**PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 SALESIAN SPIRITUALITY DAYS**

Good morning to every one from Valdocco, Don Bosco’s house.

I would also like to add a “welcome” to all of you here at Valdocco and to everyone else following on social networks from the five continents.

I am doing so in the name of the entire team of the Rector Major’s Secretariat for the Salesian Family, and of everyone who has been and is collaborating in preparations for and the running of these Spirituality Days. There are many such people, coordinated on this occasion by Fr Alejandro Guevara. I would like to thank all of them for the enthusiasm and effort they have put into this event (an event that has now reached its 40th year: what a marvellous initiative put in place during Fr Viganó’s term of office!).

Lat year we began the adventure of holding the Days online. This year, in addition to being online, we also have in-person attendance: it is a significant one here at Valdocco, and in many other places around the Provinces. Together we are establishing a wonderful network of communion among all Salesian Family Groups gathered around the Rector Major and strongly committed to the Salesian mission among the young people of our world.

This is one of the "Novelties" that the Lord is giving growth to in the world around us. Undoubtedly it is a sign that we are "moved by hope", urged on by last year’s Strenna. This is what we sought to bring together in the booklet "news of the Kingdom of God emerging in Groups of the Salesian Family" that has been sent out to the Advisory Councils in the Provinces.

This year we will be accompanied on our spiritual and missionary journey by the figure of St Francis de Sales. During these days we will have the opportunity to get to know better the spirituality that motivated him in his apostolic mission, in a religious context that was by no means easy; a spirituality and an apostolic sense that, as we know, deeply nourished Don Bosco's BEING and DOING in carrying out the mission among the young to whom the Lord consecrated him.

This is the theme of these Family Days that the Lord is giving us, a gift we gladly accept.

Our meeting will focus on the Rector Major's Strenna and the commentary he will give us, presenting the letter he has addressed to the whole Salesian Family.

Five “profound connoisseurs” of the spirituality of Francis de Sales will throw light on the essence of his “All through love, nothing through constraint”, by means of the Round Table they have prepared. The words of the Rector Major and the contributions of our guests will undoubtedly move us to want to know St. Francis better, because his figure continues to illuminate Christian spirituality today like few others. “A giant”, the Rector Major rightly calls him.

And, of course, during these days we will try to get to know each other better (we have asked five groups to present their life and mission); to get to know some missionary experiences; to share as a group and share our reflections with the other Regions... All this in a family atmosphere of prayer and conviviality in which we will be able to have a meaningful experience of what the Strenna says: "Do all through love, nothing through constraint”.

Thank you for your participation, thank you for your testimony, thank you for the enthusiasm that we will instil in each other. Welcome. You are in your home, the common home of the Salesian Family, especially of the young and for the young. May Mary Help of Christians, from her Shrine, bless us all. She will be the Teacher who will help us to understand so many things that the Spirit inspired in Francis de Sales and Don Bosco.

Have wonderful and happy Days!