maternal solicitude, intuition, and acting with a mother's heart, like Mary of Nazareth at the wedding in Cana and the foot of the Cross. Maria Domenica lived spiritual motherhood in her daughters' direct and continuous education through the oral and written word, with gestures, and with the example of life.

Guide 1: My relationship with Mary Help of Christians speaks a lot about my response to God's call to the FMA vocation because I cannot be a good mother if I don't allow myself to be a good daughter. Is my relationship with Mary Help of Christians only a devotional or a truly filial relationship, always trying to learn from the Mother to be both daughter and mother?

(brief pause)

Guide 2: Let us pray a Hail Mary, asking Our Lady to help us to be women who truly generate sound, productive, and caring relationships for the Church and our Institute.

Let's go towards the *courtyard* and see what characteristic this place awakens in us.

Courtyard *joyful presence*

Guide 1: Our Salesian tradition states, “Young people know themselves better in a playground environment more than in the classroom.” This happens among the Sisters too. Therefore, in our FMA tradition moments of recreation in community are important. The courtyard is the place of spontaneity, freedom, joy, informality, personal meetings, and spontaneous events, but above all, it is the place of the group and of being mutually present. We have accepted the style of God, a dynamic and creative presence of tenderness and mercy, who saves his daughters and sons, always giving joy and hope.

Guide 2: Today, we are called to live a creative and courageous presence that listens and walks together. By sharing the dream of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, we are called to rediscover with even more enthusiasm and responsibility the sense of "walking together" as a community, to be a spark of hope and joy, and to awaken in everyone who approaches us the sense of a life given out of love, the sense of a missionary spirit, of being a protagonist of change and creating a more just and fraternal society.

Guide 1: How is my presence in my community? Am I capable of letting myself be enlightened by the presence of Jesus and Mary to be where I am, a joyful and fraternal presence?

(brief pause)

Guide 2: Briefly, share with another participant an experience in which you felt what it means to be a joyful and fraternal presence.

(after sharing)

Let us pray a Hail Mary, asking our Lady to recognize in my Sisters the presence of God, who helps me to be a joyful and prophetic presence where I am.

Let's go towards the *well* and see what characteristic this place awakens in us.

Well *importance of accompaniment*

Guide 1: Accompaniment is not limited to important moments but is carried out in everyday life. Mary, a teacher in the art of accompaniment, makes us understand that accompanying the life and journey of others means bringing Jesus into the homes of others, communicating, and spreading the joy that comes from Him.

In our Salesian charism, we are aware that a relationship of accompaniment stimulates and encourages discernment in choices, providing the practical criteria for truly human and Christian life. We can never think of being with others without thinking of being there to accompany and be accompanied by others. This is what Mother Mazzarello also did. The **well** is, for us, a sign of spiritual depth.

Guide 2: We must deeply experience the simplicity of daily life and community relationships. Am I able to let myself be accompanied by others God has placed on my path to be an instrument and sign of His presence?

(brief pause)

Let's go towards the *chapel* and see what characteristic this place awakens in us.

Chapel *importance of discernment*

Guide 1: From the spirit of prayer, the first FMA transformed everything into love: every stitch, every leap, every gesture, every fraction of time. Everything was "kneaded" with love, and therefore everything was lived in a climate of daily prayer and discernment born of the profound presence of God. For Mother

Mazzarello and us today, discernment requires an ability to listen; therefore, prayer is indispensable.

Guide 2: In the FMA Constitutions, vocational discernment "requires prudence, prayer, open and loyal dialogue which helps to know the person and God's plan for him." The attitude of discernment is an urgent necessity since "current life offers enormous possibilities for action. However, worldly distractions are presented to us as if all are valid and good." (EG, 167).

They say that "discernment is the art of reading in which direction the thoughts of the heart lead, without letting yourself be led by what takes you where you never wanted to go."

Guide 1: We know that prayer supports us in faith and a faithful response to God's call. But in everyday life, we often relax in prayer and consequently fail to make wise discernment and good choices. How am I living my moments of personal and community prayer?

(brief pause)

Guide 2: In this sacred place, sure of our faithfulness to the Lord, we renew our commitment of total dedication to God for all young people.

Formula of our religious profession

All: Heavenly Father, You consecrated me in baptism,
and now, through the power of the Holy Spirit,
You called me to follow Jesus Christ more closely,
in order to share more intimately
in His saving mission in the Church.

In response to Your love,
I bind myself to live
the Beatitudes of the Kingdom radically,
in communion with my Sisters,
proclaiming Christ to the young people

according to the spirit of Saint John Bosco
and Saint Mary Domenica Mazzarello,

I renew the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience
according to the evangelical way
traced by the Constitutions
of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

Trusting in your grace,
in the intercession of Mary Help of Christians
and of all our saints,
and with the support of my Sisters,
I want to live faithfully, for Your glory
the commitments I assumed in making my profession. Amen!

