



OCTOBER 11, 2024

3. WITH YOU MARY ON THE PATHWAYS OF LIFE

3.12 A Life Without End



***"No one has greater love than this:
Giving one's life for his friends" Jn. 15,13***

(Chapel of Collegio)

Angelus

Entrustment *(alternating sides)*

Guide: We entrust our life to Mary, our Mother and guide so that she can help us to joyfully sing of God's love for us, to live our vocation with commitment, renewed in faith, in love with Jesus, eager to communicate with passion and coherence the beauty of the Gospel to the new generations:

*O Mary Help of Christians,
we entrust our journey to you
of total donation to God.
Teach us to sing with joy and gratitude
our Magnificat to the Lord.*

*Make us attentive to the voice of the Spirit
because we know how to live with humility,
charity, simplicity, and trust in our daily life.*

*Like You, we desire to abandon ourselves to the Father
to continue to live chaste, poor, and obedient
and to be, with our life
transparency of God's love
and reflection of your maternal goodness
on the example of Mother Mazzarello
for the young people entrusted to us. Amen.*

Mass



MORNING PRAYER *(in pullman)*

Song: Christ in me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PTKnmM4FT0>

Christ in me is to live to die is to gain
Christ in me is to live to die is to gain

He's my King, He's my song, He's my life,
He's my joy, He's my strength, He's my sword,
He's my peace, He's my Lord.

Christ in me is to live to die is to gain
Christ in me is to live to die is to gain

Guide: The last stage of Mary Dominica Mazzarello's earthly life was not only marked by the experience of pain, illness, and death; on the contrary, it was the stage in which God's work in the Institute flourished. "There is no greater love than giving life." An increase in sisters and girls marked the two years of Mother Mazzarello's life on Earth; they also expanded to America and Europe. As such, it was time for her to leave this earthly life as her mission was accomplished. Praise be to God for His wondrous works in her.

Song: Go Out to All the World and Tell the Good News (Psalm 117)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j645M1p8VMI>

Refrain

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (4x)

Praise the LORD all you nations;
glorify him, all you peoples!

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (2x)

For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever.

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (2x)
and tell the Good News

Guide: Mary Domenica Mazzarello understood the value of life in the mystery of Jesus and the light of eternity. In her letters, she would write... "Yes, my good Daughters in J.[esus], take courage, Jesus loves you. It is true that you have many troubles and sufferings at times, but the Lord wants us to carry a bit of the cross in this world. He was the first to give us the good example in suffering, so let us follow him with courage by suffering with resignation. You can be sure that those to whom Jesus gives most to suffer are those closest to Him, but we must do everything with purity of intention to please Him alone if we want the reward." (Letter 39.4).

Jn 15:12-14

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

(brief pause)

Guide: Dear sisters, we are now going towards Nizza; perhaps we can ask ourselves what we want to find there. What do I hope to experience in the Mother House? Let us ask God to open our hearts to all He wants us to encounter, for he is a faithful God who gave up His only son to save us. And may our experience in the mother house where Mother Mazzarello died help us to be open to this love of God for us and that we can listen to Him...

Song: As I kneel before you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHmngT2QIEg>

As I kneel before you,
As I bow my head in prayer,
Take this day, make it yours
and fill me with your love.

Refrain:

Ave Maria,
Gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
Benedicta tu.

All I have I give you,
Every dream and wish are yours,
Mother of Christ,
Mother of mine, present them to my Lord.

As I kneel before you,
And I see your smiling face,
Ev'ry thought, ev'ry word
Is lost in your embrace.

Guide: Through the intercession of Mary, our teacher and guide, we ask God for peace in our hearts and the world. Hail Mary....

PRESENTATION OF THE DAY *(in pullman)*

Guide 1: We are now going to Nizza; we have left Mornese; perhaps we could ask ourselves, how did Mary Mazzarello and the first sisters feel about leaving their land, where they were born and grew up, leaving their families, leaving friends? In Nizza, we will visit the Mother House, where Mather Mazzarello lived the last two years of her life in full maturity as a great apostle and Mother, realizing, in a feminine way, the Salesian charism of Don Bosco, it is from there where the windows of the Institute opened wide to the whole world.

Don Bosco sent the sisters to Nizza because it was a place where the train arrived, a transport network was available, and there was a high possibility of reaching out to a more significant number of girls.

