



## **SALESIAN FAMILY**

VIA MARSALA, 42 – 00185 ROMA

Rome, 4 October 2024

### **To the Superiors, Worldwide Leaders of the Groups of the Salesian Family. To Provincials and Provincial Delegates for the Salesian Family**

Subject: **Salesian Family Spirituality Days 2025** (communique no. 1)

Dear brothers and sisters of the Salesian Family. A greeting to you all through this communique regarding the Salesian Family Spirituality Days for which we have already begun preparations.

#### **1. The dates**

The Spirituality Days for next year will be held **from 16 to 19 January 2025** IN PERSON, in Turin. The appendix explains how they can be experienced in the various Provinces around the world.

#### **2. Goals of the 2025 SFSD**

The main purpose of the Days is to gain a deeper appreciation of the Rector Major's Strenna for this new year (**Anchored in hope, pilgrims with young people**). The Strenna proposes that we experience this pilgrimage to Christ Jesus, the hope who does not disappoint, proposed by Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year, and that we walk together with young people, with the apostolic passion of Don Bosco. The passion that was characteristic of the first missionary expedition which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2025, and that has continued to characterise all the expeditions of his sons and daughters across the years. A pilgrimage, then, together with young people, sharing their joys and hopes and showing them the hope we are anchored in, Christ Jesus.

#### **3. What will be new about the 2025 Days?**

The setting of the Days is being prepared as the first stage of a pilgrimage to be continued during the year personally and in the Groups and Provinces. The Secretariat is asking that all Groups promote:

- the involvement, in person or online, of the young people from their Groups;
- the involvement of people who up until now have not had the opportunity to experience these Days;
- the fact that these Days will become part of the formation and spiritual processes for this year, beginning with Christmas Day (united with Pope Francis and the bishops in the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's in Rome or in the Cathedrals of their dioceses).

On this occasion, the 2025 Days will be presided over by Fr Stefano Martoglio, the Vicar of the Rector Major. Over these months he is taking over his functions as father and centre of unity

for the entire Salesian Family, due to the fact that Fr Ángel had to resign in order to be available for the service to the universal Church that Pope Francis has asked of him.

## 4. Details to bear in mind

### 4.1. Days and timetables

- The Days will begin at 3:00 pm on Thursday 16th, and will end with lunch on Sunday 19th (3:00 pm). Lunch on Thursday 16th is not included in the programme.
- Please arrive in time for the opening of the Days at 3 pm. The *reception* will be available from 9.00 am.
- **Attention: Those who need to arrive a few days before or stay a few days after, must contact the Valdocco reception desk directly, to confirm a place and make payment for these additional days. The web address for reception is: [www.accoglienza@valdocco.it](mailto:www.accoglienza@valdocco.it)**

### 4.2. Chief points in the programme (which will be published in due course)

- The setting of the Days as a stage on the Jubilee pilgrimage.
- The presentation of Strenna 2025 by the Vicar of the Rector Major, Fr Stefano Martoglio and an exchange of views with him;
- An in-depth report on the Strenna, exchange of views with the rapporteur and sharing in language groups;
- An outing to the Cathedral in Turin, discovering the profoundly apostolic meaning of some especially significant spaces from the time of Don Bosco and the Church in Turin;
- A round table to listen to young people following the Synod last summer.
- A discussion regarding some of the missionary expeditions and the call to be missionaries on pilgrimage with young people today;
- Times for prayer, celebration and festivity;
- The spiritual and fraternal sharing among all the participants that makes these days a true moment of grace.

You will find everything regarding the Days on [www.famigliasalesiana.org](http://www.famigliasalesiana.org) MENU **GIORNATE 2025**: information, materials... Please take a look at it.

### 4.3. For registration

Log in to the [www.famigliasalesiana.org](http://www.famigliasalesiana.org) website. Click on "events" and choose the language for the registration form. Expiry date, 15 December 2024.

### 4.4. Financial cooperation

The cost for participation in the "Days" - from dinner on Thursday 16 January to lunch on Sunday 19 January – is euro (€)

- A. 360 > Full board** (materials, overheads and accommodation) in a **single room**
- B. 300 > Full board** (materials, overheads and accommodation) in a **double room**
- C. 270 > Full board** (material, overheads and accommodation) in a **triple room** – *limited number of places*; **225 > Full board** (material, overheads and accommodation) in a **room with bunk beds** – *limited number of places*).
- D. 160 > external participants "with meals"** (lunch and dinner);
- E. 50 > external participants "without meals"**.

