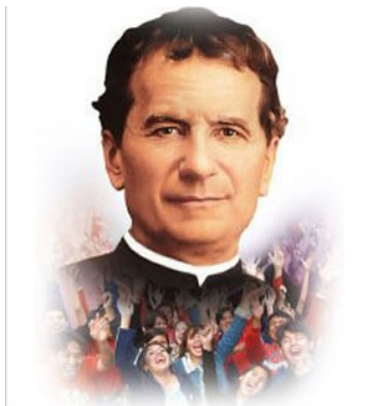


“Father and Teacher of youth

*Saint John Bosco,
Father and Teacher of youth,
docile to the gifts of the Spirit and open to the reality of your times
you were for the young, especially the little ones and the poor,
a sign of the love and the special care of God.
Be our guide as we walk the path of friendship with the Lord Jesus,
so that we may discover in Him and in his Gospel
the meaning of our lives
and the source of true happiness.
Help us to respond with generosity
to the vocation we have received from God,
so that in daily life we may be
builders of communion,
and may collaborate with enthusiasm,
and in communion with the whole Church,
in creating a civilisation of love.
Obtain for us the grace of perseverance
in living a high standard of Christian life,
according to the spirit of the beatitudes;
and grant that, guided by Mary Help of Christians,
we may one day be with you
in the great family of heaven. Amen*



**FIRST NUCLEUS:
“Words of the Rector Major
to the Delegates and FMA Past Pupils”**



**World Confederation of FMA Past Pupils
January – February 2014**

WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS THE WORLD CONFEDERATION ASSEMBLY 2015

FIRST NUCLEUS: “Words of the Rector Major to the Delegates and FMA Past Pupils”

January – February 2014

This new column “Walking Together” was born from a desire to undertake a formative journey for the Past Pupils and the delegates throughout the world in view of the World Confederation Assembly in 2015. It is a significant year for all of us, members of the Salesian Family because we celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of our beloved father Don Bosco.

We want to propose an itinerary in 6 thematic parts for the year 2014 which will help us to deepen the nature, vision and mission of the Association of the FMA Past Pupils starting from the magisterium of the Association. Each nucleus consists of two parts: the first will present the summary of a document of the Association, the second is a personal reflectionnaire for deepening and eventual sharing in the respective Councils: Confederation, Federation and Union. The full text of each nucleus shall be on our website in 5 languages and will also be posted in the facebook: *facebook*: Confederazione Mondiale Exallieve FMA.

We would highly appreciate it if you could share with us your reflection on the first nucleus by sending us the answers to questions 3,4,5 from the Reflectionnaire of the Council. This will be a valuable documentation which we shall consolidate into a document to be presented at the World Assembly in 2015. Your contribution to this is therefore, very important. Please send your reflection to: maritzafma@yahoo.com and paolastai@fastwebnet.it.

The first nucleus, “**Words of the Rector Major to the Delegates and FMA Past Pupils**” presents the homily given by the Rector Major during the Mass in the Minor Basilica of St. John

our own contribution of the values we have received from our Salesian education?

5. In your particular journey as a Council, what can you propose in order to make these words of the Rector Major – addressed to the Past Pupils - a reality: “**our whole life is called to be lived as a vocation and mission**”?

PERSONAL REFLECTIONNAIRE

1. Read carefully the text of the first nucleus: “Words of the Rector Major to the Delegates and FMA Past Pupils”.

2. In the difficulties you meet in life, do you find inspiration and strength in the Salesian spirituality? How?

3. As a Past Pupil in the third or the fourth level, and given this anthropological and socio-economic crisis, how can you make a difference and give witness to the gospel values in your family, at work and in the context you live?

4. As a supplementary reading on this subject, I suggest that you read the 2014 Strenna: “*Let us draw upon the spiritual experience of Don Bosco, in order to walk in holiness according to our specific vocation “The glory of God and the salvation of souls”.*”

Kingdom and support this announce with the testimony of Christian life, in a society always more secularized, multicultural and multi religious, with the commitment of giving life quality to all, particularly the poor. You are called to give life to the people hopeless to include them in the society with dignity and rights, the people who often is disregarded for the race, culture, sex, religion, to set free the people from the power and from the money. It means that all our life is called as vocation and mission.

The evangelization- that is our reason to be church- is linked to the human promotion, to our work to make this society more human.

Any ambit or contest can exist if we haven't space for our testimony and our mission. Give to the world the contribution of the values of the salesian education. This is the base so that the Past pupils can be members of the Salesian Family.

Dear past pupils, what we listened and seen in Don Bosco is what we have to continue to develop with dynamic faith. To Her who had as mother and teacher, Mary the Immaculate Help of Christians, we give our commitment to be pawn of hope for the poor and disregarded people”.