Guide 2: How did Don Bosco buy this house? The Institute, "Our Lady of Grace," was purchased by Don Giovanni Bosco in 1877 on the ruins of an old convent of the Observant Friar Minors. Before that, in 1871, it was sold to the Oenological Society of Savigliano. In 1877, St. John Bosco came to Nizza, invited by Count Cesare Balbo to open his boarding school since the former convent was again put up for sale due to the bankruptcy of the Oenological Society. The Saint - considering the opportunity to purchase it to transfer the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians from the headquarters of Mornese and open an institute of female education - began taking possession. The first FMA arrived on September 16, 1878.

On Feb. 4, 1879, Mother Mazzarello, arrived in Nizza. Her presence made the building the Mother-House of the FMA until 1929, when the headquarters was transferred to Turin.

Guide 1: Here in Nizza, we will remember Mother Mazzarello's life in the last journeys as Mother, her illness, the final moments of her life, and how the

Institute developed. Here, we will discover the closeness of Mother Mazzarello with her daughters through the letters we started reading in Mornese. Mother Mazzarello's life does not end with her death; it goes beyond: The Church recognizes her as Co-foundress, Mother, and first Superior of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. Similarly, she is recognized as a saint and a model of life for us. Allow yourself to be touched by every place, every word, and every relationship you will experience in this place.

Here, too, in Nizza, we will discover Don Bosco's Preventive System, lived by the first sisters in the community and among the girls, in a feminine way.

The sisters lived in this house from 1878 until 1929, when they moved to Turin 35



(When possible a Sister from the place will guide all the various visits at Nizza. If there is a prayer moment during the visit it will be prayed. If there is not a Sister from the place to guide the visit, the following moments can be used.)

VISIT-PRAYER: SANCTUARY of OUR LADY of GRACE

A Moment with Mary



Guide 1: Here in Nizza, Mother Mazzarello's love for Mary Help of Christians becomes more mature, and she transmits it to the sisters and girls with her words, letters, and life. Also, Mother Mazzarello invites us to be images of our Mother (Mary) today. She was certain that the Virgin would be happy with her daughters and that she would obtain from Jesus the grace to be holy.

Guide: 2 Although it has often been rebuilt, the sanctuary preserves the ancient structure. Monsignor Cagliari consecrated it in 1884 and, on that occasion,

blessed the Mary Help of Christians statue donated by Don Bosco, which is still in the sanctuary behind the altar.

This statue was crowned in 1922. The Pope gave the Church the title of 'Sanctuary'.

- To the right and left of the presbytery is the picture of the "wise virgins and foolish virgins" and the "encounter of Jesus with Martha and Mary," representing two attitudes of the FMAs.
- On the right side of the door were the remains of Mother Mazzarello (*from the cemetery to the Sanctuary in 1913, they remained until 1933 when they were transferred to the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin.*)
- On the side of the choir, of the stained-glass windows, is the picture of giving out the Constitutions
- In the central area is the position of St. Joseph and Mary
- In the chapels are St. Mary Mazzarello and St. John Bosco
- Mother Clelia Genghini and her devotion to the Guardian Angels

Guide 1: The Cronistoria records five visits of Don Bosco to the Mother House after its inauguration, and always on the occasion of the Annual retreat, which he so appreciated, in August/September, for the ladies or, the last time, on August 23, 1885, for the sisters. Memorable on that occasion was his vision of Our Lady and his challenging words: "I want to tell you that Our Lady is right here ... that she is happy with you... walk among you... covers the House with her mantle!"

Guide 2: together let us pray...

Mother of God and our Mother sustain us in these difficult days.

Intercede with your Son,

that he may help us to make our homes the small local churches,

summoned for his praise,

in listening to his Word

and in the joyful experience of his wonders.

We entrust ourselves to you, Our Lady of Grace,

that you defend us in danger,

intercede for us and our salvation,
protect our community and the whole world,
because united and with your help
We can win this battle
and at the same time, praise the Most Holy Trinity. Amen
(by Don Egidio Berardi, parish priest of Raiano, diocese of Sulmona-Valva)

(As you leave the Sanctuary towards the Courtyard, you will find this plaque.)



In this house, which welcomed and spread the originality of the spirit of Mornese, there has always been a special devotion to Our Lady. One can almost hear Don Bosco's words echo during his last visit, on 23 August 1885. "I want to tell you that Our Lady loves you so much. Our Lady is truly here, here among you! Our Lady walks in this house and covers it with her mantle."

Personal Reflection *(afterwards)*: What does this expression mean to you as an FMA?



VISIT to the VINEYARD

(The following takes place at the statue in the vineyard.)

Our Lady of the Vineyard

Guide: Mother Mazzarello continually recommended charity. This charity becomes visible in concrete actions that will fill our hands when we stretch them out to God in that moment of the final encounter with Him: "At the end of our life, we will be judged on love."

