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DON BOSCO

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BULLETIN




**CHURCH
FOR THE
YOUTH
OF TODAY**



SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

***CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF THE YOUNG
IN GAMBELLA SINCE 2000***



GAMBELLA

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DON BOSCO BULLETIN



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Please Note

Letters to the editor and articles on Spirituality, Self-help, Bible, Social Concern or even news items from various houses are most welcome. All material may be edited for the sake of space or clarity. Please keep a copy of whatever you send to the bulletin for publication. We regret we cannot return unsolicited articles and photographs.



editorial



My Life is my message

Mahatma Gandhi

Recently I came across a beautiful anecdote from the life of Mahatma Gandhi and I thought it was worth sharing it here. Once he was pursued by a journalist through a train station. The journalist wanted to get an exclusive interview with the famous man for his newspaper. Despite the journalist's persistence, Gandhi politely declined his questions and was about to board on the train to leave.

Finally, as the train was pulling out of the station with Gandhi on it, the journalist called out from the station platform, "Sir! Sir! Please give me your message for the people!"

Gandhi smiled and shouted back, "My life is My Message!"

It is about this man that Albert Einstein, one of the greatest scientific geniuses the world has ever known, said: "Generations to come, it may well be, will scarcely believe that such a man as this one ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth".

Well, you might wonder why I spoke of Gandhi in this editorial note. The reason is very simple; the phrase with which I started this article: "MY LIFE IS MY MESSAGE".

This issue of the Don Bosco Bulletin has been entitled as Church for the Youth of Today. It has been a humble attempt

to know what kind of Church the young people are seeking today. This kind of a theme arose as a result of the recent Synod on young people which did speak at length on the need for a listening and accompanying Church. The whole process of the synod has been one of listening to the young. At the presentation of the Lineamenta, Pope Francis said to the young. "The Church also wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls." The Pre-synodal Meeting showed that listening was the truest and the boldest kind of language that young people are vehemently seeking from the Church. As Salesians we are also asking a similar question at the Congregational level in preparation for the General Chapter 28; What kind of Salesians for the youth of today?

Going through the various articles that have arrived for this issue of the bulletin, one thing becomes very loud and clear. The young people seem to be tired of too many speeches and words. They are instead looking for a Church (Church can be interchanged as congregations, lay societies, monasteries, seminaries, consecrated or priestly life) that is more credible and witnessing. A Church that accompanies them and listens to them in their trials and fatigues. "Young people are also asking for a major moral coherence between behavior and professed values" (pg. 13) "The young people do not want to see us running from one place to other sustaining structures, they do not want to see us as managers of big projects, they do not want to see us as people who spend the majority of the time in the office or as guests who come to visit the places where the youngsters are and go. They expect from us to spend our time not

only for but especially with them". (Pg. 26)

Looking at the reply of Gandhi to that journalist, 'My life is my message', it becomes undoubtedly clear that Gandhi was a man in whose life there was absolutely no dichotomy between his words and deeds. His life and his speech was a perfect match. If today many of our young people are walking away from our churches or find very little motivation to follow us, could it be because they find us only as men/women of words and of very little action? If there is an increasing decline of vocations in our congregations, is it not because our lives are becoming so much institutionalized that they appear very much routine and stereotyped? Is it not true that often we are engaged in speaking about God to our young people without ever speaking to God and that makes our witnessing often less authentic?

Let me conclude this editorial with just three questions:

- Will we ever have the confidence to define our lives like Gandhi: "My life is my message"?
- When will the Church rise to a stage where she could also say like Paul, "be imitators of me, as I am of Christ"?
- If my life is my message, what would that message be?

Abba Lijo Vadakkan SDB



GUIDANCE

Abba Estifanos G/meskel SDB
Provincial Superior

Dear Friends,

Peace and Joy in the Lord!

The 15th Synod of Bishops on the theme, “young people, the faith and vocational discernment”, has just ended in Rome a few months ago. In fact, the final document of the Synod has been completed and is already in circulation. We must note that it is the first time that the Church has called for a Synod on Youth and this clearly shows how much the Church wants to be close to the young people in nurturing their faith as well as helping them discern their vocation. I am extremely happy that this issue of the Don Bosco Bulletin has been entirely dedicated to this theme of young people, a theme very much at the heart of Salesian charism.

As a Congregation too we are asking a similar question in preparation for our Provincial Chapter and General Chapter. “What kind of Salesians for the youth of today”? All this shows how much the Church desires to understand young people and help them find life, life of fullness. Modern times bring us glittering signs of growth as well as dangers of addiction, seclusion, dissatisfaction, and meaninglessness.

Reflecting further on this theme of young people, I consider it opportune to make present the following considerations that I feel are important.

First of all, borrowing the words of Don Bosco, “Here in your midst I feel at home”, this has to be the feeling or the sentiment of every salesian and every person who intends to work with the young people. We need to be physically (and even digitally) present wherever our youngpeople are in order to understand them and express our love towards them.

Secondly, we need to have a basic trust in the goodness of our young people. We need

to begin with the good that is already in them. Here again Don Bosco is our perfect model just as he began with the good quality that he discovered in Bartholomeo Garelli, the first boy of the oratory.

Thirdly, young people always look for challenges. Offering our youth adequate challenges alone is not enough. Challenges have to be also supported by our accompaniment. The accompaniment of younger generations is not an optional element in the task of educating and evangelizing young people, but an ecclesial duty and a right of every young person (IL 82). All young people are “masters” of their existence in some way, but they need to be helped.

Fourthly, young people always look for role models. *Gaudete et Exsultate* reminds us at the very beginning that Jesus wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence (GE 1). There are several young saints from the beginning of the Church till today. They can become references for the existence of the young today. These young saints have to be presented to our young people and thus in turn they themselves will become apostles to their companions.

