

# WORLD DAY OF GRATITUDE 2025

## Province of Mary Help of Christians in Vietnam (VTN)

We are living in *the Jubilee Year of Hope*. The word *Hope* is a theme that has been reflected upon and echoed many times, in many places, with many rich expressions in the life of the entire Church as well as in the Salesian Family. As FMA educators, in the Jubilee Year of Hope, following the example of our Founders, we live the experience of education as the art of hope: appreciating the journey of each young person, cultivating in them the noble ideals of the Gospel.<sup>1</sup> In the sacred atmosphere of the Jubilee Year, of preparing to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the first missionary journey of the FMA Congregation, we fulfill the words of Mother Mary Mazzello: «This is the time to rekindle the flame»,<sup>2</sup> the flame of evangelization, of the Gospel of Hope and the flame of gratitude. Therefore, we joyfully celebrate the Feast of Gratitude of Mother General with the theme:

### Illuminating the Gospel of Hope

People of all times are anxious to find the true meaning of life; want to love and be loved, want to realize great dreams; want to live in hope and not be disappointed. Only in God, in the Gospel of Jesus - the foundation of all hope, can people find a satisfactory answer to all their aspirations: «The Gospel of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again, is the proclamation of hope that will fulfill its promise, that will lead to glory and will not disappoint because it is founded on love».<sup>3</sup>

#### Word Of God: «Christ Jesus, our hope» (1 Tim 1:1)



**THE LOGO** of the 2025 Day of Gratitude has a profound meaning, expressing the gratitude of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and the message of Hope that the Holy Year, as well as the Strenna 2025 of the Salesian Family, aims for.

The logo is expressed through the following symbols:

**The globe:** The dark blue circle symbolizes the earth, the common home of humanity, where everyone sends love

<sup>1</sup> Cf CAZZUOLA Chiara, *Circolare* 1044 (1/1/2025)

<sup>2</sup> M.E. POSADA, A. COSTA, P. CAVAGLIA, *La Sapienza della vita. Lettere di Maria Domenica Mazzarello*, Roma, Istituto FMA 2004, n.27.

<sup>3</sup> PHANXICO, *Spes non confundit – La Bolla di indizione del Giubileo Ordinario 2025*, n. 2.

and care. This is also the place where the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA) are dedicated to the cause of educating young people.

**The map of Vietnam and the Bronze Drum:** a spiritual symbol of the culture, art and history of the nation - unique and blended with other cultures on the globe. The Bronze Drum is a source of pride in the origin, the spiritual depth of the Vietnamese soul. It is on this land of Vietnam that the Salesian Charism seeds were sown and have continued to grow. This is also the meeting place - the place to connect the gratitude of all FMA towards the Mother General in the 2025 Day of Gratitude.

**Mary - The Helper:** The image of Mary stands out as the Mother of Hope. Her mantle is wide open, full of maternal love, always accompanying, loving, protecting and supporting each of her children around the world.

**Anchor and Cross:** The life of a Christian can only be steadfast when anchored in Christ - the source of Hope. The Anchor and Cross are an invitation for everyone to put their full trust in God, so that from there they can spread the light of the Gospel.

**The fire and the young:** The heart of the logo is the fire and the young, highlighting the theme of the 2025 Gratitude Day. By striving to be faithful to their vocation, accompanied by Mary and the Mother of the Institute of FMA becomes a lamp that lights up the living Monument of Gratitude; and together, "Lighting the Gospel of Hope", together "Rekindling the Fire" of enthusiasm to proclaim Christ to all, especially to young people on all continents.

