**Mother Mazzarello**

**CHARACTERS:**

Student

Sister dressed in habit from 1800’s

Mary Mazzarello (Main)

Two Girls

Petronilla

Don Bosco

Three Daughters of Mary Immaculate

Student 2

*You will need to project the video of Mornese, Terra di Sole so set up sound and projector and have someone running the video as they need to pause it several times.*

*(Student enters stage right. Sister enters stage left.)*

**Student:** What a beautiful day to celebrate Mother Mazzarello’s feast day! The Sisters will be so excited to have all these flowers for their celebration!

**Sister:** I have to make sure I finish sewing this habit before Mother gets home. I don’t know how I’ll ever do it, but …..*(Student and Sister run into each other.)*

**Sister:** Are you okay?

**Student:** Yes… I think so….but who are *you*?

**Sr:** (*Curiously approaches the student*) Who am I? Who are you? And where did you get such an interesting… dress?

**Student**: What do you mean? This is my uniform. That’s quite an interesting habit *you’re* wearing. It’s kind of like the one the Sisters used to wear a long time ago.

**Sr:** I’m a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians and we work with young people just like you.

**Student:** You’re a Salesian Sister?! But I’ve never seen you before. I’m a student at Mary Help of Christians School and I think I know what the Salesian Sisters look like.

**Sr:** You’re a student of the Sisters? I don’t think so. I teach the girls here and I don’t recognize you. Maybe we should go talk to Mother Mazzarello and see what we should do with you.

**Student:** Mother Mazzarello?! But she died over a hundred years ago!

**Sr:** Maybe you hurt your head when we ran into each other. But this is 1877 and Mother Mazzarello is perfectly fine.

**Student:** No, I think you’re wrong. This is the year 2018.

**Sr:** 2018? But what could have happened?

**Student:** Whoa, I think we’ve entered some kind of time warp! I’ve always wanted to travel back in time! Wait a second, you actually live with Mother Mazzarello? Could you tell me about her?

**Sr:** Of course! Come and see. I will tell you the story of Maín.

*(The two stand off to the side. Still shot of video comes up)*

**Sr:** The Lord had dreamed from all eternity of the mountains and villages. He had dreamed of Mornese, nestled in the hills of Monferrato, quietly hidden amongst the fields and vineyards. And with simplicity of heart he dreamed of a young girl in Mornese, like a beautiful flower of the field: María Domenica Mazzarello. She was born on May 9, 1837 of hardworking parents who were rooted in the faith.

**Sr:** *(Enter Main)* She was much like any other young person. She liked to run through the fields and play with her friends. (*Two girls appear playing tag and laughing*.) As an adolescent, she worked very hard in the fields to help her family. *(Main working with hoe)* She knew the fatigue of a farmer but also the joys of life as she contemplated God and was filled with His love.

*(Play refrain of video “Mornese Terra di Sole.” At 31 seconds, PAUSE VIDEO)*

**Sr:** In 1860 a typhoid epidemic was declared in Mornese. At the age of 23, after having taken care of her family members that had typhus, Main contracted the sickness. (*Main lays down sick*) She never recovered all of her physical strength after this, and as a result, she knew her life had to now take a new direction.

*(Play video “Mornese Terra di Sole.” At 57 seconds, PAUSE VIDEO)*

**Sr:** Main knew that God was now inviting her to work with the young women of Mornese in a special way. She wanted to teach them how to sew and to make every stitch an act of love for God. (*Main holds a piece of fabric*)

**Sr:** One day, Main invited her best friend Petronilla (*enter Petronilla)* to join her in this new endeavor. The two opened a workshop for the girls from the village and began teaching them how to sew. (*girls appear)* Not long after, some more of us joined them and we dedicated ourselves to the same work under the guidance of Don Pestarino, our parish priest.

**Student:** And what about Don Bosco? Did you ever get to meet him?

**Sr:** Yes, Don Bosco came to visit us here in Mornese, *( Don Bosco passes through – “Viva Don Bosco!”)* and after he left Main couldn’t stop repeating…

**Maín:** His words keep resounding in my soul, Petronilla. I feel that Don Bosco is truly a saint. *(Exit Main and Petronilla.)*

**Sr:** Maín risked everything – friends, her reputation, health, her entire life – becoming the first example of Don Bosco’s desire to have a living monument of thanksgiving to Mary Help of Christians.

(*Enter Main and Sisters.)*

**All:** Maín, Maín! What did Don Bosco say?

**Maín:** Here is the rule (*holds up small book)* we must accept and practice if we want to dedicate our lives to the good of the young and live in fraternal charity with one another.

**Sr:** And so the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians was founded on August 5, 1872 when Mary Mazzarello and ten others made their first religious vows.

*(Sing refrain “Mornese Terra di Sole” LET VIDEO PLAY UNTIL THE END)*

**Sr:** **(read during musical interlude)** I still remember that day as if it were yesterday. We were all so nervous! No one thought we would last for long, but here we are five years later and we’ve already even sent Sisters to America!

*(Sing final refrain of “Mornese, Terra di Sole”)*

**Student:** Oh Sister, if I could only tell you how much will happen in the next 145 years!

**Sr:** I can only imagine.

**Student:** It would be so amazing if I could actually meet Mother Mazzarello.

**Sr:** Let me go see if she’s available.

**Student:** Really?! Okay, I’ll just wait right here (*sits down and falls asleep. A student comes in saying: “Student’s name. Wake up. Class is over.”)* Huh? What?

**Student 2:** You slept through the whole Religion class. Come on, it’s time to go.

**Student: (***Following the other student*.) You’ll never believe what just happened……………