



APRIL 30, 2026

3. WITH YOU MAÏN ON THE PATHS OF LIFE

3.11 Desert Day

(To be read at the end of breakfast in the refectory before everyone departs. If some sisters plan to depart before breakfast this can be read at the end of the evening meal the day before.)

Guide: Maria Domenica Mazzarello initiated an authentic form of feminine spiritual formation in Mornese, accompanying both the Sisters and the girls on a demanding path toward holiness. Thus, Mornese endures as a model of a community that is able to lead young people to encounter Jesus Christ and to welcome Him into their lives.



The community of Mornese was not self-referential but rather a community that knew how to orient the girls to the person of Christ!

Today is a day of reflection, a day to revisit the places of Mother Mazzarello. We ask that you do not travel to the places alone. Please go with a partner or small group while still maintaining a climate of silence and reflection.

As you live today's experience choose a symbol that summarizes your experience in Mornese. This symbol will be placed in front of the altar at Mass during the offertory.

On the next page you will find various proposals. You are invited to choose what will help you the best to create your personal synthesis. You will also receive a link for the evaluation of this stage. Please find a moment to give us your feedback by completing the evaluation.

We wish you a day of profound, life-generating encounter with Mother Mazzarello!



(in various places)

PERSONAL SYNTHESIS AND EVALUATION LINK

Take your notebook, choose a beautiful and silent place, and with the help of Mother Mazzarello, open your heart to God and let Him speak with you.

What Draws You?

1. Think of a biblical text to accompany you on this day of your synthesis in the stage "On the pathways of life". What draws you to this text? Why?
2. Choose a stage in the life of Mother Mazzarello that struck you the most. What draws you to this stage? Why?
3. Reflect on the places you choose to revisit. What draws you to these places? Why?

What would you like to tell Mother Mazzarello about your vocation, educational mission, and community life? What is her response to you?

Scheme for Elaborating the Personal Project of Life

In the light of Mother Mazzarello's life, take up your personal project, listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, and discern the points that need change.

What does God want from you in this year of hope in the circumstances in which you find yourself?

- Ask yourself before the Lord, what does He want from you? From the context in which you live, what type of FMA are you called to be?
 - Looking at your human, faith, and charismatic formation, identify one essential thing for each dimension you believe the Lord expects of you. These will be your goals.
- How do your goals align with the Profile of the FMA found in our Constitutions?

Where do you stand regarding God's call?

- Considering your goals, identify obstacles that may impede you reaching these goals. What needs to be strengthened in each dimension in order to overcome these obstacles?
- Similarly, identify strong points that you already have that will help you reach your goals. From where or from whom does this strength come?

What steps do you want to take? In what direction, with what interventions?

- Enlightened by the previous steps, choose your course of action to achieve your goals. (*objectives, processes, activities, etc.*)
- Determine when, how and who will help you to evaluate your progress.



(in the courtyard of the Collegio near the well)

PRAYER

(At the well place a clay container, a lit candle. Each participant receives a small piece of paper that will be used to write a word or phrase.)

Guide: As a group, we are invited to reflect and write a word or phrase on a small piece of paper that describes or expresses how you lived this day.

(Instrumental music is played while the participants reflect and write their word or phrase.)

Instrumental Music (61)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss7EJ-PW2Uk>

Guide: We are confident that God accepts all our experiences. As the smoke ascends into heaven, the Lord will receive our intentions, desires and gratitude.

(As the song plays each participant is invited to light their piece of paper using the candle. The paper is then dropped into the clay pot to continue burning. The song continues to play until all participants have finished. If time permits a small pause will be given before going to the Chapel for Mass.)

Song: May Our Prayers be like Incense (62)

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

Into Your courts we come
Deep in our hearts we long to be
Near to the throne of Your glory

As we draw near to You
Know that You're here
To do Your will
God how we long to be near to You

May our praise
Be like incense rising
Unto Your throne
May our songs
Be a fragrance unto You

May our lives
Be as pleasing offering
In all that we do

Oh God how we long
To be near to You (2x)

Into Your courts we come
Deep in our hearts we long to be
Near to the throne of Your glory

As we draw near to You
Know that You're here
To do Your will
God how we long to be near to You

May our praise
Be like incense rising



Unto Your throne
May our songs
Be a fragrance unto You

May our lives
Be as pleasing offering
In all that we do

Oh God how we long
To be near to You (3x)



MASS

(During offertory, each participant will offer the symbol they have chosen to pray with during the day. The symbols are placed at the foot of the altar.)

