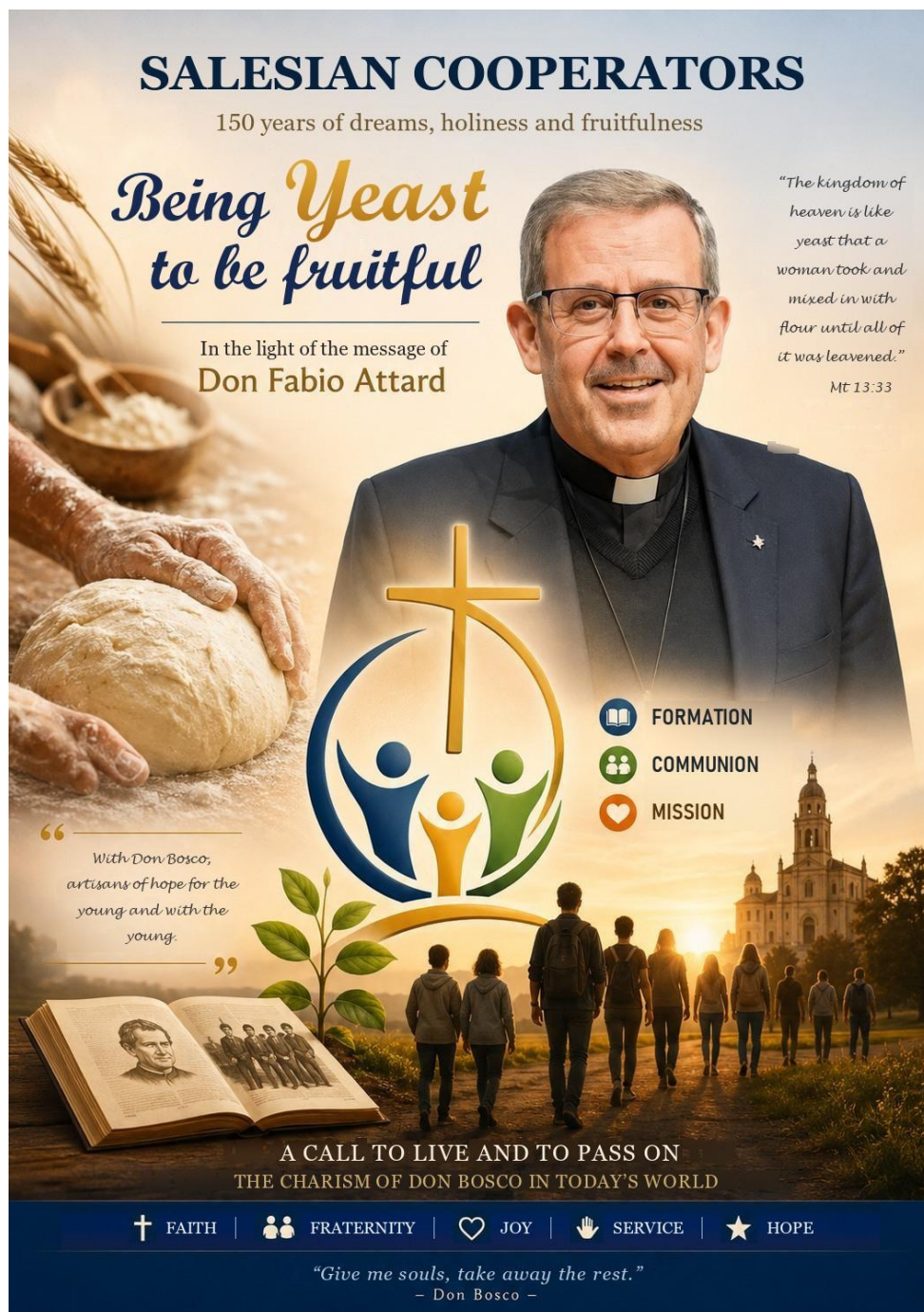




Being yeast to be fruitful

Reading, meditating on and living the call of Don Fabio Attard

ASSCC – 6th World Congress – Rome, May 2026

A formation booklet by CoopBelsud (Province of Southern Belgium) – English translation for the Central Europe West Region (RECO)

“Don Bosco’s dream lives on every time a heart chooses to be the yeast of hope for the young and with the young.”

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Full text (in French) to download:

<https://www.coopdonbosco.be/telecharger/DonFabioCM2026.pdf>



“BEING YEAST TO BE FRUITFUL”

6th WORLD CONGRESS 2026

<https://www.asscc-mondiale.org/webSite/congreso-mundial-2026/>

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FOREWORD

“Being yeast to be fruitful” is an invitation to reread our vocation as Salesian Cooperators in the light of the Gospel, of Don Bosco’s charism and of Don Fabio Attard’s call for the 150th anniversary of the Association.

