



# "The vocation of every Salesian is tied to Mary Help of Christians"

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In Korea devotion to Mary Help of Christians is not as strong as devotion to her under other titles: Mary Queen of Peace, or Our Lady of Mercies. This is why, before I became a Salesian, I had neither heard of nor ever said the invocation: "Mary Help of Christians pray for us" that we Salesians would say at least three times a day.

I would like to recall a brief story of my own vocation.

At the time I had come to understand the Lord was calling me, I had a wonderful experience of Mary Help of Christians. When I decided, with

much joy, to set out on the path to becoming a Salesian, I suffered some anxiety about the fact that I needed to tell my mother about it! Since my father had died when I was 10, my mother had to struggle a lot so I could go and study medicine. Thanks to her many sacrifices, I was able to become a doctor. It was at that point that I could begin to help my mother and pay her back for the many sacrifices she had made without asking anything of me in return. This made it very difficult for me to tell her about my decision. In fact it was almost impossible for me to do so. I made many attempts but never succeeded because every time I looked at her, I lost courage. I also tried to tell one of my sisters to whom I was very close and could talk about many things with ease. But I couldn't even tell her! Three months went by without me saying anything.

One wonderful day, when I went to see my sister, I stood there astounded, mouth open. My sister had already found out about my decision through a dream she had had the previous

