



World Confederation of Past Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians
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“Keep united, love each other as sisters”
Fr. Rinaldi

Dearest FMA Past Pupils,

In the ADN of the FMA Past Pupils Association, there is a strong invitation to *union*. I wish to reflect on this small word with you for the celebration of the 112th anniversary of foundation to understand the meaning that it had since the beginning of the foundation and the richness it still offers all of us today.

Yes, the Association is constituted to convoke, to meet with people with the same experience of the Institute and of the ‘family’, to remember, act, dream together. In addition, to help each other reciprocally and to be able to meet the needs of others. In fact, the ‘founding’ Past Pupils of the Association already met then, to ratify the joy and the need to meet together, to feel they are a family.

From its first beginnings, Fr. Philip Rinaldi said, *“One day, if you wish, admiring your union in the faith and in mutual help, the world will exclaim as once the pagans exclaimed observing the reciprocal charity of the first Christians: only Christians know how to love each other like this.”*

What a grand and beautiful dream your Founder had for you! What a challenge and strong commitment in these times so needy of what is fundamental for everyone’s life: love.

Love is the essence of the Triune God, and if we are ‘together’, like the Three Persons, it is to love better and more...This is what we are called to and you are called to, our dear Past Pupils. Wherever you are and act, you find yourselves to be a family that is always open and welcoming to do good. Fr. Rinaldi did not call you as a group, center, club, but as a *Union*. A union that creates union, ‘space’, where everyone feels at home, ready to give and to receive because you are all heirs of the same charism, the one that makes you *family*. This sense of belonging, together with the desire for sharing and the spirit of solidarity, is the seal that characterizes you. It is the golden thread of a common mission, of a social apostolate, of a generous service that helps your journey and that of the others towards an ever greater awareness of belonging to a large world family, the Salesian Family.

You are called to be a prophecy in an individualistic and self-referencing society, closed in its own egotistical interests, almost inhuman. It represents a challenge for you to return to the values received to support each other in being *good Christians and honest citizens*, remembering that, “If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others.”

Many wishes also from Sr. Maria Luisa Miranda on this new anniversary of foundation!

I remain united with you and I always carry you in my prayers.

With much affection,

Sr. Gabriela Patiño O.
Confederal Delegate