

18-21 JANUARY 2024

TURIN - VALDOCCO

Salesian Family

XLII SPIRITUALITY DAYS



GUIDE

ENGLISH

PRESENTATION

OF THE SPIRITUALITY DAYS 2024

Good afternoon from Valdocco, to all those present and to those who follow us on social networks. Let me greet you fraternally on behalf of the entire team of the Secretariat of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family and of all those who have collaborated in the preparation and in the realisation of these Days of Spirituality who, as the presenters explained, are many.

I thank them all for their enthusiasm and effort in this event (now in its 42nd edition), which celebrates the deep communion that exists between all the Groups of the Salesian Family and with all the continents, and nourishes our common spirituality at the service of the mission.

The central reason that brings us together is to have a profound Salesian experience as a family, around the theme of the Strenna that the Rector Major has proposed for the entire Salesian Family this year: “The dream that makes you dream”. A heart that transforms wolves into lambs.

It is a motto that connects us to the Strennas of previous years: “Holiness for you too” (2019); “Good Christians, upright citizens” (year 2020); “Moved by hope” (2021); “Do all through love, nothing through constraint” (year 2022); “As the yeast in today’s human family” (2023). “Holiness”, “Hope”, “Christians and citizens”, “Love”, “Yeast” are words that, this year, make us fully enter into what “the dream” of Don Bosco’s life involved. A dream that Don Bosco, in his Memoirs, locates at the age of nine; a dream that in different ways was repeated in his life; a dream that materialised in the various stages of his life; a dream that “continues to make us dream”, for us who are inspired by his apostolic spirituality. It is “the dream that makes you dream”, which liberates, transforms, sows joy and leads to holiness.

This is precisely the theme that will run through each moment of these days, as you can see in the program that has been delivered to you.

The Rector Major will focus on the theme, presenting the Strenna and commenting on the letter with which he proposes it to the entire Salesian

Family. It is not just a matter of remembering a dream, nor of admiring how he was able to realise it among the many difficulties he encountered... It is about unveiling “God’s dream” for humanity; and reliving the dream that God has for young people and for each of us. In short, it is about putting into play in our lives all those elements that will allow its realisation in us and around us, in the Church and in the world.

Everything, over these days, must lead us to enter the heart of God and to let him act in us, in our environments and Groups, guided by the hand of the Teacher, guided by the strength of the charisma that the Spirit has placed in our hearts, and ready, like Don Bosco, to continue to give shape, in today’s world, to the “dream that makes us dream”.

We will be helped by the members of the round table, the companions with whom we will share in the groups, the visits, and the people we will meet, the youth experiences that will be presented to us, the sharing and, of course, the opportunities for prayer and celebration. And it will also help us to know that there are many who will be following us on social networks. And there are also many who are participating in the various Provinces around the world in their own Days, on this or in the coming weekends.

The desire of the organising team is that we live these days intensely. Let us help each other to achieve this goal. Thank you for your participation and the enthusiasm we will bring to each other.

Welcome to your home, the home where Don Bosco was able to give shape to his life’s dream and move many others to continue his dreams in different parts of the world. May Mary Help of Christians, from her Shrine, bless us all. She will be, in reality, the Teacher who will teach us to realise the dream of the Salesian Family.

Fr. Joan Lluís Playà

RM’s Delegate for the Salesian Family

GREETINGS FROM


FR LEONARDO MANCINI

Dear and beloved members of the Salesian Family, it is a great honour for me to welcome you here to Valdocco, Don Bosco's house; you who are here in the hall are welcome, and all of you who are following online are equally welcome. We are celebrating the 42nd edition of the Salesian Family Spirituality Days on the theme of Strenna 2024, to which our dear Rector Major, today Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime, wanted to give the following title: *"The dream that makes you dream". A heart that transforms "wolves" into "lambs"*.

The wish that I would like to address to all of us who are taking part in the Days is to be able **to continue dreaming like Don Bosco and with Don Bosco. Continue to dream like Don Bosco...**! Yes, because the dream of at 9 years of age also indirectly recalls how each of us is unique, and the plan that God has for our lives. A plan that only we can carry out; no one can replace us and do the same. The problem then is to take action to understand or follow God's dream for us; knowing full well that this is not revealed to us once and for all, but needs constant updating! This is also the case in the Bible.

The people whose call is told, from Abraham to Mary, to the apostles, do not immediately receive all their instructions; on the contrary, most of the time the initial mandate is really very scarce; you have to learn to trust God and be very creative! And God then, step by step, sends the necessary updates; guides those who entrust themselves to Him, but does so in an often unpredictable way; until the moment when, at the end of life, those who have trusted can say, with amazement and great joy (just like Don Bosco before Our Lady's altar in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart): *now I have understood the meaning of the dream that God had for me!*

Continue to dream like Don Bosco...! Yes, because we share the *Da Mihi Animas*, his same passion for the salvation of young people. So our dreams cannot be populated only or especially by adults! If Don Bosco has conquered us, if the Salesian spirit inhabits us, if it is now part of our life, our heartbeat, our



mind's thoughts, our will's desires... then we cannot help but be interested in young people. And to accompany them, as Don Bosco did, in the surprising and encouraging discovery of the dream that God has for them. This implies on our part the commitment to propose to them a specific anthropology, the Christian one; a particular way of understanding the human being, as the only creature that holds within itself a secret to be discovered, a seed that God has sown in the heart of every human being; a seed that everyone must know how to find, keep, water, make sprout and make bear fruit! This seed is called vocation; and we can and must accompany as many young people as possible in discovering and fulfilling their call.

My hope, with all my heart, is that we welcome the Days of Spirituality of the Salesian Family as a renewed opportunity to “update” our personal call and commit ourselves more to helping young people discover and develop their call, the dream that God has for each of them, so that they can be truly *happy in time and in eternity.*

May you all be happily involved!

ROUND TABLE

GENESIS OF A VOCATION

FR. BRUNO FERRERO sdb

Two hundred years ago, a nine-year-old boy who was poor and without any other future than being a farmer, had a dream. In the morning he told it to his mother, grandmother and brothers who began to laugh. His grandmother concluded: "Pay no attention to dreams." Many years later that boy, John Bosco, wrote: "I was of my grandmother's opinion, however it was never possible to get that dream out of my mind." because it was not a dream like so many others, and did not disappear with the coming of dawn.

First: it was an imperious command.