Voice: "My good sisters, know that where charity reigns, there is Paradise. Jesus is so pleased to be among the Daughters who are humble, obedient, and charitable. Let Jesus gladly be among you." (L 49,6)

Guide: According to the tradition of the FMAs, this statue was the first image of Mary Help of Christians donated to the sisters of Mornese and brought with them to Nizza when the house of Mornese was closed. Initially, in Mornese, it was positioned in a place built in the orchard at the College where the sisters gathered for recreation and good nights when there was good weather. In Nizza, the statue is in the vineyard where we recall Mother Mazzarello sent the young Sister Felicina to "do penance" of "two rounds around the vineyard" in the middle of the morning.



Sharing in couples: When did I first become aware of Mary's presence?

Guide: Let us reflect on the many sisters and missionaries before leaving for the missions, the girls who visited 'Our Lady' to thank and ask her for protection, those in need, or just to be close to her. Today, we are here, next to Mary, the first image of the Help of Christians brought to this house.

Let us be close to her and allow her gaze to meet ours. Then, in the quietness of our hearts, let us speak with her as our Mother.

(brief pause)

Guide: Mother Mazzarello tells us: "The most beautiful flower that Our Lady would be happy to receive is the renewal of our spirit, like plants in spring" (Cron II 134). Hence, to her, we entrust ourselves, our Institute, the hopes of the Church and the world. Together let us pray...

O Mary, most powerful Virgin, great and illustrious defender of the Church, wonderful Help of Christians, formidable as an army in battle array, you who alone have overcome every heresy in the world, in our anguish, in our combats, in our difficulties, defend us from the enemy, and at the hour of our death, receive our souls into Paradise. Amen.



VISIT to the CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

(The following takes place in the Church of St. John the Baptist.)

Guide 1: Here we find ourselves in the Church of St. John the Baptist, the first parish that was frequented by our sisters when they arrived to Nizza. We can only imagine the thoughts that raced through the minds as they walked the streets to arrive to this church.

Mornese and Nizza were quite different. Going from simple village life to the hustle and bustle of a busy city. The sisters must have experienced awe and wonder, but at the same time fear and inadequacy.

From the Cronistoria volume 3 we recall the eve of Mother Mazzarello's transfer to Nizza...

Guide 2: Naturally these discussions enkindled ever more the desire of the girls to have Mother at Nizza. On her part, Mother began to feel the need of living with the community, which was now practically all reunited in the new House.

Yet, she felt sad to see the school almost empty, and the end of that work which had cost sacrifices without number. She felt sorry to leave behind children, companions, acquaintances, all very dear to her, for whom she foresaw the loss of moral and spiritual help because of the withdrawal of the Sisters.

She seemed to feel again the anxiety of saintly Father Pestarino for the dying College, which had been built more with prayers and tears than with stones and bricks. Besides, ever present to her mind were her dear old parents, by whom she was ever more loved and appreciated, and whom she would have to leave, precisely when they had most need of comfort and help. But the Lord had so disposed through Don Bosco, and the sacrifice should be made with merit and in a cheerful spirit. (*Cron. Vol 3: Mother on the eve of the transfer to Nizza*)

Guide 1: Mother Mazzarello suffered greatly in the transfer of the Mother House from Mornese to Nizza. It was particularly painful for her because it meant uprooting herself from her native place, leaving persons who were very dear to her and places that had played an unforgettable part in her apostolate. These few sober words show her determination to face the new situation with courage and serene abandonment.

Without a doubt all of us have at some point in our life have found ourselves in a similar position. We left family members, friends and coworkers who were very dear to us. We received an obedience where we felt inadequate for the task at hand. We experienced going from simple to complex, from known to unknown.

Let us pause for a moment with the words of Mother Mazzarello knowing that her advice comes from her personal experience.

You must know by now that I am no longer in Mornese, but here in Nizza. We must always make sacrifices while here on this earth. Let us make them willingly and cheerfully and the Lord will take note of everything and in His own time give us a beautiful reward. (L 22,4)

(the moment in the church concludes with a brief pause)



VISIT to the CEMETARY

Guide: The new mausoleum contains the mortal remains of our previous Mother Generals with the exception of the Servant of God Mother, Rosetta Marchese who is buried in Rome.

We pray a decade of the Rosary for all our sisters who have preceded us; we thank God for their courage, love, and fidelity.

(The guide will pray the first half of the Hail Mary and everyone will respond using the indicated second half of the prayer.)

In the Name of the Father...