## **ITINERARY FOR PREPARING THE CELEBRATION**

In preparation for the Feast of Gratitude, the Word of God helps us to find reasons for hope. We live the Word with Mary because «The most eloquent witness to hope is the Mother of God. In her, we see that hope is not a vain optimism, but a gift of grace in the reality of life».<sup>4</sup>

**The Journey of Living the Word with Mary consists of four weeks, starting from 26/03/2025 to 25/04/2025.**

Each week, the FMAs will be proposed a specific practice to LIGHT UP THE GOSPEL OF HOPE, which includes:

- Lectio Divina
- Prayer intention
- Entrustment to Mary

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<sup>4</sup> *Spes non confundit*, n. 24.

## WEEK I (26/03 - 05/04): Christ Jesus - Source of Hope

- *Word of God:* «Christ Jesus, our hope» (1Tm 1,1)
- *Prayer intention:* Pray for world peace and the integrity of Creation  
«The Jubilee Year must remind us that those who “make peace” will be “called children of God” (Mt 5,9). The demand for peace challenges everyone and requires the pursuit of concrete plans». <sup>5</sup>

## WEEK II (6/4 - 12/4): Pilgrims of Hope

- *Word of God:* «Hope does not disappoint» (Rom 5,5).
- *Prayer intention:* Pray for young people, migrants.  
«Let us be close to young people, the joy and hope of the Church and the world!». <sup>6</sup>

## WEEK III (13/4 - 19/4): Witnesses of Hope for the World

- *Word of God:* «Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you» (1Pt 3,15).
- *Prayer intention:* Pray for the FMAs to always be enthusiastic in proclaiming the Gospel.  
«Jesus is the door of salvation (cf. Jn 10:7,9), the One whom the Church has the duty to proclaim always, everywhere and to everyone». <sup>7</sup>

## WEEK IV (20/4 - 25/4), Week of Gratitude: Lighting up the Gospel of Hope

- *Word of God:* «Did not our hearts burn within us?» (Lk 24:32)
- *Prayer intention:* Gratitude and prayer for Mother General  
We joyfully live in gratitude to Mary, model of Hope, gratitude to the Congregation for the vocation to consecrated life and specifically gratitude to Mother General.

## Sharing a sign of hope

To highlight the theme of **Hope**, each Province is invited to:

- Send an image that expresses **Hope** in the reality of the Province, with a brief caption in Italian or English.
- The word “**Hope**” in the language of your country.
- Please send to: [amministratoreweb@cgfma.org](mailto:amministratoreweb@cgfma.org), before or during the third week of the month of Gratitude (**April 13/4 - 19/4, 2025**).

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<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, n. 8.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, n. 12.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, n. 1.

## **SUMMARY PROGRAM OF GRATITUDE DAY** (live streaming available)

### **Tuesday, April 22, 2025**

- 07:55 Welcome Mother at Tan Son Nhat Airport, Hochiminh City
- 09:30 Welcome Mother at the Provincial House
- 17:30 Holy Eucharist

### **Wednesday, April 23, 2025**

- 07:30 Kindergarten and students of the Generalized School welcome Mother
- 08:30 Meet with the Provincial, Provincial Council and Animators of different sectors
- 14:00 Meet with Provincial Council and Community Animators

### **Thursday, April 24, 2025**

- 07:00 Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Cui Mountain
- 10:00 Holy Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Emeritus Joseph Dinh Duc Dao
- 14:00 Meeting with PVO and Aspirants

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

- 08:00 Meeting with Postulants and Novices
- 10:00 Visiting SDB Provincial House
- 17:00 Vespers of Thanksgiving
- 19:00 **Songs and Prayer " Light Up the Gospel of Hope " (live stream)**

### **Saturday, April 26, 2025 – WORLD DAY OF GRATITUDE**

- 08:00 Songs of Gratitude (live stream)
- 10:30 Holy Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Peter Nguyen Van De, SDB (live stream)
- 15:00 Meeting with members of Salesian Family

### **Sunday, April 27, 2025**

- 8:30 Meeting children and the youth in Tam Ha
- 09:30 Meeting with temporary professed sisters
- 13:00 **Festival of gratitude for young people – Holy Eucharist (live stream)**