Father Lemoyne, the first historian of Don Bosco, in fact sums up the dream thus: "He had seemed to see the Divine Saviour dressed in white, radiant with splendid light, in the act of leading a countless crowd of young people. And turning to him he told him: "Come here: place yourself at the head of these youngsters and lead them yourself." "But I am not capable" John replied. The Divine Saviour insisted imperiously until John took charge of that multitude of boys and began to guide them just as he had been commanded to do." Like Jesus' "Follow me".

Second, it was the secret of joy.

That dream returned again and again on other occasions. With an overwhelming charge of energy. It was a source of joyful security and inexhaustible strength for John Bosco. The source of his life.

At the diocesan process for the cause of beatification of Don Bosco, Don Rua, his first successor, testified: "Lucia Turco, member of a family where Don Bosco often went to stay with his brothers, told me that he saw him arrive more cheerful than usual one morning. Asked why, he replied that during the night he had had a dream which made him happy."

Third: the response.

The question for everyone is: "Do you want just any kind of life or do you want to change the world?"

Viktor Frankl stresses the difference between “*meaning of life*” and “*meaning in life*”. The meaning of life is associated with questions like *Why am I here? What is the meaning of all this? What meaning does life have?* Many people look for answers in religion or in some noble mission for a superior good like, for example, fighting poverty or stopping global warming. It is often difficult to find the meaning of life; the struggle to grasp this concept can be exhausting, especially in times of difficulty, when we struggle even to make ends meet. On the other hand, it is much easier to find meaning *in* life: in the ordinary things we do habitually, in the present moment, in daily activities at home or at work. It is precisely meaning in life that is the preferred means of experiencing spiritual well-being.

Fourth: a sign from Above

In the seminary, Don Bosco wrote a page of admirable humility as a motivation for his vocation: “The dream at Murialdo was always impressed on me; indeed it had been renewed much more clearly on other occasions.” We can be sure: he had recognised the Lord and his Mother. Despite his modesty, he had absolutely no doubt he had been visited by Heaven. He did not even doubt that these visits were destined to reveal to him his future and that of his work. He himself said as much: “The Salesian Congregation did not take a step without being advised by some supernatural deed. It has not reached the point of development it is at without a special command from the Lord.”

Fifth: continuous help.

“I then heard from others that he asked: ‘How will I take care of so many sheep? And so many lambs? Where will I find the pastures to maintain them? The Lady replied: ‘Do not be afraid, I will help you’ and then she disappeared.”

Sixth: a Teacher

A mother.

Seventh: a mission

“This is your field of work” the Lady continued. Make yourself humble, strong and energetic, and what you see happening to these animals at this moment, you will have to do for my children.”

Eighth: a method

“You will have to win these friends of yours not by blows but by gentleness and love.”

Ninth: those to whom we are sent

“Glancing around I realised that the youngsters had all apparently run away. A large number of dogs, cats, goats, bears and other animals had taken their place.

Tenth: a Work

“Worn out, I wanted to sit down by a nearby road, but the shepherdess invited me to continue the trip. After a short journey I found myself in a large courtyard with porticoes all around. At one end was a church. I then saw that four-fifths of the animals had been changed into lambs and their number greatly increased. Just then, several shepherds came along to take care of the flock; But they stayed only a short time and then promptly went away. Then something wonderful happened. Many of the lambs were transformed into shepherds, who as they grew took care of the others. I wanted to be off because it seemed to me time to celebrate Mass. But the shepherd invited me to look to the south. ‘Look again’, she said to me. I looked again and saw a wondrous big church. Inside the church hung a white banner on which was written in huge letters: *Hic domus mea, inde gloria mea*”

This is why, when we enter the Basilica of Mary help of Christians, we are entering into Don Bosco’s dream.

Don Bosco’s will and testament

The Pope himself ordered Don Bosco to write down the dream for his sons. He began like this: “Now what purpose can this chronicle serve? It will be a record to help people overcome problems that may come in the future by learning from the past. It will serve to make known how God himself has always been our guide. It will give my sons some entertainment to be able to read about their father’s adventures. Doubtless they will read much more avidly when I have been called by God to render my account, when I am no longer among them.”

This is why the Salesian Constitutions begin with an “act of faith”: “With a feeling of humble gratitude we believe that the Society of St Francis de Sales came into being not as a merely human venture but by the initiative of God.”

“Soy Soñador”

(Letra y música: Juan Carlos Pérez Godoy, sdb)

Gracias, mi Dios porque me has dado el coraje de soñar.
Gracias te doy, gracias mi Señor,
gracias porque has compartido el sueño
de ver a los jóvenes felices
en el tiempo y en la eternidad.

¡Gracias, Señor, soy soñador!

Allá en I Becchi, desde niño siempre fui un soñador:

“Mira alrededor: esta es tu misión:

transformar los lobos en corderos, no con golpes,
con la mansedumbre, la bondad, la caridad del Buen Pastor”.

¡Soy soñador, gracias Señor, soy soñador!

Soy soñador porque Tú me has dado el coraje de soñar,
mi Dios, soy soñador, gracias, Señor.

Muchas otras veces En mi vida el sueño se repitió:
mirada de fe, alma de pastor,

y me diste una Maestra y Madre que me señaló el camino:

“Hazte fuerte, humilde y robusto, Juan”.

¡Gracias, Señor, soy soñador!

Cuando comprendí mi sueño
era un pobre anciano en el altar:

Ella lo ha hecho todo, yo un pobre peón

Que ha mirado siempre hacia adelante
con los ojos puestos en tu corazón de Amigo,
Mi Maestro, nuestro Salvador.

¡Soy soñador, gracias, Señor!

Soy soñador porque Tú me has dado el coraje de soñar,
mi Dios, soy soñador. ¡

Gracias, Señor!

Enlace: bit.ly/3TxptDx

ROUND TABLE

“GOD’S DREAMS, LIFE IN ABUNDANCE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE”.

DRA. EMILCE CUDA

I will develop my presentation in three sections. In the first part I will focus on the dream in the Bible, as God’s language for passing on his message. In the second part I will discuss how the Lord called Don Bosco in his dream and presented him with his project of life for the young. In the third part I will deal with the four “dreams” that Pope Francis presents us with in *Querida Amazonia* (Beloved Amazonia) (2020)

On some occasions the Bible shows us how God communicated (directly or through his heavenly messengers) with various characters in the history of salvation. To this end, he used dreams and visions (visions are a kind of “reverie”, see “Life”). We find this kind of communication in both the Old and New Testaments.

