



**OCTOBER 2, 2024**

### **3. WITH YOU MAÏN ON THE PATHS OF LIFE**

#### **3. 1 Initial Prayer and Handing over the Book**

*(Mother Mazzarello's room is prepared with a vase, candle and the books to be handed over.)*

#### **Introduction**

**Guide 1:** We came here to ask for the love of God, to touch with our hands the fruitfulness of a life that has reached universal dimensions and has followed a fruitful path for more than 150 years.

We are here in the land of our origins: Mornese, gift of life! Here Mother Mazzarello took root; in the hands of God, it was a fertile ground in which the seed of the Word and the Eucharist bore much fruit.



In celebrating this moment of prayer, we too want to draw from the Source, to bring into our lives the flavor of this land - generous and strong, the taste of a land that is, the life of Mother Mazzarello.

#### **Psalm 87 "All my sources are in you"**

**Guide 2:** Today we begin our Mornese itinerary from this place where Maïn began her life journey. We returned to Mornese, to the sources, to our spiritual homeland. Here the "spirit of Mornese", which characterizes our Institute, was born; here all the FMA of every generation and all of us were born.

## **Canto: Mornese terra di sole**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBR9HoWLsy0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBR9HoWLsy0)

Mornese, terra di sole  
investita dal vento,  
dove la rugiada si chiamava sudore,  
dove il silenzio è più forte del tuono,  
e anche le viole gridano al miracolo.  
(e anche le viole gridano al miracolo.)

Grazie, o Padre, perché innalzi gli umili  
Sì, Padre, perché così piace a Te.  
Alberi e strade cantano un nome  
Maria Ausiliatrice.

**Guide 1:** Looking at Mary Mazzarello we see a woman of relationships, capable of communion and reciprocity. From her simple and kind presence, confidence in her beliefs and flexibility in her forms, she was able to generate collaboration and involvement in view of the educational mission that the Lord has entrusted to her. Coordination for communion, which our Formation Program talks about, is a coordination that promotes vocational unity and convergence around the mission. (Charismatic Elements pg.13)

Deep down in the human heart there is always a longing to return to the root of one's identity in order to be able to recognize oneself in the flow of events and things. There is an inalienable desire to have strong points of reference on earth, to be home: there is nostalgia for a homeland.

**Guide 2:** Psalm 87 with which we will pray expresses in an intense and luminous way the pride and joy of belonging to the land given by the Lord with love, a land where the Lord himself lives.

The psalm belongs to the series of psalms whose theme is praise of the city of Zion, located on the "holy mountain" and "chosen by God" as his dwelling place.

In this short Psalm, we find two series of words: the first is a sequence of "topographic" terms: found, mountains, gates, dwellings, and cities; the second revolves around the verb "be born" repeated three times.

From the intertwining of the two series of words, the idea of Zion-Mother emerges. The city becomes a womb, space is seen as a sign of life.

**Guide 1:** The Psalm is divided into 3 parts:

**Guide 2:** The first part of the psalm presents the psalmist who exalts God's relationship of predilection towards Zion. The choice of Zion as a home is given solely by the gratuitousness of elective love.

**Soloist:**

Its foundations are on the holy mountains;  
The Lord loves the gates of Zion  
more than all the mansions of Jacob.  
Wonderful things are said about you,  
City of God.

**Guide 1:** The second part contains words from God about Zion. It lets us imagine a census scene in which God himself welcomes the people who come to be registered. The Lord grants citizenship in his city to everyone.

**Soloist:**

I will remember Rahab and Babylon  
among those who know me;  
behold, Palestine, Tyre, and Ethiopia:  
everyone was born there.

**Guide 2:** Once in the city of God the people will begin a celebration with dance and songs. They note with admiration and amazement that each of them was born in Zion. As God's people, let us pray together.

It will be said of Zion: «The one and the other were born in it and the Most High holds it fast."

The Lord will write in the book of the peoples:

«He was born there».

And while dancing they will sing:

«All my sources are in you».

