



JUNE 16, 2025

3. WITH YOU MAIN ON THE PATHS OF LIFE

3.8 Life Generates Life

Educational Dimension – ROVERNO



***"This is my commandment:
that you love one another as I have loved you"
Jn 15,12***

(Chapel of Collegio)

Angelus Mary lived deeply the experience of hope since the moment she received the angel's message. She said "yes" to the will of God, following His plan.

Entrustment *(alternating sides)*

Guide: We entrust our life to Mary, mother of hope, 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,
we entrust our journey to you
of total donation to God.
Teach us to sing with joy and gratitude
our Magnificat to the Lord.

Make us attentive to the voice of the Spirit
because we know how to live with humility,
charity, simplicity, and trust in our daily life.

Like You, we desire to abandon ourselves to the Father
to continue to live chaste, poor, and obedient
and to be, with our life,
transparency of God's love
and reflection of your maternal goodness
on the example of Mother Mazzarello
for the young people entrusted to us. Amen.

MASS

(Prepare a space before the altar where the vase will be placed by one of the participants.)

Introduction before Mass

Voice 1: I remember Maria Mazzarello saying:
"We must imagine ourselves to be like the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well and ask Jesus for that living water so that you are never thirsty again."

The Canaanite woman considered herself lucky if she could touch the hem of Jesus' garment. How much more fortunate, we are who can receive him in our hearts! ... So those evenings when we stayed awake, we spent real hours in Paradise!". (*Maccono Vol 2-part 3 Chapter IX, p. 49, number 12*)



Voice 2: We too, as in Cana, saw and believed in him, and we are called to give concrete form to the gift of faith as consecrated women, as an educating community, as in the Salesian Family, as a Church, to revive and bear witness to the beauty of our vocation and mission in missionary synodality, to hear the cry of the poor and of the earth and make bold evangelical choices." (*GC XXIV, 29*)

Eucharistic spirituality left an indelible imprint on Mother Mazzarello's spiritual experience. The window of Valponasca and the paths of Mornese still evoke her ardent devotion and her intense desire to meet Jesus. We come to the Eucharist with our vase in need of transformation, an expression of the thirst for Jesus that we and the young people experience.

(A participant enters with a vase and places it in front of the altar.)

Prayer of the faithful

Celebrant: Our love for young people becomes prayer today. God, our living Father, we present to you the names of the young people most in need, certain that in your love, you will fill their hearts with hope and joy.

(Each one pronounces the names of the young people in her mission that are most in need.)



PRAYER

(Ask for the key to open the well. Next to the well: before starting, a small empty bottle is given to each participant.)

Let Us Draw from the Well

Guide 1: Today the Institute continues to drink from the well of Mornese, from this inexhaustible source of water, the spirit of contemplation and apostolic thirst that possessed Mother Mazzarello and the first community. Always living water! We too need to take this charismatic water to quench the thirst of so many young people.

Song: The Wedding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVbDT0gVqoI>

(As the song plays the bucket is lowered into the well and water is drawn.)

Refrain

Lord of light, oh, come to this wedding
Take the doubt and darkness away
Turn the water of lifeless living
To the wine of gladness we pray



Mother Mary's gently requesting
That you might do whatever you can
Though she may be impatient she loves you
And so she asks what she can't understand (Refrain)

So amidst the laughter and feasting
There sits Jesus full with the fun
He has made them wine because He is longing
For a wedding that's yet to come (Refrain)

Guide 2: The educational experience of Maria Mazzarello and the first Sisters continues to be a source of living water and never ceases to inspire our lives. The first community embodies a model of educators who, being among the people in synodality, expresses the mystique of a radical love for Jesus.

All: You are the living water that satisfies our thirst.

Guide 1: Like the first community *"we believe that challenges are also opportunities to respond to the lack of meaning in life, the loss of joy, the darkening of hope, especially in young people"* (GC XXIV introduction page 15)

All: You are the living water that satisfies our thirst.

Guide 2: Maria Mazzarello, guided Sisters and girls on a *joyful and demanding journey of holiness*, starting an educational tradition that is expressed in gestures of motherhood generated by the Spirit. Help us too, Mother, to be a significant presence like you.

All: You are the living water that satisfies our thirst.