In the first case, the Lord used visions to reveal his plan, to further his plan, and to place his people in places of influence. These range from the case of the Patriarch Abraham, considered our father in faith (Genesis 15:1), to the case of Joseph (Genesis 37:1-11), one of the most famous dreamers and dream interpreters in the Bible, as will be demonstrated in his service to the Pharaoh of Egypt (Genesis 41). Other instances are Samuel (1 Samuel 3), King Solomon (1 Kings 3:5), who asked for the gift of wisdom or discernment, and also the prophet Daniel (Daniel 2:4), who had many dreams and visions, most of them concerning the future kingdoms of the world and the nation of Israel. In the New Testament, dreams and visions are used to provide information not available from elsewhere. In particular, we can say that God used visions and dreams to identify Jesus and found his Church, the community gathered around the resurrection of Christ. Thus, in the elder Zechariah (Luke 1:5-23), the Lord God used a vision from which, shortly afterwards, John the Baptist, son of the priest and Elizabeth (cousin of Mary of Nazareth), would see the light.

It is worth remembering the famous dreams of Joseph, the carpenter and husband of the Saviour’s mother (Matthew 1:20; 2:13). Through the angel, the Lord urged Joseph to take Mary as his wife and, together, to protect the divine

child from the clutches of Herod, a symbol of despotic power and unlimited ambition. More than 30 years later, in the midst of the (unjust) trial of Jesus, we know that Pilate's wife (Matthew 27:19) sent an urgent message to the Roman governor to release Jesus.

In the founding moments of the Church, we can cite God's communications with Ananias, a Christian from Damascus (Acts 9:10), with Cornelius (Acts 10:1-6), an Italian centurion called to fear the God of the Jews. The ministries of the Apostles Peter (Acts 10:9-15), Paul (Acts 16:9-10; 18:9-11 and 2 Corinthians 12:1-6) and John on the island of Patmos (Revelation). In fact, almost the entire book of Revelation is a vision that John had while he was in exile there.

Turning now to the story of St John Bosco, it is worth remembering that, as he himself wrote in his famous 'Memoirs of the Oratory of St Francis de Sales' (written at the request of Pope Pius IX), we see how, especially in the dream of 1844, "which seems to be an appendix to the one I had at Becchi when I was nine years old." In the dream, Don Bosco saw that a multitude of animals (including wolves and dogs), led by "a lady dressed as a shepherdess", were transformed, marvellously, into tame lambs, many of whom "became shepherds", who were then led to a church. It has been interpreted that these surly animals represent the difficulties of young people at that time in realising the dream God has for them. In our time, I find that the great task is to organise hope as a community, so that the young people of today (like those helped by Don Bosco) "have life, and life in abundance" (John 10:10) We promoted this beginning with the conversations promoted by the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, involving Pope Francis, who openly conversed with young university students from different continents. I am interested in sharing this "bridge-building" experience with you.

Finally, and in relation to the above, not only young people but the entire human family are called to realise what Pope Francis proposes as four "dreams" in the Apostolic Exhortation *Querida Amazonia*: a social dream, a cultural dream, an ecological dream and an ecclesial dream. We will see what each of these dreams consists of and how to overcome the difficulties (the "wolves") that make it difficult for us to realise them, without forgetting that we are motivated by hope and trust in the other to achieve them.

ROUND TABLE

THE DREAM AT 9 YEARS OF AGE. BECOME HUMBLE, STRONG AND ENERGETIC

FR. RAFAEL BEJARANO sdb

Many studies have found this proposal to be an agenda-setting plan for John Bosco, pointing out the direction for his mission. Today I would like to propose an update to this plan according to the reality of today's Salesian Family, not so much at a personal level, but at a community and institutional level, since the mission entrusted to us in the law of each institute or group is addressed to the members who make up that corporate group. I am suggesting that we place each Salesian Family Group that we belong to in the position of young John in that dream.

BE HUMBLE

Humility allows us to detach ourselves from our self, to get out of the confinement to which our interests subject us and to turn our gaze towards others, towards our neighbour. As a Church, it urge us to go towards the other, as Pope Francis insisted and as he himself reinforced in the concept of social friendship that accompanies the approach of synodality.

Having a sense of the other, thinking of the other, establishing healthy and inclusive relationships that lead us to give energy to the societies in which we live as spaces of human warmth – this is social friendship. Humanity has undergone a very difficult process of change of mentality, eras, policies. The way in which people and peoples relate to each other has also changed, but it seems that the propensity for war, discrimination, xenophobia, the mistreatment of those who are different, of those who do not know each other, has not changed in the human heart. How long will it take to move towards justice and peace? What processes still need to be activated in today's world to overcome the hatred that leads us to indifference and situations of violence?

This attitude indicates that as a Salesian Family we have the opportunity to evaluate the actions we are taking in our efforts to evangelise, and an opportunity to engage in a proper interpretation of the context in which we

find ourselves, so we can know where to focus our efforts.

The Salesian family seeks to respond to the needs of young people and communities in the different forms of suffering that affect them; for this reason, it is worth opening a dialogue between the language of settings linked to the Church's social doctrine and the proposals and discourses with which civil society seeks to interpret and respond to the problems of marginalisation. The expression "social friendship" manages to reduce the gap between these two worlds, the world of faith and the secular world, which seem to have no common ground.

Thinking about social friendship in Salesian terms leads us to consider first the people we meet every day. In the personal, face-to-face encounter with an elderly man from our neighbourhood, or with the young man whose attitude towards life seems indifferent to us but whose eyes reflect a deep need for accompaniment, or when we observe some difficult contexts in which many children make their way in life... there we discover that sacred space made of real people, who give us the inspiration to accompany them in strengthening their personality, and we do so not only as individuals but as institutions that offer an interdisciplinary perspective that comes from the Gospel.

BE STRONG.

Like Don Bosco, we too as a Salesian Family are experiencing rather turbulent times in the history of humanity. It is necessary to strengthen who we are as an institution by virtue of the responsibility that God entrusts to us to defend the dignity of the most vulnerable.

We must rid ourselves of the rifts that weaken us and jeopardise our credibility and our ability to negotiate with those who dominate the public sphere: personalism, genericism, activism, disintegration and improvisation.

We must not be afraid to innovate, to change, to be involved. Weak institutions disappear. We must have a gospel perspective of our actions, but we must be aware that our competition has become professional and has high-level languages and standards in its services, and we too are called to understand these perspectives in order to be able to present the message of Jesus Christ to a society increasingly far from our traditional languages.