Fifthly, in order to make a proper analysis of the youth situation a research or a study on young people is always desirable. A survey was posted online in preparation for the Synod. Though an internet poll can never be statistically reliable data, the attempt to evoke a response from youth in the world is to be appreciated. A similar attempt could be made also at the congregational or diocesan level to know the pulse of the young people with whom we carry out our mission.

Let me take this opportunity also to wish all the readers of the Salesian Bulletin a very Happy Feast of Don Bosco on 31st January. May the Father, Teacher and Friend of the Young intercede and inspire each one of us.



SALESIANS FOR TODAY'S YOUTH

1. REACHING OUT TO TODAY'S YOUTH

We Salesians are few in number in our academic and professional schools, oratories, youth centres and parishes. Consequently, we are absorbed by our work which occupies most of our time. As a result, our personal contact with young people remains very limited. We may sometimes give a good morning talk or teach in a classroom. But, overall, there is a distance between ourselves and the young, and it is this gap that needs to be overcome. Already in his 1884 Letter from Rome, Don Bosco identified the lack of "familiarity" and of a "friendly informal relationship" with the young as the root cause of the malaise affecting Salesian youth work.

Outlining the way forward for the Congregation, GC27 # 74 asked us to "move from being distant from the young to an active and enthusiastic presence among them". The Rector Major pointed us in the same direction by exhorting us in his Strenna for 2018 to listen to the young and accompany them. And our Constitutions # 15 remind us that we have to be "open and cordial, ready to make the first approach and to welcome others with unfailing kindness, respect

and patience."

Breaking down the distance, then, means following the example of Don Bosco who went among young people, meeting them in the streets, and visiting them in their places of work. He was the soul of recreation, moving around, speaking with the boys, and winning their confidence. The conversation he began with them in the playground concluded later in the confessional!

Like him, we have to make every effort to go among the young people in our houses, greet them, get to know them, and make friends with them. It is also what our young people themselves want: they feel the need of a caring and trusting friend to whom they can open up about themselves and their problems. Finding themselves on the threshold of adult life, they have - apart from their parents - hardly anyone who can accompany them in this crucial period of their lives.

We need to remind ourselves that we work, not just for the young but with the young. We are not sent just to run "works", but to form the young people in them. Therefore, we have to be "active and enthusiastic" in finding the time and the energy for informal interactions with the young - before classes, during the intervals, in recreation and other activities. We must let them know that we are available to them as counsellors and spiritual directors. There are group activities we can conduct, like retreats and life-orientation days or weekends; we can organize a group sharing or discussion on what it means to be a young adult today: to live as a good Christian in society, to choose one's vocation in life, to prepare for marriage, etc.; we can invite them to volunteer for charitable activities among the poor; we can foster the green movement among them. These are just a few examples of how we can reach out to youth in a formative way within our own



institutions.

But, our reach-out to the young cannot stop there. It must extend to all the youth of our locality and beyond. The GC27 also asked us to “move from a ministry of preservation to an outgoing ministry that starts with the deepest needs of the poorest young people”.

In fact, this outgoing ministry is indicated many times in our Constitutions and Regulations when they speak of our insertion in the neighbourhood. Referring to the school, we are reminded that “services to meet local needs should be provided, such as courses for cultural and professional training, literacy and remedial programmes, scholarships and other initiatives” (R 14). The Oratory is to “be organized as a service to the neighbourhood” (R 11). “The purpose of our works is to give service to others; they should therefore be open and available for the needs of the neighbourhood” (R 60: cf. also C 41, 57, 77; R 17, 22, 89).

In short, we are told that we



Abba Chrys Saldanha SDB

cannot limit our attention to the youth who come to our institutions, but must reach out to all the youth of our neighbourhood, especially the poor. For instance, we can foster youth groups and a youth movement among them. We can organize city-wide sports tournaments for the young, and offer holiday camps or language classes for those who are interested. We can set up a youth unemployment bureau or a youth counselling centre or even a website for the young to which they can address their questions about faith, moral issues and matters pertaining to young adulthood. With the talent available, we can set up a musical youth group to give public performances, and a volunteering service to help the missions. We can invite experts to a study-session once a year on topics related to youth poverty and publish the papers... Indeed, when it comes to inventing initiatives for poor young people, the sky is the limit!

What we really need are Salesians with a big heart like that of Don Bosco who love young people, especially the poor, and are consumed by a great desire to reach out to as many of them as possible and do good to them. In this way a Salesian house, far from remaining enclosed within its walls, becomes a radiating centre in the neighbourhood and in society at large.

2. BEING EDUCATORS AND PASTORS OF YOUTH

Obviously, reaching out to youth is only a first step. What must follow is the education and evangelization of the

young.

Now, education is much more than professional training or obtaining an academic degree. It is the preparation of a young person for life by making him capable of earning his living and by inculcating in him an openness to truth and responsible freedom in view of a life of dialogue and service to others (cf. C 32). Such a formation comes about through friendly persuasion within the lived experience of a value-laden environment. And so, our role as educators lies in creating such an environment, offering experiences, and engaging with our young people in friendly dialogue.

As for evangelization, it is much, much more than filling young people's minds with knowledge of the truths of the faith and inculcating the performance of religious practices. We are aware of the several young people who give up practising the faith after graduation.

Many years ago, Paul VI drew our attention to a major problem in the Church, viz. the split between our faith and our life. There are many people – and even countries – that profess themselves to be Christian, but in their way of living are anything but Christian.

