



Confederazione Mondiale Mornese Exallieve/i delle Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
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*“Ringrazio Dio d’avermi dato una mamma forte,
una mamma saggia, una mamma santa”.*
(don Rinaldi).

Dear Past Pupils and FMA Past Pupils,

on the feast of Fr Rinaldi, founder of our Association, I come to you with a warm greeting also on behalf of Sister Leslie Sándigo and the sisters of the Sector for the Salesian Family.

On this occasion I would like to detain myself with you on an aspect that marked the personality of this great man. It is the family environment in which he lived up to the age of 20 and where the female presence of his mother and sisters was made daily. This presence marked his sensitivity and his ability to relate in a serene and proactive way with the female world. In family life, under the firm and loving care of his mother, in contact with four brothers and two sisters, Don Rinaldi learned to know and appreciate women. The living and throbbing model was his mother, diligent in everything, concerned with educating her children in a Christian way, forgetting herself in order to make herself all to everyone, ready to sacrifice without complaints, always serene and composed, rich in virtues and wise teachings. In a conference on the mission of women, to the Oratorians of Valdocco, he could not have praised better by exclaiming: *"I thank God for having given me a strong mother, a wise mother, a holy mother!"* The sisters were with his mother. Don Rinaldi's personality seems to become more complete, as his strength is softened by a sense of chivalrous protection towards those who are weaker than him. At the same time, the kindness and grace of the sisters affect his feelings and moral formation.

For the founder of the FMA Past Pupils, this family environment was the source of inspiration for counselling the people and Associations he wanted, women and men who take care of each other and seek the good of others, builders of life-generating families, called to be yeast that ferments the flour of our society, so in need of humanity, of mutual care.

Here is the invitation for each and every one of you: commit yourselves to being yeast that makes life grow, wherever you are, with small gestures of welcome, listening, dialogue, respect, affection, generosity...

Together we thank God for the gift of humanity and holiness of Don Filippo Rinaldi.

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

With much affection and my prayers also for your families,

Sister Gabriela Patiño O.
FMA Past Pupils World Delegate

Rome, 05/12/2022