The Salesian Mission in all its institutional manifestations or programs of attention to populations in situations of violation of rights generates processes that start from respect for each individual in particular, accompanying them to discover their place in the world in the light of gospel values. Development theory calls this phenomenon of change “social innovation”, which takes into account the wealth existing in a population, trying to generate habits in people, starting from their possibilities, so that they can find their own way towards a more dignified life. In this way, the Salesian charism and social innovation are nothing more than two sides of the same coin, the first from a theological and pastoral sense and the second from the perspective of today’s academic and civil language, both seeking to highlight processes of cohesion within culture, bringing individuals and communities to integral development and, therefore, to transcendence.

On the other hand, for social friendship to have an adequate channel through which to create a critical mass represented by human beings who know how to interpret the contexts in which they live and transform them, it will be necessary to redefine the categories from which education to active citizenship is offered. At some points in the recent history of education, attention to this dimension has been directed towards an associative experience from which philanthropic actions have emerged and, at other times, it has been oriented towards the development of curricula for socio-political formation. The important aspect of these and other initiatives was the possibility of doing something to build a society capable of generating change; however, active citizenship must consider the great challenges of humanity and, from there, propose local or regional processes inspired by the potential of people, so that they are real agents of a continuous revision of their culture and decide together on the direction that the community to which they belong must take. Perhaps the result of these processes will be slower than would be expected in implementing projects conceived by traditional forms of cooperation, but its fruits will be much deeper and longer-lasting, that is, sustainable, making active citizenship the stage from which social friendship opens up.

BE ENERGETIC.

A robust and energetic approach to the Salesian Family as an institution today called for if we consider that changing wolves into sheep requires:

Managing our pastoral wisdom: making our proposals systematic.

Caring for the people who work with us: creating a culture of safe environments.

Generating alliances: we are but a node in a network and we cannot do everything alone.

Transparency: financial and operational.

Pope Francis has insisted on “synodality” and today the universal Church is committed to recovering this term in order to remain faithful to the communion and unity to which the Spirit of God calls us. The Church was shaped by the apostles in the sense of synodality: from the earliest years, ancient Christians shared their goods, their ability to reflect and make decisions that guaranteed, in an act of discernment, the spread of the Gospel message according to Christ’s plan. In this spiritual methodology, the Will of the Father is revealed to the Church in every time and place through prayer, listening to the Word and interpreting the human situation so as to communicate to the peoples the wonders of His love.

The Salesian Family, being an active part of the Church, takes up synodality and configures all its works through Educative and Pastoral Communities (EPCs) according to this identity of communion. Thus, the EPC is the concrete way of being Church for all our presences, whatever the pastoral sector in which they carry out their mission. Placed within a diocese and territory, EPCs contribute to the construction of the Kingdom of God among the people and in culture of the place.

The synodal identity of the EPC is based on community discernment and that is why the shared responsibility of all its members ensures that missionary processes and activities are systematically planned. This concept necessarily leads to paying attention to the profiles of people, both religious and secular, who guide the work and make the decisions that guarantee its meaning. Inclusion, communication, participation, work teams and appropriate tools, together with spaces for reflection, programming and joint evaluation, help an EPC to strengthen its ecclesial identity, avoiding personalities, self-referentiality, improvisation and disjointed processes. The care of human resources must be a priority in the EPC, so that everyone acquires the necessary skills to achieve the common goal of forming good and upright citizens.

In this way, the EPC, as a concrete expression of being Church, guarantees the solidarity indicated in the dream and involves our institutions in the process of evangelisation as a contribution of the Salesian charism for the good of humanity.

ROUND TABLE

FROM WOLVES TO SHEEP AND THEN TO SHEPHERDS

DA. BLAŽKA MERKAC sc

In Don Bosco's dream, this transformation seemed quite simple, but then reality turned out to be a little different, more difficult.

I myself would like to tell you about my personal experience of Don Bosco's dream in my life, my personal transformation and then my work.

Highlights:

- first of all you have to change yourself
- find a travel companion
- keep your eyes and heart open
- be authentic, sincere
- sometimes it's hard to be a shepherd/pastor


I come from a rural family, traditionally Christian, consisting of 6 people. We went to Mass on feast days and occasionally on Sundays. Everything changed when at the age of 11 I attended a summer oratory organised by the FMA sisters. It was the kind of oratory where all the participants stayed together in a parish for a week - so we slept there. The theme of the program was Laura Vicuna. How did it go? So well that I attended the same program for the next two weeks.

The sisters evidently recognised something in me and invited me to each of their programs. And so, at home, like those wolves in Don Bosco's dream, I fought with my parents to be able to go, to be taken. I did not give up. I was forthright and times stubborn. Throughout high school I was part of an animation group, together with my friends, led by Sister Mojca Pipan. With her I felt that she listened to me, saw me and really wanted me to do well. Over that time my role changed.

I became the leader who lead the others, while seeking my role in the Salesian setting.

I would like to emphasise that at each stage there was someone who played the role of shepherd - someone who guided me while leaving me free to choose, in the end, which path to follow. How important it is to have these people in your life.

During my studies I was actively involved in Salesian programs, as an animator/



leader and as a participant. And the desire grew in me to be part of the Salesian Family forever. Thus, I began my formation during my studies and in 2014 I became a Salesian collaborator. I wanted to pass on what I was receiving.

For eight years I worked in the youth ministry office - where my roles changed: once I was a lost wolf, then a sheep, then a shepherd. It depended on the situation and the task. What was important to me at that time was to be available to the young people I met - for advice, for practical help or simply to listen. Being with and for young people. Halfway through, an FMA sister once told me a thought that I did not then understand or understood differently. Now I understand it. She came to visit me in my office and pointing to a room she said to me, "Blažka, you have a Salesian heart. This is not your field of work."

I now work with young people with special needs. My main guideline is Don Bosco's thought: "In every young person there is a point of goodness that is accessible - and it is the primary duty of the educator to discover that sensitive cord of the heart to bring out the best in the young person." In my experience, the young people I have worked with and work with value honesty, authenticity, not being fake. They recognise us immediately. They immediately recognise who is with and for them. Do not think that as educators or members of the Salesian Family we have any advantage or privilege because of this. If we are not present first of all and especially with them in the place where they are - if they are not our priority... then our pastures will be empty - Don Bosco's dream... it will only be a dream.

