



ASSOCIAZIONE DEI SALESIANI COOPERATORI COORDINATORE MONDIALE



Madrid, 15 May 2026

For the attention of All Salesian Cooperators

Subject: Greetings to all Salesian Cooperators.

15 May 2026 – Start of the Novena to Mary Help of Christians

Dear brothers and sisters, Salesian Cooperators from the five continents:

A few days after my appointment by the Rector Major as World Coordinator of the Association, I wish to send you this message of gratitude for your prayers and all the good wishes received.

And I do so today, as we begin the Novena to Mary Help of Christians, returning to what Don Bosco always did at decisive moments: **placing the future of our Association in the hands of the Mother**. She has accompanied us for 150 years and will continue to guide our steps with tenderness, boldness and fidelity.

We have just returned from a World Congress which, as we have been saying, was not an end but a new beginning. We have experienced the joy of walking together, of listening to one another, of discerning as a family, of encountering God in every brother and sister. And today, from every local centre, we wish to continue moving forward in that same spirit: **synodality, communion and co-responsibility**. We are not a collection of isolated voices, but a single body that allows itself to be led by the Spirit in the style of Don Bosco.

The world needs this style. It needs **a family spirit**, relationships that unite, communities that accompany, and people who spread hope. And we, as Salesian Cooperators, are called to offer this with simplicity and depth, wherever we live and work.

Young people, in particular, are waiting for us. They are not just looking for activities or experiences to pass the time. They need **meaningful role models** – adults rooted in Christ, passionate about the Salesian charism, capable of being a true Don Bosco for them today. That is why I invite you to seek out shared spaces close to young people, to be where they are, to listen to their questions, to walk at their pace.

And not only that: **let us give young people a real leading role in the Association**. They are not merely recipients; they are a living part of our mission. Let their creativity, their perspective and their faith renew our structures, our language and our dreams.

Let us live all this **in communion with the Salesian Family**, knowing that every vocation brings a unique richness. And let us remember that the Salesian charism is not our property: it is a gift for the whole Church. We are bearers, not exclusive custodians. Let us share it with generosity, with joy, with humility.

For my part, I wish **to place myself at the service of the Association** with a grateful heart and a spirit of openness. As I said on 9 May following my appointment, I want to continue to look and listen attentively to the Spirit, to the Church, to young people and to each one of you. Only together can we discern the path that God dreams of for us.



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May Mary Help of Christians take us by the hand during these nine days and teach us to be **a humble and fruitful leaven** in the world. May she grant us the courage to dream, the joy of serving and the faithfulness to remain united to Christ.

With fraternal affection,

The World Coordinator
Borja Pérez