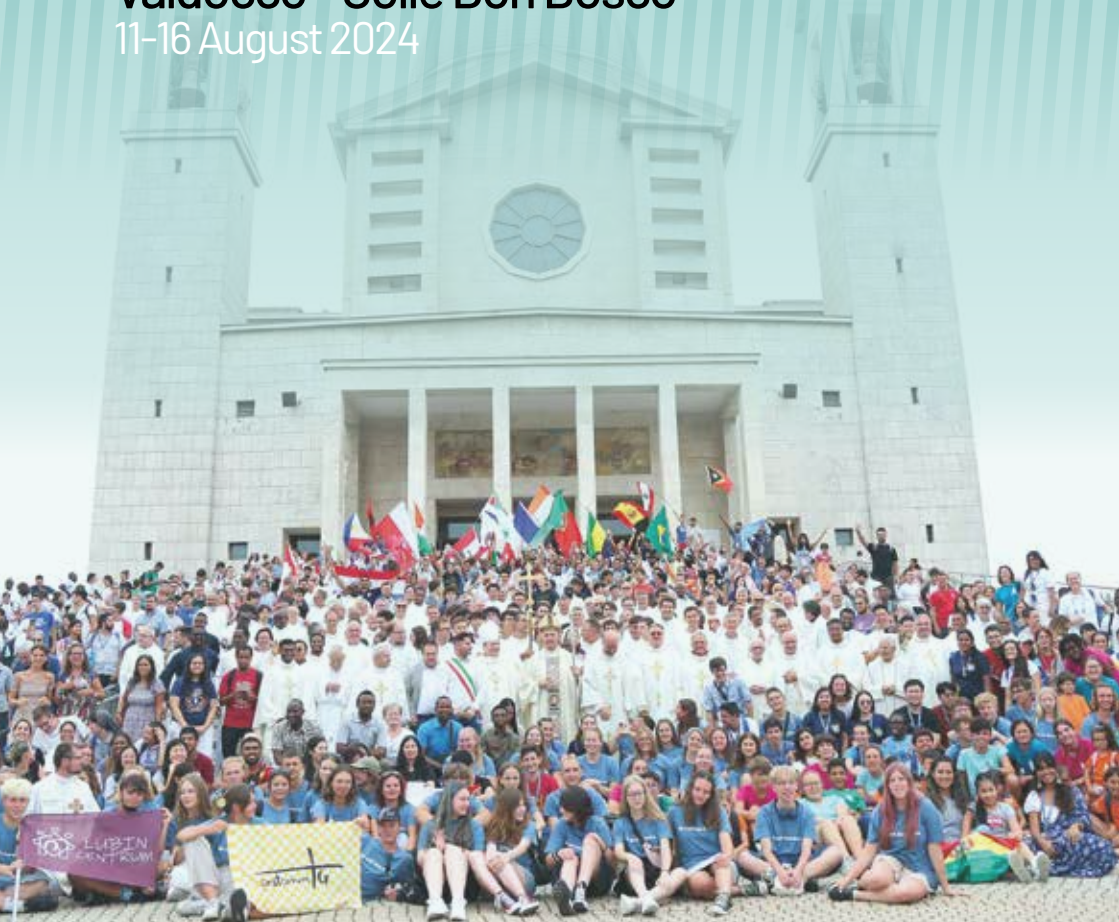




SALESIAN YOUTH SYNOD 2024

Valdocco - Colle Don Bosco
11-16 August 2024





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On the occasion of the bicentenary
celebrations of Don Bosco's Dream
at nine years of age



Initiative promoted by the Department of Youth Pastoral Care, SDB

Salesians of Don Bosco - Headquarters

Via Marsala, 42. 00185 Roma

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**SALESIAN
YOUTH
SYNOD 2024**

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1

THE DREAMS OF YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THEMSELVES



■ RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

We dream of establishing an intimate bond with God, the unshakable source of hope and inspiration, who placed His desire in our hearts through our dreams.

Through this relationship with God, we see the power of dreams to open our hearts to God, helping us to find our direction in life and establish authentic relationships that are not self-referential to become people who are convinced to place ourselves at the service of others. We hope this foundation will also help us build healthy connections with our family, friends, and others who can help us realize our dreams.

■ FAITH

We dream of anchoring our aspirations in faith, believing in the transformative power of prayer and the Gospel by which dreams turn into achievable goals.

