

**With Don Bosco let us walk together towards the next
2015 World Assembly**

**NINTH FORMATIVE NUCLEUS
Words of Sr. Anita Deleidi: THE ROOTS IN THE HEART**

The ninth nucleus plunges us into the Salesian Spirituality, the foundation of our lives as Salesian past pupils in our journey towards holiness. We have chosen the talk that Sr. Anita Deleidi FMA, professor of the Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences "Auxilium", has offered us as her final spiritual gift in the IV World Elective Assembly held at the Salesianum in Rome on the 31st of July 2009. The Lord of life has called her to eternal life on the 27th of October 2012. We want to say our gratitude, as we remember her message on the Salesian Spirituality.

Words of Sr. Anita Deleidi: THE ROOTS IN THE HEART

This reflection that involved me, not only as FMA, but as "due contribution" for the personal experience of past pupil (involved in the past- in my union in Milan), of past pupil daughter (died in these days, supported by Maria Ausiliatrice...), of involvement at different levels to the activities of the association in the works of the Institute (director, inspectorial councilor for past pupils...). I prepared for you a redelivery of the commons and the deep salesian roots that live in our hearts and that are the base of these days.

We want tell and find these roots: remember- make it present because it is life...Discover the secret of "something" that entered in us unconsciously- and not always through positive experiences- but that signed our life, arriving from different contests and experiences, as our presence here.

The roots in the heart, the roots of the life...far, but deep because they are anchored in a hard land, like Mornese: "You prepared it the land You sank its roots and filled the land... it extended to the sea and its shoots arrived to the river" (Psalm 79) I invite you to remember with me a memory...that is life.

The charismatic intuition of a young Maria Domenica, shared with the fellows, to carry out an educational environment where they can experiment the human and Christian values, where the "prevention" becomes secret of the way of the growth, remembers us the affinity with the proposal of don Bosco- the formation of the honest and Christian citizen.

We can find here the root of an educational proposal that will be developed progressively but included in a love experience, as the testimonies of the past pupils in the mornesine lab underlined.

The "lab" is a school of life for a deeper knowledge of love of the Lord: Caterina, Angela, Rosa recognize in their educators the secret of lives, oriented to give because anchored in the love of Jesus, a love transmitted with charity, impressed in them also when they left the lab.

A love that wins the "difficult cases" too, that were also in Mornese.

The art of hurling the cords of the heart- as don Bosco said- characterizes the first educational community of Mornese, oriented to a relational style that knows how awake the thirst of God in the young people, helps them to discover the God project and to fulfil it in the plot of a paper, made of gratuity, gift, sacrifice and joy.

The Mother writes to the little Maria Bosco: "I thank the Madonna who gives the health...! She, the Virgin Mary, is a good mother, isn't she? Continue to pray her with all your heart, in these beautiful days, we pray her too for you, and I hope that she will make grace to turn back in Mornese. Be always good, you know, Maria, be good with all the people, with the parents, with sisters and brothers, give the example to the people who watches at you and pray. And the Holy

Communion, do you go to? Receive with love Jesus who loves you so much... I want tell you another advice, be happy; if you will be happy, you will recover sooner, go on.”

The epistolary style of mother Mazzarello, fresh and clear, reveals again her care of the communication with the girls, a communication able to transmit the values that support the educational work and that aim to the formation of Christian women, open to God and to the others: the love for Jesus, the prayer, the help of Maria, the joy.

“The Holy Communion, do you go? Receive with love Jesus who loves you so much”. It is an advice to continue also in family the way of Christian life, learned to Mornese, built on a simple faith, but strong, under the sight of Jesus and Maria, growing good, docile to the recommendations of the educators and of the parents.

The educational community, “the home where we love each other”, finds its cohesion in the communion with the Lord and the educators are the witness of the values that they want to transmit (“Sister Enrichetta and sister Emilia salute you and pray you to tell an Ave Maria for them and for me”!).

The proposal of Christian life become so important and incisive. Maria Domenica is sure of the value of what we learn through the life, makes it credible through the coherence of the testimony: “it seems that she transmits in the other the love of the Lord that burns in her heart”.

“You have to know, girls, that, without being cultured, in any case you can love the Lord, who doesn’t ask our education, but He wants the heart and the good will. That is what you have to do: to love the Lord with the heart and with the good will and visit Him often in Holy Sacrament to tell Him that you love Him and you will love Him more and more. Would you do?”

To love a creator God, present in the natural beauties and in the works of the man... God, the Lord, the landlord, the owner of the vineyard, but first of all, a good and merciful Father: “Tell to the Lord what your heart says to you, preferring this to the prayer that are in the books, because these are feeling of other persons, instead of, when you say what the heart suggests you, express your feelings.”

To love a God who incarnates and becomes Bread for the human being: “Receive Jesus with love, He loves you so much”. Jesus arrives to us with the hands full of graces; He is love and goodness to support us”.

