



ASSOCIAZIONE DI MARIA AUSILIATRICE

Mary Help of Christians Association

A born organiser, Don Bosco did not leave devotion to Mary Help of Christians simply to something spontaneous. He gave it stability with an Association which took her name. First-hand witnesses saw in this institution one of the initiatives most dear to Don Bosco and the one with the widest impact after that of the two religious Congregations and the Cooperators Association.

When presenting important documents, Don Bosco attributed the Association's origins to "repeated requests", coming "from all parts and from people of all ages and every circumstance" during and after the construction and consecration of the Church (now Basilica) of Mary Help of Christians. He referred to the associates as "people united in the same spirit of prayer and piety paying homage to the great Mother of the Saviour invoked under the beautiful title of the Help of Christians".

The following were proposed as the aims of the Association:

- » zeal for an increase in piety, spirituality, worship: "to promote the glories of the divine Mother of the Saviour" (art. 1);
- » "spread devotion to the Blessed Virgin and veneration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament" (art. 2);
- » make use of "words, advice, good works and influence to promote dignity and devotion in the novenas, feasts and solemnities that occur during the year in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Most Holy Sacrament" (art. 3);
- » encourage "the spreading of good books, pictures, medals and leaflets, by taking part in processions in honour of Mary most holy and the Blessed Sacrament and by encouraging others to do likewise; frequent