We desire to draw strength from our faith community, devotion to Mary, and ongoing commitment to prayer and the sacraments to stay motivated in our spiritual lives and fulfill our dreams through the grace that enlightens them.

■ HOLINESS

Believing that holiness and vocation are two sides of the same coin, we dream of living a joyful life that is characterized by holiness whose foundation lies in the capacity to look at our lives through the eyes of God, according to the principles of love and self-offering. It is a kind of life that leads to the truth and the salvation of souls, built upon small daily steps taken in communion with God.

We dream of young people who work as a network to always hold the hand of the weakest, strengthen them, and journey together to reach the common goal of perfection and holiness.

■ LIVING AND EDUCATING IN THE SALESIAN WAY

We acknowledge the great gift of being Salesian youth leaders and animators and dream of being like Don Bosco in educating the young in the Salesian charism, using the preventive System to work with our fellow young people.

For this, we dream of being accompanied by the SDBs, FMAs, members of the Salesian family and other young people who, while living as reference figures that promote the meaning of life from the experience of faith, will enable us to aim high and show the presence of God in our relationship with others.

■ VOCATION

We dream of finding and living the dream and the path that God has prepared for each of us – our vocation. To achieve this, we need to understand the meaning of life and God's will for us here and now in His overall plan for society and the Church, and in a dialogue that always respects our personal freedom.

Surely, we experience doubts as we try to discover our real identity, our potential, limitations and strengths. Hence, we look for joyful models to accompany us personally and spiritually, who try to the best of their abilities, to live authentic human and Christian values in different states of life.

We dream of a Church that is a family that spreads the love of God, who can listen and accompany us personally and spiritually in the realization of our vocations, who shows us examples of a good and joyful life, and who instills in us trust and hope in the Lord. It helps to start by making our own families an environment of love and acceptance that is grounded in Christ, and a witness of coherence and service to others.

■ CAREER

We dream of obtaining careers that reflect our dreams and are not born of the pressure of society to pursue only material wealth. A career that is achieved through hard work, patience, and support from our communities, and is inspired by our dreams so that it becomes an opportunity to share our gifts.

■ FORMATION

We dream of a spiritual and professional formation that is of quality and accessible to all, which integrates new processes and experiences in the light of the Salesian charism. We want to acquire knowledge and skills through study, formation, unwavering determination, and the development of resilience to make our dreams come true, put direction in our lives, and give our contribution to building the Church and society.

■ FAMILY

We dream of building a stable and happy family. We want to live comfortably beyond our homes' physical structure, in homes that are characterized by fruitfulness and reciprocal love.

We dream of creating our own families that give meaning to our lives and fulfill God's plans. With determination and hope for a more dignified life, we would like to transform our homes into ones that are strong in evangelical educational values to make a difference in the world.

■ PARTICIPATION AND POLITICAL ASSISTANCE

We dream of a more just and equitable society, that works for human dignity and human rights through creating public policy for a more dignified future for ourselves and future generations, where political groups leave corruption behind and strive to ensure that all

citizens – including young people – can have economic and political stability, as well as opportunities to travel for pleasure and not migrate out of obligation.

■ COMMON HOME

We dream of it being an ongoing mission in life to care for our common home, in both the environment and the people around us, because we understand that everything is God's work and that to protect His work, is to thank and honor Him.

■ PROTAGONISTS OF A CARING COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY

We dream of creating safe environments for young people where they are supported to dream without reservation or judgment. We hope that difficult situations may remind us to follow and fulfill our dreams and to ensure that future generations do not experience the same. We dream of being protagonists, examples and apostles of a culture of care that promotes healthy relationships, joy, authenticity, emotional responsibility, mental health, empathy, happiness and the ability to positively influence others, learning to love and be loved.



THE DREAMS
OF THE
YOUNG
PEOPLE FOR
SOCIETY AND
THE CHURCH



■ A SOCIETY THAT VALUES YOUNG PEOPLE

We dream of a society that is capable of listening, dialoguing, and offering opportunities to strengthen the protagonism of young people, in the knowledge that young people are precisely their present and future and that adults have the delicate and special task of being points of reference and encouragement to keep up in a world that is moving so fast and increasingly demands that we keep up. A society where young people are protected, supported and listened to, creating spaces where they can face difficult situations; a society that is more respectful of differences in experience and opinion, and, above all, more inclusive.