Faith, therefore, has to be deeply ingrained in people's lives. It must be a loving relationship with God our Father, with Jesus his Son, and with Mary his Mother. This is the core of all our work of evangelization, and it will succeed only if we love these Persons deeply and communicate that love enthusiastically. Faith has to impact the lives of the young, affecting the way they think and act, the way they live in family, school and society, and their attitude towards the poor of the world.

Our approach, then, must be to first establish a rapport with the students by letting them talk and listening to them. Once a warm and trusting atmosphere has been created, they will spontaneously come up with questions of their own as well as those they have gleaned from the world around them. Instead of peremptory

answers like: "You must not do it because the Church forbids it" or "You must believe it because the Church says so", we must respond to all their questions with kindness and understanding, inviting them in a friendly manner to seek and discover together the message of the Gospel. It is always important that they be helped to relate whatever they learn to their own lives, and see it as something precious and meaningful for themselves.

Another important approach is to bring the students not just to know but to experience the faith. Every effort must be made to avoid whatever fosters boredom, be it in class or in the church. The Mass and prayer-services, for example, must be well-prepared, preferably with the help of the students themselves, so that they become a beautiful experience for them.

Furthermore, they must be helped to see their life as a gift and a task from God, a "vocation", a call in their baptism to be apostles. They must feel a sense of joy and pride in being Christians and Catholics, and not be afraid of standing up for their convictions. This is where group experiences of prayer and apostolate are a great help.

But, there is still another important reality we have to pay attention to, and that is: we must overcome the separation of education from evangelization. In other words, all our work of education must also be an evangelization! No, this does not mean bringing in the mention of our faith in all that we say and do in our work of education. Far from it!

Think of a government official and a religious sister distributing food to hungry people. From one point of view, both are performing the same action of giving food to the needy. Yet, what the religious sister does becomes evangelizing because she does it out of love for Jesus whom she sees in the poor people she serves. Her action is a sign of Jesus' love for the poor and needy. When all that we do in our work of education is inspired by a love for Jesus, it becomes

an evangelization! Our young people come to experience Jesus' love – through us.

3. WORKING JOINTLY WITH LAY PEOPLE

A lot of what has been proposed in the two preceding sections may seem very nice but may be judged impractical for a simple reason: we Salesians are so few! But, that is precisely where our mistake lies. We are thinking only in terms of what we Salesians can do! And we are ignoring the reality of the lay people in the Church, their identity and mission. This is clericalism!

According to the statistics published by Fides on Mission Sunday 2018, Catholics in the world number 1,299,059,000 (almost 1.3 billion). The total number of diocesan and religious priests stands at 414,969. Brothers are 52,625, women religious 659,445, permanent deacons 46,312, and members of secular institutes 23,018. The grand total, therefore, of priests, religious, permanent deacons and members of secular institutes (who, ordinarily, are considered to be the ones who carry out the mission of the Church) stands at 1,196,369, which is not even .1% of the whole Church! At once we realize the enormous potential of our lay people that remains largely untapped!

A further point needs to be made. Even if we come round to considering lay people as a tremendous resource for the Church's mission, we tend to see them only as helpers of priests and religious. We fail to realize that because of their baptism they are co-responsible with us for the Church's mission! They too are called to evangelize, even if not in the same way as priests do. While priests carry out what is known as an evangelization of persons through their ministry of the Word, of the sacraments and of their leadership and guidance of God's People, lay people are called to an evangelization of the secular world by taking away sin and evil from the world and establishing truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace – the hallmarks of Christ's Kingdom as described

in the preface for the feast of Christ the King.

Now, most of our Salesian mission with the young – apart from our religious ministry to them – lies in the secular field of education, sports, recreation, mass media, job-training, administration, care of street-children, etc. And this is the proper field of mission of lay people! We realize, then, what an immense difference it would make if we Salesians were to join hands with our lay people. Of course, for such a "synergy" to take place, our lay people would have to be formed. But, so would we as well. We would need programmes of joint formation leading to joint action.

Unfortunately, the biggest obstacle is our own clerical mentality which needs to be abandoned in favour of an appreciation of the vocation and mission of lay people in the Church and in the world. It is good to remind ourselves of Don Bosco's original idea of a Salesian Congregation made up of interns, viz. religious (priests and brothers) and externs, i.e., lay people who, while living in their families would observe the Rules and join in the mission to the young to the extent possible. That idea fell through because it was a total novelty at the time. But, it gives us an idea of Don Bosco's mind and of how he saw the relationship between Salesians and lay people.

That is the breadth of vision we Salesians need today as we realize how immense is the work for youth and how poor we are in terms of personnel and resources. By teaming up with our lay people, we multiply ourselves and are able to reach out far more extensively and effectively.

Actually speaking, we already have some structures in place, like the educative and pastoral community by which we unite in carrying out the common mission, and the Salesian Family by which we go even further and share our very spirit and spirituality with lay people. What we need most is to break out of our mindset and adopt a new approach to lay people.



PEARLS

Friend or foe

O

nce a farmer in ancient China had a neighbor who was a hunter. This hunter owned two ferocious and poorly trained hunting dogs. The dogs frequently jumped the fence and chased the farmer's lambs. The farmer several times asked his neighbor to keep his dogs in check, but his words fell on deaf ears. One day the dogs again jumped the fence and attacked several of the lambs, severely injuring them. The farmer has had enough, so he went into town to consult the local judge.

The judge listened carefully and said: "I could punish the hunter and instruct him to keep his dogs chained or locked in a shed. But you would lose a friend and gain an enemy." He then asked, "Which would you rather have, a friend or a foe for a neighbor?" The farmer replied that he would prefer a friend. "Then I will offer you a solution that will keep your lambs safe as well as turn your neighbor into a friend," the judge said.

