



Confederazione Mondiale Mornese Exallieve ed Exallievi delle Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice

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Prot. P 09

Dearest FMA Past Pupils,

In the context of the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FMA Institute, the celebration of the 114<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation of the FMA Past Pupils Association takes on an even greater significance.

It is beautiful to think that the Association was born in the early years of the life of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, because it was wanted by the first Sisters. We can say that it is born spontaneously among the young women educated in the houses of the FMA, desirous to meet, to strengthen their bonds, to express their gratitude to the educators, *and to support each other in the commitment to be good Christians and honest citizens. It is significant that in 1881, at the funeral of the founder of the FMA, Mother Mary Domenica Mazzarello, the girls educated in Mornese also took part.*

It should be emphasized that some Sisters informally began to gather young women and mothers formed in their educational environments before the official birth of the Association. Sr. Felicina Fauda in Nizza Monferrato, principal of the normal school, maintains contact with the Past Pupils of the school, and understands the usefulness of establishing an association among them to *"keep alive the memory of the School among them and to ensure the beneficial fruits of the education received."* She communicates this intuition to the Superiors of the General Council with the desire to spread the initiative to all the houses of the Institute as well.

These individual episodes speak of an Association born during the first steps of the Salesian Mornese charism with a desire and an open gaze on the world. Currently it is you, FMA past pupils scattered throughout the five continents, who keep alive the charism that marks and makes them a lay expression of the FMA charism during these 150 years of vitality.

This March 19, the FMA Past Pupils Association celebrates 114 years of formal existence and the gift that Our Lady has given you of bringing you to a Salesian house that is celebrating with you today is a reason for gratitude.

On this very special anniversary, together with Sister Leslie Sándigo, General Councilor of the Salesian Family, Maria Carmen Castellón, the President and the entire Confederal Council, we continue to ask Mary Help of Christians, Saint Joseph and our founders to bless us abundantly.

To all of you heartfelt congratulations!

With love,

Suor Gabriela Patiño O.  
World Delegate