■ OPENNESS, ACCEPTANCE AND EQUALITY

We dream of a society that includes and welcomes everyone as a person, especially young people and those who are marginalized in one way or another. We want a society that welcomes young people without discrimination and does not force them to show themselves to be accepted; a society that values young people's talents, supports their vulnerabilities and preserves evangelical values to let the light of Christ shine in the world.

It is a society that does not pit people against each other, that does not force them into race to be at the top and be better than others, and that does not focus on performance and results but teaches them to recognize themselves and to seek their own value, their place in the world and their own strengths to help others.

■ GOOD POLITICAL LEADERS

We dream of a political class that exercises its leadership with maturity, and responsibility and is always at the service of society, guaranteeing the opportunities that young people - especially those most in need - need to develop their life projects in fullness and freedom.

■ PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS THAT CARES FOR THE NEEDY

We dream of a society that cares for the needy and marginalized. In contrast to the "throw-away culture", we want to take a more active and relevant role in the renewal of society and institutions - a social and political involvement will allow us to recognize the true priorities.

On this account, we also dream of a society that provides an orientation that transforms contexts in the places where we live. We yearn for political interventions and assistance that respond to the needs in the respective areas.

■ COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

We dream of a society that promotes comprehensive education for all that guarantees critical thinking, a differentiated approach, and the care and protection of our common home.

We wish to be educated and for other young people to receive political education and build models that they can follow, enabling them to enhance their leadership in these spaces.

■ TRUST BETWEEN ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We dream of a society where there is mutual trust between adults and young people, a relationship that is not burdened by judgments and prejudices. We dream of adults who are helpful and happy, who through their experience, listen to young people and recognize their enrichment without seeing them as a problem. Together with young people who listen to and allow themselves to be inspired by the experiences of older people.

■ HEALING AND SOLIDARITY

We acknowledge the hurt and suffering experienced in the past and present, and dream of a society that seeks deep and genuine healing of past wounds (familial, social, institutional, political, etc.). It is a society that builds bridges and works for unity and peace, in the hope of a social and more integrated society.

■ SOCIETAL PRESSURE AND DIGITAL MEDIA

We dream of a society where we experience less pressure and judgment made by others, including in our families. We have experienced the pressures of the digital world, which projects perfection and high ideals. We want to move beyond these false realities and invest our time in productive pursuits including digital evangelization, whilst overcoming addiction to Social Media.

■ THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY IN COLLABORATION

We dream of closer collaboration between the Church and society so that they can become the promoters of everyone's rights together - so that it is recognized that they both serve the people.

In these relationships, human dignity and life should always be recognized, respected and protected.

■ THE CHURCH WITH CHRIST AT ITS HEART

We dream of a Church that is a vibrant place full of faith, with Christ at its heart.

We dream that the Church is not afraid to make courageous proposals that could lead young people to make brave life choices.

■ CHURCH IN MISSION (REACHES OUT)

We dream of a Church that is always on a mission here and now, a presence of the living Christ in the territory in which we live. It is an outgoing church (be it the Salesian family, youth, or laypeople) that seeks to proclaim and make more people aware of the gospel.

The mission is based above all on listening and attentive observation in order to respond to contemporary reality. This is why we dream of a Church that is on the move and up-to-date, which turns its eyes to everyone, welcoming them with individual attention and at the same time without lowering the evangelical proposal.

■ OPENNESS, ACCEPTANCE AND EQUALITY

We also dream of a Church that is authentic, inclusive, empathetic, sincere, transparent, tolerant, responsible, spiritual and attentive to young people. It is a Church that is open and compassionate to the experiences of all people - personal trauma, race, belief and gender - without condemnation.

Whilst striving for the fullness of life and truth in Jesus, we dream of a Church that is welcoming, willing to listen to different and opposing opinions, especially those of young people, and fostering an environment of encounter and dialogue where they are respected and not labeled.

It is a Church that joyfully makes known the message of Jesus in the Gospel while it seeks ongoing and updated training processes that provide the necessary tools to accompany in facing current problems, especially those experienced by young people.

■ CREDIBLE LEADERS AND GUIDES

We dream of a Church that is led by credible people. It is a Church where our leaders, the Salesians, collaborate with the Christian

community and live like Don Bosco in the playground, and are available to listen to young people. We also dream of Church leaders who evangelize with the love of Christ and exemplify his teaching by being close to the reality of young people.