This booklet offers a journey of reading, meditation and sharing around the call “to be yeast in order to be fruitful”. Inspired by Don Fabio Attard’s message and by the spirit of Don Bosco, it invites every Salesian Cooperator to reread their vocation, to deepen their mission and to become, in the simplicity of daily life, a sign of hope for the young and for the world.

It is a reading guide for personal or group formation. It does not try to say everything, but to open a path: to listen, to meditate, to share and to choose a few concrete steps in order to become the yeast of hope among the young.

“The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” (Mt 13:33)

Each chapter can be used for one meeting: a time of reading, a sharing, a concrete decision and a prayer. The aim is simple: to let Don Bosco’s dream live on today in our families, our local Centres, our parishes, our schools, our neighbourhoods and our commitments.

“The future of our Association does not depend first on what we will do, but on how we let the Holy Spirit make the dough of the Gospel rise in us. Only then will our mission bear fruit.”



CHAPTER 1 — GOD’S YEAST

The hidden fruitfulness of the Kingdom

Jesus compares the Kingdom to yeast: something small and hidden, yet able to transform the whole dough. This image sheds light on our vocation. Being yeast does not mean seeking the first place; it means accepting to work from within, in daily faithfulness.

Don Bosco began with an encounter, a look, trust given to a young person. The Salesian charism is born of this simple presence that believes in a person even before they believe in themselves.

For sharing in the group

1. Where am I called to be the yeast of hope this week?
2. Which young person, or which person, do I need to look at differently?
3. What small, faithful gesture could transform my surroundings?

Prayer.

*Lord Jesus, teach us faithfulness in small gestures.
Give us the eyes of Don Bosco,
able to recognise in every young person a promise of life.
Make our families places of hope,
our centres welcoming homes,
our communities signs of your presence...
Amen.*

To remember

Being yeast does not mean trying to change the world by force; it means accepting that God transforms the world through our daily faithfulness.



CHAPTER 2 — THE DREAM THAT BECOMES MISSION

Receiving Don Bosco's legacy to bring it to life today

The dream Don Bosco had at the age of nine is not just a founding memory. It is a mission that is always relevant: to win the young through gentleness, charity and trust.

Being heirs of Don Bosco does not mean repeating the past, but rediscovering the spirit that drove him. Every Cooperator is called to ask: where is my Valdocco today? Where is the Lord sending me to make life grow?

For sharing in the group

1. What in Don Bosco's dream still reaches the young people of today?
2. What is our local Valdocco today?
3. What concrete step can we take to bring the charism we have received to life?

Prayer.

Lord, keep Don Bosco's dream alive in us.

Give us the courage to love the young

with trust, gentleness and creativity. Amen.

To remember

**Don Bosco's dream is not entrusted to us to be admired,
but to be carried forward.**

Every Salesian Cooperator is called to write a new page of it today, wherever the Lord has sent them.



CHAPTER 3 — A FRUITFULNESS BORN OF COMMUNION

Growing together to serve better

Yeast works by mixing with the dough. In the same way, the Salesian mission is never lived alone. It is born of communion: among Cooperators, with the Salesian Family, with the Church and with the young themselves.

The first fruitfulness of a community is not the number of its activities, but the quality of its relationships. Where people listen to one another, forgive and serve together, the Gospel becomes visible.

Young people are drawn to adults who are happy to be alive. Not because their life is free of difficulties, but because they have found a reason to hope.

For sharing in the group

1. Is our centre more of an organisation or a family?
2. What signs of joy and fraternity do we give?
3. What link can we strengthen with the local Salesian Family?

Prayer.

Lord Jesus,

make us builders of communion.

Teach us to serve together, in joy, in listening and in humility. Amen.

To remember

The first fruitfulness of a Salesian work is not the number of its activities, but the quality of the communion that unites those who carry it. Where brothers and sisters learn to love one another and to serve together, the Kingdom of God is already at work.



CHAPTER 4 — LIVING THE PRESENT WITH GOD'S EYES

Looking, listening, discerning and acting

God is calling us today. Discernment means recognising his presence in concrete realities: the young people we meet, the calls of our society, the fragilities and the signs of hope around us.

Like Don Bosco, we are invited to listen before acting: to listen to the young, to families, to the Church, to the Word of God and to the Holy Spirit. Discerning does not mean waiting until everything is clear; it means moving forward with trust once the call has become clear enough.

For sharing in the group

1. What challenges affect the young people of our area today?
2. What signs of hope do we already see?
3. What simple initiative can we discern and begin together?

Prayer.

Lord, open our eyes to the signs of your Spirit.

Grant that we may listen with patience,

discern with faith

and act with courage. Amen.

To remember

Discernment is not the art of predicting the future;

it is the art of recognising the presence of God

in the today of our life and of responding to it with trust.



CHAPTER 5 — ARTISANS OF HOPE

The world is waiting for witnesses

Formation leads to being sent. Having meditated on the yeast, on Don Bosco's dream, on communion and on discernment, we are called to become artisans of hope where we live.