Our Father...

1. Holy Mary, Mother of all mothers, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen
2. Holy Mary, Mother full of beauty, pray for us...
3. Holy Mary, purest Virgin, pray for us...
4. Holy Mary, Woman of the New Covenant, pray for us...
5. Holy Mary, Bride without blemish, pray for us...
6. Holy Mary, Tabernacle of the Holy Spirit, pray for us...
7. Holy Mary, perfect consecrated woman, pray for us...
8. Holy Mary, Mother of young people in difficulty, pray for us...
9. Holy Mary, Immaculate Help of Christians, pray for us...
10. Holy Mary, Mother of God, and our Mother pray for us...

Glory Be...

Eternal rest grant unto them O, Lord

And let perpetual rest shine upon them

May they rest in Peace

Amen (3x)

Mary Help of Christians...



EVENING PRAYER

(Before evening prayer begins, a short stop will be made in the corridor leading to Mother Mazzarello's room)

Corridor leading to Mother Mazzarello's room

Guide: We need to remember that, until 1929, these were the rooms for the Mothers of the General Council.



Here lived:

- **3 Mother Generals:** Mother Mazzarello, Mother Catalina Daghero, and Mother Luisa Vaschetti.
- **Councilors:** Mother Petronilla Mazzarello, Mother Elisa Roncallo, Mother Emilia Mosca, Mother Enrichetta Sorbonne, Mother Catalina Arrighi, Mother Marina Coppa, Mother Clelia Genghini, and others.

Let us imagine Mother Mazzarello, with her simplicity, saying to the sisters: "God wants you to be a missionary." What a joy, even the pain of leaving the community, moving away from the Mother, and even more, the missionary ardor she encouraged them.

The Room of Mother Mazzarello

(The prayer will take place in the room of Mother Mazzarello and the adjacent room.)



Guide 1: Maria Mazzarello spent the last two years of her life in Nizza. Here, she fulfilled her mission as Mother and Co-foundress. Here, in Nizza, she was unanimously re-elected as Superior General on August 29, 1880, and strengthened the expansion and development of the Institute; Mother

Mazzarello traveled to visit the houses of the Institute in Italy and France more frequently. From this house, she could exercise the fullness of her motherhood for the sisters near and far in an extraordinary way; she had the opportunity to have more frequent contact with Don Bosco and other Salesian Superiors.

We are in the room where Mother Mazzarello responded with a total and definitive yes to the love of the Lord. Here, she gave her life as an offering pleasing to God. Look and contemplate in this place. Let it speak in memory of a life given to the end.

Jn 12:24

Voice 1: Truly, verily, I say unto you, if the grain of wheat falls to the ground and does not die, it remains alone; But if it dies, it produces much fruit.

(brief pause)

Guide 1: We are the fruit of a contemplative love, a love given, a love made life. We admire with amazement how God broke into the life of Mother Mazzarello. In this poor and austere room, we celebrate her entry into life without end ... in its glorification.

All. Mother, your whole life has been guided by a great tension towards the goal, desire, and love with all your strength, heart, soul, and mind. Thank you for your yes to the Life that is Jesus, for your giving of life marked by the mystery of Easter.

Guide 1: Let the Mother Mazzarello speak to us. Fr. Giovanni B. Lemoyne's report on the illness and death of Mother Mazzarello, reveals to us the human face and, simultaneously, the entire hope of the encounter with the Lord.

Guide 2: Sometimes, she turned to those who assisted her.

Mother Mazzarello: I am afraid of losing my courage!

Guide 2: And because she was answered: Trust in the Lord, do not fear.

Mother Mazzarello: You always had a good saying, but ... That blessed self-love is always our enemy. However, I have placed all my trust in the Lord and Our Lady Most Holy. You, however, never leave me alone. My imagination scares me, and when you are here, I feel calm.

Guide 2: Of a cheerful nature, she proved to be sure that this was her last illness; she thought that death was always before her eyes. Sometimes, to those who tried to shake her with the hope of healing, she replied:

Mother Mazzarello: You know nothing!

Guide 2: Other times, she added.

Mother Mazzarello: You say that I get healed, but I assure you that certain things in the Congregation will not be fixed if I do not die!

Guide 2: At other times, Mother showed her great maternal sense and concern for the future of the Institute.

