



AGENTS OF DON BOSCO'S
VISION - **PASSION** - **MISSION**
SYM EUROPE

Warm-up Handbook

June 2017



Dear friend,

In a few weeks from now we will be meeting at Colle Don Bosco as Salesian Youth Movement (SYM) from all over Europe and the Middle East.

We are glad that you have accepted to join this important gathering, ~~and~~ we thank you and appreciate the efforts you have put in ~~done~~ to achieve this.

We have prepared for you these handouts as a “warm-up” in view of our meeting in the places where Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello lived that is, where they enlarged their vision, discovered their passion and received their mission.

We hope you will find the time to have a look at it, to reflect and to answer the questions, on your own or, better still, with your group, before the Confronto. We hope that this meeting will be a milestone in your journey as a member of the Salesian Youth Movement. A journey which surely began before Confronto and, most importantly, has to start with a renewed spirit after it, once you get back home.

For more news, information, kindly update from our official website (<http://symeurope.eu/>) and on our Facebook page (SYM – Salesian Youth Movement Europe) and tweet with the official hashtag #Confronto2017.

We are looking forward to meeting you!

With prayerful best wishes for your preparation towards Confronto 2017,

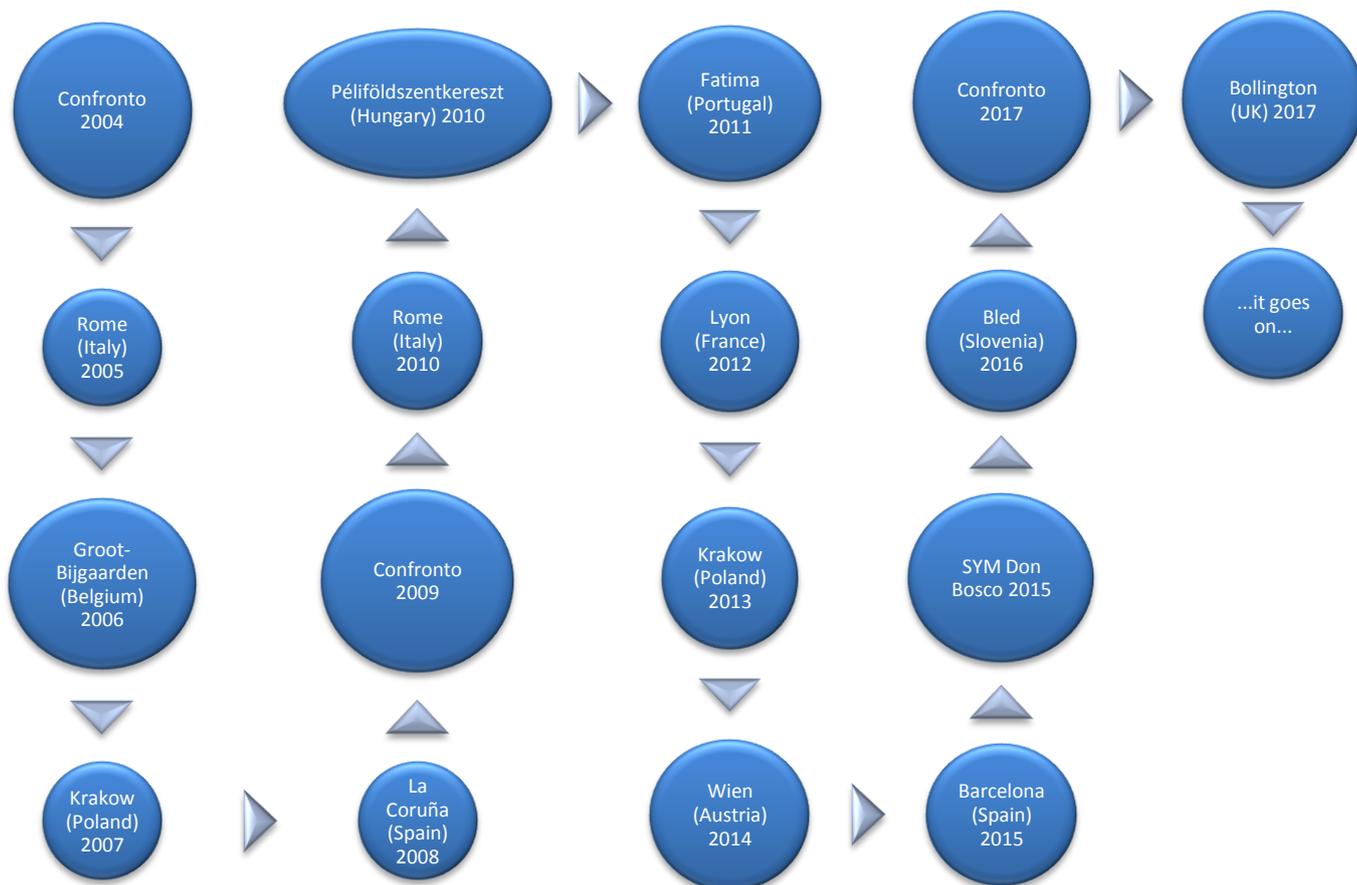
Anne-Florence, Blazka, Carina, Renato, Sr. Lolia, Fr. Patrick

