

INTRODUCTION

Here we are, a new issue of the Journal of Salesian Studies. It's been a while again. From the beginning of the Journal, we have tried to publish one or two issues a year. From the beginning, the Journal has wanted to be at the service of the readers, of those who want to study the themes related to Don Bosco and Francis de Sales; and the Journal has always wanted to be at the service of those who want to publish on these themes and share their thoughts. All this gives us a certain freedom.

Nevertheless, we want to repeat our previous appeal: “We need your help because the Journal is looking for contributions. We need people who want to publish their articles in our Journal. From history over theology and spirituality to pedagogy and best practices within the field of the “Salesian” tradition of Saint Francis de Sales and Don Bosco.”

In this spring issue, we find five contributions. The first three Fridays have a common theme: “What I want is your happiness” Accompaniment of young people today. They are the written reflections of some Salesians brought to the *Forum Salesianum*. The *Forum Salesianum* is the continuation of the *Colloqui Salesiani*, an experience that began in Europe in 1968 as a meeting of Salesians with an academic background and interested in studying Don Bosco and Salesian life to be able to offer contributions to the solution of practical problems connected with the life of communities. In the summer of 2022, the *Forum Salesianum* was held in Valcocco Turin. Next year, at the end of summer 2024, the *Forum Salesianum* will be held again. Keep an eye on the Forum's website for more info. <https://sites.google.com/site/forumsalesianoitaliano/>

The first contribution is by *Louis Grech*, Salesian of Don Bosco. He writes about the challenges and opportunities of Salesian accompaniment in contemporary Western society. An interesting contribution that makes the link between the heritage of the Salesians and how this heritage continues to have significance and value in society today.

The second contribution is of *Carlo Loots*, Salesian of Don Bosco. In his article he focusses on the person of the accompanier. He himself is the main instrument of accompaniment. Loots indicates what some basic attitudes of the accompanier are, and point out some of the pitfalls that he or she can fall into, as well as some myths that need to be debunked.

The third contribution of this issue is by *Wim Collin*. Like Louis Grech, he writes about accompanying young people from a Salesian

perspective. Collin analyses the accompaniment from a historical and spiritual standpoint. He explores the ways in which Don Bosco, in his correspondence and letters to young people, gave suggestions on how to become a good Christian and a good citizen.

The fourth contribution of this issue is by Sister *Barbara Poredoš*, daughter of Mary Help of Christians. In her original contribution, she explores parallels and differences between the Salesian education system, Don Bosco's preventive system and “positive youth development”. This contribution shows how close the different “education systems” are to each other and how they can complement each other perfectly.

The last longer contribution is by *Stefano Maggio* and *John Puntino*. Puntino made a translation of the eighth chapter of *Lo spirito di Don Bosco nel cuore del beato Don Rinaldi, Conferenze e scritti* (The spirit of Don Bosco in the heart of Don Rinaldi, conferences and writings) published in 1990. This chapter, thanks to the dedicated work of Stefano Maggio, explains to us the deep bond with Don Bosco and the spirituality of his third successor.

With the words of the recently deceased Dutch poet and music writer Huub Oosterhuis (known for the hymn “*What is this place*”), we prepare for the next issue: “*Let come what is to come, from You is the future!*” (Kome wat komt, van U is de toekomst!).



Wim Collin SDB
Editor in Chief

