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> "The art of being happy and making others happy Adela Laiolo"

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Dearest Past Pupils of the FMA,

I always think of you because you now inhabit my heart. This month marks the anniversary of the foundation of your Association. One hundred sixteen years ago, the first Past Pupils with Sister Catherine Arright and Don Rinaldi wanted to formalize the great desire to remain united.

Yes, we are united to strengthen the bonds of the school years, united to help each other, and above all, united to be happy people and strive to bring that happiness to those who, for many reasons, do not have it.

Your Association has thought big and profoundly since its inception. So well understood by Past Pupil Adele Laiolo, Director of Education in Capriata D'Orba (Alessandria), who, remembering her school days, wrote to the President of the Past Pupils of Nizza Monferrato: " And who can forget the sweet Sisters who made us mischievous little girls, model teachers, faithful spouses, and sublime mothers in daily sacrifice? All that is good in me I owe to my Educators of Mornese and Nizza Monferrato, whose names I have engraved in my heart along with that of Don Bosco and Mary Help of Christians, and from whose example arises in my heart the desire for daily acts of virtue. Oh! Repeat to her, who has the fortune to see the dear Sisters, that Adele Laiolo, now a happy wife, loves her Teachers, from whom she learned the art of being happy and making others happy! Sister Piera Cavaglià

Past Pupils didn't know that thinking like God regarding all of us whose desire for our lives is summed up in one phrase: *that you may be happy* Gr 7, 23.

And you, dear Past Pupils of the FMA, are you a happy person? Do you care about making others happy? Wherever you are, with what you are and what you do. It takes little... And if you come together, it will become something extraordinary: women and men capable of dreaming big by simply offering the gift received with joy and generosity, people with open eyes to the world so in need of light, happiness, and dignity. How many dreams can become reality, real projects of good...

Thank you for the happiness you radiate, that you live in encounters. Dream together about how to make people happy wherever you are: at home, in study, at work... Yes, dreamers of happiness. How beautiful!

With Sister Leslie Sándigo, General Councilor for the Salesian Family, with Maria Carmen Castillón, President, and the entire Confederation Council, warm greetings and the most cordial wishes. May the Lord Jesus, Mary, Help of Christians, Saint Joseph, and our founders abundantly bless us.

With much affection,

Solahiela Patino O

Sr. Gabriela Patiño O. World Delegate