After hearing the judge's solution, the farmer agreed. Once at home, he immediately put the judge's suggestion to the test. He took two of his best lambs and presented them as a gift to the neighbor's two small sons. The boys were delighted and began to play with the lambs.

To protect his sons' cherished lambs, the hunter built a strong kennel for his dogs, and the dogs never bothered the farmer's lambs again. From then on, the hunter frequently shared with the farmer the game he had hunted. The farmer reciprocated by sending the hunter lamb meat and cheese he had made. Within a short time, the neighbors became good friends.

Two cherished lambs, presented by a farmer to his neighbor as gesture of kindness and friendship, proved to be a solution to a sticky problem. It was an ingenious idea to solve the conflict as well as to nurture the relationship. Ordinary judges would have asked the man to build a wall but this extraordinary judge helped him to build a bridge through a kind gesture. Potential foes were turned into lifetime friends. What a beautiful place this world will be if all of us should be like the wise judge. Instead of following the law in letter he followed it in spirit. He comes as a man of extraordinary character since he looked for the good of all instead of looking for petty gains.



Mrs. Elisabeth Efrem

Coordinator, International Movement of
Catholic Students (IMCS) Ethiopia

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH FOR THE YOUTH OF TODAY?



Ethiopia is a country with a population of 105 million people (UNDP 2018.) According to the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports, young people between the ages of 15 and 29 make up more than 31% of the total population, while those under the age of 30 make up 70% of the total population. Our country is youthful and full of promise. Religion percentage in Ethiopia is as follows: Ethiopian Orthodox is 43.5%, Protestantism is 18.6%, Catholicism is 0.7% (less than 1 million of the total population), Islam is 33.9%, traditional faiths is 2.6%, and others is 0.7% (2007 Ethiopian Census.) Though the Ethiopian Catholic Church is a minority, it is only second to the government in provision of services such as education and health, and has quite an impact. The Ethiopian Catholic Church runs over 400 schools and 85 health institutions throughout the country.

This is the general feedback we got from a survey we did of young Catholics in light of the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (3rd to 28th of October 2018) on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, i.e. the Youth Synod 2018:

Most young Catholics in Ethiopia feel they do have the freedom to practice Christianity and that the Church treats people of other faiths well in promotion of equality and harmony in the society. They strongly believe that the Church is concerned about their moral development. They feel that

youth gatherings that have major success within the Church and sometimes outside the Church are similar because they are successful in bonding young people for the same reasons – they help them develop their spiritual life and faith, and build relationships.

Most young people feel that parish and small Christian communities, associations and ecclesial movements do provide them opportunities for spiritual growth through formation but these need to be more varied and reaching the majority so that young people can find areas in which they feel comfortable to participate. They feel that there are measures that have been put in place to contact young people who do not frequent Church but these are few and far between. Though most young people feel that priests and religious relate well with the laity, they indicated that the Church has not been effective in providing the youth with the role models in faith as opposed to the celebrities.

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are also
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Most young people feel that there is limited participation of the youth in leadership and in decision making on issues that affect the parish or diocese. But they also do recognize that young people have issues with adequately taking on commitments and responsibility.

Most young people feel that the support they want from the Church is primarily on integral formation. They feel that the Church should do more in providing vocational, faith and youth development programs. They also want sermons, catechism, etc to be relevant to their current situation and daily experiences. Most young people desire to better understand the liturgical beauty of the two liturgical rites that we follow in Ethiopia – the Latin rite and the Ethiopian Oriental or Geez rite. They feel that the Church needs to better learn to listen to their issues and concerns. They want the Church to comprehensively address issues such as sexuality, abortion and contraceptives, so that they are better equipped to understand them through the eyes of faith. Young people are asking for major promotion and defense of life from conception to natural death. They want the Church to develop measures to address the problems of unemployment, corruption and other social ills.

Most young people feel that the Church has not been effective with the use of media – digital or print – in evangelization. The Church needs to study a way of relevantly speaking to the world of today. Young people also ask the Church to promote and work towards a realizable dream of a self-reliant local Church.



Salesian World GLOBAL NEWS

8th Congress of Salesian Brothers of South Asia: Identity, Visibility, and Credibility



Bangalore, India: – The 8th Congress of the Salesian Brothers of South Asia held at Don Bosco Skill Mission, Bangalore, from 30 December 2018 to 3 January 2019 elected Br. Jose Puthenpurackel of Calcutta province as the new national delegate for Salesian Brothers in South Asia region comprising of India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh. Br.Puthenpurackel succeeds Br.Biju Joseph Poonamkavil of Dimapur province as delegate. The theme of the 5-day Congress was: “Salesian, be a Faithful Witness”. A total of 130 Salesians participated in the congress, including 98 Brothers and 32 priests. After serving as Vice-Principal and Principal of prestigious educational institutions of Calcutta province at Park Circus and Liluah, Br Puthenpurackel is currently on an education mission as Principal of the first co-education Secondary School in Calcutta province among the Santaltribals of Murshidabad district at Azimganj. Br Puthenpurackel, 47, who holds three Masters Degrees in Sociology & Social Anthropology; Psychology, and Management - besides two post-graduate diplomas in Human Resource Management, and School Leadership and Management - believes in providing quality education opportunities for tribal children. **ANS**

Salesian Youth for Climate Action



Katowice, Poland: The 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or more popularly known as COP24, was held between 2 and 14 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland. COP24 is critically important because it aims to finalize the practical implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement, which seeks to keep global temperature rise this century below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. To raise awareness about COP24 and also to give young people the opportunity to express their views on the climate crisis, the Don Bosco Green Alliance has been running a global campaign titled ‘Salesian Youth for Climate Action.’ This month-long campaign began on 15 November and ended on 14 December, the day COP 24 closed. As part of the campaign, social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were being used to carry video messages from young people in Salesian institutions to world leaders meeting in Katowice. Expressing his view, Daniel Alexander Muñoz Durango from Ciudad Don Bosco, Medellín, Colombia, asked the leaders to “commit to protect our water bodies, reduce waste and plant more trees. The Don Bosco Green Alliance presently has over 80 member institutions from 27 countries. It serves as a global platform, bringing together young people from Salesian institutions to contribute to global environmental action, thought and policy. **ANS**