GROUPS MOMENTS

General guidelines

1. Group moments are a fundamental part of the Salesian Family Spirituality Days. They are an opportunity to meet one another, get to know one another, exchange experiences and above all to be charismatically enriched. Take advantage of this opportunity.
2. In order to experience these group moments, it is necessary to be “open” to others, to step out of our box, to listen to the other with our heart, so that he or she can become God’s mediation for me in that moment. There are attitudes that foster and transform a group moment into a joyful, profound and evangelical experience. Build up a moment of enrichment for the group through your own attitude.
3. We invite you to actively participate in the group moments with your punctuality, contribution, your attentive listening, your serenity. Get Involved.
4. This year, invited by our Rector Major, we are invited to dream, and so we want to build a dream together that can answer the question: what is God’s dream for the Salesian Family today? That is why we want to invite you to meditate, to contemplate so that Don Bosco’s dream continues to live on among us today. Dream.

There will be 3 Group moments during the SFSD 2023.

Friday 19.01.2024 - From 4:15 pm to 6:00 pm. We will gather in language groups and work on the Rector Major’s Strenna “The dream that makes us dream” A heart that transforms “wolves” into “lambs”. Additionally we will reflect on the panel discussion and meeting with each of the speakers.

Saturday 20.01.2024 - From 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. We will meet in language groups and work on youth experiences and how Don Bosco’s dream has become a reality in the missions, in the Salesian Family and for young people.

Sunday 21.01.2024 - From 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. We will meet according to our Group belonging to the Salesian Family.

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| SDB | VDB | CMB |
| FMA | SCG | TR |
| SSCC | CBD | CSMA |
| ADMA | ADS | ALTRI... |
| EX-DB | CN | |
| EX-FMA | FCMN | |

And together we will construct a response to the question: what is God's dream for the Salesian Family today?

At the end of our SFSD 2024, thanks to these group moments, we will have embarked on a journey and will be able to respond more deeply and concretely to the following questions.

1.- What was the significance of the dream at 9 years of age in Don Bosco's life? Why did the Rector Major choose this moment in the life of the young saint to celebrate his 200th birthday?

2.- If God used the "dream" (vocation/call) as a means of communication with his creatures throughout the course of history, and the Bible records it in the case of certain characters, the Lord continues to invite us to dream. What is God's dream for your life and the life of your SF Group? What is God calling us to?

3.- In the dream at 9 years of age we have the appearance of Jesus, "a Lady", young people, and Don Bosco's field of mission is pointed out... How can we live the fundamental elements of Salesian mission and spirituality in an up-to-date way today?

4.- The dream proposes a pedagogical path, an educational spirituality, ("Not with blows, be strong, humble, energetic...") As a Salesian Family we always look to young people, they are our "mission field". How can we help the young – and ourselves – to discover and realise God's dream for them? How can we help them continue to dream of a future of ecology, peace, solidarity?

5.- Don Bosco's dream has become a reality in the missions, in the Salesian Family and in the lives of so many young people. Its is an invitation to dream with our eyes raised to heaven and our feet on the ground. What experiences of these days help you to collaborate and engage with God in his saving will?

6.- What is God's dream for the Salesian Family today?

GROUP WORK - 1

FRIDAY - 19 JANUARY 2024

Instructions for group work-1 sobre el AGUINALDO 2024 y la MESA REDONDA Grupos lingüísticos

1. Dedicate the first few minutes to personal presentation of group members: name, origin, Salesian Family Group, reason for taking part in this Conference, and what dream do I bring to the Conference?
2. Opening prayer for the group.
3. From yesterday's presentation by the RM on the Strenna, from the round table and from this morning's meeting with the speakers?

Salesian reinterpretation and exploration of the dream - Fr Bruno Ferrero.
The "wolves" for young people in a challenging and constantly changing world - Fr Emilde Cuda.

Criteria for the Salesian response to the youth situation in order to evangelise and educate the young today Fr Rafael Bejarano.

Educational processes and accompaniment that help them become "lambs" and/or shepherds. Blazka Merkac

Each participant in the group **shares THE ASPECTS** that had the greatest impact on them, that captured their attention, that "touched" them personally. The dream is God's call for Don Bosco and also for us today: what is he calling us to?

What are **the ELEMENTS that help you RENEW YOUR "SALESIAN" BEING**, your belonging to the Family of Don Bosco? Do we believe that updating the Salesian criteria is valid today for the challenges of the young?

In your opinion, what is **God's dream for the Salesian Family today?**

At the end, the group secretary sums up all the responses in the following three aspects

THREE MOST OBVIOUS ASPECTS.

THREE ELEMENTS THAT HELP US RENEW OUR IDENTITY.

What is God dreaming for the Salesian Family (2-3 ideas)?