**Note:** a "solidarity fund" is being opened for anyone who has difficulties in covering the expenses for their participation.

**4.5. Payment methods.** Payment – in euro (€) – can be made:

**A. Bay Card or PayPal.**

**B. By bank transfer** - to be made **by 24 December 2024** – in the name of:

- PAYEE: DIREZIONE GENERALE OPERE DON BOSCO
- BANK: BANCA POPOLARE DI SONDRIO
- BRANCH: N. 2 ROMA
- IBAN: IT54 0 056 9603 2020 0000 4655 X77
- BIC/SWIFT: POSOIT22

**Reason of payment: FS25 + Surname(s) of participant(s) important to specify)**

- Once the transfer has been made, you will have to upload the bank receipt in your account settings (indicated on the first page of the [www.famigliasalesiana.org](http://www.famigliasalesiana.org) website), click on "my subscriptions" and enter the receipt.
- In addition, in the case of payments of two or more people, the names of all the participants included in the payment and specifying the share of each must be sent to the email address [gsfs@famigliasalesiana.org](mailto:gsfs@famigliasalesiana.org) the names of all the participants included in the payment.
- If the payment is made from abroad, add € 7.50

**C. By authorisation of the Provincial Economer or Provincial**, sent by email, by December 24, to [gsfs@famigliasalesiana.org](mailto:gsfs@famigliasalesiana.org), which arranges payment from the Provincial Account at the Economer General's office, indicating the amount to be withdrawn and the names of all participants included in the payment;

**D. In cash or By card**, upon arrival in Turin.

*In order to speed up check-in operations upon arrival, it would be preferable – as far as possible – to make the payment by **bank transfer***

## 5. How to get to Valdocco

**5.1. Train TURIN PORTA SUSA.** From there, take a BUS or TRAM or TAXI to Maria Ausiliatrice (Via Maria Ausiliatrice, 32).

**5.2. Turin airport.** SADEM bus service for PORTA SUSA (frequency every 15').

**5.3. Malpensa (Milan) airport.** SADEM shuttle bus service. Frequency every 60'.

## 6. Other details

- Please bring warm clothes with you. January is a cold month in Italy.
- You need to bring headphones for translations.
- Mobile phones will be used to follow the simultaneous translation.

For the moment that is all. And so, in the hope that we meet the Rector Major at the upcoming Spirituality Days, farewell in Don Bosco's name.



Fr Joan Lluís Playà  
Delegate of the RM for the Salesian Family

## Places available for each of the Salesian Family Groups on full board.

This number is approximate. To fill other places in anticipation of the number of unfilled seats, please contact Ms. Laura Pollino. Email [pollino1@virgilio.it](mailto:pollino1@virgilio.it)

Group	Contact	Abbreviation	Seats in 2024
Apostles of the Holy Family	Maria Ch. Mellace	ASF	3
Association of Mary Help of Christians	Gabriel Cruz	ADMA	40
Damas Salesianas Association	Bienvenida Testón	ADS	3
Association of Salesian Cooperators	Lucrecia Uribe	ASC	40
Canção Nova Community	Roger Ferrari	CN	6
Community of the Mission of Don Bosco	Guido Pedroni	CMB	4
Congregation of the Sisters of St Michael the A.	Edyta Grolinska	CSSMA	2
Congregation of St Michael the Arch.	Boguslaw Turek	CSMA	4
FMA Past Pupils	Gabriela Patiño	EXA-FMA	20
Past Pupils of Don Bosco	Domenico Nguyen	EX-DB	20
Daughters of the Divine Saviour	Marta Deysy Reyes	HDS	2
Daughters of the Queenship of Mary Immaculate	Teresa Ratchanee	DQM	2
Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary	Gloria Morales	HH SS CC	2
Contemplative Fraternity Mary of Nazareth	Graciela Jourdan	FCMN	10
The Disciples	Shanti Ekka	DISC	2
Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians	Lucrecia Uribe	FMA	40
Institute of the Volunteers of Don Bosco	Pina Bellocchi	VDB	15
Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians	Jessy K. Jose	MSMHC	2
Community of the Sisters of the Resurrection	Zoila Caal Cacao	HR	2
Salesians of Don Bosco	Joan Lluís Playà	SDB	40
Salesian Oblates of the Sacred Heart	Graziella Benghini	SOSC	2
Sisters of Maria Auxiliatrix	ED Mary	SMA	2
Sisters Handmaids of the Imm. Heart of Mary	Maria S. Thabping	SIHM	2
Sisters Announcers of the Lord	Sr Prisca Tsang	SAL	2
Sisters Catechists of Mary Imm. Help of Chr.	Jessy George	SMI	2
Sisters of the Charity of Jesus	Maria Letizia Ono	CSJ	10
Sisters of the Queenship of Mary Immaculate	L. Ratchaneeladdajit	SQM	2
Sisters of Jesus the Adolescent	Neiva Mattos	IJA	2
Witnesses to the Risen Lord	Dina Moscioni	TR	6
Sisters of the Visitation of Don Bosco	Tiewora Mawlong	VSDB	2
Volunteers With Don Bosco	Luciano Arcarese	CDB	4
Sisters Mediators of Peace	Auxiliadora Meneses	MP	2

