

Camminando con te, Main

Pellegrinaggio virtuale verso Mornese



MAIN

SECONDS	Introduction
5	During her convalescence, in 1861-1862, going home from Mass one day,
7	Main saw a building - on Borgo Alto - where none actually stood - and many girls playing in its courtyard
4.5	Then she heard a Woman's voice say: "I entrust them to you."
6	Not trusting herself after her bout with typhoid and delirium, and not sure of what this meant,
4.45	she immediately turned to Don Pestarino, her spiritual guide.
7.5	He counseled her not to give credence to any "vision" and warned her of what the reaction of the townspeople would be.
4.15	Then he sent her away, sternly instructing her to forget about it.
8.70	But she could not forget, whether awake or asleep, and she prayed and struggled to understand what it could mean.
8.40	One day, passing by along the road with Petronilla, her best friend, she shared her "dream" and together, in sharing and in prayer, they sought to understand what it meant and what God was asking of her.
9.5	Then, on October 7, 1864, Don Bosco came to Mornese with his boys. He gave the Good Nights and blessed the people.
8	While there, Don Pestarino shared with him a dream he had had for many years:
10.30	to build an oratory for the boys of Mornese on Borgo Alto, land inherited from his father, (and the site of Main's vision)
6.30	but after speaking with Don Bosco, they decided to build a boys' school instead.
3.45	Don Pestarino would also supply the bricks
2.30	and they the labor.
4.50	Permission from the Diocese to build had already been granted.
6.50	Don Bosco even promised to staff the school - so Don Pestarino told the people about it on October 16
5	Immediately, the people raised up thunderous cheers and shouts of joy.
7.45	Excavation began on October 21 and - on the 24th - everyone set to work with great fervor.
8	Don Pestarino recorded in his chronicles that Don Bosco wanted it also to be a novitiate for his clerics
7	But this was not the only "building project" for Mornese that occupied his and Don Bosco's minds.

12	As the manual labor continued, so did the spiritual ones needed to realize the plan that these two holy Priests had for the Daughters of Mary Immaculate
6	In 1872, the news leaked: the school would go to the Novices and the girls.
3	and the people turned against Don Pestarino...
12.30	and all the Novice Sisters. But no one ever let on that it had been the decision of the Curia of Acqui and not theirs...
6	Don Bosco, too. But neither he nor they backed away from God's plan
7	The Novice Sisters and the girls moved into the Collegio on May 23, 1872.
7	It became their home and boarding school, and our first Novitiate and Motherhouse.
7.15	Here they began to practice their Rule in a new way: more as a Religious Community and not as a pious women's group.
7	guided by Don Bosco through Don Pestarino and Mary Mazzarello.
10	Here, in the Collegio chapel, the very first 15 Daughters of Mary Help of Christians professed their vows on August 5, 1872
11	On that same day, Don Bosco presented Sr. Mary Mazzarello to them as their first Religious Superior.
14	They would do for girls what his Salesians were already doing for boys: educating and evangelizing them to be "good Christians and upright citizens"
7	Aa one Family and all in the same Family Spirit of the Preventive System where "heart speaks to heart."
8	Don Costamagna referred to the first Community of Mornese as: "The house of the love of God".
7	The first FMA said of that house: "Even the walls seemed to breathe happiness!"
8.98	The community lived in Mornese until 1879 when the Motherhouse of the Institute moved to Nizza Monferrato.
8	The Collegio was closed in April 1880, after the last group of Sisters and formandae reached Nizza.

Main Theme

In this year marking the 400th anniversary of St. Francis de Sales' entrance into Heaven

and the 150th year of our Institute,

our Strenna, reminds us that "Heart speaks to heart." "The Salesian educator... has and strongly guards within him- or herself the conviction that the good is always nestled in the heart of every person, every young person, however hidden it may be..."

and that the way to find it is to allow "heart to speak to heart" - the heart burning with the zeal of the "Da mihi animas; caetera tolle".

What a wonderful time to speak of Main for her entire life illustrates this truth most perfectly in the myriad of relationships she established:

with God,

her family,

Our Lady,

Petronilla,

the young girls of the Oratory,

Don Pestarino,

the townspeople,

all the Salesians who would come to be their Spiritual Directors, but in a special way with Don Cagliero,

the first Sisters, the Novices and Postulants, and the teachers, boarders, and day students of the Collegio, the "House of the Love of God."

At Holy Mass she was always absorbed in prayer for all the people in her life:

Maso, the town ne'er-do-good...

and those ill - or dying

always forgiving those who do wrong and interceding for those in need of salvation, especially poor, abandoned, orphaned young people

uniting them all to Christ Crucified,

allowing His Love to move her to action, even in the midst of her own suffering and trials...

to work with Him in the salvation of souls, no matter the personal cost.

"Education is a matter of the heart," Don Bosco used to say.

Main knew this just as well.

Both of them knew that true change, true growth, true happiness can only be found through deep friendship with the Lord...

the kind of friendship that allows them to KNOW they are loved and so be transparent in word, deed, and action with the friend, not needing to hide behind a "false self."

And this is what they passed down to us as a legacy in the Preventive System, after the manner of Our Lord Himself,

whose "patience is directed to our salvation." (see II Peter 3:15)

Now let us see how she speaks heart to heart with her Sisters and 3 specific young women of the Collegio,,,

Heart Speaks to Heart