We dream of a Church in which we find mature people who can accompany and guide young people in matters of affectivity and sexuality. This accompaniment is based on a non-judgmental and welcoming atmosphere for everyone and must respect the truths about love.

We dream of a Church that works and walks together in community to impact the lives of Christians and non-Christians.

■ A COURAGEOUS CHURCH THAT GIVES PROTAGONISM TO YOUNG PEOPLE

We dream of a Church that moves away from power, clericalism, and the excessive use of authority, that includes and gives real protagonism to all, especially young people, regardless of their life situation, such as economic and social diversity, sexual and gender diversity, or functional diversity, among others. We desire genuine listening from our Church and a sense of home where we are educated in our faith, and where the Church is not afraid to entrust responsibilities to the young in a spirit of shared responsibility.

We dream of a courageous Church that speaks out in the face of conflict, defends human rights, is not “lukewarm” out of fear, and is involved in political and social affairs in favor of the most vulnerable.

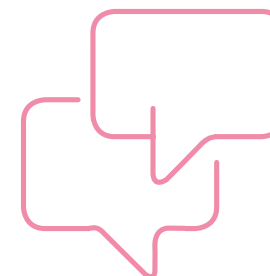
■ VOCATION

We dream of a Church that helps young people discover their vocation, accompanying them in their vocational search. It is a Church that accompanies young people in their discernment and encourages them to make themselves available for service by giving their lives as religious, priests, or committed lay people.

■ EVANGELIZATION IN YOUTHFUL LANGUAGE

We dream of a Church that attracts young people by being proud of the faith she professes and creatively joyful in its animation. We dream of a Church that wants to connect to its community with concrete, relatable Catechism teaching, and formation that young people can understand in their language and relate to in their own life. With this comes a more youthful language that brings the evangelical context to contemporary times, making it easier for young people to understand and feel represented in their current way of life, thus fostering identification. We would also like to see other teaching methods that pass on the tradition without losing its essence.

We dream of a Church that goes out to those who do not feel they are loved or welcome and invites others to share in our life of prayer and Sacraments and be a Church that encourages all to proclaim the faith to bring others to Jesus.



3

THE DREAM OF YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE SALESIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT



■ CENTERED ON CHRIST

We dream of a Salesian Youth Movement that is centered on the Risen Christ, the bearer of his love and salvation through the Salesian charism, which helps us to achieve holiness and live joyfully the Christian life.

We dream of a SYM that contributes to being the right witness to the Gospel of Christ through the Salesian charism in all areas of society (political, professional,...).

We desire the SYM to be the place where young people discover God and their dreams in life. Hence, the Salesian Youth Spirituality becomes the accessible and trustworthy way for a profound personal encounter with Jesus and growth in faith in Him, helping each young person to discern and live their life project.

■ KNOWLEDGE OF DON BOSCO AND THE SYM

We dream of a Salesian Youth Movement that provides great opportunities to know more about Don Bosco's life so that young people in the provinces can assimilate more of his values, spirituality, affection for loving kindness and way of life.

We wish to recognize the identity of the Salesian Youth Movement, the preventive system, and the charism. We long to have clarity and to fully understand the Salesian Youth Movement, in order to promote a sense of belonging.

■ PROTAGONISM OF THE YOUNG

We dream of a Salesian Youth Movement in which the real protagonists are the young people, who – while being accompanied – assume their responsibilities and make decisions through a global and stable structure; thus, it becomes a constant creator of protagonists. As young people exercise leadership, they imitate the Good

Shepherd in their roles as youth-serving youth and SYM animators who serve with pure intentions and not for the status or approval of others.

In this service, the young leaders together with SDBs and FMAs focus on the long processes and formation, and not only on events.

■ INTEGRAL FORMATION

We dream of a Salesian Youth Movement as a place and opportunity for strong encounters and integral formation on human, professional, spiritual, and missionary levels.

We dream of it being a place of formation and human and missionary growth, a place of ecclesial experience and evangelization, a place of encounter and sharing with and for young people.

It provides formation that:

- helps to better grasp and assess reality instead of avoiding and escaping it;
- opens up the possibility of dialogue, and realistically integrates technology and new methodologies into formation activities;
- trains young people professionally by taking care of their future and helping them to integrate fully into society as “good Christians and upright citizens”.
- responds to the dreams, desires, needs, and deep-seated issues of each young person.
- and presents the different vocations in the Church and the Salesian Family.

