



Confederazione Mondiale Mornese Exallieve/i delle Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
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*“Remain united in the same spirit
and you will understand each other more easily.”*
(Don Rinaldi).

Dear FMA Past Pupils,

As we do every year, in this Advent season and on the threshold of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, so dear to Blessed Fr. Filippo Rinaldi, founder of our Association, we celebrate his liturgical memory together and thank God and Our Lady for the gift of his holiness.

On behalf of Sister Leslie Sándigo and the Sisters of the Sector for the Salesian Family, as well as the members of the Council of the Federation, a heartfelt wish of happy feast to each and every one of you.

Today I wish to join you in considering Blessed Fr. Philip. Rinaldi *“a man filled with the love of God; an incarnate love, which translated into goodness and paternal concern for others, both from a material and a spiritual point of view. As a good father, he was, in fact, attentive to meeting the needs of his confreres, but also of many ordinary people who knocked on his door or in whom he himself sensed a need.”* I find in this description of the figure of the founder of the Association what the first regulation asked of the Past Pupils: *“Visit your elderly companions when they fall ill, and lend them the support they need as much as possible.”* It is therefore an invitation that, with his very life, this our blessed, great man of God makes to us. He is an example for all of us in this society so in need of help, mercy, and solidarity.

May it be our commitment to live solidarity in everyday life, a response to the appeal that comes to us from his example of life and our concrete contribution to world peace. All it takes is a little attention and vigilance, attitudes indicated by Jesus in the Gospel of this first Sunday of Advent. If we do this *in fraternal communion*, it will be easier and more effective.

I wish you all a beautiful celebration of the Immaculate Conception!

With much affection and with the assurance of my prayers also for your families,

Suor Gabriela Patiño O.
World Delegate of FMA Past Pupils

Rome, December 5, 2023