SYM Europe Small Team



SYM Europe's Recent History

SYM has recently developed in the various provinces and countries in Europe and the Middle East in different ways. Different forms of national coordination, some structures, some sharing meetings among young and groups from different countries and provinces have increased. Young had already asked for a European SYM coordination since the Confronto '99, but only during the Confronto 2004 they have shared a real coordination suggestion.



CONFRONTO's Expectations

Try to write down three expectations you have, looking at SYM Europe Confronto 2017.

1.
2.
3.



1. Austria

2. Belgium

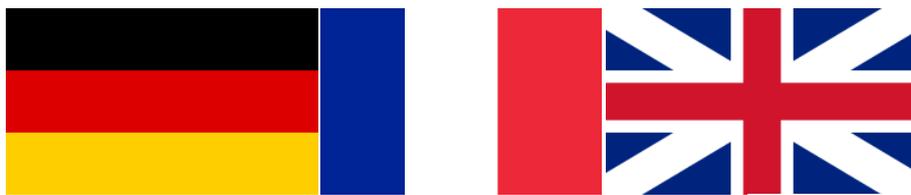
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina



4. Czech Republic

5. Croatia

6. Egypt



7. France

8. Germany

9. Great Britain



10. Hungary

11. Ireland



12. Israel

13. Italy

14. Lebanon



15. Malta

16. Montenegro



17. Palestine

18. Poland

19. Portugal



20. Slovakia

21. Slovenia

22. Spain

23. Syria

24. Ukraine



Look at the flags of the participating countries. Which of these countries have you already visited? Write them down and color them on the map!

Which SYM Region is your country part of?

You will celebrate the evening of the 12th of August with the other countries of your Region!

Salesian Youth Movement _ Europe & Middle East Regions (as in Confronto 2017)

Southern Region	Central Region	Eastern Region
Belgium (South)	Austria	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Egypt	Belgium North	Croatia
France	Germany	Czech Republic
Israel	Great Britain	Hungary
Italy	Ireland	Montenegro
Lebanon	Malta	Poland
Palestine		Serbia
Portugal		Slovakia
Syria		Slovenia
Spain		Ukraine



SYM EUROPE logo

The SYM Europe logo was adopted by the General Assembly in 2010. It was designed by SYM Portugal, and it was chosen by the SYM Europe Small Team at the end of an open competition between many other candidates.

1. At the base, we see the Areas where the action unfolds, that is, the groups and associations. In general we refer to: music, theater, sport and moments of reflection / prayer.
2. The center (water and formation of circles) symbolizes movement, vibration, human action, experimentation, in which there are new elements to the top, "celebrating".
3. The top portion symbolically represents individuals/peoples/countries, with a Christian identity, coming from the same center (origin) in ways that express colors and optimism, as a result of Salesian Youth Spirituality.