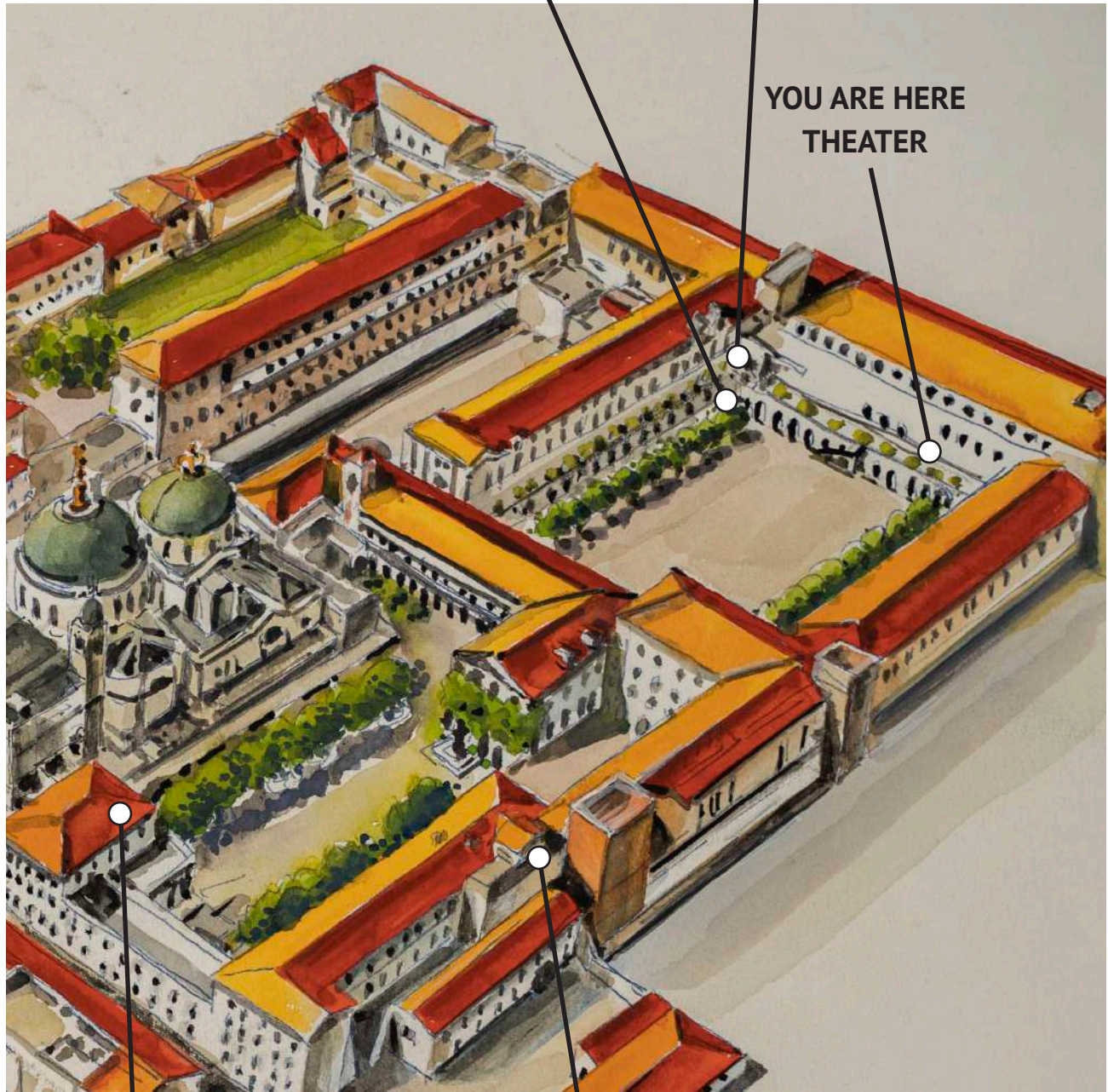
Work process

1. The group elects a secretary (S) and a moderator (M).
2. The secretary makes a summary of what is discussed in the group.
3. The secretary sends the group's work to gsfs@famigliasalesiana.org.
4. Indicate the working group: number and language group.
5. Write down the 3 most significant aspects of the Strenna, the round table and the meeting with speakers at the round table.
6. Indicate 3 elements that help us to renew our Salesian identity as a Family.
7. Write down 2-3 ideas that answer the question: What does God dream for the Salesian Family?

MEETING PLACE FOR LANGUAGE GROUPS

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| ITALIANO 1 | Sala Don Bosco |
| ITALIANO 2 | Sala Don Bosco |
| ITALIANO 3 | Sala Don Rua |
| ITALIANO 4 | Sala Don Rua |
| ITALIANO 5 | Sala Albera |
| ITALIANO 6 | Sala Ricaldone |
| ITALIANO 7 | Sala Ricaldone |
| ITALIANO 8 | Sala Rinaldi |
| ITALIANO 9 | Sala Ziggioni |
| ITALIANO 10 | Sala Ziggioni |
| ITALIANO 11 | Sala Ricceri - 1°p |

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| ENGLISH 1 | Sala Colazione - 1°p |
| ENGLISH 2 | Sala Colazione - 1°p |
| ENGLISH 3 | Sala Colazione - 1°p |
| | |
| FRANÇAIS 1 | Sala Comunità - 1°p |
| FRANÇAIS 2 | Sala ADMA - 1°p |
| | |
| PORTUGUÊS 1 | Sala Missioni DB - Procura |
| | |
| ESPAÑOL 1 | Self - Service - Zona Teatro |
| ESPAÑOL 2 | Self - Service - Zona Teatro |
| ESPAÑOL 3 | Self - Service - Zona Teatro |
| ESPAÑOL 4 | Ristorante - Zona Teatro |
| ESPAÑOL 5 | Ristorante - Zona Teatro |



SELF SERVICE
RESTURANT

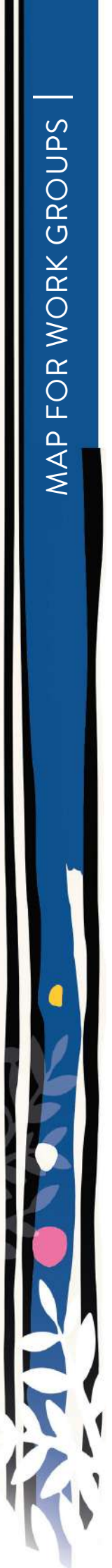
ROOM COCCO
1 FLOOR

YOU ARE HERE
THEATER

ROOM MISSION

ROOM DON BOSCO
ROOM DON RUA
ROOM ALBERA
ROOM RICADONE
ROOM RICCERI

ROOM RINALDI
ROOM ZIGIOTTI
ROOM BREAKFAST
OFFICE 1 FLOOR
ROOM ADMA
ROOM COMUNITY



YOUTH EXPERIENCES

Saturday morning - 20 January 2024

INSTRUCTIONS

The dream that makes you dream. Don Bosco's young people were the privileged witnesses of how he continued to dream in order to carry out his mission for their salvation. They too felt they were gradually involved in dreaming of Don Bosco and expanding this dream of his beyond Valdocco, beyond Turin, beyond Italy, beyond Europe... everywhere they brought his style, his spirit, the one he had learned from his Teacher for the salvation of the poorest youth.

Here is this morning's question: How do young people, the main beneficiaries of the Salesian Family's apostolic mission, make Don Bosco's dream come true in their surroundings today?

This morning we are all invited to listen directly to the young people. Their sharing will be for us, as it was for Don Bosco, a mediation of the Word of God. Their testimony will lead us to thank the Lord, and their experience can challenge us and strengthen our own vocation. We are all invited to continue dreaming like Don Bosco and with Don Bosco.

These are the six experiences to be presented, experiences in which young people help us to verify the relevance today of Don Bosco's dream and at the same time help revive God's dream for each of us and our Salesian Family groups.

SALESIAN MISSIONARY YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

ECUADOR

Missionary youth volunteering in Ecuador has a long history. What started as a personal initiative has become an option for three branches of the Salesian Family in the country. In Ecuador, Salesian Missionary Volunteering is coordinated by the Salesians of Don Bosco together with the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and the Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, regulated and animated by an official project of the Salesian Family.

