



Ecco  
il tuo **Ecco**po...  
il tuo campo...

## WORLDWIDE PROPOSALS OF HOPE

With gratitude for the 140 years of the FMA Institute and in communion with the Salesian Family in celebrating the bi-centennial of the birth of Don Bosco, we lived with joy the encounter *“This is your field...”* held in **Castelgandolfo (Rome)** from **September 26 to October 2, 2011**, for the re-launching of the **Oratory-Youth Centre**, as the educative environment which seeks, welcomes and accompanies; the particularly favourable place for the proclamation of the Lord Jesus and the effective witness of the Gospel, space for the evangelisation of the youth-culture.

This encounter, coordinated by the Sector of Youth Ministry together with a Study Group, witnessed the cordial participation of thirteen FMA from the various Interprovincial Conferences, and the involvement of some dynamic Educative Communities, passionate FMA and competent lay people. Some Salesians enriched this week with the Eucharistic Celebration and the wisdom of their presence. The working group followed four stages through which the foreseen desired objectives were achieved.

Sr. Maria del Carmen Canales, General Councilor for Youth Ministry, introduced the works, wishing that this encounter as well as its successive process might be lived with Mary who, with her presence, reawakens the certainty that, only the one who loves passionately, can understand the life of Don Bosco – the holy educator – and his favourable, best-loved work.

In the first phase (**Oratory: wide-open doors – “Do you know how to whistle?”**) we sensed the need to further deepen – in a socio-pedagogical key - the reading of the Provincial contexts and of the local realities, which are emerging from the analysis of the questionnaires on the educative proposal of the *Oratory-Youth Centre*. Furthermore, we have discovered some fascinating novelties through the shared listening of the *journeys mapped out in various contexts where we are present*. It was very interesting for all of us to reflect on the history of the FMA as we placed ourselves on *the trails of the oratories, educative environments, with many and differentiated proposals, from the beginnings of Don Bosco through the 1990’s*. Moreover, we were helped to deepen the significance of the *‘Oratorian heart’ as criterion of renewal of the Salesian identity and educative model of reference*.

In the second phase (**Oratory: building yard in movement – “You are my only thought...”**), through several meetings, we re-discovered the OCG as the place where – in a privileged way – little ones, youth and educators can experience the encounter with the Lord, and we deepened the connection between OCG and some of the spaces where today

the life of the young flows: free time & busy time, informal places and digital continent, economy and sustainable development.

In the third phase of study (**Oratory: space of vocational and missionary growth - “Do you know what this poor old man wishes from you...?”**), we became more aware of the necessity and the urgency to re-start from the *Oratorian criterion* so as to make of every educative environment the space and place of authentic vocational and missionary growth – for the young and for us FMA – in tune with the needs and demands of our times.

Enlightened and encouraged by the Goodnights of Sr. Emilia Musatti, Vicar General, and of Mother General, we continued toward the conclusive phase (***The Oratory is in you - “Near or far away I always think of you...”***), formulating some proposals of hope (contained in this document) to be lived in the Provinces, at local level and particularly at personal level.

At the end of the encounter *Oratory-Youth Centre “This is your field...”*, the Study and Animation Commission is well aware of the urgency of the New Evangelisation and of the importance of reviving our educative passion in an open and involving **PROCESS of FORMATION – REFLECTION – ACTION** which the Sector for Youth Ministry will evaluate for the next General Chapter. This process will have to be **lived in continuity in the local and Provincial Communities, by the Provincial Coordination of Youth Pastoral, in the Educating Communities and the local and provincial teams of animation of Oratory-Youth Centre.**

## PROPOSALS

1. To grow, first of all at personal level, in the **awareness that the Oratory-Youth Centre** is not merely a ‘structure’, but **is the vocational answer to Christ** in the service of predilection for the young.
2. To grow in the awareness, above all communitarian, that **the *Oratorian heart* animates and is the criterion of renewal for all our educative presences.**
3. To deepen in the whole Institute the following charismatic contents:
  - **Oratory-Youth Centre**
  - ***Oratorian Heart***
  - ***Oratorian Criterion***

in order to re-vitalise every educative environment.

4. To look for **elements and criteria to be offered to the Provinces so as to help them to re-read the educative praxis of the Oratory-Youth Centre** and systematise the experience, with particular attention to some problems (management and resources, new economy, environment and ecology, virtual worlds and social networks) in the demand to search for new answers to the ever-changing social and youth reality.

## WITH WHAT STYLE?

- a. Courageous and deepened **evaluation of our passion for the Kingdom and the good of the poorest young**; a passion able to involve and network with the educative agencies of the territory.
- b. **Go to meet the young wherever they are**, because the Oratory-Youth Centre is the place of physical convergence where a youth community grows open and welcoming, that has an *exit movement*: going to look for the young, to seek them as Don Bosco used to do. When an Oratory-Youth Centre is today limited to its own physical space, it becomes an institution unable to face the youth situation.
- c. Involving **empowerment of the growth and promotion of the birth of new Oratories-Youth Centres at the service of the poorest young people**, wherever they are and as they are, recognising that the Oratory-Youth Centre **is the place of vocational growth** for the FMA, the educators and the young generations.
- d. **Reflection and programming of Educating Communities which, through creative and adequate proposals**, may build the Oratory-Youth Centre as the place that meets the young and communicates with the youth reality and its true and deep needs (sense and faith, Christian formation and human and social growth, work and profession, “committed time” and free time, informal world and network, educative service and ecclesial and social belonging, arts and sport, play and expression).
- e. The Provinces to send experiences, particularly the most innovative concerning today’s problematic situations, for publication and socialisation on the site [www.cgfma.org](http://www.cgfma.org) and the *blog* <http://pgfma.wordpress.com>.

**PS:** Communication within the International Commission will continue by virtual ways: (e-mail, Skype connections, etc.). We commit ourselves to present these proposals to the Provincial Councils, to the Inter-Provincial Conferences and to the Youth Pastoral Team. The Youth Pastoral Sector will prepare and eventually propose some *evaluation indicators so as to smooth and facilitate the development of the started process*.

The *Oratory-Youth Centre* International Commission