REFLECTIONNAIRE FOR THE COUNCIL OF CONFEDERATION/ FEDERATION/ UNION

1. Read carefully the text of the first nucleus: “Words of the Rector Major to the Delegates and FMA Past Pupils”.
2. Which aspects of the Rector Major’s message strike you most and why?
3. Don Bosco has strongly responded, finding new ways to combat evil, he resisted the negative forces of the society denouncing all ambiguity and danger of the situation opposing - in his own way – the powers at play in his time. What about our socio-political context? How do we work for the common good?
4. As Past Pupils, in what concrete ways are we giving the world

Bosco in Cinecittà on the closing ceremony of the Centenary of the FMA Past Pupils in Rome on July 29, 2009. The celebrations of the closure of the centenary of the World Past pupils Confederation collected again, this time in Rome in Don Bosco Basilica.

Words of the Rector Major



“You concluded a centenary and in this moment you are starting another, rich of possibilities and challenges, that are very hard, as this economic and financial crisis that are vexing the whole world. It is a crisis that, as the Holy Father underlines in the last Encyclical “Caritas in veritate”, shows an attempt to organize the society according to a interwordly development, where the avidity prevails and ruins the brotherhood and solidarity and, so, the social justice.

You are here, in Don Bosco Basilica, to express your gratitude to the Lord for the gift he gave us in Don Bosco, with his charisma, with his mission, with his spirituality we inherited.

But you came also because you want find in Don Bosco inspiration and energy and, particularly, the ways for the future. And as usually, the word of God we listened offers us the lines to define what the Lord expects from the Confederation in this third millennium.

Today, we listen the Don Bosco message, synthesized in the words of Saint Paolo to his favorite community of Filippi: <<What you listened and seen in me is what you have to do>>. And what we listened and seen in him to reproduce in us and continue?

It need watch the facts to understand better and imitate him. In the political, social, economic, religious, Italian upsetting

that characterized most part of the XIX century, don Bosco felt the tragedy of a people who neglected the faith and felt the tragedy of the youth, preferred by Jesus, abandoned and betrayed in his ideals and in his aspirations by the men of the politics, of the economy, and maybe by the Church. The present contest is the same.

In this situation Don Bosco reacted with energy, finding new forms to fight against the evil; against the negative elements of the society, he resisted denouncing the ambiguity and the risks of the situation, “opposing”- in his way- the strong powers of his time.

He syntonized, to develop them and improve them, with the possibilities of the historical- cultural conditions and of the economic conjunctures of the historical moment. He instituted oratories, schools, artisan labs, papers and reviews, typographies and editing, religious association for the youth, cultural educational, social association for the emigrants, in addition to the religious and laical congregations that continue his work.

He met the success thanks to his quality in communication, in spite of the lacks in the economic, cultural and intellectual resources. Always pushed from an high faith, in difficult circumstances, he asked and obtained helps by all, catholic and anticlerical, the rich and the poor, powerful men and women, by nobles, by the middle class, by the clergy. His requests of help could seem a challenge, a moral sentence for the persons who closed the hearts in front of the reality of the others.

The historical importance of Don Bosco is in many “works” and in certain methodological elements, as the famous “preventive system of Don Bosco” and in

- the intellectual and emotional perception that he had in the universal, theological, and social ambit, of the problem of the “abandoned” youth, that is the big part of the youth that was ignored or disregarded;

•in the intuition of the presence in Torino first- in Italy and in the world after- of a strong sensibility, in the civil and in the “politic”

ambit, of the “problem of the education of the youth and of its understanding from the sagest part of the public opinion;

- in the idea of right interventions on large scale in the civil and catholic world, as priority for the life of the Church and for the same survival of the social order;

- and in the ability to communicate it to the most part of the collaborators, benefactors and admirers.

He was not a politic, a sociologist, but preteducator, Don Bosco started from the idea that the education could do many things, in any situations, if it was realized with the goodwill, the commitment and the ability of adapting. He worked to change the consciousness, to make them honest, to the civic and politic loyalty, and, in this point of view, “to change” the society, through the education.

He changed the strong values he believed- and what kind of defences against all- in the social facts, in the daily life, without closing in the spiritual and ecclesiastic, as space free from the problem of the world and of the life. He was strong in his vocation of educator priest, he worked for a daily that was not absence of horizons, but dimension of the value and of the ideal; that was not a protective space and neglect of the discussion, but a sincere comparison with a different reality; that was not a little world for little needs or place for traditional behaviours; that was not neglect of every tension, of the sacrifice, of the risk, of the renunciation of the pleasure, of the fight. He had for himself and for the salesians the freedom and the autonomy. He wanted link his work to the unexpected change of the political regimes.

The significance of Don Bosco and of his work are recognized everywhere, and we are his heirs.

In our case, dear past pupils, this means strengthen our Christian identity that you must testify in this society and translate in the apostolic plan that Jesus indicates in the evangelic page of Matteo that was yet proclaimed. You have to bring the gospel of the God