(brief pause)

All: Lord, may the first community of Mornese be for us an invitation and an encouragement to make our community the “house of the love of God,” where the young people feel welcomed and where everyday life, lived in charity and joy, continue Mary’s “Magnificat.” Amen.

(The participants can use the remaining time for personal prayer.)



VISIT COLLEGIO afternoon

(This moment takes place in the room of Mother Mazzarello. Before starting a brief sharing is given about the bedroom, the pictures located in the adjacent room and the corridor.)

Bedroom - Spiritual depth

importance of self-awareness and community experiences

Guide 1: Only those who know themselves can go out without fear of getting lost. Throughout her life, Mother Mazzarello had many opportunities to recognize her



gifts and qualities and, above all, her limits and defects, to transform them not for herself but to respond generously to the call of God that burned in her heart. Her letters and the testimonies of those who lived with her speak of how much she could let herself be worked by the hands of God to be a true woman, an authentic Christian, a faithful religious, a genuine spiritual mother, and a true example of holiness.

St. Mary Mazzarello a Humble Flower (51)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze7LIDwsbrE&t=53s>

St. Mary Mazzarello a humble flower
St. Mary Mazzarello a cheerful bloom
You thought of God at every flash
You raised your heart through every work
To God alone - you lived your life
Let's meet in the heart of Jesus
Let's be humble always cheerful
For God loves the cheerful giver
Was the message you gave to all

Practice all charity towards others
Help each other, love one another
Council one another
Is the message you give to all

Guide 2: We learn from her not to be afraid to leave our comfort zone and to take each other by the hand giving ourselves to those who need and wait for us. From this human and Christian solidity, we can become religious women of depth ready to guide others.

- A guide to **clarity of motivation**.
- A **prayer guide** nourished by silence, listening, and simple and confident dialogue with Jesus.
- A guide to **joy**, a sign of a heart that loves the Lord.
- A guide to **welcoming the cross** walking the path of Jesus.
- A guide to **communion** between those we encounter.

- A guide to the **gift of self** in the educational mission: it is the field of God entrusted to the FMA.

Guide 1: As a summary of Mother Mazzarello's spiritual depth, we can say from "a true disciple, she became a teacher." "If I love Jesus with all my heart, I will also be able to make others love Him."

The style of working together created by Maria Domenica Mazzarello is based on the collaboration and involvement of everyone in synodality. Her way of animating has the characteristic of a vigilant and good presence, flexible and attentive to the needs of each one.

(The visit concludes with directives for personal reflection.)

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Guide 1: As we conclude our visit to the various places of the Collegio, we are invited to look at our life through the life of Mother Mazzarello and the first Sisters.

(Participants are free to go.)



PRAYER

(Using string and scotch the shape of a large heart is created on the floor in the bedroom of Mother Mazzarello. Puzzle pieces are placed nearby.)



The Heart of Community

Guide: Community life is a continuous challenge and a valuable treasure. It was no different with Mother Mazzarello and the first Sisters. When we read source material and some articles about the beginning of the Institute, we realize how demanding coexistence and the harmony of temperaments were. Still, we can feel the communion and synodality.

Voice: “The climate of the foundation of the Institute is a dynamism of charity that brings together fragile, poor, and poorly educated women in communion. Charity is a powerful force that pushes, animates, and brings together very different people and helps them overcome the inevitable conflicts and poverty at all levels; it makes them bold and far-sighted in announcing the Gospel beyond the borders where they were born, that is, towards the outskirts of the world. It is nice to think that from the small and remote community of Mornese, notwithstanding with limitations, hardships, and weaknesses, an evangelical richness continues to flow, reaching all our communities on the five continents, generating them with ever new life.”

Instrumental Music (52)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAzKs9kvdrI>



(Each participant goes to take a piece of the puzzle and returns to their seat.)

Guide: Together we are invited to read the following:

- Like this puzzle, I, too, am part of the Salesian charism, and I bring the gift of life that generates life.
- I am also different from my Sisters, but together we bring the same gift of life, capable of receiving and giving love to each other.

Guide: You are invited to pause for a moment to reflect on the following questions:

1. What community events draw you towards God?
2. What events have distanced you from God?
3. How can I build communion and be a presence that generates life in my community and my mission?

(After some time, each participant is invited to put the piece of the puzzle that they have at the center of the heart.)

Guide: We do not create communities alone, but we need the participation of our Sisters who are next to us to build a synodal community where we work, pray, live, and share life and mission "together"... we need to unite our riches and

weaknesses with them, to grow in holiness. Therefore, each takes another piece of the puzzle and puts it together with the piece they have inside this heart, remembering and praying for each person who experiences community with you.

Instrumental Music (53)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAzKs9kvdrI>

(After all the participants have placed their puzzle pieces in the heart the guide continues.)

Guide: Each participant is invited to share in one word what this experience has inspired in her.

(The prayer moment concludes with a Hail Mary, thanking our Blessed Mother for the whole day and asking her to continue to place in our hearts that deep desire to remain her faithful daughters.)