■ A SPACE TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

We dream that the Salesian Youth Movement will continue to be a meeting place for many young people, where they can experience friendships and build close relationships based on mutual trust.

We are convinced that relationships, when they are authentic, are a space to find oneself and one's identity.

For this reason, we want the SYM to help young people cultivate various skills, including the ability to build relationships with others and discover the talents the Lord has given us.

■ STRENGTHENING SYM REACH AND IDENTITY

We dream of a Salesian Youth Movement that experiences growth in its reach while building the young people's identity as good Christians and upright citizens. We desire to create a proud sense of identity as Salesian youth, inviting more youth to belong to the SYM and for SYM to be a pastoral approach even in non-Christian contexts.

■ A VEHICLE FOR YOUTH'S INTEGRATION INTO SOCIETY

We dream of the Salesian Youth Movement to be the means that help young people integrate into society and enter the world of work. In other words, it is a movement that is capable of skillfully and effectively intervening in social change to meet the challenges facing our societies today.

■ SYM AS DRIVING FORCE OF CHANGE

We dream of a committed SYM that is the driving force of social and ecclesial changes, that forms leaders who spearhead social transformation, and is recognized throughout the world for its significant impact on the lives of young people and society in general.

■ SYM FOR THE WORLD

We dream of a globalized Salesian Youth Movement that brings together many young people to help them discover the beauty of the

charism together with the whole Salesian family, and promote the exchange of experiences and the construction of ideas. We dream that it will enable the most disadvantaged young people to take part in the major meetings.

■ A MOVEMENT THAT DISCOVERS VOCATIONS

We dream of discovering our vocations within the Salesian Youth Movement and putting them into practice.

■ AT THE SERVICE OF, FOR AND IN THE CHURCH

We dream of a Salesian Youth Movement that is more present, visible and at the service of the Church, for the Church and in the Church, opening up to other Christian youth movements and to the dioceses so that the SYM is not isolated from the rest of the Church.

We want to strive to be more open and accessible to people outside the Salesian world so that the SYM is a home for all.

We dream that the SYM will be more present in the ecclesial organization at all levels (local, national, regional, congregational and universal) so that the members of the SYM feel more part of the Church, understand each other's realities and cultures, and value and share the *proprium* of the Salesian charism.

■ A WELCOMING MOVEMENT WITHOUT PREJUDICE

We dream of a Salesian Youth Movement that is, in its own way, a place that promotes a welcome without prejudice, fraternal encounters, and education for a positive worldview; a place of acceptance and understanding for people with different lifestyles and opinions. It is a SYM that is, in the Church and for the Church, a welcoming and inclusive home, capable of accompanying everyone in their search for the dream of God and, at the school of a great dreamer, of bear-

ing witness with optimism and family spirit to the beauty of the Gospel and the Salesian charism, and of living the Salesian spirituality of young people in everyday life.

■ COLLABORATION OF SDB AND FMA

We dream of a Salesian Youth Movement of communion, in which the FMA and the SDB work together in the service of young people, being freed from other management tasks and able to share their life and their vocation with them. We dream of a more integrated Salesian Family that values the voice of youth.

■ A PROCESS WITH CONTINUITY

We dream of the Salesian Youth Movement being a project to be lived, not a predetermined one, with a continuous, systematic and sustainable process, with itineraries drawn up by advisers and young people, with the participation of former members. We dream of a SYM that promotes the active participation of former members so that they become a point of reference for Salesian life and spirituality (resource persons, mentors, networking, etc.).





