



Confederazione Mondiale Mornese Exallieve/i delle Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
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*I recommend that you pray to Our Lady,
you enlighten our minds, to do everything right,
in accordance with the divine will.*
(don Rinaldi)

Dearest FMA Past Pupils,

Warm greetings to each of you and to your families in the name of Sr. Leslie Sándigo and the Sisters of the Salesian Family Sector.

On 5 December, the Church celebrates the liturgical memorial of Blessed Philip Rinaldi, Founder of the FMA Past Pupils Association. On this feast during the novena of the Immaculate Conception, I would like to reflect with you on some of his words regarding Our Lady.

In 1919 Fr. Rinaldi, speaking to a group of young people engaged in devotion to Our Lady, expressed himself thus, *“Your exercise must be to get used to honoring her not as the world in general honors her, with some elementary practice very far from true devotion.*

Perhaps the world makes up for a serious lack with the recitation of a Rosary, with a novena of prayers, with a Holy Communion. Prayer and Holy Communion are food, but not true devotion. The essence of true devotion is good works and, better yet, the imitation of the one we want to honor.

In this month, try to imitate Mary Most Holy, try to do what She did, live as she lived in this world, in a word, copy her by living her life. Imitating the one we want to honor is real devotion; it is showing that we truly value, follow, love the person. Imitate Mary Most Holy in her virtues, above all in her purity; in her attention for our Lord. Follow Jesus closely, as Mary Most Holy followed Him, and be ready to give yourselves for our Lord. This is the practical demonstration of sincere devotion.”

This is a clear and simple demonstration of true devotion, of true piety. We welcome these words as addressed to us today, an invitation to look at Our Lady’s way of speaking and acting in everyday life. Let us reflect on her and ask Fr. Rinaldi to intercede for each and every one of us and for the Association, so that it can rediscover and give its identity to the world.

Together let us thank God for the gift of the holiness of Fr. Philip Rinaldi.

I wish all of you a beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception and a devout continuation of the Advent journey.

With much affection and prayer,

Sr. Gabriela Patiño O.
World FMA Past Pupils Delegate

Rome, 05/12/2021