Guide 1: Today, like our first Sisters in Mornese, we are committed to the education of young people, and we express *the joy of having met Jesus*, source of life, who calls us to be a sign of a humanity renewed by Jesus' death and resurrection.

Guide 2: Jesus is the source of living water for those who thirst and believe. Jesus is the source of living water for Mother Mazzarello and our first Sisters. Jesus is the source of living water for us.

Voice: "His Mother said to the servants: 'Do whatever he tells you'. There were six stone piles there, intended for the purification of the Jews, each containing two or three measures. Jesus told them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. Then he said to them: 'Now draw and take some to the master of the table.' And they brought them." (*Jn 2, 5-8*)

Guide 1: Our first Sisters drinking from the only source which is Jesus, also became sources of life for the young people. In this first experience of the Spirit is found the source of life for the whole Institute. In the difficult moments of the beginning, Maria Domenica, sister and mother, draws with all her strength, will and love, the material and spiritual water for the first community.

Guide 2: Let us walk towards the source where our first community created communion in mission.

Guide 1: Before leaving, let us draw water from the well. Each one is invited to make the Sign of the Cross with water to begin the pilgrimage to the Roverno. As we go, we want to recreate the atmosphere of joy, work and festive giving, the joy of communication and discover the apostolic secret of the first community. Let's sing.

Song: Living Waters Flow On

<https://youtu.be/XO5qRKoks8Y>

(As the song plays the participants fill their small bottle half way with water from the well.)

Living waters flow on
Sweep away my pain
Bring your healing to my heart
Help me love once again

Cares and worries get me down
Fear of failure fills my day
When I'm lost and all alone
Help me Lord to find Your way
People knocking at my door
Strangers seeking love and care
Never let me turn them down
Teach me gently how to share
Children come into my life
With their laughter and their song
When will I become like them
Teach me Lord to sing along

Living waters flow on
Sweep away my pain
Bring your healing to my heart
Help me love once again.



VISIT THE ROVERNO

(in the courtyard of the Collegio)



Pilgrimage to the Roverno

Guide 1: Let us do the first part of the walk prayerfully bringing into our hearts the faces of young people in need of finding someone who loves them, who takes on the effort of helping them grow and also the risk of being able to make mistakes. Picture the faces of the young people we take with us to the Roverno.

FIRST STOP: **Corinna Arigotti**

(in the town square)

Guide 1: She was born in Tonco (*Asti*) on 29 October 1855. She died in Mornese on 15 June, 1874. She was 19 years old; motherless since her early childhood; extremely sensitive, a lover of music, of great talent; she had no spirit of piety; was self-centered; she risked remaining self-indulgent.

Guide 2: Educating is the art of hoping, of never giving up in the face of difficulties and apparent failures in the educational mission; it is respecting the journey of every young person. Do young people like Corinna come to your mind and heart? What is your educational intervention?

Guide 3: General Chapter XXIV, 33 states: "Let us rekindle the commitment to care and accompany the new generations. We renew the passion for a more open and inclusive education to assist people to overcome fragmentation and intolerance of difference".

(reflect while walking)

SECOND STOP: Maria Belletti

(in front of the public school)

Guide 1: She was born in Ovada on 21 July 1858. She died in Mornese on 11 November 1876. She was 18 years of age. Her family was wealthy. She was welcomed in Mornese on 3 November 1874 to shield her from the dangers she encountered in her family. However, she was so vain that it affected the members of the community who became bewildered by her behavior. She allowed her heart to be overcome by different cravings and urges.

Guide 2: If the educator truly believes that in every young person there is a chord that vibrates for good, hope is that virtue that makes us creative, bold, provocative, even stubborn in finding this chord and making it shine.

Do young people like Maria Belletti come to your mind and heart? What is your educational intervention?