Quality Manual to increase youth employment, thanks to "Don Bosco Tech Africa"



Yaoundé, Cameroon: The "Don Bosco Tech Africa" organization, which coordinates 97 Salesian Vocational Training Centers (CFPs) throughout Africa and Madagascar, launched from Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, its Job Service Quality Manual. It is an instrument that will serve to increase the job opportunities of the approximately 30,000 students of Salesian technical-professional institutes, spread across 34 countries of the continent. Funded by the German government through the Salesian NGO "Don Bosco Mondo", the handbook is the result of the contributions offered by all the Job Service Officers (JSO) of the region's various Provinces, thanks to the coordination of Don Bosco Tech Africa. The quality manual defines in detail the actions that JSOs can undertake in their service and lists the practical operating procedures to implement them. Each activity is presented on three different levels: minimum levels of performance, standard levels and level of excellence: in this way it wants to lead to a progressive growth in the provision of services for launching young Salesian CFP students into the labor market; develop better interaction with the local labor market; and in general to facilitate the dynamics of collaboration and synergy towards and for all interested parties. Issued last September, during the Annual General Meeting of Don Bosco Tech Africa representatives, partner companies and institutions, the manual on Quality will be further enhanced as early as 2019 with two additional modules for a perfect interpretation of the manual itself and especially for self-evaluation by the JSOs. **ANS**

The men's national Goalball team brings Don Bosco to "Asian Para Games"



Nonthaburi, Thailand: Among the national teams that was competing from 6-13 October in Indonesia in the III edition of the Paralympic Games of Asia, there was also a team with a clear Salesian imprint: it is the Thai men's Goalball team, a team game that can be played by athletes suffering from visual impairments. The entire team, in fact, is composed of Don Bosco Past Pupils of the Center for the Skills Development of the Blind of Pakkred, Nonthaburi district, in the northern sector of Bangkok. The team spent weeks, from August until early October, training at the gym in the Salesian center. Team members were all Past Pupils of Don Bosco Center. Just before leaving for the competitions in Indonesia one of them spoke to the Social Communication Office of the Salesians of Thailand: "For us Don Bosco is a father. We are all debtors of this center that has shaped us: without this center and the Salesians who animate it, today we would not be ourselves, who we are. This center offers us the future, it also allows us with visual disabilities to live a dignified and quality life." The center where the 5 players were formed has been animated by the Salesians since 1978. The Italian Salesian missionary Carlo Velardo, SDB, former Rector, in 2009, was also awarded with the prestigious "Van Thuân Award - Solidarity and Development" for this work. **ANS**

New Salesian mission opens in Gambia



Kunkujang, Gambia: With a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr José Elégdébé, Superior of the Francophone Province of West Africa (AFO), a new Salesian mission was officially opened in Gambia, in Kunkujang, at the parish "St Francis." Fr. Michael Karikunnel, Superior of the Anglo-Saxon Africa Province (AFW), the Provincial Council and the Delegates of the AFO Province attended the Mass. The missionary team consists of four Salesians: Fr Piotr Wojnarowski, Poland (AFW), Fr Juan Carlos Valdiviezo, Peru (AFO), Fr Ike Peace Francis, Nigeria (AFW) and Dias Sheldon, India (AFO). The new mission was officially inaugurated on October 28th and is intended as oratory-youth center. **ANS**

Assam Don Bosco University awarded as "University of the Year"



New Delhi, India: The Assam Don Bosco University (ADBUI) has been conferred "University of the Year" Award by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at the 14th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2018: A Global Conference & Exhibition held in New Delhi on October 30, 2018. R Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Higher

Education, MHRD, Government of India, gave away the 5th FICCI Higher Education Excellence Awards to 13 Educational Institutions and eminent personalities in the field of education. The award recognizes the achievements of educational institutions and personalities that have contributed towards the development of the sector in the country. The award was received by the Pro Vice Chancellor, Fr Joseph Nellanatt, on behalf of the University. The Assam Don Bosco University which was set up to meet the educational needs of people of the Northeast is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). It offers graduate, postgraduate and research programmes in various disciplines. Assam Don Bosco University is the first private university to be built in Assam and was founded on March 29, 2008, by the Don Bosco Society, the Salesian Province of Guwahati.

Salesians championing the cause of the young in Mali

Touba, Mali: The spiritual Sons of Don Bosco are in the front line to guarantee the right to infancy, education and food for Mali's young and children. In Touba, a very large parish, which includes no less than 76 villages, they have been extremely busy: they have recently opened 15 classrooms to guarantee literacy to the local community, started technical and vocational training projects in different fields and sectors, and created a small sports center, opened a secondary school and built a boarding school that hosts students who come from distant rural villages. Their commitment becomes even more necessary every day because adding to the ordinarily difficult conditions, new ones appear. Poverty and conflict always constitute a threat to the education of the youngest children, but now the risk is their very survival: to date, Mali is among the top ten countries in the world in terms of neo-natal mortality and more than 850,000 children under five are at risk of acute malnutrition. **ANS**



