

complete self for me specifically, and that is something I will always be grateful for."

What was the moment that changed everything in your life that brought you to the Salesians and closer to God?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for revealing Yourself to us through the important encounters we've had in our lives. Help us to say "yes!" to Your Call and the ones who brought us there.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us. St. John Bosco, pray for us. Bl. August Czarotyski, pray for us.

Day 7: Inspiring New Ideas: Don Bosco and St. Luigi Guanella

Sometimes we're meant to be where we are for a period of time so we can go on to the chapter that God has for us. Such was the case of St. Luigi Guanella, who encountered Don Bosco and served as a Salesian before he founded his own Congregations.

"Although change and transition lead to many uncertainties, they are also moments that call us to return to the basics," Amy Marinaro, Province Offices of Youth Ministry and Vocations expressed. "By revisiting our mission and charism, we are invited to bring new life to and build upon our roots. There is an opportunity in embracing these moments of change, whether big or small, to creatively speak into the hearts of a multigenerational Church."

How can you trust that God is taking you to where you need to be in life and that He will get you there?

Prayer

Lord, help us realize that we are on the right path and revisit our mission and charism. Help us to create the change we wish to see with Your blessings and grace.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us. St. John Bosco, pray for us. St. Luigi Guanella, pray for us.

Day 8: Accompaniment Through Life: Don Bosco and Bl. Michael Rua

Accompaniment is not only for the young; it does not conclude when someone hits a certain age. It was through Don Bosco's accompaniment with Don Rua that he heard the call to be a Salesian priest and close collaborator of Don Bosco, and ultimately became his first successor.

"We have not been made to live life on our own. When I left home for college, everything I had ever learned was challenged," Josephina Milan, Salesian Young Adult reflected. "This brought a lot of growth, but it also brought new doubts and fears. The right people helped pull me back when I was drifting away."

What are some ways that you can see how we are made to be accompanied?

Prayer

Lord, we ask You to bless every person, young and old, who we have accompanied. We pray in a special way for any of those that we have lost contact with. Continue to guide them and send them witnesses of Your love.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us. St. John Bosco, pray for us. Bl. Michael Rua, pray for us.

Day 9: Trusting in Divine Guidance: Don Bosco and Mary Help of Christians

Don Bosco put his trust in Our Lady Help of Christians and saw the miracle of the Salesian Congregation take hold. From when he had his life-changing dream as a child to beyond his death, he used his encounter with Mary to save millions of souls and bring them to God.

"Don Bosco entrusted himself completely to Our Lady; and he saw what miracles are," Sr. Elfie Del Rosario, FMA proclaimed. "He invites us to do the same. 'Be humble, steadfast and strong in surrendering to the work of Jesus in our lives and taking Mary as our guide every step of the way.' Don Bosco promised that we will see miracles in our lifetime for God that cannot be outdone in generosity!"

How can we trust in God, rest in the love of our Blessed Mother, and "be humble, steadfast, and strong?"

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for giving young John Your Mother Mary as the best teacher and guide. Mary, thank you for showing Don Bosco the field of his work and guiding him in it throughout his life and in the next. May we always be assured of your love and entrust everything we do to you and the Blessed Sacrament and see God's miracles unfold.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us. St. John Bosco, pray for us.



Don Bosco Novena 2022

ENCOUNTERS WITH
GOD AND OUR FOUNDER

Day 1: Nurturing in the Faith in the Home: Don Bosco and Mama Margaret

Like Don Bosco, most of us were brought to God as children. Like our parents with us, Mama Margaret presence with God and her children helped young John accept God's call.

"The new statue of Mama Margaret in the Valdocco playground expresses the tender yet firm affection of a mother who encounters a child in need," Fr. Tim Zak, SDB, Provincial shared. "Don Bosco and his brothers grew up in a home, economically poor, yet rich in this love. He invited Mama Margaret to Valdocco so all young people could grow in a familial environment filled with God's loving spirit."

How can you bring your parents into your vocation by thanking them for strengthening your encounter with God?

Prayer

Hail Mary...

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us. St. John Bosco, pray for us. Ven. Margaret Bosco, pray for us.