## APPENDIX: ORGANISING ONLINE SPIRITUALITY DAYS IN THE PROVINCES

In recent years, many Provinces have organised online Spirituality Days for members of the Salesian Family and Friends of Salesian Work in their area, alone or together with other Provinces in their area. It has been a wonderful experience bringing everyone together in an extraordinary way, and has given a strong spiritual boost to all the Groups.

From the Secretariat we are committed to supporting this effort and offering the means to further develop it. Therefore:

**1. We encourage Provinces**, either alone or together in nearby or language regions, **to develop** between 16 and 19 January (or on dates more suitable for them, if possible around the feast of Don Bosco) **an online Salesian Spirituality program focused on the Rector Major's Strenna.**

A programme involving one or two hours a day, or focused over some hours, for example Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th.

**This programme could include**, among other things,

- the presentation of the Strenna by the Vicar of the Rector Major on 16 January in Turin (video);
- an in-depth study of the Strenna by some members of the Salesian Family in the area, both in the form of a Round Table and in the form of a conference;
- time for group work with participants who have already registered;
- some time for prayer and celebration; a good morning or goodnight...
- the projection of videos showing any experiences of the Salesian Family;
- a friendly performance by the presenters of the programme;
- room for SYM young people to pass on their experiences;

**3. From the Secretariat we offer**, through the **familigliasalesiana.org website**

- The video of the Rector Major translated into various languages.
- Texts of reports, booklets for group work, prayer texts
- The materials from the round table that took place in Turin in case they can be used as inspiration (texts, questions for group work...)

But also, through YouTube, you can access the entire development of the Days sent by streaming: you can choose some moments from it that can help as inspiration.

**4. Another initiative** that can be carried out is to **let all Salesian Family members in your area know about the programme for the Days that will be held in person from 16 to 19 January in Turin so that if they want to, they can follow the more important occasions in streaming in their own languages (SPA, ITA, ENG, FRN, POR, ARB).**

**5. An essential recommendation** Ensure that the program decided on by each Salesian Province, as simple as it may be, **is the result of the collaboration of all the Salesian Groups in the area..** It is not a question of ensuring that each Group organises its own programme,

but that it is a common initiative, organised by the Salesian Family Advisory Council, so that it expresses our sense of family.

**6.** It is also important to seek the cooperation of Communication Delegates in the Provinces or Groups so that the programme will be one of quality, and be effective.

**7.** It would be a great initiative also if you could send the Secretariat a brief greeting from the various provinces to those taking part in the Days in Turin. This greeting will also be streamed to the entire Salesian world. A 30/40 second greeting is enough.

Such an initiative does not preclude other events that the Provinces and individual houses plan (celebrations, conferences, campaigns, retreats...). An online approach, as if it were a radio or TV programme, allows you to reach unexpected corners of your area. Many people will be grateful for this.

The team responsible for the Days is also grateful for the enthusiasm, creativity and dedication of everyone who will collaborate in this project. Together we can ensure that the gospel message of Don Bosco's charism can reach many people, sow hope and awaken new energies at the service of the most needy young people in our settings. And do not forget to send the Secretariat ([gsfs@famigliasalesiana.org](mailto:gsfs@famigliasalesiana.org)) news of what you are doing.