Guest Review

**የዘሬዎቹ
ወጣቶች
የሚፈልጓት
ቤተክርስቲያን**

እንደ ቤተክርስቲያን ከዛሬዎቹ ወጣቶች ጋር አብረን እንድንጓዝ ሲጋብዙን ር.ሊ.ጳ. ዮሐንስ ጳውሎስ ዳግማዊ እ.ኤ.አ በ1995 ዓ.ም በዓለም የወጣቶች ቀን ባስተላለፉት መልእክት እንዲህ ብለው ነበር፡

“ኢየሱስ ከኤማሁስ ደቀመዝሙሮች ጋር እንደተጓዘ ሁሉ ዛሬ ደግሞ ቤተክርስቲያንም ወጣቶችን አጅባ የምትጓዝ ጓደኛ መሆን አለባት”

“የዛሬ ልጆች እንደ ጥንቱ ልጆች አይደሉም፤ ለየት ይላሉ” ሲባል እንሰማለን፤ እናያለንም፡፡ ታዲያ ለዛሬዎቹ ወጣቶች ቤተክርስቲያን ያላት ሥፍራ ምን ሊሆን ይገባል? ወጣቶች የሚፈልጓት ቤተክርስቲያንስ ምን ዓይነት ናት?

ወጣቶች ያሉባት ቤተክርስቲያን ስንል በክርስቶስ ስም በተሰባሰቡ ምእመናን መካከል ወጣቶች ንቁ ተሳታፊዎች እንዲሆኑ የሚታገዙበት ስፍራ ነው፡፡ ወንጌል የሚሰበኩበት፣ በሚሠራ እምነት እንዲያድጉ የሚደረግበት፣ በሥርዓተ አምልኮ ውስጥ እና በምሥጢራት ተካፋዮች የሚሆኑበት እንዲሁም ለእምነታቸው የሚመሰክሩበትና ሌሎችንም እንዲያገለግሉ ኃላፊነትን የሚሰጡበት ቦታ ማለት ናት ወጣቶች ያሉባት ቤተክርስቲያን፡፡

የወጣቶች ሐዋርያዊ አገልግሎት

የካቶሊክ ወጣቶች ሐዋርያዊ አገልግሎት ምንነትና ዓላማውን መመልከት የዛሬይቱ ወጣቶች የሚፈልጓት ቤተክርስቲያን ምን ዓይነት መሆን እንዳለባት ያንጸባርቃል፡

የካቶሊክ ወጣቶች ሐዋርያዊ አገልግሎት ማለት ወጣቶች ለሚያስፈልጋቸው ነገሮች ምእመናኑ የሚሰጡት ምላሽ እና ወጣቶችም በልዩ ልዩ ስጦታዎቻቸው ምእመናኑን የሚያገለግሉበት መድረክ ማለት ነው፡፡

ለወጣቶች ምላሽ ለመስጠት

የወጣቶችን ሐዋርያዊ አገልግሎት ተግባራዊ ለማድረግ ወጣቶችን ማወቅና የሚያስፈልጋቸውን ነገሮች መረዳት ያስፈልጋል፡፡

ወጣቶች ያላቸውን ስጦታዎች ለይቶ ማወቅና በቁምስና ውስጥ ለእነርሱ ቦታ መስጠት፤ በአመራር ሥራ ላይ በኮሚቴነት እንዲሁም በተለያዩ የአገልግሎት ቦታዎች ላይ እንዲሰማሩ ማድረግ ተገቢ ነው፡፡

ወጣቶችና ስጦታዎቻቸው

ወጣቶች ለቤተክርስቲያን የሚያቀርቡዋቸው ብዙ ስጦታዎች አሏቸው፡፡ ከእነዚህም ውስጥ የማገልገል ጥልቅ ፍላጎት፣ የፈጠራ ክህሎት፣ አዳዲስ ሃሳቦችን



ማፍለቅና እንግዳ ተቀባይነት የሚጠቀሱ ናቸው፡፡

ወጣቶች የጎደላቸውን ነገር የሚያገኙበትና ያላቸውን የሚሰጡበት ቦታ ሆኖ ሲያገኟት ቤተክርስቲያንን የማይወዱበት ምክንያት አይኖርም፡፡

የወጣቶች ሐዋርያዊ አገልግሎት ዓላማ

የወጣቶች ሐዋርያዊ አገልግሎት ሦስት ዓላማዎች አሉት፤ እነርሱም ደቀመዝሙርነት፣ ንቁ ተሳታፊነትና በመንፈሳዊነት ማደግ ናቸው፡፡

ዓላማ አንድ፡- ደቀመዝሙርነት

በዛሬይቱ ዓለም እንደ ክርስቶስ ደቀመዝሙርነት ሆነው መኖር እንዲችሉ ሥልጣንን መስጠት፡

ለምሳሌ ፡- በቁምስና ውስጥ

ጠቃሚ የሆነ ጉልህ አስተዋጽኦ እንዲያደርጉ እድል መስጠት

የቤተሰባዊነት ስሜት እንዲሰማቸው ማድረግ

የሕይወትን ራዕይ ቅርጽ የሚያስይዝ

መንፈሳዊነትን ማቅረብ

ወጣቶች ከክርስቶስ ጋር የግል ቅርበት እንዲኖራቸው የሚያስችል ስብከተ ወንጌልን አዘጋጅቶ ማቅረብ

ወጣቱን ለደቀመዝሙርነት መጋበዝ

በሐዋርያዊ አገልግሎት ላይ እና በአመራር ሥራ ላይ እንዲሳተፉ ሁኔታዎችን ማመቻቸት

የካቶሊክ ቤተክርስቲያን ትምህርተ ሃይማኖትን (ትምህርተ ክርስቶስን) ማስተማር

ጥሪያቸውን ለይተው ያውቁት ዘንድ መርዳት

ዓላማ ሁለት ፡- ንቁ ተሳታፊነት

ወጣቶች በካቶሊካዊት ቤተክርስቲያን ውስጥ በሚካሄዱ ተግባራት እና ተልእኮዎች ውስጥ ንቁ ተሳትፎ ያደርጉ ዘንድ ኃላፊነትን እንዲወስዱ መቀስቀስ፡፡

