



To the Provincials and Superiors of Preprovinces  
Their headquarters

**Subject: World Day of Gratitude 2025**

Dearest Sisters,

I greet you all on the commemoration of Mary Help of Christians of this month of February, with the joy of getting in touch with you in view of the coming World Day of Gratitude 2025.

As already announced, the Feast will be celebrated in the **Vietnamese Province "Mary Help of Christians" (VTN), on 26 April**. In this annual appointment, which our tradition gives us in an atmosphere of prayer and joy, we express our gratitude and filial affection to our dearest Mother, Sister Chiara Cazzuola, center of communion of the Institute.

The celebration of this feast will be once again, a sign of love and fidelity and will give us the opportunity to express a 'choral thank you' to Mother, who with generous dedication and wisdom, guides the Institute in the concreteness of daily giving. Grateful for the invaluable gift that her animation represents for each of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and for the Educating Communities of the world, we live this time of preparation with sentiments of gratitude.

In the sacred climate of the Jubilee Year, which for us coincides with the beginning of preparations for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first FMA missionary departure, we wish to live deeply the words of Saint Mary Mazzarello, "*It is time to revive the fire*", the fire of the Gospel, of mission, of hope, and also the fire of gratitude. In this climate, illuminated by the Word of God, "**Christ Jesus our hope**" (1 Tim 1:1), we celebrate the Feast of Gratitude 2025 with the theme:

***"Light the Gospel of hope"***

The beautiful logo of the Festival, which "Mary Help of Christians" Province of Vietnam proposes to us, contains a deep message expressed through the various elements that compose it:

**Globe:** The dark blue circle represents the Earth, the common home of humanity, in which people give and receive love and care. It is here that we, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, dedicate ourselves with attentive solicitude to the education of young people.

**Map of Vietnam:** In Vietnam, the seed of the Salesian charism was planted by the first missionaries and continues to grow. This is also the meeting place, the place to express the gratitude of all FMA towards our Mother on the Feast of Gratitude 2025.

**Bronze Drum:** sacred symbol of the culture, art, and national history, in harmony with the other cultures of the world. The Bronze Drum bears in itself the pride of origins and symbolizes the deep Vietnamese spirituality.

**Mary Help of Christians:** The image of Mary stands out as the Mother of Hope. Her mantle is wide, full of maternal love, always open to accompany, love, protect, and support each of her children all over the world.

**Anchor and Cross:** The Christian life can be firm only if it is anchored to Christ, source of hope. The Anchor and the Cross are an invitation for all to place their total trust in God. This is why we are committed to spreading the light of the Gospel.

**Fire and youth:** The center of the logo is fire and young people. Faithful to their vocation, accompanied by Mary and in communion with the Institute, each FMA becomes a "living monument of gratitude" with the enthusiasm to proclaim Christ to all, especially to the young people.



### **Journey of preparation**

"Mary Help of Christians" Province of Vietnam, in preparation for the Feast of Gratitude, proposes a four-week itinerary. Each week the material for the Lectio divina and the prayer intention will be offered on the website of the Institute; there we will also find the prayer of entrustment to Mary proposed for this period.

We are invited to live with Mary, the Word of God because "hope finds in the Mother of God the highest witness. In her we see that hope is not empty optimism, but a gift of grace in the realism of life."<sup>1</sup>

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Week (26 March - 5 April): *Jesus Christ – source of hope***

— *Word of God:* "Christ Jesus, our hope" (1 Tm 1:1).

— *Prayer Intention:* We pray for peace in the world and for the integrity of creation.

"The Jubilee reminds us that those who make themselves 'agents of peace' will be called children of God" (Mt 5:9). The need for peace calls to all and requires us to pursue concrete projects."<sup>2</sup>

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Week (6 April - 12 April): *Pilgrims of hope***

— *Word of God:* "Hope does not disappoint" (Rm 5:5).

— *Prayer Intention:* We pray for young people and migrants.

— "May the Jubilee be in the Church an occasion of... closeness to young people, joy and hope for the Church and the world!"<sup>3</sup>

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Week (13 April - 19 April): *Witnesses of hope for the world***

— *Word of God:* "Always be ready to answer anyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Pt 3:15).

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<sup>1</sup> *Spes non confundit*, n. 24.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, n. 8.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, n. 12.

— *Prayer Intention*: We pray for the FMA to be always enthusiastic about the proclamation of the Gospel.

“[The Jubilee] May it be for all a time of a living and personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, "door" of salvation (cf. Jn 10:7.9); with Him the Church has the mission to proclaim always, everywhere, and to everyone .”<sup>4</sup>

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Week (20 April - 25 April), *Week of Gratitude: Light the Gospel of Hope***

— *Word of God*: “Were not our hearts burning within us?” (Lk 24:32).

— *Prayer Intention*: Express gratitude and pray for Mother Chiara Cazzuola.

Let us live with joy our gratitude towards Mary, model of Hope. At the same time, we express our gratitude to the Institute and, in a special way, we pray for Mother.

#### **Sign of hope to share**

To signify our commitment to live and generate hope, **each Province is invited to share a photograph** that expresses hope in its own reality, with a short caption, along with the word "hope" translated into some of the languages spoken by the Province. Please send the photo in landscape format, with a good resolution (not less than 1 MB, about 20x15 cm) to the address: [amministratoreweb@cgfma.org](mailto:amministratoreweb@cgfma.org), by the third week of April.

#### **Gesture of solidarity**

As on other occasions, a gesture of solidarity is proposed that will unite the entire Institute, making visible the family spirit and the communion of goods, in favor of the neediest youth.

The Vietnamese Province proposes the construction of a residence for about 60 - 80 female university students, in the Dalat plateau, with the aim of meeting the needs of poor female students and for the care of vocations.

The contribution collected thanks to the generosity of the Provinces will be used for this project and other needs of the Institute.

#### **Program of the Feast**

The main program of the Feast, which we can join in live streaming at some moments, will be as follows:

##### ***Friday, 25 April 2025***

- 17.00 Celebration of Vespers of Gratitude
- 19.00 Ceremony “Light the Gospel of Hope” (direct streaming)

##### ***Saturday, 26 April 2025 - WORLD FEAST OF GRATITUDE***

- 08.00 Performance: Extended Thank you (direct streaming)
- 10.30 Solemn Eucharistic Celebration  
presided by Mons. Pietro Nguyen Van De (direct streaming)
- 15.00 Encounter with members of the Salesian Family

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<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, n. 1.

***Sunday, 27 April 2025***

— 13.00      Feast of Gratitude with the young people  
                 Solemn Eucharistic Celebration (direct streaming)

Available on the website of the Institute will be the various materials for the journey of preparation, divided by week, other support materials, and diverse information, as well as the program of the Festival.

Together we thank "Mary Help of Christians" Province of Vietnam for their joyful willingness to welcome this year's Gratitude Day and for the love with which they are organizing every detail of this family event.

I also thank each one of you for your efforts at the Provincial and personal level of preparation. The World Gratitude Day continues to strengthen our unity around Mother, making her feel our affection and gratitude as FMA and as educating communities.

This year's Feast of Gratitude takes on a special color in anticipation of the canonization of Blessed Maria Troncatti. As Mother told us in her Circular 1046: "This is for all of us a time of special grace, a call to renew ourselves as an Institute to continue, with courage and joy, the path of holiness that God asks us to follow today."

I greet you with affection, also on behalf of the Sisters of the General Council and we wish each other a good Jubilee pilgrimage.

Rome, 24 February 2025

*Sister María del Rosario García Ribas*  
Vicar General