DAY ONE - SIGNS AND BEARERS OF GOD'S LOVE

LORD, MAY WE BE SO AWARE OF OUR OWN BROKENNESS THAT
IT MAY GIVE US THE COMPASSION TO CARE FOR OTHERS, AS
DON BOSCO DID. MAY WE BE DRIVEN BY THE CALL FOR JUSTICE
THROUGH THIS INNER SPIRIT TO MAKE SACRIFICES FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE AT RISK. MAY WE BE CALLED BY COMPASSION TO LIVE
A HEALING GENTLENESS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, OUR FAMILY
AND OUR FRIENDS. LET THE SPIRIT OF JUSTICE AND
COMPASSION MOVE US SO THAT, IN OUR LIVES, WE MAY
BECOME SIGNS AND BEARERS OF YOUR LOVE.

HAIL, MARY, FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH THEE.
BLESSED ART THOU AMONGST WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS.
HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US SINNERS,
NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.
AMEN



DAY TWO - THE CALL TO BELONG

DON BOSCO CALLS US INTO A WIDER COMMUNITY AND INTO A
NETWORK OF CARE FOR OTHERS. EVERYONE WE MEET IS BOTH
OUR PUPIL AND OUR TEACHER, WHATEVER THEIR AGE OR
STATUS. OURS IS A VOCATION TO INTERDEPENDENCE; TO GIVING
AND RECEIVING IN A WAY THAT CHALLENGES THE
INDIVIDUALISM OF MANY CULTURES. LORD, MAY WE NEVER
LOSE TOUCH WITH THE SMALL VOICE OF YOUR SPIRIT, AND BE
AWARE OF OUR NEED OF OTHERS.

HAIL, MARY, FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH THEE.
BLESSED ART THOU AMONGST WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS.
HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US SINNERS,
NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.
AMEN



DAY THREE - HOSPITALITY

FOR DON BOSCO, EVERY SALESIAN HOUSE WAS A PLACE OF HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME. LORD, HELP US TO MAKE EVERY ENCOUNTER A SACRED SPACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN FEEL SAFE, RELAX, AND BE PRESENT JUST AS THEY ARE. LORD, YOU SAID: WHENEVER YOU WELCOME ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES, YOU WELCOME ME. SO, WE PRAY, THAT HOSPITALITY MAY FOR US BECOME AN ACT OF FAITH IN THE UNIQUE SPIRIT AT THE HEART OF EACH INDIVIDUAL.

HAIL, MARY, FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH THEE.
BLESSED ART THOU AMONGST WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS.
HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US SINNERS,
NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.
AMEN



DAY FOUR - AWAKING THE FAMILY LIKENESS

DON BOSCO EMPHASISED THE FAMILY SPIRIT IN HIS
COMMUNITIES. LORD, YOU REMIND US IN THE SCRIPTURES THAT
EVERYONE MOVED BY THE SPIRIT IS A SON OR A DAUGHTER OF
GOD. SO, IT'S AS IF WE ARE RECOGNISING A FAMILY LIKENESS IN
OTHERS, A LIKENESS THAT MAKES EACH PERSON A SACRAMENT:
AN OUTWARD SIGN OF YOUR INNER PRESENCE. LORD, HELP US
TO RECOGNISE THAT EVERY GATHERING OF TWO OR THREE
PEOPLE IS POTENTIALLY A FAMILY REUNION WHEN VIEWED
THROUGH THE EYES OF LOVE.

HAIL, MARY, FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH THEE.
BLESSED ART THOU AMONGST WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS.
HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US SINNERS,
NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.
AMEN



DAY FIVE - THE EUCHARIST

LORD, AS WE EAT AND DRINK AT HOLY COMMUNION, YOUR BODY AND BLOOD BECOME ONE WITH US. YOU GIVE OF YOURSELF THAT WE MAY BECOME, LIKE DON BOSCO, FOOD FOR OTHERS. THE INTIMACY OF YOUR RISEN PRESENCE MOVING IN OUR LIVES GOES BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING. HELP US TO TRY TO LIVE THIS MYSTERY OF INTIMACY WITH YOU, OUR RISEN LORD, AND ALLOW IT TO SHAPE OUR LIVES AND DEEPEN OUR FRIENDSHIPS.

HAIL, MARY, FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH THEE.
BLESSED ART THOU AMONGST WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS.
HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US SINNERS,
NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.
AMEN



DAY SIX - LITTLE ONES

LORD, HELP US TO IMITATE DON BOSCO IN MAKING THE FIRST MOVE IN RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE VULNERABLE. TEACH US TO LOOK BENEATH THE BRASH BRAVADO OR THE SHRINKING SHYNESS OF OTHERS TO SEE YOUR FACE. HELP US TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONVERSATION, TO ENGAGE IN THE WORLD OF THE POOR AND ABANDONED AND ALLOW THEM TO TEST THE STRENGTH OF OUR CARE.

HAIL, MARY, FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH THEE.
BLESSED ART THOU AMONGST WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS.
HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US SINNERS,
NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.
AMEN



DAY SEVEN - SELF-SACRIFICE

DON BOSCO OFTEN SAID TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF TURIN: FOR YOU I STUDY, FOR YOU I WORK, FOR YOU I LIVE, FOR YOU I AM READY EVEN TO GIVE MY LIFE. LORD, HELP US TO GO THE EXTRA MILE IN THE CARE AND SAFEGUARDING OF OTHERS, TO WITNESS TO THE SACREDNESS OF ALL HUMAN LIFE. HELP US TO ESCAPE FROM SELF-CENTERED THINKING AND MOVE TO THE SELF-SACRIFICE THAT WILL GIVE OUR LIVES MEANING AND DIRECTION.

HAIL, MARY, FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH THEE.
BLESSED ART THOU AMONGST WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS.
HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US SINNERS,
NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.
AMEN



DAY EIGHT - MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

DON BOSCO DEDICATED HIS EVERY PROJECT AND PLAN TO MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS. LORD, MAY THE SILENT PRESENCE OF YOUR MOTHER BLESS AND GUIDE US ON OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE. AT THE VISITATION MARY MADE THE FIRST MOVE TO REACH OUT TO HER COUSIN AND IN THAT GENEROUS ACT THE PRESENCE OF GOD WITHIN HER WAS AWAKENED AND RECOGNISED. IN THE SAME WAY WE ARE CALLED TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE IN WELCOMING OTHERS. MAY WE BE READY TO RECOGNISE THE MOVEMENT OF THE SPIRIT WITHIN OTHER PEOPLE

HAIL, MARY, FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH THEE.
BLESSED ART THOU AMONGST WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS.
HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US SINNERS,
NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.
AMEN



DAY NINE - COMPASSION

THE EMPTINESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVES IN DON BOSCO'S
TIME RESONATED WITH THE TROUBLES OF HIS OWN CHILDHOOD.

COMPASSION OPENS OUR EYES TO THE NEED FOR LOVING
KINDNESS IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS. PAIN, SADNESS AND
VIOLENCE REVEAL AN EMPTINESS IN LIFE THAT WILL OFTEN
FIND AN ECHO IN OUR OWN LIVES. LORD, HELP US NOT BE
AFRAID TO EXPRESS OUR COMPASSION FOR THOSE WHO
STRUGGLE.

HAIL, MARY, FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH THEE.
BLESSED ART THOU AMONGST WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS.
HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US SINNERS,
NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.
AMEN