Christian hope is not easy optimism. It is born of trust in God who is still at work. It shows itself in a faithful presence, a word that lifts people up, a concrete commitment to the young, to families and to the most vulnerable.

For sharing in the group

1. What face of hope do we show around us?
2. Which young people or families should we reach out to more?
3. What concrete commitment do we want to make to carry Don Bosco's dream forward?

Sending prayer.

*Lord Jesus,
make us witnesses of hope.
May our life, humbly offered,
become the yeast of your Kingdom among the young and in the world. Amen.*

To remember

**The finest tribute we can pay to Don Bosco
is not to celebrate his work, but to carry on his mission.
Wherever a Salesian Cooperator welcomes a young person,
lifts up someone who is discouraged, builds communion
and bears witness to the Gospel with joy,
Don Bosco's dream goes on bearing fruit.**

EPILOGUE

The yeast continues its work

The yeast disappears into the dough.
It seeks neither recognition nor prestige.
Its mission is accomplished when the bread can feed others.

So it is with every Christian vocation.
We are not called to build our own work.
We are invited to collaborate in God's.

The world does not first need believers who talk more.
It needs believers whose life becomes a word.

The world is not waiting for heroes.
It is waiting for women and men who love faithfully.
For educators who can still believe in young people.
For families who bear witness to the joy of the Gospel.
For communities where everyone finds their place.
For Salesian Cooperators who choose, humbly but resolutely, to be God's yeast.

Then the dream that began one December morning in 1841 with Bartholomew Garelli will go on crossing the generations.

And in another hundred and fifty years, others will be able to give thanks for women and men who believed that holiness is built in the simplest gestures, when love becomes stronger than fear and hope lights up the way.

Closing word

This guide is not an end, but a beginning. It will only have borne fruit if it leads every Salesian Cooperator to reread their own call and to respond with trust to Don Bosco's ever-relevant invitation: "Give me souls, take away the rest." For it is in this educational and evangelising passion that the true fruitfulness of the Salesian charism lies, still today.

QUOTATIONS

On yeast and fruitfulness

"Yeast does not seek to be seen; it accepts being given so that others can grow."

"Being yeast means believing that God can do great things through our daily faithfulness."

On Don Bosco and the mission

"Don Bosco's dream is not a heritage to be preserved, but a mission to be carried forward."

"Each generation receives the Salesian charism as a gift and a responsibility."

On the vocation of the Salesian Cooperator

"The Cooperator's vocation begins wherever someone needs hope."

"Our first apostolate is often the way we love."

"Being a Cooperator means choosing to make one's life a presence that helps others grow."

On communion

"Communion is not the result of the mission; it is its first fruit."

"Where brothers and sisters learn to serve together, the Kingdom of God is already at work."

On discernment

"Discerning means learning to recognise where God is already at work, so as to choose to collaborate there."

"Discernment is not the art of predicting the future, but that of responding faithfully to today's call."

On hope

"Christian hope does not ignore the night; it simply knows that the dawn is already on its way."

"Artisans of hope do not promise a perfect world; they choose never to abandon the world."

SONG — YEAST IN THE DOUGH OF THE WORLD

The song is sung in French. The translation on the right is only there to help understanding (it is not singable).

Couplet 1

Dans la pâte du monde, tu nous déposes, Seigneur,
Ferments de lumière, porteurs de ta douceur.
Quand un jeune cherche un chemin pour grandir,
Tu nous envoies vers lui pour l'aider à l'ouvrir.

Refrain

Fais de nous ton levain,
qui fait lever la vie.
Fais de nous ton levain,
Que le monde chante ta louange.
Fais de nous ton levain,
petit mais plein d'amour.
Fais de nous ton levain,
pour transformer chaque jour.

Couplet 2

Dans nos peurs, nos questions, nos nuits sans
clarté,
Tu nous donnes ta force pour avancer.
Quand le cœur se fatigue et que nos pas sont
lourds,
Ton Esprit nous relève et rallume nos jours.

Couplet 3

Dans la joie offerte, dans l'amitié partagée,
Dans les petits gestes qui peuvent tout changer,
Tu fais fleurir la vie, tu fais grandir l'amour,
Et tu bénis nos dons offerts jour après jour.

Verse 1

*Into the dough of the world you place us, Lord,
leaven of light, bearers of your gentleness.
When a young person looks for a way to grow,
you send us to them to help open it up.*

Chorus

*Make us your yeast,
that makes life rise.
Make us your yeast,
so that the world may sing your praise.
Make us your yeast,
small but full of love.
Make us your yeast,
to transform each day.*

Verse 2

*In our fears, our questions, our nights without light,
you give us your strength to move forward.
When the heart grows weary and our steps are heavy,
your Spirit lifts us up and rekindles our days.*

Verse 3

*In joy that is offered, in friendship that is shared,
in the small gestures that can change everything,
you make life blossom, you make love grow,
and you bless the gifts we offer day after day.*

Words and music: CoopBelsong – AI-assisted

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-dxGvXrISs>