GREETINGS FROM FR LEONARDO MANCINI

TO THE SALESIAN FAMILY SPIRITUALITY DAYS 2023

VALDOCCO, 12 JANUARY 2022

Dear and beloved members of the Salesian Family, it is a great honour for me to welcome you here to Valdocco, Don Bosco’s house; you who are here in the hall are welcome, and all of you who are following online are equally welcome. We are celebrating the 41st edition of the Salesian Family Spirituality Days on the theme of the Strenna 2023, to which our dear Rector Major Fr Ángel wanted to give the following title: *As yeast in today’s human family. The lay dimension of the family of Don Bosco*.

The hope that I have for all of us who take part in the Days is that we can be “Salesian” yeast in society and the Church, as young people, as individual members and as different groups of the Family of Don Bosco.

Salesian yeast is unique and original, because this is how the Holy Spirit invented it and offered it to us. It is alive! It is made of reason, religion and love, it is dream dust – from God-inspired dreams – a concentrated something from Heaven because it comes from there. It is a catalyst for extraordinary charitable actions for young people, young adults all over the world, and would like to find its place in young people, young adults all over the world.

Salesian yeast is both silent and colourful, fragrant and tasty, fresh and youthful; it constantly opens up to everyday life and launches towards the future.

Well-kneaded in the hearts of educators, it urges them to say “now!”, to do God's will now, to grasp the *kairos*, the favourable moment now! And, at the same time, it teaches them to be patient and to wait for the time when people will grow and mature.

Well-kneaded in the hearts of the young, it awakens in them the awareness of their value in the eyes of God and the desire to work for him in amazing feats beyond all expectation.

Sown and immersed in the world, including through the commitment of many lay people in the Salesian Family, Don Bosco’s yeast gives growth to pastures and welcoming trees in the deserts of the cities...

Salesian yeast is not bought, it is only given, it is free. The Spirit gives it, and whoever receives it is called to give it in turn, in abundance! And the more you use it, the more it multiplies, grows, expands all over the world!

Thanks to the Spirit who gave it to us, thanks to Don Bosco who “flooded” the Church through his young people; and thanks to those who have brought it – from hand to hand, from dough to dough – to us.

My wish, with all my heart, is that we welcome the Salesian Family Spirituality Days as renewed yeast which asks us to grow and to make young people grow towards the stature of Christ!

May you all be happily involved!