**SALESIAN
YOUTH
SYNOD 2024**

Valdocco - Colle Don Bosco
11-16 August 2024

DECALOGUE OF THE SDB AND FMA



SDB AND FMA PARTICIPANTS



Agustín María Camiletti (SDB), Argentina

Anne Frances Mcnamee (FMA), Scotland

Chanda Nsofwa (FMA), Zambia

Claudiane Da Silva Cavalcante (FMA), Brasil

Dieudonne Ramazani Lukundula (SDB), Tunisia

Domenico Savio Ha Yun Seong (SDB), Corea del Sud

Elio Cesari (SDB), Italy

Ermelinda Blanca Mamani Liendro (FMA), Bolivia

Fabián Cárdenas (SDB), United States

Francisco Cervantes (SDB), México

Herlinda Palomino (FMA), Italy

Ivone Goulart Lopes (FMA), Brasil

Jerry Chase Hadley Matsoumbou Mabilia (SDB), Congo Brazzaville

Johannes Haas (SDB), Austria

Jose Lorbeth Vivo (SDB), Philippines

Jue Thet Che Cmy (FMA), Myanmar

Kalyani Subramaniam (FMA), India

Karen Vivanco Cerda (FMA), Chile

Kinga Adamiak (FMA), Poland

Krzysztof Tomeczowski (SDB), Poland

Laura Marcela Melara Cordova (FMA), El Salvador

Lolia Neli (FMA), India

Luigina Silvestrin (FMA), Italy

Luz Aurora Garcia Juarez (FMA), México

Manoel Messias Da Silva (SDB), Brasil

María Isabel Gómez Ranera (FMA), Spain

Michela Consolandi (FMA), Italy

Michele Reolon (SDB), Italy

Moneyeng Alloumba Theodora (FMA), Gabon

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Oscar Lozano Rios (SDB), Colombia

Patrick Lepcha (SDB), India

Pidewa Sylvain Agbangba (SDB), Togo

Rafael Bejarano Rivera (SDB), Colombia

Ralin De Souza (SDB), India

Somieabalo Ama-Edi Didier Meba (SDB), Burkina

Sydney Moss (FMA), United States

Theophilus Ehioghilen (SDB), Nigeria

Uriel Jauregui (SDB), Perú

Victorius Koli Koten Victor (SDB), Indonesia

Xabier Camino (SDB), Spain



DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE, on the occasion of the celebration of the Bicentenary of Don Bosco's Dream at the age of nine, a questionnaire was sent to the Provincial Youth Pastoral teams around the world, both for the FMA and the SDB, with the question: What can we do, effectively and concretely, to help the young people realize their dreams in life? The responses to the questionnaire were organized according to the main themes that emerged from the results.

The focus of the Salesian Youth Synod is on the reflection and dialogue among young people. However, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and Salesians of Don Bosco who were present present want to reaffirm and concretize our commitment to accompany young people in the realization of their dreams and the dreams that God has for them.

To support this, they wrote a Decalogue, which is the fruit of the dialogue and reflections made by the FMA and SDB who were present at the Salesian Youth Synod held in Valdocco and Colle Don Bosco August 11 - 16, 2024:

1 AUTHENTICITY AND CHARISMATIC FIDELITY

We commit ourselves to be faithful to the charism given to us by our founders, St. John Bosco and St. Maria Domenica Mazzarello, by being authentic witnesses to our Salesian consecrated life, accompanying young people in the realization of God's dream for them.

2 LISTENING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

We commit ourselves to creating safe spaces and listening attentively to the stories, dreams, aspirations, expectations and passions of the young people to be part of their lives.

3 PRESENCE AND ACCOMPANIMENT

We commit ourselves to living and practicing the sacrament of Salesian presence by being systematically present among young people, listening to them, getting to know their concerns, and offering them personalized accompaniment so they can achieve the dream God has for them.

4 KNOWING THE REALITY OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE

We commit ourselves to inhabiting the life and culture of young people as a Salesian educational-pastoral requirement that enables us to respond to their deepest needs and aspirations.

5 SERVICE EXPERIENCE AND MISSION

We commit ourselves to facilitating young people's participation in service and volunteer activities with experiential training proposals that cultivate their talents to become good Christians and honest citizens, with the capacity to promote new missionary leaders in the educational, social, political and vocational fields.

6 FORMATION, EDUCATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

We commit ourselves to promoting an educational environment that fosters the development of critical thinking and human, relational, professional and technological skills to make young people responsible protagonists in their daily lives.



7 EVANGELIZATION AND ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST

We commit ourselves to proclaiming Jesus Christ to young people through formative itineraries of spiritual growth by creating a culture of silence and reflection for prayer and meditation to facilitate a personal encounter with Christ through sharing God's Word, the Sacraments and devotion to Mary Help of Christians.

8 PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

We commit ourselves to promoting and educating to a culture of discernment, facilitating vocational and professional discernment, not only for religious life but for all vocations.

9 SALESIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

We commit ourselves to promoting the local, national and international coordination and animation of the structures of the Salesian Youth Movement, to reinforce its significance for evangelization and growth in Salesian Youth Spirituality.

10 FAMILY

We commit ourselves to working with families, integrating them into our educational-pastoral support processes, and providing formation itineraries that help our young people build the family.

