

*After each reading, pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.*

### **Day 1: We Are Servants**

We, members of the various groups of the Salesian Family, must remember the truth of our choice and identity: we are servants, mere servants. And Mary says to us today: “Do whatever he tells you.” Whatever Jesus tells us, we must simply accept it, take it on board, and live it, without ifs or buts.

*Pastoral Proposal: Let us promote discernment at the personal and community levels, in groups and assemblies.*

### **Day 2: In the Light of Christ**

Mary invites us to respond in a way that certainly addresses the unexpected difficulty, but with a very clear instruction: “Do whatever he tells you.” The primary emphasis is not on what must be done, but on the One who says what must be done! Events should be read and tackled in the light of Christ.

*Pastoral Proposal: Let us interpret things from a perspective of wisdom: let us see cultural changes not only as threats, but also as opportunities for proclamation.*

### **Day 3: Placing Oneself in His Hands**

God’s will emerges from within our collaboration in the events we experience in him and because of him. And when we are sincere and act according to his gaze, the Lord of life always surprises us in the most unexpected ways. Believing, then, is not a choice that guarantees success and triumph; believing is placing oneself in his hands, growing in the sure certainty that comes from a heart guided by divine Providence.

*Pastoral Proposal: With a gaze of faith, let us recognize God’s action even in situations that seem far removed from the Gospel.*

### **Day 4: Encounter with God**

“Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives.” (Pope Francis) Faith is not a product. It is born not so much “from the encounter with God,” but “in the encounter with God” – an encounter that should be experienced as an expression of complete freedom and as a continuous source that nourishes us with its light.

*Pastoral Proposal: Let us educate young people to listen personally to the word of God, guiding them toward a mature and conscious faith.*

### **Day 5: Communicate Loving-Kindness**

Don Bosco’s entire experience tells us that “the courtyard, the playground,” both physical and metaphorical, is the place where God’s goodness is revealed. We communicate loving-kindness by living it serenely when we are present among and for young people, who thus feel recognized, appreciated, and loved.

*Pastoral Proposal: Let us listen with empathy: before judging, let us try to understand the world of young people from within.*

### **Day 6: Hear His Word**

Cana is a place that, in a humble and hidden way, contains the fulfillment of the project of God’s love for humanity. Cana is every place where we are sent, as a space where God continues to make himself present through those who hear his word, believe it, and live it.

*Pastoral Proposal: Let us offer young people spaces and experiences characterized by courageous, fearless Christianity, a proposal for a simple and credible Christian life.*

### **Day 7: Life Freely Offered**

Like Mary at Cana, we educators in the faith are called to bear witness to Christ to young people, not as an “object” but as a liberating relationship, to propose Christian life not as rules to follow, but as the fullness of life freely offered. “Do whatever he tells you” is not an invitation to blind obedience, but to responsible freedom communicated by those who have already encountered and experienced Love and want to share it because true life is within them.

*Pastoral Proposal: Let us accept that educating for freedom also means anticipating the risk of a “no,” a negative response, a rejection, and that in any case, we must always respect the choices of young people as they gradually grow up.*

### **Day 8: Life Project with Freedom**

Don Bosco’s heart was a heart open to welcoming the signs of the times, with their challenges and opportunities. From the outset, it was a journey rooted in faith in Christ, and this personal experience had its starting point solely in Christ. The proposal that was taking shape aimed to offer young people and his first collaborators a call to discover and live their life project with freedom.

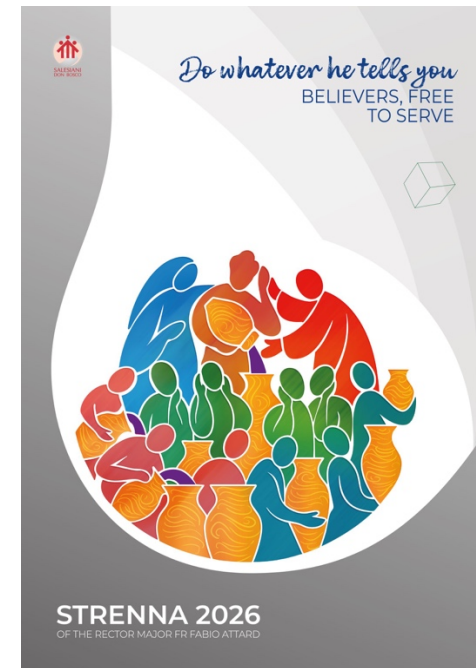
*Pastoral Proposal: Let us promote conversation in the Spirit: let us experience “synodality” in a tangible way when we involve young people themselves in listening to one another, analyzing their reality and formulating new proposals.*

### **Day 9: An Overflowing Generosity**

When someone trusts in Jesus, there is no room for anything else. Indeed, human availability becomes even fuller and more joyful, more ready and generous. The author of the Gospel provides a detail that, as educators and pastors, we cannot fail to notice: “they filled (the jars) up to the brim” (v. 7). To the brim, beyond the already large quantity of gallons in the jars. It is always worthwhile to be generous, with an “overflowing” generosity.

*Pastoral Proposal: Let us focus on action: all actions and concrete proposals must be lived and guided by the Word so that they become signs of an integral spirituality. Service then emerges as a natural expression of mature faith and genuine freedom.*

## **Don Bosco Novena 2026**



*The text and pastoral proposals for each day are taken from the Rector Major’s 2026 Strenna: “Do whatever he tells you” Believers, free to serve.*