



**World Confederation of Past Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians**  
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Nucleus 30

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With the desire to welcome the invitation of Pope Francis to commit ourselves to the path of holiness, we continue our study of Article 4 of the Statute. This time we look at Don Bosco to draw on the source.

### **The Preventive System, source of Spirituality**

The Statute states that, *“The spirituality of FMA Past Pupils is based on the Preventive System of Don Bosco that is expressed in the trinomial, ‘reason, religion, loving kindness’.*

The figure and significance of Don Bosco and his work are historically and universally recognized, and we are his heirs. In your concrete case, dear Past Pupils, this means strengthening your Christian identity which you must bear witness to in today's society. You must bring the good news of the Kingdom of God and accompany this proclamation with the witness of a Christian life in an increasingly secularized, multicultural, and interreligious society, with the commitment to give a better quality of life to all, especially to the poorest and neediest. There should be no area or context in which we have no space for our witness and mission. Let us give the world the contribution of the values of a Salesian education. This is the foundation for the Past Pupils to be members of the Salesian Family.

The practice of the Preventive System brings us to the center of Salesian Spirituality, which is pastoral charity. Don Bosco lived it as a search for the "glory of God and the salvation of souls", and it became for him prayer and a program of life in the *‘da mihi animas, cetera tolle’*. It is a charity that needs to nourish itself with prayer and lean on it, looking at the Heart of Christ, imitating the Good Shepherd, meditating on His Word, living the Eucharist, giving space to personal prayer, to devote oneself to serving children and young people, especially the poorest.

The Preventive System is not only a proposal for evangelization and pedagogical methodology, but also a spiritual experience. It finds its source in God's love that accompanies each person with its presence and saves them by giving life. It prepares us to welcome God in the young and calls us to serve Him in them, recognizing their dignity, renewing confidence in their power for the good, and educating them to the fullness of life. This is why, as the Statute says, *the Preventive System today is re-proposed as a project of integral education that responds to the most authentic aspirations of the person: the search for truth, the need for God, openness to relationship.*

Transforming one's life in the light of Salesian spirituality to the point of being good Christians and honest citizens in the footsteps of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, is a goal that lasts a lifetime, leads to holiness, and allows every Past Pupil to implement Don Bosco's dream, sustained by his words: "I wait for you all in Heaven".

Reading the history of the beginnings, we find that on the same day of the foundation of the Association, Fr. Rinaldi gave first Past Pupils of the Oratory the following spiritual program: "Living in the spirit of Don Bosco and spreading it in fraternal union with sentiments of affectionate gratitude to the Superiors". The experience of the Spirit of Don Bosco is therefore a programmatic imperative present in the roots of the Association.

What attitudes or practices in your daily life reflect the Preventive System?  
What elements of Don Bosco's spirit would help you to be happier?

Father and Teacher of Youth,  
St. John Bosco,  
docile to the gifts of the Spirit  
and open to the realities of your time  
you were for the young,  
especially for the little ones and the poor,  
a sign of God's love and predilection.  
Be our guide on the path of friendship  
with the Lord Jesus,  
so that we may discover  
in Him and in His Gospel,  
the meaning of our life  
and the source of true happiness.  
Help us respond generously  
to the vocation we received from God  
to be builders of communion  
in our daily life  
and collaborate with enthusiasm,  
in communion with the whole Church,  
in the building of the civilization 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, led by Mary Help of Christians,  
we may be with you one day  
in the great family of heaven. Amen

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