Since 1982, the year in which the historical documentation was preserved, more than 2,500 young people have been sent to carry out this mission in different Salesian communities and in those of other Congregations in the country.

The role of volunteers is to help the different priority groups by contributing through their physical and intellectual abilities. Their work contributes, for example, to the education of Andean and Amazonian communities, to the dissemination of the Word of God as catechists or to accompaniment in the care and formation of children and young people in situations of risk and vulnerability.

Link to experience video

https://youtu.be/o5ncBk_delw?si=14d9L_HZrSsqx83y

Contact - Juan Flores, sdb - jflores@salesianos.org.ec + 593994113934

Contact - Miguel Mera, sdb - mmera@salesianos.org.ec - +593992566484

Place: Sala Don Bosco

BUZZETTI PROJECT

SPAIN

The BUZZETTI Project is a program of the Don Bosco Project Foundation, which responds to homeless boys and girls and young adults without resources, between 18 and 29 years old, who are disadvantaged and at social risk.

Many of them are young people who, once they reach the age of majority, and after finishing their placement in the Juvenile Protection or Justice Centres, are often homeless.

It is an all-embracing response that in some cases begins with reception on the street; in others it is not limited to residential reception, but continues the processes already started in the Foundation's projects, referring to the different areas affecting the individual: personal, education, work... by providing them with the time and support necessary for their total emancipation.

It came into existence in 2009 in the city of Jaén, when it was found that some migrant teenagers who had been involved in the Foundation's projects had to interrupt their formation when they turned 18, and were left on the street.

In November 2015 it received the human rights award from the "Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía" (Andalusian Association for Human Rights).

It currently has 22 protected apartments (in Andalusia and the Canary Islands, of which 3 are under international protection) and an accompanying programme for young people on the street, which in 2020 helped more than 90 young people.

Contact - José Luis Aguirre - pepelu.aguirre@fundaciondonbosco.es

Place: Sala Don Rua

CHEA SAMNANG

CAMBODIA

From a boy who had no hope, see what I am today! After two years with Don Bosco I became one of the people who had the right skills to work in society and I became what I want to be today.

Contact: Chea, Samnang samchea2480@gmail.com - +85511823599

Place: Sala Cocco

ESSALES FMA CAM - Salesiana Digital Spirituality - EL SALVADOR

ESSALES is a digital work and a family that advances in synodality, imbuing the daily life of people with the strength of the Salesian charism, starting from Mary Mazzarello and Don Bosco, and from a believer's interpretation of reality.

We try to offer daily formation on digital Salesian spirituality to "educators", that is, to all those who take care of children and young adults so that, by strengthening their spirit, they can be an educational presence among them.

Contact: Suor Ana Beatriz Solito Sánchez (FMA) - essales@essales.org

Place : Theatre

DON BOSCO A MAGICIAN TURNED SAINT, MAGA GASCAR - ITALY

*Don Bosco did similarly... and through magic, Maga Gasca (Rita Sofia Utzeri) tells the life of a magician turned saint. Rita is a consecrated woman, a member of the *Testimoni del Risorto* Movement. A pupil of Wizard Sales, she is a Magicien sans Frontières. Since 2006 she has been offering her own shows to support the Salesian missions. Through sleight of hand, she recalls the fact that in Italy, all children are equal. In Madagascar she explains that magic does not exist and what seems inexplicable is just a game. In this show she says that *only the gift is magic!**

Contact - Rita Utzeri, TR - tr.coordinamento@gmail.com

Place: Sala del desayuno

ART SAVES LIVES. Lokesh Bosco Co- medy Kiladigalu - INDIA

He is a Salesian past pupil, an nationally recognised artist in India, a former street child in Bangalore and with a great Salesian spirit. He is president of a foundation that promotes art for young people and the most impoverished communities.

Contact - Lokesh Bosco Comedy Kiladigalu
lokesh.lifesw@gmail.com - +91 99805 25144

Place: Sala Ziggotti

HOW THE EXPERIENCES WILL BE ORGANISED.

All SFSD 2024 participants are divided into seven groups according to language group criteria as follows.

GROUP A - Portuguese group + French groups 1 and 2

These will be accompanied by their translators.

GROUP B - English groups 1, 2 and 3

These will be accompanied by their translators.

GROUP C - Spanish Groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

These will be accompanied by their translators.

GROUP D - Italian groups 1, 2, 3 and 4

These will be accompanied by their translators.

GROUP E - Italian groups 5, 6, 7 and 8

These will be accompanied by their translators.

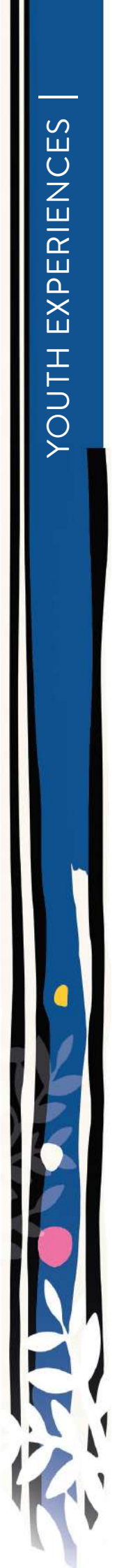
GROUP F - Italian groups 9, 10 and 11

These will be accompanied by their translators.

Each group will be able to participate in three different experiences throughout the morning: **10:30h - 11:20h - 12:10h.**

Each experience will last 45 minutes, starting on time. The rotations will take place as follows.

| EXPERIENCES | Missionary Volunteering | Buzzetti Project | Cambodia | ESSALES digital | Maga Gasgar | Art saves lives |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| PLACE | SALA DON BOSCO | SALA DON RUA | SALA COCCO | TEATRO | SALA COLAZIONE | SALA ZIGGIOTTI |
| LANGUAGE | SPA | SPA | ING | SPA | ITA | ING |
| 10:30 | A | B | C | D | E | F |
| 11:20 | F | A | B | C | D | E |
| 12:10 | E | F | A | B | C | D |



GROUP WORK - 2

Saturday afternoon - 20 January 2024

Guidelines for group work - 2

On **YOUTH EXPERIENCES** and
the **DREAM** come **TRUE**

Valsalice - No. 35 - Oratory

Meeting by language groups

This group moment will be divided into three parts taking advantage of each of the proposed experiences: 1) the Valdocco oratory; 2) the FMA House - Salesian Family and 3) Valsalice. Each language group will respond to people in the order they participate in these experiences.

