



World Confederation Mornese (Italy) Past Pupils and Past Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians

Youto Gregory VII, 133 00165 Rome

Phone 06/39.37.51.31 C.F. 97070250580 [www.exalliefma.org](http://www.exalliefma.org)

Rome, 19 March 2023

Prot. P 25

Dear FMA Past Pupils,

On this 115th anniversary of the foundation of our Association, I would like to echo again the invitation that has been made to us this year: to be *Yeast*.

Our Rector Major Don. Angel Fernández Artime, had not thought about the theme of Strenna 2023 when, in 2021, he wrote to the FMA Past Pupils Association: "The great desire that the Confederation has to gather and convene in a great movement so many laymen of this world of today identified by the Salesian charism to carry out a great formative and social action in our world, *it speaks to me of a strong desire to be 'yeast in the dough', 'salt of the earth and light of the world'*".

It is beautiful that the successor of Don Bosco grasps this deep desire in our Association! And this becomes a challenge for all of you to look ahead with confidence and work with greater awareness and enthusiasm. Knowing that this desire is something inherent in the commitment of all, helps us to respond with joy to the invitation made by the Strenna 2023. It is a beautiful horizon, a concrete program to live, there where each and every one is, even more efficient if you get together to accomplish it. It will consist of small things: attitudes, gestures, words, disinterested services... but done with love and generosity.

A Past Pupil from Alessandria (Italy) said in 1933: *The Past Pupil is a wave of Salesian life that pulsates in every social class. The Past Pupils flourish everywhere: in colleges, oratories, schools and pensioners, in laboratories and orphanages... You find them in Catholic youth circles, in associations, springs for the defense of faith and customs, invincible in their religious principles, inviolable in their virtue.*

In your daily life, you have a task of being present and an operational proposal: in the family, in the workplace, in the local Church, in the territory, in political commitment, in the group of friends, colleagues, in all your relationships. You are a Salesian, Mornesian lay presence, very important always and everywhere, but above all in situations that implore peace, salvation, education, solidarity.

Thank you for the yeast, salt and light that you already are. Go ahead! The family, the territory in which you live, society needs it. Stay in them to make them grow and help people be happy.

Together with the General Councilor for the Salesian Family Sr. Leslie Sándigo, the President Maria Carmen Castellón and the entire Confederal Council, a warm greeting and the most cordial good wishes.

Mary Help of Christians, St. Joseph and our founders bless you abundantly.

With much affection,

Sister Gabriela Patiño O.  
World Delegate