CONFRONTO 2017 logo

The logo of CONFRONTO 2017 was chosen in 2016, just after the XII General Assembly of SYM Europe. It was designed by SYM France-Belgium South, and it was also chosen at the end of an open competition between many other candidates.

The logo is made up of three parts, representing sorts of "arrows", representing vision - blue, passion - red, and mission - yellow. These three parts can also refer to the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Vision is represented at the bottom left by blue. To have the ability to see the future in the present, we have to look straight ahead in order to move forward but we must draw from our resources, in our roots, the orientation of the arrow is thus downwards. It constitutes a first base or a first pillar of the hexagon. The color blue refers to dreams, the sky and the horizon.

Passion is represented at the bottom right by the red. To achieve the goal, energy must be at the heart of the project, at the heart of the mission, at the heart of our mission with young people. Red refers to this energy but also to the love one puts to reach the goal with heart, hope and enthusiasm (which means to have God in oneself). It is necessary to draw the energy in the ground, the orientation of the arrow is thus downwards. It constitutes a second base or a second pillar of the hexagon.

Mission is represented at the top by the yellow, by an arrow pointing upwards. It is the result of vision and passion. The mission is turned upward, it takes momentum to carry out the mission with joy (yellow color). The arrow is turned towards the future and is carried by vision and passion in order to accomplish it.

These 3 parts are linked together by paths (white lines) with a small white cube. They all converge towards one gift: God (in the center). To join him, one must take the paths, those, from the top, the paths of our personal, professional lives, and not to forget the bottom path representing our roots, our education, our family. As a whole, the shape of the logo can also be a gift box. Because when we combine vision, passion, mission, and God, we are open to share them as a gift to the ones around us.





VISION

If a person who doesn't know him would ask you about Don Bosco, how would you describe Don Bosco's vision for youth?

Which elements of the life of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello helped you to enlarge your vision on life and faith?

PASSION

Which was the source of Don Bosco's and Mother Mazzarello's passionate love for youth?

How did your experience with the Salesian Youth Movement help you in discovering your true passion?

MISSION

In your view, to which mission is called Salesian Youth Movement in your country today?

How can you contribute and help to this mission?





At the roots of Salesian Youth Spirituality

Which of these places have you already visited?

Which of these are your favourite places? Why?



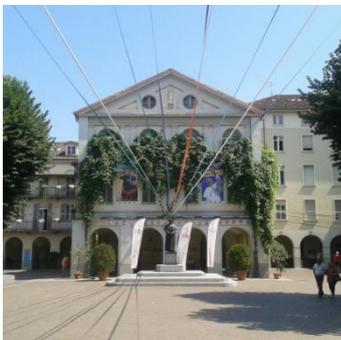
Mornese, Valponasca



Valponasca, Window



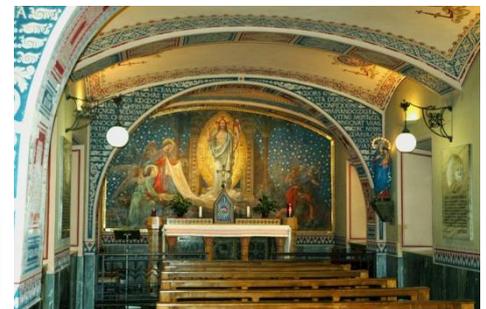
Morialdo, Dominic Savio House



Valdocco, Courtyard



Valdocco, Mary Help of Christians



Valdocco, Pinardi Chapel



Colle Don Bosco



Don Bosco's House



Capriglio, Mamma Margherita



Let's now reflect on two important and recent documents, that are now accompanying the journey of the Salesian Youth Movement all over the world.

We are a Family! Rector Major's Strenna 2017

Three short excerpts from this year's Strenna, with three related questions for you.