ወጣቶች የማኅበረሰቡ አካል መሆን ይፈልጋሉ፡፡ በነጻነት መቅረብ ከሚችሉት ጋር መቅረብን ይሻሉ፡፡ ቤተክርስቲያን ወጣቶች የሚሰባሰቡበትን (ማኅበር የሚፈጥሩበትን) መንገድ ማዘጋጀት ይጠበቅባቸዋል፡፡ ለዚህም ነው ወጣቶች በቤተሰቦቻቸው መካከል፣ በየቁምስናቸው፣ አልፎም ከሰፊው ማኅበረሰብ ጋር ይበልጥ ይቀራረቡ ዘንድ መርዳት የቤተክርስቲያን ኃላፊነት ነው የሚባለው፡፡

ቤተክርስቲያን የማቀራረብ ሥራ ከምትሠራባቸው መንገዶች አንዳንዶቹ የሚከተሉት ናቸው፡፡

የወጣቶች ፕሮግራም ሲኖር ለወላጆቻቸው ማሳወቅ፣ መረጃ መስጠት

በቁምስና ውስጥ በሚከናወኑ ሐዋርያዊ እንቅስቃሴዎች ላይ ወጣቶችን ማሳተፍ

በካቶሊክ ትምህርት ቤቶች ውስጥ ማኅበራዊ ሕይወትን ማጠናከር (መደገፍ)

አገልግሎት በሚሰጡባቸው ልዩ ልዩ ተቋማት ውስጥ የወጣቶች ተሳትፎን ማሳደግ

ዓላማ ሦስት፡- በመንፈሳዊነት ማደግ እያንዳንዱ ወጣት ሁለንተናዊ ሕንፃት ይኖረው ዘንድ በሙላትና በመንፈሳዊነት እንዲያድግ ማበረታታት

የቤተክርስቲያን ሌላኛው ተግባር ነው፡፡ የወጣትነት ዕድሜ በወጣቶች ላይ አካላዊ፣ ማኅበራዊና መንፈሳዊ ለውጦች የሚታዩበት ጊዜ ነው፡፡ ወጣቶች በጥሩ ሥነ ምግባር ታንጾው ያድጉ ዘንድ እምነታቸውን ማስተማር (ካቶሊካዊ ሃይማኖታቸውን ማሳወቅ)፤ በስጦታቸው ሌሎችን እንዲያገለግሉ መንገድ መክፈት የቤተክርስቲያን ኃላፊነት ነው፡፡

ወጣቶችን በቁምስናቸው ውስጥ ንቁ ተሳታፊዎች በማድረግ በሚከተሉት መንገዶች እድገታቸውን መደገፍ ይቻላል፡፡

ወጣቶች በእምነት የተሞሉ፣ በፍቅር የሚንከባከቡ፣ ብቁ ችሎታና ጤናማ እድገት ያላቸው እንዲሆኑ ድጋፍ መስጠት

ልዩ የሆነው ተፈጥሮአዊ እድገታቸው ማኅበራዊና መንፈሳዊ ለውጣቸው (እድገታቸው) የሚጭርባቸው ፍላጎቶች ምን ምን እንደሆኑ በቀጥታ መንገር (ማስረዳት)

ካቶሊካዊ ማንነትን በጉልህ ማሳየት

ጤናማ እድገትን የሚያደናቅፉ ተግዳሮቶች ምን እንደሆኑ በማሳወቅ እድገታቸውን ማበረታታት ይቻላል፡፡

የዛሬዎቹ ወጣቶች የሚፈልጓት ቤተክርስቲያን የኢትዮጵያ ካቶሊካዊት ቤተክርስቲያን ጠቅላይ ጽሕፈት ቤት የሐዋርያዊ አገልግሎት ኮሚሽን ከኅዳር 17-20 ቀን 2011 ዓ.ም ለሦስት ሰባቶች ማለትም ለእምድብር፣ለሆሣዕና እና ለሶዶ ሀገረ ስብከቶች በሆሣዕና ከተማ ላይ ሐዋርያዊ ሴሚናር አዘጋጅቶ ነበር፡፡

በሴሚናሩ ላይ የተገኙት ተሳታፊዎች (ካህናት፣ሲስተሮች፣ካቴኪስቶች እና የወጣቶች ተወካዮች) የዛሬዎቹ ወጣቶች የሚሸዋት ቤተክርስቲያን ምን ዓይነት ናት? ወጣቶች ከቤተክርስቲያን ምን ይጠብቃሉ? በሚሉት ጥያቄዎች ላይ ተወያይተው ነበር፡፡ የውይይቱ አንድ አካል ለነበሩት ለነዚህ ጥያቄዎች የሰጡት ምላሾች በአጭሩ እንደሚከተለው ሲሆኑ የብዙ ካቶሊካውያን ወጣቶችን ጥያቄዎች እንደሚመልሱ ተስፋ አደርጋለሁ፡፡

የዛሬዎቹ ወጣቶች የሚፈልጓት ቤተክርስቲያን

- አሳታፊ የሆነች (የምታወያይ)
- መልስ የምትሰጥ
- በፍቅር የምትይዝ
- እዉነተኛ ነጻነትን የምትሰጥ
- የምታዳምጥ (በውይይት የምታምን)
- ምሕረትን የምትሰጥ
- ልጆችዋ ሲጠፉ፣ ሲታመሙ የምትፈልግ

