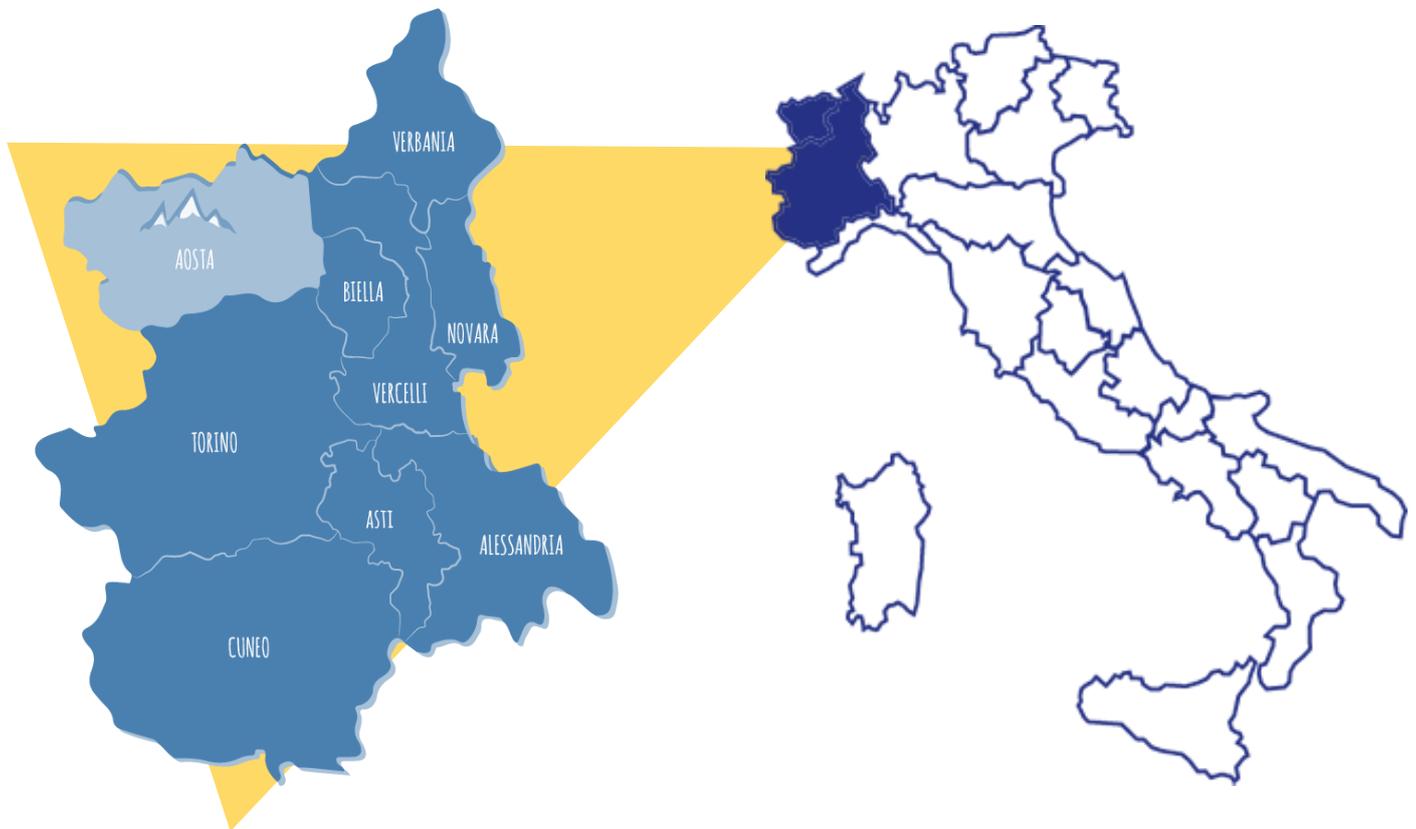




Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice

Salesiane di Don Bosco

Ispettorìa Maria Ausiliatrice - IPI
Torino - Italia



PIEDMONT PROVINCE MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Mary Help of Christians Province **was born in 2003**, from the progressive unification of the previous 6 Provinces present in the territory of Piedmont and the Aosta Valley. At the time of its constitution (8 September 2003) it had **1287 sisters**, distributed in **72 communities**.

Today (January 2022), following a profound journey of redesign and resignification, not yet concluded, **the communities are 32, with 560 sisters**.

The average age is 79 years.

There are 5 Temporary Professed and 6 young people in formation.

In addition to preserving the memory of the origins in the places where the Charism was born and developed (Mornese, Nizza, Turin), and committing itself to the **charismatic animation** of groups and pilgrims, the Province carries out a rich and significant mission, which is like a miracle, given the disproportion with one's own strengths and energies.

You can find below the **list** of educational works entrusted to us.

- ⇒ **19 Schools**
- ⇒ **13 Centers of Professional Formation**
- ⇒ **2 University Hostels**
- ⇒ **Collaboration in Parishes and Oratories with the Salesian confreres and in diocesan realities**
- ⇒ **Associations and presences in favor of migrants**
- ⇒ **Province pastoral, vocational, missionary, family animation**
- ⇒ **Interprovincial Postulancy**

The journey has not only seen cuts and pruning, but also small sprouts of hope:

✚ In 2018 the experience of the Proposal Community begins in the Community of Mary Help of Christians 27 in **Turin**, a space for sharing life and experience with the FMA Community, which permanently welcomes girls who wish to have an explicit or implicit comparison with consecrated life according to the Salesian charism, to understand the will of God for them.



✚ In 2019, at the request of the Bishop of the Diocese of **Saluzzo**, a small community opens in an area full of young people and devoid of religious presences. The main activity is the daily oratory, to which is added collaboration with the parishes of the city and with the Diocese.

✚ In 2022, the **A3 project - Reception, Accompaniment, Autonomy** at the Youth House in Turin (currently the seat of the Interprovincial Postulancy and a University Hostel) is under construction. It is an experience of Solidarity and Educational Cohabitation for girls between 18 and 21 years old, in a situation of family fragility and/or educational poverty, poor economic conditions, low schooling, and who need to live in an environment other than the family one, or have to find a vital place to gradually get out of the protection of a residential community or foster care.

[for the description of the project you can refer to the sheet describing the details]

Many lay collaborators, employees, and volunteers carry out the Mission with us. With enthusiasm, they feel that they too are entrusted with the responsibility of 'making the Charism shine' in the land of the origins.

Alongside the numerous activities, **7 communities for elderly and sick sisters** guard and accompany the 'living historical memory', Daughters of Mary Help of Christians who daily witness their fidelity to God and love for Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. They are the 'lung' of prayer and offering for the whole Province and the Institute.

Covid has hurt us, as in every part of the world. It wounded the elderly and sick sisters, taking away many of them. It hurt the mission, loosening the bonds in the Educating Communities and feeding the unease in many children. It hurt the charismatic places, which for two years have not seen passages and pilgrims. It hurt the communities, forced to close their doors and turn on the computer.

But we continue to hope, convinced that:

"Mary still walks in our Houses and covers them with her Mantle" .