*I now invite all of you to read carefully and calmly, with a heart open to dialogue and personal involvement, **what the apostolic exhortation Amoris Laetitia is saying to us**, in order to discover what the document is offering to us and requesting from us.*

Have you read the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*? Which is the main message that you retain from this reading (or hearing)?

*In the different situations in which it plays a part, the Salesian Family around the world finds itself in a great variety of complex circumstances. Our boys and girls, together with their families, have the right to experience our ability to understand, empathize, and appreciate their feelings, since having a deep and attractive **family spirit is** – and needs to continue to be – **a special characteristic of ours**.*

How would you describe your experience of the Salesian “family spirit”?

*So far I have referred to the family of Jesus of Nazareth (the Lord), the family of Don Bosco, and the family of Mother Mazzarello in order to highlight the importance and transcendence of the family in their lives. [...] The institution of the family is something that is becoming ever more complex, without forgetting that cultural differences on the six continents add many other elements to the complexity we are talking about. **Faced with this situation, we ask ourselves whether**, starting from our position as educators, pastors, and evangelizers, **there is anything we can do for families**.*

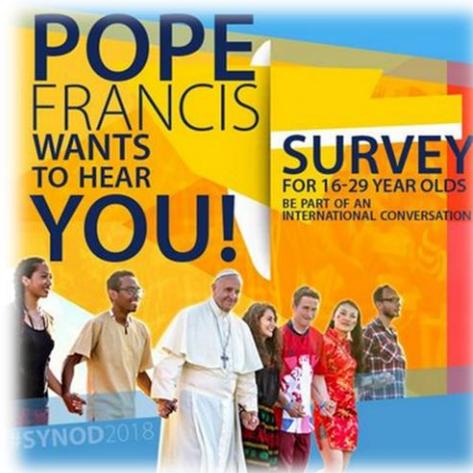
How can Salesian Youth Spirituality support the family in your country?



Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment.

Towards the 2018 Assembly of the Synod of Bishops

For the first time in history, the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2018 will be devoted to the theme of “Youth”, especially focusing their relationship with “Faith and Vocational Discernment”. This should read as gift of the Holy Spirit for the whole Church and as a precious opportunity calling the Salesian Youth Movement to participate and contribute with its original Salesian charisma, with youth and for youth.



Have you already read the Synod’s Preparatory Document? If not, hurry up, it’s short and available online for free! Try now to answer a few questions after reading two short excerpts of this important document.

How does the Church help young people accept their call to the joy of the Gospel, especially in these times of uncertainty, volatility and insecurity? [...] In pastoral activity, young people are not objects but agents. Oftentimes, society sees them as non-essential or inconvenient. The Church cannot reflect such an attitude, because all young people, without exception, have the right to be guided in life’s journey.

How is Salesian Youth Movement helping the Church in meeting youth in your country?

Vocational discernment is not accomplished in a single act, even if, in recounting the development of a vocation, identifying specific moments or decisive encounters is possible. As for all important things in life, vocational discernment is a long process unfolding over time, during which one continues to monitor the signs used by the Lord to indicate and specify a vocation that is very personal and unique.

What “Vocational Discernment” means to you in this moment of your life?

In your expectation, how can CONFRONTO help you in this discernment?



The **global survey for youth** towards **Synod 2018** is now available online!

Join it! → <https://survey-synod2018.glauco.it/limesurvey/index.php/147718>



Prayer (for groups coming to Confronto)

God, come to our assistance. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

O Lord, we thank you for the gift of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. We want to unite ourselves with all those who, in a different country, are preparing themselves to Confronto 2017. Send us your Spirit to help us in this time of preparation towards this meeting with our friends from the Salesian Youth Movement. Enable us to listen to your Word in these special days.

*Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen*

O Mary, implore for us the joy of living the covenant of love which God established with Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. Grant that we may welcome this Confronto of the Salesian Youth Movement as a call to renew ourselves, so that we may bring to the young the joy of the Gospel.

*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.*

Saint John Bosco, pray for us.

Saint Mary Domenica Mazzarello, pray for us.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