To love and wear the Jesus feeling, “the charity of Jesus, that never satisfied him to suffer for you and he wanted suffer until when?...”

To love all without distinctions, first of all who is poor and little. “Love, love mutually; practice the real charity”. “I repeat you; the poorest girls must be treated with more charity.”

Love Maria, motherly presence, the help, who supported us. “Be devote to Virgin Maria, our tender Mother; imitate her virtues, the humility, the purity, and the discretion; if you do so, you will be happy in life and death... Love your teachers, your assistants, and first of all, Jesus and Maria”.

With the hope, the faith in God and in the others, in the heart. Wish to the sisters of Saint Cyr:” Best wish to the daughters...to the girls I love, but I want they are good and happy, they jump, smile, ecc and then, when I go for a visit, I will bring a gift to all.

With a particular taste for the authentic: in the relationships, in the religion. Only what it is real is worth. The authentic virtue begins to the heart. “the real religious pity consists in the fulfillment of our duties to love the Lord”.

With a healthy realism, that arrives from the knowledge of the precariousness of the life, experimenting its difficulty and sorrow, the sense of the limit- in one self and in the others- the fight against the sin “We don’t want perfect daughters, but we want they are in peace”.

With a healthy “joy”, constant attitude of happiness that isn’t “din”, enjoyment, but real “psychological stability and spiritual maturity” that have their roots in the God love: “The happiness is sign of an heart that loves really the Lord”.

A delivery of the mother to her educators, orienting them to “let love more than fear”, founding their life on a cohabitation with joy, sincerity, familiarity, with a incisive language, they know: “We will guarantee to our girls the Heaven, the bread and the joyful of the heart.”

The proposal of a spiritual life of Mornese is in a proposal of serene life, open to the good, in the style of the “good Christian and honest citizen”, offered to the youths with a constant presence of love.

“As don Bosco with the youths, so the Mother welcomed the boarders with friendship, talked with them, let them when they wanted, she listened with patience, softened the separation from their parents and she was really a mother.”

How do the boarders see this delivery? It becomes life? Does it identify a relation with God and with the others? Because the spirituality incarnates in the history... This delivery is alive? Continues in the time?

Don Rinaldi noted in a precious sheet having the idea of the foundation of the Association of past pupils (1908): “Need of these <olds> to renew the spirit”.

The Association in the history, as remembered Paola Mancini in the book, prepared for the celebration of the centenary, developed this work, and defined it in a Statute, approved by the third Confederal Meeting (28-8-03): “2.2 became members of the Association who assumed in their life the salesian values.”

Values of the spirituality of the preventive system (search of the truth-need if God- open to the relationship), enriched by the charismatic elements of the mornesine life style.

The mornesine roots are today a memory that increases our commitment in the life, finding a stimulus to testify our time, the values of the salesian life to express the charisma in original forms.

They said that the charisma doesn't be invented in every age, but we receive it and we learn it. And we discover and discover it because it is always full of life and can grow in genuine expressions always new.

Fidelity to the roots, to a delivery, is life that opens to new horizons, commitments, new ways to testify the fertility of the LOVE: the charisma of don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, the educational charity, is alive in the hearts, lived by God, able to “do with freedom what the charity needs” with freedom and honesty.

It is message of life that I remember in these days of july, while I helped my mother in the exacerbation of her illness. The secret of her existence: a big love for God, for our family, for the persons she met, a love made of many daily deeds, a constant reference to the Ausiliatrice in the difficulties and in the joy...a faithful pupil (she wanted the renewal of her membership card where there were the “little stamps” of loyalty!) until the last smile when at her “I die, go” I said to her “mum, the Ausiliatrice waits for you”. These are memories that I wanted share with you because the common roots continue to live in our hearts and to support our hands in the only movement of love towards God and the brothers. Thank you.

**Worksheet for the Confederation Council, the Federation,
and the Union and for all the Past Pupils of the World**

You will find the ninth nucleus and the others in the previous section "Associative Life" of the website of the Confederation www.exallievfma.org. Please send the answers to your personal or group work by e-mail to maritzafma@yahoo.com or by regular mail at: Via dell'Ateneo Salesiano, 81 - 00139 Roma RM.

- Carefully read the text of the Ninth Nucleus: "Words of Sr. Anita Deleidi ."
- What are the core principles of Mother Mazzarello's spirituality?
- What and where are its roots?
- Conclude the meeting by reciting the prayer to Mary Mazzarello.

PRAYER TO SAINT MARY MAZZARELLO

Saint Mary Domenica Mazzarello who, docile to the Holy Spirit and by the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary, you have faithfully fulfilled God's will, obtain for me from the Lord the spiritual and temporal graces that I need in order to carry out his plan of love for me. May my life be strengthened by the power of the Eucharist and by the help of the Blessed Virgin, become a testimony of faith and charity, for the glory of God and for the expansion of His kingdom in the world. Amen.