

December 11, 2009 – Salesian GHQ – The Salesians prepare to celebrate 18 December



(ANS – Rome) – There are seven days to go to the conclusion of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Salesian Congregation. December 18, the date on the minutes written by Fr. Alasonatti, recalls the meeting and the commitment of Don Bosco and some of his young men to “to band themselves into a society or congregation which, while aiming at the sanctification of each member by mutual assistance, would strive to promote God’s glory and the salvation of souls, especially those in greater need of instruction and formation.”

This is a year of grace, as the Rector Major described it in his letter of June 24, 2008, which will reach its climax on December 18 with the renewal of their religious profession by all the Salesians in the world. It is “a spiritual and pastoral journey” that ought to lead Don Bosco’s sons, and with them the various groups of the Salesian Family, to deepen their commitment to the education and evangelization of the young, especially those poor and abandoned.

The celebrations on December 18 will have several common elements, which were recalled in an **interview** given to ANS by Fr. Francesco Cereda, councilor for formation and the coordinator of the commission for the 150th anniversary.

On December 18 the Salesians, in renewing their religious profession and following the prescribed norms, can gain a **plenary indulgence** granted by the Apostolic Penitentiary “so that” – as the Rector Major requests – “the confreres of the Salesian Society may be even more open to the divine generosity and therefore draw more abundant spiritual fruits.”

Fr. Chavez wants to be with each Salesian with a **Letter** and a **video** – “Our Consecration” – in anticipation of the celebration of the renewal of profession.

Italy – The program of celebrations at Valdocco for the conclusion of the 150th anniversary



(ANS – Turin) – The Rector Major and his council will bring to a close the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Salesian Congregation at Valdocco with various events and celebrations.

Thanks to collaboration between ANS and Missioni Don Bosco, it will be possible to follow live and with constant updates the more significant parts of the program.

Friday, December 18

At 4:00 p.m. at Turin's City Hall, the mayor, Mr. Chiamparino, will confer honorary citizenship on the Rector Major.

At 7:30 p.m. the Rector Major will preside at a solemn concelebrated Mass in the basilica of Mary Help of Christians. At the end of it the Salesians will renew their religious profession. The Mass will be broadcast live on Telepace and in streaming on www.missionidonbosco.tv (GMT+1).

At 9:30 p.m. in the Valdocco Grand Theater the postnovices from Nave will perform "Mastro Boschetto marmocchi e ritocchi."

Saturday, December 19

The Rector Major will address representatives of the Salesian Family in Piedmont and Val d'Aosta in the Valdocco Grand Theater.

This will be followed in the basilica of Mary Help of Christians by a Mass at which the Salesians Cooperators will renew their promise, and by a commemoration of the jubilee of the Salesians of Piedmont and Val d'Aosta.

At 3:30 p.m. at the Lingotto Turin Congress Center there will be a concert, "Gratias agimus tibi: Don Bosco for the past and the future," given by the students of the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory, conducted by Maestro Ratti, with the collaboration of the Interuniversity Choir of Rome, conducted by Massimo Palombella, and the Boys' Choir of the basilica of Mary Help of Christians, conducted by Andrea Barboni. The concert will be broadcast live on Telepace, in streaming on www.missionidonbosco.tv and also live on Vatican Radio (GMT+1).