**Guide 1:** As an "echo" that expresses the universal brotherhood within the womb of Mother Zion we repeat the last verse in the mother tongue.

### **Personal reading**

*(time of silence and meditation)*

**Guide 2:** Jerusalem... Mornese... The return with the heart to the "native land" is a strengthening of one's identity, a feeding at the first source of life, a reinsertion into the space full of genuine affection, drawing from the past, and hope for the future. With a grateful heart let's say together:

*We have the eyes of our minds and hearts turned to Mornese.*

*This town is so small, this house is nothing,  
yet for us, it is still the center of life. (S. Costamagna).*

### **Song: I Love you Lord**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bxi4PIOBf7g>

I love you, Lord  
And I lift my voice  
To worship You  
Oh, my soul rejoice  
Take joy, my King

In what You hear  
May it be a sweet  
Sweet sound in Your ear (3x)

May it be a sweet  
Sweet sound in Your ear

**Guide 1:** We entrust ourselves to Mother Mary, the "daughter of Zion" with the feelings of the little ones, together with Main, who recognize themselves as chosen, loved by the Lord and who is a blessing for all peoples.

Mother Mazzarello reminds us, even today, that our presence will generate life if it is rooted in the presence of God who surrounds us and teaches us to listen, to walk together, to have a big and generous heart. To the first missionaries, Mother Mazzarello wrote: "Conserve as much as possible the spirit of union with God, live continuously in his presence". Living in this PRESENCE is the true interior school that shapes the heart of an FMA, it is a source of patience, humility, and listening; it is wisdom that opens up discernment to decipher the signs of God in reality; it is the secret of love in reciprocity and is the source of missionary audacity. (Charismatic Elements Pg.14-15)

**Song: Woman for all time – St. Maria Mazzarello**

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

Blessed are you  
God of all creation;  
You have revealed your designs  
To the humble and lowly of heart  
You choose the weak  
to confound the strong;  
To you alone all praise belongs.

For you have raised up for our world  
A woman so strong,  
A woman of compassion  
A woman of hope,  
A woman for her time,  
A woman for all time

From the sun-kissed hills of Mornese  
To all the world you show the way  
Maria you are guide and friend to all who seek you

Challenging, leading, teaching the ways of God to one and all  
Thru trials and hardships you stand tall.

For God has raised you for our world  
To be a woman so strong,  
A woman of compassion  
A woman of hope,  
A woman for her time,  
A woman for all time.

With St. John Bosco you are chosen and sent  
As a sign of God's love for the young  
"I entrust them to you" came the voice from above

With grateful hearts we celebrate your life and your love  
We celebrate your womanhood, your hope, your faith and courage

For God has raised You for our world  
To be a woman so strong, a woman of compassion A woman of hope,  
A woman for her time, A woman for all time

Maria Mazzarello a woman for her time Maria Mazzarello a woman for all time

**Guide 2:** With the vocational, Christian and Salesian experience lived by Maria Domenica as a gift and taken on as a task, it offers each Daughter of Mary Help of Christians the opportunity to read their own history with wisdom and to revitalize the charism both on a personal and community level.

«Reading good books is a sort of conversation  
with the best spirits of past centuries.»

Renée Descartes

**Guide 1:** With the book "With You Main, on the Pathways of Life" in our hands, we can meet Maria Domenica and have contact with the sources in which the Institute was born and developed. This experience becomes for each of us, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, a concrete opportunity to revive the beauty of our vocation.

May the joy of having met Jesus shine more and more in our lives and radiate on the young men and women who are entrusted to us for a daily journey of holiness, in the concreteness of history.

### **Instrumental Music**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAzKs9kvdrI>

*(While instrumental music plays, each sister takes a book)*

**Guide 2: Let us pray together,** We pray to you Lord that, with humility, tenacity and hope, we know how to commit ourselves to the search for the will of God, in fidelity to the spirit of the origins for a passionate following of Christ and a new apostolic dynamism. Help us to let ourselves be guided by the Mother of Jesus, to be like Main, a sign of joy, hope and audacity to do what You tell us. Amen.

