



The beauty of life consecrated in the world (Benedetto XVI, 03/02/2007)

Your fervour is born from having discovered the beauty of Christ and of his unique way of loving, healing and meeting the needs of life and of enlivening and comforting it. And your lives aim to sing the praise of this beauty so that your being in the world may be a sign of your being in Christ.

Indeed, it is the mystery of the Incarnation that makes your integration in human events a place of theology: ("God so loved the world that he gave his only Son", Jn 3: 16). The work of salvation was not wrought in opposition to the history of humankind but rather in and through it.

In this regard, the Letter to the Hebrews notes: "In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son" (1: 1-2a). This redeeming act was itself brought about in the context of time and history and implies obedience to the plan of God inscribed in the work that came from his hands.

It is once again this same text from the Letter to the Hebrews, an inspired text, which points out: "When he said, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' - these are offered according to the law -, he then added, 'Lo I have come to do your will'" (Heb 10: 8-9a).

These words of the Psalm and the Letter to the Hebrews, expressed through intra-Trinitarian dialogue, are words of the Son who says to the Father: "I have come to do your will". Thus, the Incarnation comes about: "Lo, I have come to do your will". The Lord involves us in his words which become our own: here I am, Lord, with the Son, to do your will.

In this way, the process of your sanctification is clearly marked out: self-sacrificing adherence to the saving plan manifested in the revealed Word, solidarity with history, the search for the Lord's will inscribed in human events governed by his Providence.

And at the same time, the characteristics of the secular mission are outlined: the witness to human virtues such as "righteousness and peace and joy" (Rom 14: 17), the "good conduct" of which Peter speaks in his First Letter (cf. 2: 12), echoing the Teacher's words: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven" (Mt 5: 16).

Also part of the secular mission is the commitment to build a society that recognizes in the various environments the dignity of the person and the indispensable values for its total fulfilment: from politics to the economy, from education to the commitment to public health, from the management of services to scientific research.

The aim of every specific reality proper to and lived by the Christian, his own work and his own material interests that retain their relative consistency, is found in their being embraced by the same purpose for which the Son of God came into the world.

Therefore, may you feel challenged by every suffering, every injustice and every search for truth, beauty and goodness. This is not because you can come up with the solution to all problems; rather, it is because every circumstance in which human beings live and die is an opportunity for you to witness to God's saving work. This is your mission.

On the one hand, your consecration highlights the special grace that comes to you from the Spirit for the fulfilment of your vocation, and on the other, it commits you to total docility of mind, heart and will to the project of God the Father revealed in Jesus Christ, whom you have been called to follow radically.



That they may see you in me

Dag Hammarskjöld

Lord,
You are the infinite love
spring of all life, of all beauty,
of all goodness:
from You all things come
and to You all things ascend.
Lay your hand on my head, O God,
that the evil and chaos that is in me
do not overwhelm me.

Give us peace with You, O God,
peace with men,
peace with ourselves
and deliver us from fear.

O Lord,
You who are above us,
You who are also in us,
You whom I do not know,
but to whom I belong.
You that I do not always understand,
but that you build my destiny,
let me follow all the way
the way of your inner signals
in love and patience,
in fidelity and courage,
in righteousness and humility, in peace.

Let me never despair,
because they are under your hand
and in You is all strength and goodness.

In Your hand, O Lord,
every hour has meaning and grace,
greatness and peace and consistency.

Give me a pure heart that I may see You
A humble heart that I may hear You,
A heart of love that I may serve You,
A heart of faith that I may abide in You.

O Lord, You who are above us,
You who are also in us,
let everyone see you in me too.



Dag Hammarskjöld (1905-1961). Secretary General of the United Nations (1953-1961). He died in a plane crash on his way to mediate a conflict in the former Belgian Congo in his personal and profound mission of always seeking peace. Nobel Peace Prize in 1961. He was a person of deep spirituality.

Every 12th September

September 12 is an extraordinarily significant date for Volunteers with Don Bosco. On this day, in 1994, the Group began their journey, with the first Constitutions *ad experimentum*, the first profession of some brothers and the encouraging words of the Rector Major, Fr Egidio Viganó, who presided at the Eucharist on the feast of the Name of Mary. They were accompanied by a beautiful group of Salesians. This year, an emotional moment of commemoration was the celebration of the Eucharist in the Chapel of the 'Camerete de Don Bosco' at the Sacred Heart in Rome, which the CDB were able to follow online in an experience of deep communion.

Valdocco. Inauguration of the Don Bosco Museum

The GC 27 (2014) called upon the Rector Major to proceed with the restoration and improvement of the Salesian Places of Valdocco, Castelnuovo and Chieri. And to equip these places with a team of people to accompany visitors and pilgrims and help them to internalize Salesian spirituality. A strong moment of this process was experienced on 2, 3 and 4 October on the occasion of the inauguration, by the Rector Major, of the Don Bosco Museum located in the spaces of Casa Pinardi, the cradle of the Salesian Work in the world. A new appeal to relaunch the Valdocco option, as recalled by Pope Francis in GC 28.

"Moved by hope". The *strenna* 2021.

The Rector Major has already announced the theme of the *Strenna* for the next year, after listening to the world leaders of the Salesian Family Groups and his Council. During the period that surrounds us, and with our gaze fixed on Don Bosco, who has also been through epidemic situations, the Salesian Family is called to proclaim that we are "moved by hope" and to let ourselves be carried away by the Spirit of God who wants to do anything new. The Salesian response must be like Mary's, that is, to exercise the virtue of hope, from supplication in prayer to the commitment to be generators of hope wherever we are and in the places where the Lord wants to take us.

Salesian family, family of saints

The Postulation for the Cause of the Saints works so that the best of the many extraordinary members of the Salesian Family can be recognized as saints by the ecclesial community. The figure of the Salesian Cooperator Felice Canelli and the Salesians Don Silvio Galli and Don Elia Comini is being assessed in these months. The testimonies of holiness of our Family are a powerful stimulus for its revitalization in every way.