



World Confederation of Past Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians
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Dearest Past Pupils,

A warm greeting to each of you and your families in the name of Sr. Maria Luisa Miranda and the Sisters of the Salesian Family Sector.

The memory of Blessed Philip Rinaldi, Founder of the FMA Past Pupils Association, is the occasion to reflect a moment on his spiritual riches as a man of 'hope', the hope that we have so much need of in this time of uncertainty and suffering.

I take inspiration from what Fr. Pierluigi Cameroni tells us about Fr. Rinaldi.
At the school of Don Bosco for Fr. Rinaldi, hope marks the certainty of help from on high.

He is convinced that only God can strengthen us because He is faithful by essence and He will protect us from harm. T. Azzini attests in the Beatification process: *The Servant of God was animated by a very lively Hope*. In fact, the testimonies agree in maintaining that Fr. Rinaldi was a man of great hope because he had an unwavering trust in Divine Providence.

He possessed a serenity and an optimism that he transmitted to others, above all on occasions of painful events or situations, as Sr. Teresa Graziano wrote, who had been struck by a family misfortune. *Have courage and confide much in God and in Our Lady*.

Fr. Guido Favini recounts: All the major administrative, economic, and disciplinary problems of the various Provinces and of every house of the Salesian Congregation reached his office with their moral, legal, and financial anxieties. And he took care of them down to the details, without ever getting upset, with unshakable calm, prudence, and concern for which the superiors and confreres were immensely grateful ... Never did he raise his voice, lose his patience, get upset.

When one spoke to Fr. Rinaldi, we realized that his whole life was centered on *the things above* ... He used to say: *Every day we need to bring a brick to the construction of our home in Paradise*.

Let us take advantage of this time of Advent and ask Fr. Rinaldi for the grace to bring a breath of hope where we are.

I wish you all a beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception.

With much affection,

Sr. Gabriela Patiño O.
World Delegate of the FMA Past Pupils