Day 2: Learning from Mentors: Don Bosco and St. Joseph Cafasso

Even saints need mentors in their lives who help them discern God's call. Don Bosco constantly turned to St. Joseph Cafasso for direction and assistance in making important decisions. Ultimately, it was St. Joseph Cafasso's guidance and example that led Don Bosco to begin his life's work of establishing an Oratory for boys living on the streets of Turin.

"When we are young, we often get caught up on what we do not know, whether it be something personal, professional, or spiritual," Danny Trosa, Salesian Young Adult commented. "Whether intentional or unintentional, we have the opportunity to learn from our elders, in age, experience, or even spiritual development, to better guide us along to discovering our lived purpose and fulfill the Lord's mission for us. It is a lifelong opportunity that we all come across."

Who has been a mentor in your life, and how has he/she impacted your journey of faith?

Prayer

Lord, we are grateful for the mentors You have placed in our lives. Open our hearts to recognize and receive your Word

through the various people we encounter each day.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us. St. John Bosco, pray for us. St. Joseph Cafasso, pray for us.

Day 3: Growing from Mentee to Mentor: Don Bosco and St. Dominic Savio

As we mature, we find ourselves emulating our mentors when we recognize greatness in youth. As Don Bosco advised St. Dominic Savio, "the first thing to do in order to become a saint is to try to win souls for God. It is easy to become a saint, and great rewards are promised to the saints in Heaven."

"Do not forget that you are here on this earth for a short time and that your home is in Heaven. May we strive to help ourselves and others to attain it," Patricia "Pat" Sobel, Salesian Cooperator implored. "Let us open our hearts to God so that He may lead us and others on this path that leads to Him and to our eternal happiness."

How can you put yourself in the shoes of your mentors and help mentees open their hearts to God and answer His call?

Prayer

Lord, guide us to truly be present with the young whom we serve. Help us to be patient as we accompany them to discern their vocations and be saints through love.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us. St. John Bosco, pray for us. St. Dominic Savio, pray for us.

Day 4: Creating Partnerships: Don Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello

We often think we might be the only ones with a passion for our faith, which is the farthest from the truth. Let's examine the coming together of Don Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello to found the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

"The meeting between Mother Mazzarello and Don Bosco was no accident nor was it solely an initiative of Don Pestarino," Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA Delegate to the Salesian Family in the Eastern USA proclaimed. "The Will of our Heavenly Father for the salvation of all mankind is carried out when we willingly seek in prayer and in action to follow His lead."

Have you been moved by the Holy Spirit to share an idea

with a family member, colleague, or friend?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for having planted seeds of greatness within us. Grant us the courage to unite with those around us and let our beautiful roots grow and bear great fruit for You.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us. St. John Bosco, pray for us. St. Mary Mazzarello, pray for us.

Day 5: Encouraging Growth: Don Bosco and Bl. Pius IX

At work or school, we can sometimes be afraid to share our ideas. Yet our superiors are eager to encourage us to succeed, as Bl. Pius IX did with Don Bosco, and have much on their plates, too.

"The gift of support and encouragement from our superiors is essential. But let us not forget that they have been given the difficult responsibility of leadership and of making decisions on behalf of others," Fr. Steve DeMaio, SDB remarked. "May we who are meant to follow do so with a great sense of generosity and loving obedience as Don Bosco did. Let us all strive to make ourselves loved."

How can we practice loving kindness to make our voices heard yet also follow with obedience in our hearts?

Prayer

Lord, we pray for all of our superiors; that they may be given the grace to fulfill this task with humility and a real desire to serve. Help them as they discern what's best for them, for us, and for all our communities, parishes, schools, and works.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us. St. John Bosco, pray for us. Bl. Pius IX, pray for us.

Day 6: A Moment That Changes Everything: Don Bosco and Bl. August Czarторыski

It only takes a moment for us to realize our true vocation, regardless of who we are, where we come from, or what other people tell us to be. When Bl. August Czarторыski encountered Don Bosco, he realized his call and never gave up on his dream to live his consecrated life as a Salesian.

"The moment you realize that God is real and God is for you is a moment I can explain in such detail and remember so vividly on my SLR back in 2018," Samantha Lawless, Salesian Young Adult recalled. "The Salesians helped me be comfortable with the fact that Jesus wanted to give His