

Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice

Consigliera generale per la Pastorale giovanile

Via dell'Ateneo Salesiano, 81 - 00139 ROMA

YOUTH MINISTRY SERIES

Dear Sisters,

Here we are coming to you with the first issue of the **Youth Ministry Series**, which intends to answer to the first objective proposed by the *Focuses of Attention – Plan for the Six-year period 2009-2014* in the Youth Ministry Sector: “to give priority to **formation in youth ministry** at all levels, in order to promote growth in the passion for **education and evangelisation**, and **co-responsibility** in the educational mission”.

We mean to fulfil this objective even through the proposal of a *little Series* – the fruit of the reflection of the Youth Ministry Sector – which will support the formation of the Provincial Youth Ministry Coordinator, the Youth Ministry animators at the local level and the Youth Ministry Animation Teams (made up of FMA, lay women and men) in the various sectors of the educative mission. With the **Youth Ministry Series** we mean to deepen some concepts or pastoral principles starting from the indications of the *Guidelines for the Educational Mission of the FMA*, the *GC XXII* or other processes of reflection in the Institute or in the Church.

The content that we are presenting to you in this first issue proposes the operative basis for *the elaboration of the Provincial Educative Project of Youth Ministry (PEPYM)*, which was already asked for by the *Guidelines* in order to animate – according to a clear pastoral model – the educative environments in which we are present. By choice, this contribution is general and very broad, given the intercultural character of the Institute, and it proposes inspirational pastoral guidelines that “need to be translated at the level of provincial and inter-provincial planning” (*Guidelines for the educational mission of the FMA*, 11).

Besides, with this contribution that will reach you periodically, we are answering to the *first orientation of GC XXII* which invites us to turn into action the *Guidelines for the Educational Mission of the FMA*: let them “be presented, studied and deepened on our own and also with the members of the educating communities so that they can be the basis for pastoral planning, appropriate to diverse contexts. In this way we FMA and laity together, promote a culture of vocations and the Salesian spirituality and educational method” (*Acts GC XXII*, 42).

We are presenting to you this work already translated into *five languages* so that the greatest number of Sisters may understand its content. In this way we hope to place at the service of Provincial and local educative communities a simple instrument, which is the sharing of a journey.

We would like to ask you to make of this material the object of study by your teams: it would even be nice perhaps to create a *circle of participative study between you and us through video-conferences*. In such case, you should make your request in this line reach us, with the suggestion of dates and timings which are suitable to you in order to put this into practice.

In the hope that this new Series may be an instrument that supports pastoral charity towards the young, I greet you very cordially even on behalf of the Sisters of the Youth Ministry Sector.

María del Carmen Canales fma