Guide 3: General Chapter XXIV, 35 says: *“We renew the choice of Salesian assistance, according to the heart of Jesus the Good Shepherd; to become a fruitful presence and witness among young people, rediscovering the centrality of the educational relationship and its generative force.”*

(reflect while walking)

THIRD STOP: Emma Ferrero

(in front of the small chapel before taking the road down to the river)

Guide 1: She was born in Turin on 2 July 1859. She died in Nizza Monferrato on March 1, 1880 at 21 years of age. She was sent by Don Bosco to Mornese. She was an eighteen-year-old of "extraordinary attractiveness", and had ~~had~~ a very free lifestyle amid theatres, dances and friendships of all kinds, until one day, due to financial instability; her father was forced to turn to Don Bosco for help. Emma agreed to go to Mornese to escape the shame, and above all to be able to study. But she arrived there in a situation of inner revolt. Contemptuous and sarcastic smiles, impertinence and rudeness were the response to her educators' multiple attempts to approach her.

Guide 2: Hope is the virtue that can help us “reawaken the aesthetic and contemplative sense that God has placed in us” (QA 56) and help the educator in his or her noble mission to reawaken this same aesthetic sense in young people. Do young people come to your mind and heart like Emma Ferrero? What is your educational intervention?

Guide 3: “Inspired by the community of *Mornese in ‘usicta’* and in communion with the synodal journey of the Church, let us assume, on personal and community levels, the responsibility of living synodality, open to listening and accompanying...”. (GC XXIV, 35 page 37)

(reflect while walking)

The Roverno Wants to Speak to You

(When the participants arrive to the river allow them to take pictures and look around. Once the initial excitement has passed, begin this time of reflection at the Roverno by the water’s edge.)

Guide 1: Let yourself be found by God present yesterday, today and always in nature, in young people, in history, in yourself... and listen to the witnesses of our first Sisters, reflecting on your educational mission.

When your heart speaks to you add some water in your bottle as a sign of bringing fresh water to young people.

(brief pause)

Guide 1: Here at the Roverno, where the first community of Mornese experienced the joy of being family with the girls, we want to consciously assume what GC XXIV invites us to be and to do:



Chorus 1: Pope Francis told us: “you must immerse yourself in the complex scenario of today's world rooted in Christ, without giving in to the temptations of spiritual worldliness in its various forms.”

Chorus 2: Christ requires from you your creative fidelity to the charism which "is a living reality, not an embalmed relic", "it is life that creates and moves and expands and is not a museum piece".

Chorus 1: So the great responsibility is to collaborate with the creativity of the Holy Spirit, to revive the charism and ensure that it expresses its vitality today.
(Discourse of Pope Francis to the FMA General Chapter members 22 October, 2021)

All: Lord, count on us.

Song: Let Your Living Water Flow!

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

Let Your Living Water flow over my soul
Let Your Holy Spirit come and take control
of every situation that has troubled my mind
All my cares and burdens on to You I roll

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
(Sing to the Father)
Father, Father, Father
(Holy Spirit)
Spirit, Spirit, Spirit

Let Your Living Water flow over my soul
Let Your Holy Spirit come and take control
of every situation that has troubled my mind
All my cares and burdens onto You I roll



Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
(Sing to the Father)
Father, Father, Father
(Precious Spirit)
Spirit, Spirit, Spirit

Come now Holy Spirit and take control
Hold me in Your loving arms and make me whole
Wipe away all doubt and fear and take my pride
Draw me to Your love and keep me by Your side
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
Father, Father, Father
Spirit, Spirit, Spirit

Give your life to Jesus, let Him fill your soul
Let Him take you in His arms and make you whole
As you give your life to Him, He'll set you free
You will live and reign with Him eternally

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
(Let us talk to the Father)
Father, Father, Father
(Precious Spirit)
Spirit, Spirit, Spirit

Let Your Living Water flow over my soul
Let Your Holy Spirit come and take control
of every situation that has troubled my mind
All my cares and burdens onto You I roll

(The participants are invited to spend the rest of the time in quiet personal reflection. We depart the river at 11:15am.)



PERSONAL REFLECTION *afternoon*

(The participants are invited to personally reflect using the following resources:)

- Educative Dimension: ppt/pdf found in Resources
- *With Main on the Pathways of Life*: 6th stage "Life that expands"



GROUP WORK

(Sharing will take place in small groups of 5.)

- How can we be an answer to the thirst of young people today according to the experience of this day?
- Each group is invited to create a psalm entitled: "Psalm of the water that satisfies the thirst of young people"

(When finished the participants can continue with personal reflection until evening prayer.)

PRAYER

(Evening prayer is made up of the psalms composed by each group and concludes with a Magnificat.)