Mother Mazzarello: To you... Here are some cautions that you should not forget: First... I fear that after I am no longer there, jealousies of pre-eminence will arise among you... Envy... for the influence that some can buy over the others... in seeing a younger companion placed before herself... in short, that there is no longer in the house that uniform spirit that makes charity reign... I know that our congregation belongs to Our Lady, and this is our deposit for the future... Our Lady, rest assured, will help you a lot. Obey those destined to direct you by the superiors... put down that desire to command... Secondly... Try also to help one another in spirit... but leave the direction to your guides, to those who must determine the rules...not so many conferences in particular... do only the one and by those who have the task to do so ... Conferences heed? Conferences!... Catechism has to teach you this... otherwise, divisions of spirit will come.

Guide 1: Now let us listen together to the chronicle of the last moments of Mother:

Guide 2: The Mother then signaled for them to take a pillow from her and said:

Mother Mazzarello: Take a seat!

Guide 2: This fact, he turned to Fr. Cagliari and, making a sign of farewell with her hand, said:

Mather Mazzarello: Farewell! Farewell!

Guide 2: At the same time, her pulse instantly ceased. The blank eyes remained fixed on the crucifix. She said again distinctly: Jesus, Mary, I commend my soul to you—and then three times— Jesus, Mary! - And she was silent. She died at the time quarter past three of May 14, 1881, with a marvelous calmness. It was the eve of the death of Fr. Pestarino.

Guide 1: Let us allow the words of Mother Mazzarello to penetrate our hearts. Let us try to listen to what she wants to say to each one of us here, in this room where she left the earth to begin an endless life with God. And in the silence of our hearts, we thank God for giving us this gift of life.

(brief pause)

Guide 1: Let us join our prayers with those of our sisters, making our prayers spontaneously.

(Spontaneous prayers)

Guide 1: Mother Mazzarello is here. Today, she also speaks to us about her passionate gift to live and give life generously.

All: "Try to do everything always and everything for Jesus, remaining as united as possible to Him."

Guide 2: This "being" in the presence of the Lord allowed Mother Mazzarello to unify her whole life in God, to the point of being configured; in this manner, she participated in the same Paschal Mystery.

Guide 1: It took many years until 1935 for the charismatic mission of St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello to be Co-foundress of the FMA Institute to be recognized in all its scope.

All: Mother, we want to walk with you towards holiness.

Guide 2: The hope of Heaven permeated the whole existence of Mary Domenica, that dwelling place that she and the first FMAs waited for and prepared during their lives and which they familiarly called "the House of Paradise." Therefore, Paradise is not only the place of one's intimacy with the Lord but that of joy in fraternal encounters.

All: Mother, we want to walk with you towards holiness.

Guide 1: On May 3, 1936, Pope Pius XI, proclaiming the heroic virtues of Mary Domenica Mazzarello, described the venerable as the exemplary Daughter of Mary:

Guide 2: Her life hides something great precisely because it takes place and is carried out entirely under the gaze and guidance of the Mother of God."

Guide 1: Mother Mazzarello had completed her journey of holiness on this earth. She is now definitively united with God and has entered the fullness of life without end. Let us pray together:

All: Mary, our mother and our help, you walk with us throughout the history of salvation: help us to make you present today to all we meet. Grant that, like Mother Mazzarello, we may witness limitless fidelity, love that transcends all boundaries, and joy that explodes from the total gift of ourselves. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Song: Only in God

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx-haKg_oAk

Only in God is my soul at rest
In Him comes my salvation
He only is my Rock
My strength and my salvation

My stronghold my Savior
I shall not be afraid at all
My stronghold my Savior
I shall not be moved

Only in God is found safety
When the enemy pursues me
Only in God is found glory
When I am found meek and found lowly

My stronghold my Savior
I shall not be afraid at all
My stronghold my Savior
I shall not be moved

Only in God is my soul at rest
In Him comes my salvation

(The song concludes the prayer moment. The remaining time before supper will be left for silent reflection.)

ADDITIONAL READING

Jewish Ghetto: The presence of Jews in the town has been documented since 1539. In 1723, with the establishment of the ghetto, the 79 Jews then residing in Nizza were forced to move to the houses of the district called the Ospedale. An episode of 1879 is linked to the Jewish community. A young Jew, Anita Bedarida, wanted to convert to Christianity, but after some hardships and unpleasant episodes, her relatives brought her back into the family. (Chr. 3:48-49. 58-59.76. 107)

Don Bosco Avenue: On the avenue, there is the bust of Mother Mazzarello, wanted by the people of Nizza, a group of the FMA past pupils, discovered and shown to the public in 2017 on the occasion of the inauguration of the Historical Archive of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta. At the beginning of the avenue, there is also the bust of Don Bosco, wanted by the faithful of the people of Nizza on the occasion of his beatification on June 29, 1929.

