



MAY 1, 2026

3. WITH YOU MAÏN ON THE PATHS OF LIFE

3.12 Encounter with Mother Mazzarello at Nizza

(Chapel of Collegio)



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Entrustment *(alternating sides)*

Guide: We entrust our life 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,
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



PRAYER *(in pullman)*

Song: Christ in me (63)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PTKnM4FT0>

Refrain

Christ in me is to live to die is to gain
Christ in me is to live to die is to gain

He's my King, He's my song, He's my life,
He's my joy, He's my strength, He's my sword,
He's my peace, He's my Lord. (Refrain)

Guide: The last stage of Mother Mazzarello's earthly life was not only marked by the experience of pain, illness, and death; on the contrary, it was the stage in which God's work in the Institute flourished. "There is no greater love than giving life."

An increase in Sisters and girls marked the last two years of Mother Mazzarello's life; they also expanded to America and Europe. As such, it was time for her to leave this earthly life as her mission was accomplished. Praise be to God for His wondrous works in her.

Song: Go Out to All the World and Tell the Good News (*Psalm 117*) (64)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j645M1p8VMI>

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (4x)

Praise the LORD all you nations;
glorify him, all you peoples!

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (2x)

For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever.

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (2x)
and tell the Good News

Guide: Maria Domenica Mazzarello understood the value of life in the mystery of Jesus and the light of eternity. In her letters, she wrote... "Yes, my good Daughters in J.[esus], take courage, Jesus loves you. It is true that you have many troubles and sufferings at times, but the Lord wants us to carry a bit of the cross in this world. He was the first to give us the good example in suffering, so let us follow him with courage by suffering with resignation. You can be sure that those to whom Jesus gives most to suffer are those closest to Him, but we must do everything with purity of intention to please Him alone if we want the reward." (*Letter 39.4*).

Jn 15,12-14

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

(brief pause)

Guide: We are now going towards Nizza; perhaps we can ask ourselves what we want to find there. What do I hope to experience in this Mother House?

Let us ask God to open our hearts to all He wants us to encounter. May our experience in the Mother House where Mother Mazzarello died help us to be open to the love that God has for us.

Song: As I kneel before you (65)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdLdeI38V70>

As I kneel before you,
As I bow my head in prayer,
Take this day, make it yours
and fill me with your love.

Refrain

Ave Maria,
Gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
Benedicta tu.

All I have I give you,
Every dream and wish are yours,
Mother of Christ,
Mother of mine, present them to my Lord. (Refrain)

As I kneel before you,
And I see your smiling face,
Ev'ry thought, ev'ry word
Is lost in your embrace. (Refrain 2x)

Guide: Through the intercession of Mary, our teacher and guide, we ask God for peace in our hearts and the world. Hail Mary....

PRESENTATION *(in pullman)*

Guide 1: We have left Mornese; perhaps we could ask ourselves, how did Maria Mazzarello and the first Sisters feel about leaving their land, where they were born and grew up, leaving their families, leaving friends?

In Nizza, we will visit the Mother House where Mother Mazzarello lived the last two years of her life, realizing, in a feminine way, the Salesian charism of Don Bosco.

Don Bosco sent the Sisters to Nizza because it was a place where the train arrived, a transport network was available, and there was a high possibility of reaching out to a more significant number of girls. It is from there where the windows of the Institute opened wide to the whole world.

Guide 2: How did Don Bosco buy this house? The Institute, "Our Lady of Grace," was purchased by Don Bosco in 1877 on the ruins of an old convent of the Observant Friar Minors. Before that, in 1871, it was sold to the Oenological Society of Savigliano. In 1877, Don Bosco came to Nizza, invited by Count Cesare Balbo to open a boarding school since the former convent was again put up for sale due to the bankruptcy of the Oenological Society. Don Bosco considering the opportunity to purchase it to transfer the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians from the Mother House of Mornese and open an institute for the education of girls and young women - began taking possession. The first FMA arrived on September 16, 1878.

On Feb. 4, 1879, Mother Mazzarello, arrived in Nizza. The Mother House remained in Nizza until 1929, when the Generalate was transferred to Turin.

Guide 1: Here in Nizza, we will remember Mother Mazzarello's life in the last journeys as Mother, her illness, the final moments of her life, and how the Institute developed. Here Mother Mazzarello was very close to her daughters through her letters that she started writing in Mornese. Mother Mazzarello's life does not end with her death; it goes beyond: The Church recognizes her as Co-foundress, Mother, and first Superior of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

Here, too, in Nizza, we will discover Don Bosco's Preventive System, lived by the first Sisters in the community and among the girls.



ADDITIONAL READING

Don Bosco Avenue

On the avenue, approaching the FMA house in Nizza, there is the bust of Mother Mazzarello, wanted by the people of Nizza. A group of the FMA past pupils presented it to the to the public in 2017 on the occasion of the inauguration of the Historical Archive of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta. At the beginning of the avenue, there is also the bust of Don Bosco, wanted by the faithful of the people of Nizza on the occasion of his beatification on June 29, 1929.

