



ASSOCIAZIONE DEI SALESIANI COOPERATORI COORDINATORE MONDIALE



24 May 2023

Feast of Mary Help of Christians

Dear Salesian Cooperators and Delegates

This year the Feast of Mary Help of Christians has a special flavor as it is the journey in preparation for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the approval, by the Holy See, of the Association of Salesian Cooperators.

Thanks to the strong will of our Don Bosco, to the trust and benevolence that Pope Pius IX placed in him, on May 9, 1876 we were born in the Church as a Public Association of the Faithful.

As I already explained in my letter of April 30, 2023, to celebrate this important moment, the World Council chose the theme:

A Dream, a Promise and the Future

On that May 9, 1876 we assumed the identity of "external Salesians" as Don Bosco dreamt of us and it is almost 150 years that we continue to "say yes" (**promise**) to love, in the different conditions of life, to those whom the Lord has us encounter. As lay people in the Church and in the world, we cannot stand by and watch events pass by, but we must take up future challenges that characterize these years, to be protagonists in history to be like leaven in the human family.

Don Bosco suggests a concrete way: "*Entrust everything to the Eucharistic Jesus and Mary Help of Christians and you will see what miracles are*".

Let us do it!!!

In this first year in preparation for the 150th, let us recount our experiences, retrace stages of our vocational choice and witness the action of the Holy Spirit in our local Centers.

We are all invited to share with written texts, photos, videos, our own being Salesian Cooperators and Delegates.

We recount our association by remembering what we have been.

May Mary Help of Christians be our teacher as she was for Don Bosco.

A fraternal embrace and let's go forward with joy.

The World Coordinator