Today we would like to have three experiences that will help us to respond to a single question: **how is Don Bosco's dream still alive today? Where can we find it?**

We will organise ourselves as follows.

- A. Italian groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- B. Italian groups 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.
- C. Spanish groups.
- D. English, French and Portuguese groups.

| | ORATORIO | FMA | VALSALICE |
|-------|----------|-----|-----------|
| 14.30 | A | B | C+D |
| 15.45 | B | A | |
| 17.00 | C | D | A B |
| 18.15 | D | C | |

1) VALDOCCO ORATORY - Some young people from the Valdocco oratory and the Salesian Youth Movement tell how the encounter with Don Bosco transformed their lives (50' total)

- Presentation by 4 young people (8')

- Each of the young people recounts an aspect of their lives that was transformed by the encounter with Don Bosco (20')
- Dialogue with young people - questions (12')
- Time for personal summary - in silence - to answer these questions: (10')
 1. What has the experience of these young people passed on to you?
 2. What is Don Bosco telling you through these young people?

2) FMA House 35 - SALESIAN FAMILY - We are in a Salesian house where some branches of the Salesian Family were born (50' in total).

- Presentation by some representatives of the Salesian Family (7')
- Brief questionnaire (ppt) (5')
- Each representative recounts a dream that their SF group has realised throughout the history of the Salesian Family since its foundation (24').
- Group time to respond to questions: (14')
 1. Initial group prayer
 2. What is the Salesian Family called to do today to help young people continue to dream?
 3. What dream has not yet come true in your group?

3) VALSALICE - Don Bosco's remains were laid here from 1888 to 1929. Many Salesians were formed in this house in the early days who bore fruits of holiness, martyrdom, unconditional dedication... What do these examples invite us to do?

- Reception and explanation of the tomb of Don Bosco - courtyard - (20')
- Presentation of Salesian holiness in its various dimensions. Fr Pier Luigi Cameroni - chapel - (40')
- Dialogue with the speaker /group time (25') to answer the questions.
 4. **Do you know these models? What do the lives of these Salesians invite us to live?**
 5. **What formation process do we follow to get closer to these goals of spiritual growth?**

Work process

- The group elects a secretary (S) and a moderator (M).
- The secretary gives a summary of what was discussed in the group.
- Secretary emails gsfs@famigliasalesiana.org
- Indicates the number and language group.
- **Indicates the elements for a formation process for holiness.**

GROUP WORK - 3

Sunday morning - 21 January 2024

Instructions for 3rd group work

ON YOUTH EXPERIENCES AND the SFSD

Meeting in groups of belonging

SDB, FMA, SSCC, ADMA, EX-DB, EXA-FMA, VDB, SCG, FCMN and ALL OTHER GROUPS TOGETHER

1. After what you have experienced, reflected on, shared and celebrated over these days, what “invitation/exhortation” do you feel most strongly in your heart?
2. What dream are you called to realise in order to grow in your Christian identity?
3. Does your Salesian Family group still have many dreams ahead which would you consider the most “urgent” or priority for this year 2024?
4. In your opinion, what is God’s dream for the Salesian Family today?

Work process

- The group elects a secretary (S) and a moderator (M).
- The secretary gives a summary of what was discussed in the group.
- Secretary emails gsfs@famigliasalesiana.org
- Indicate the group number and language group.
- Indicate the 3 most urgent/priority dreams to be realised in the Salesian Family group.
- Indicate 2-3 elements of God’s dream for the Salesian Family as a whole.

MODERATORS FOR THE DIFFERENT GROUPS

Sunday 21.1.2024

11:00 - 12:00

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| SDB | D. Juan Carlos Perez, sdb | Teatro Valdocco |
| FMA | Suor Leslie Sandigo, fma | Sala Don Bosco |
| SSCC | Sig. Antonio Boccia, ssc | Sala Cocco |
| ADMA | Sig. Renato Valera, adma | Sala Colazione |
| EX-DB | Sig. Bryan Magro | Sala Zigiotti |
| EXA-FMA | Sigra. Olivia Furlan | Sala Don Albera |
| VDB | Sigra. Dagmar | Sala Ricceri |
| SCG, FCMN TUTTI gli GRUPPO | D. Joan Lluís Playá | Sala Don Rua |

PERSONAL NOTES



A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes, spanning the width of the page.

Salesian Family

XLII SPIRITUALITY DAYS

PROGRAM

JANUARY

18

Thursday

- 9.00 am Reception opens
- 3.00 pm Opening of the SFSD 2024 - Theatre [YouTube](#)
The Rector Major presents the Strenna
- 6.30 pm Celebration of the Eucharist - Basilica [YouTube](#)
- 7.30 pm Supper
- 9.00 pm Prayer to Our Lady - Basilica
Good night

JANUARY

20

Saturday

- 8.30 am Morning prayer - Basilica
- 9.00 am Celebration of the Eucharist [YouTube](#)
- 10.00 am Official SFSD 2024 Photo - Courtyard
- 10.30 am "Transforming wolves into lambs" [YouTube](#)
Youth experiences
- 1.00 pm Lunch
- 2.30 pm "Dreams that become reality"
Trip: to Valsalice. On No. 35. The Oratory
- 7.30 pm Supper
- 9.00 pm Fraternal evening.
Velada fraterna - Theatre "Vin brûlé"

JANUARY

19

Friday

- 8.30 am Morning prayer- Theatre
- 9.00 am Study of the Strenna [YouTube](#)
Round Table: Bruno Ferrero, Rafael Bejarano,
Emilde Cuda, Blazka Merkac, Tulio Lucca.
- 11.30 am Meet with speakers of the round table
- 1.00 pm Lunch
- 2.30 pm Visits to Salesian places
- 4.15 pm Sharing in language groups [YouTube](#)
- 6.30 pm Celebration of the Eucharist - Basilica [YouTube](#)
- 7.30 pm Supper
- 9.00 pm Adoration - Basilica [YouTube](#)
Good night

JANUARY

21

Sunday

- 9.00 am Morning prayer - Basilica [YouTube](#)
- 9.30 am Celebration of the Eucharist
- 11.00 am Meeting of Salesian Family Groups
- 12.00 am Conclusion SFSD. Theatre. - Theatre [YouTube](#)
- 1.00 am Lunch... and farewell

18-21 JANUARY 2024 *TARVIN-VALDOCCO*

THE DREAM THAT MAKES YOU DREAM
A heart that transforms 'wolves' into 'lambs'



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YouTube

