

# SALESIAN LECTIO DIVINA – 3

**Theme: Belonging More to God, more to the Confreres,  
more to the Young**

1. Read (text given below)
2. Reflect & share (using the given questions)
3. Pray (shared prayers, and common prayer at the end as given below)

## 1. READ (text given below – from the first Letter of the Rector Major Fr Ángel Fernández Artime)

### BELONGING MORE TO GOD

“I must confess dear Confreres that expressions such as *The primacy of God, Mystics in the Spirit, God’s Design, God’s Closeness, Union with God, Seekers of God* ... are phrases which set my heart beating, telling me that here we have something important, that this is the key, all the rest on which we spend so much energy ‘is given us as an exta,’ or ‘falls like ripe fruit’, in other words follows naturally, is guaranteed.

At the same time, with great sincerity I have to confess to *a fear* that I have felt in a similar way during my years of service as Provincial: I feel that in speaking like this there can be confreres who simply distance themselves, who consider all this ‘a priori’, as outdated theology, as a model which ‘does not apply anymore’, ‘is already out of date’.. And yet one finds these expressions in the most diverse places, in theological writings and in magazines dealing with current affairs in which one can take the pulse of religious life.”

“The *raison d’etre* of our religious life – since we should not forget that our life is not only Salesian life, but *religious life as consecrated Salesians* – is not to be found in what we do, nor even in the ways we organise ourselves, nor in the effectiveness of our programmes and planning. Either our religious life as consecrated persons *makes us become a sign* (communities of believers at the service of the Kingdom), or we run the risk of becoming more concerned about our strength (if in fact we have any) than the message of God.”

“... when I hear, as I did recently, that in a particular place, where there are many Salesian works, we have a great reputation for our social works but as Salesians we are little esteemed as people who believe in the consecrated life, I have to say that I am very worried and I ask myself: what is it that we are not doing properly? what is it that we are not able to witness to?”

## 2. Reflect

Each one could reflect and share:

- Either on the Reading from the Letter of RM, or
- On any of the questions posed by the Rector Major:

### **The questions our Rector Major asks:**

1. Have these “expressions such as *The primacy of God, Mystics in the Spirit, God’s Design, God’s Closeness, Union with God, Seekers of God*” become clichés for us?
2. What are the sentiments that cross our minds when we hear these expressions? They set the heart of the Rector “beating”!
3. What is the “*The raison d’etre* of our religious life...”?
4. “... what is it that we are not doing properly?”
5. “... what is it that we are not able to witness to?”

## 3. Pray

{Short spontaneous prayers based on the reflections}

### **Conclude with the following prayer by Pope Francis)**

**Star of the new evangelisation,  
help us to bear radiant witness to communion,  
service, ardent and generous faith,  
justice and love of the poor,  
that the joy of the Gospel  
may reach to the ends of the earth.  
illuminating even the fringes of our world.**

**Mother of the living Gospel,  
wellspring of happiness for God’s little ones,  
pr  
ay for us.**

**Amen.**

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