

# Camminando con te, Main

Pellegrinaggio virtuale verso Mornese



## Greetings to the Online Pilgrimage of Mornese

**Madre Chiara Cazzuola**

Roma, 13 – 02 – 2022

Dear friends of the Salesian Family, lay collaborators, teachers, animators, FMA's, to all involved in sharing the Salesian charism, I wish you a wonderful journey!

Today you begin a very special journey to discover or rediscover Mornese, as the holy land of our origins, the place where Mother Mazzarello was born and raised, where the vision, the dream, came true.

A vision that was rather a task.

In the darkest moment of her life, the young Main who miraculously survived typhus and physically debilitated, wonders what to do, what future holds for her, how to move forward.

We recall the narration of the episode on page 96 of the 1st volume of the Chronicles of the Institute.

"A day, she was passing on the hill of Borgoalto, when she thought she saw a large block of flats in front of her with all the outward appearance of a boarding school of numerous young girls.

She stopped to look in amazement and said to herself: "What is this I see? But this palace has never been here. What is happening? And she heard like a voice: 'I entrust them to you'."

The story continues expressing the amazement and fear of Main who tried not to go there, but, according to the Chronicle, those young women were always there, calling to her, in her heart.

We can say that in this "I entrust them to you," there is a call as well as a task in which you are all invited to participate. A call that continues to challenge us with its strength, in this very particular, uncertain, unclear present of ours ...

The online pilgrimage to the holy places of the origins allows all of you and many FMA's to make a virtual visit, in this 150th anniversary of the Foundation of the FMA Institute, which otherwise would not have been possible, also because of the situation of the on-going pandemic.

The itinerary that you will follow will put you in contact with the person of Mother Mazzarello, with her simple and humble life, rich in holiness, full of the love of God and of that active charity that has allowed and facilitated the providential encounter with Don Bosco and the assumption of his apostolic project for the salvation of youth.

Don Bosco immediately appears as a giant of holiness for what he lived and worked in the complex ecclesial as well as political, social and cultural context. Mother Mazzarello does not have this

# Camminando con te, Main

Pellegrinaggio virtuale verso Mornese



immediate, obvious visibility. It is similar to violets growing silently in the meadows. Although you can smell their fragrance, you cannot see them right away.

For a wonderful project of God, these two saints met in Mornese and the young Main was immediately attracted by the figure of Don Bosco to the point of exclaiming: "Don Bosco is a saint, I feel it!".

Of Don Bosco we do not have similar phrases that define Mother Mazzarello, but we know how much trust he placed in this young woman.

We know that several times, faced with the concern of the various Salesian directors who followed one another in Mornese, in the first community, he said about Mother Mazzarello, new Superior of the nascent Institute: "Let her do, she knows what to do".

This full harmony becomes a relationship not only of Founder - Confounder but of father - daughter, because Mother Mazzarello also addresses Don Bosco calling him "father". It is a harmony that becomes a full sharing of the charism, of which Mother Mazzarello interprets the feminine characteristics, making it a style, or rather a spirit, the "spirit of Mornese".

Like Don Bosco and with Don Bosco, she also looks beyond, far away and arouses an ardent and courageous missionary spirit, she directs her daughters "to go out" to go elsewhere, to sail across the Ocean to bring the joy of the Gospel.

What happened next you know because all of you are proof and witness of it.

The small seed sown in the fertile land of Mornese has become a large tree and now it branches out with much life all over the world.

I wish for all of you to live this holy journey, letting yourselves be fascinated and involved by the holiness of Mother Mazzarello and of the first community of Mornese, a holiness that is so timely today in a world thirsting for authenticity, freedom and hope.

I thank Sr. Leslie, the Salesian Family and the wonderful group that has organized and will lead the pilgrimage.

An affectionate greeting to all and my very best wishes.

Suor Chiara Cazzuola fma