ለወጣቶች የጋራ መድረክ የምትከፍት አብነት የሚሆኑ መሪዎችን የምትፈልግ በሥነ ምግባርና በጥበብ የምታንጽ እድሜና አቅምን ያገናዘበ ትምህርት የምትሰጥ



በቂ የጸሎትና የዝማሬ ጊዜን የምትሰጥ
 ኃላፊነትን የምትሰጥ
 ወጥ በሆነ ፕሮግራም የምትመራ
 አገልጋዮቿን ብቃት ያላቸው የምታደርግ
 ድጋፍና እንክብካቤን የምትሰጥ
 የምትቀርብና የምታቀራርብ
 የወጣቶችን ፍላጎት የምታሟላ
 ለአገልግሎት የምትጋብዝ
 ምእመናንን ለአገልግሎት የምታዘጋጅ
 የሕግ ታራሚዎችን የምትጎበኝ
 የወጣቶች የአገልግሎት ሚና የሚታይባት
 የወጣቶችን ጥያቄዎች የምታዳምጥ
 አድማጭነትን እና ትሕትናን ከካህናት የምትጠብቅ
 ደሀ ወጣቶችን የምትደግፍ
 ካቶሊካዊ ሃይማኖትን በጥልቀት የምታስተምር
 ለልጆቿ ሁለንተናዊ ሕንፃትን የምትሰጥ እንደ
 ስጦታችን እንድናገለግል የምትፈቅድ
 በጋራ እንድናቅድ የምትጋብዝ
 በወንጌልቃልና በመንፈሳዊነት የምታሳድግ
 ካቶሊካዊነታችንን በሚገባ የምታሳውቀንና
 እንድንወደው የምታግዝን
 በመጨረሻም ቅዱስ ዮሐንስ ለወጣቶች እንዲህ
 ይላል፡ “ወጣቶች ሆይ ብርቱዎች ስለሆናችሁ፤
 በእግዚአብሔር ቃል ስለጻናችሁ፤ ሰይጣንን
 ስላሸነፋችሁ ጻፍሁላችሁ” (1 ዮሐ 2:14)። እኔ ደግሞ
 ካቶሊካውያን ወጣቶች ሆይ ክርስቶስ ቤተክርስቲያንን

እንደወደድና ራሱን ስለእርስዎ አሳልፎ እንደሰጠ
 (ኤፌ. 5:25) እናንተም ወደዲኑ እላለሁ።
 እንደዚህ በመውደድ ፍቅራችሁን አሳይዋት.....
 በእናታችሁ ቤተክርስቲያን ጥላ ስር ተሰባስቡ
 ካቶሊካዊ አንድነታችሁን አጠናክሩ
 መሥዋዕተ ቅዳሴን ተሳተፉ
 ቤተክርስቲያንን አዳምጡ
 በካቶሊካዊነታችሁ ጸንታችሁ ኑሩ
 በመቻቻልና በመዋደድ ኑሩ
 ካቶሊክ ተብላችሁ ለመጠራት አትፈሩ
 መንፈሳዊ በዓላትን በጋራ አክብሩ።

ዋቢ
 Thomas East, Leadership for Catholic Youth
 Ministry. 2013



በአባ ኦብነት አበበ
 (ዘማኅበረ ልዑካን /ላዛሪስት)

SUCCESS STORIES

DID YOU KNOW ?



BEFORE:

This woman needs no introduction. Her books have sold more than 400 million copies worldwide. But there was a time in her life when she was diagnosed with clinical depression and contemplated suicide. Her marriage had failed, and she was jobless with a dependent child. She signed up for government aid (she was so poor, she could not afford to support herself and her daughter), describing her economic status as being “poor as it is possible to be in modern Britain, without being homeless.” In 1990, while she was on a four-hour-delayed train trip from Manchester to London, the idea for a story of a young boy attending a school of wizardry “came fully formed” into her mind. In 1995, she finished the manuscript of her first book on an old manual typewriter. The book was submitted to twelve publishing houses, all of which rejected the manuscript. Editor Barry Cunningham from Bloomsbury advised her to get a day job since she had little chance of making money from writing children's books.

AFTER:

Today, she is United Kingdom's best-selling living author, with an estimated fortune of £560 million, ranking her as the twelfth richest woman in the UK. She is none other than J.K Rowling – the creator of the Harry Potter series. Saying that the Harry Potter franchise was and is a success would be an understatement.

Feeling inspired? Just remember: Nothing is impossible. Carpe diem!



Happy New Year 2019

365 New Days
New Chances





*"God is waiting us in the young"
(Salesian Credo)*



Abba Ignacio Laventure SDB

Since Abba Lijo has asked me to write an article about the topic of our General Chapter 28th: What Kind of Salesians for the Youth of Today, many ideas have come into my mind. The first thought which came was, perhaps because of my being novice master for many years, to write about the beautiful description of what is to be a Salesian, given by the second article of our Constitutions: "To be in the Church signs and bearers of the love of God for young people, especially those who are poor". But, I was not too much convinced with the choice. Then, little by little, thoughts about the recent Synod on Youth, the material arriving for the celebration of our Provincial and General Chapters started to go around in my heart and the word **'listening'** begins to resound strongly in me. I need to say the truth, I was afraid to listen to the young. However, some days later, the good Lord gave me the opportunity to overcome my fears and be open to listen to; the occasion was the regular meeting with our past-pupils of Bishoftu-Debre Zeit. They answered personally the question 'what kind of Salesian do you want for today?' I was really surprised by their answers and I realized how much young people actually know us. They know very well our weaknesses and our strengths. They have a very clear idea of what type of Salesian they expect and desire. Therefore trying

to listen to them, I will attempt to respond What Kind of Salesians for the Youth of Today, I dream with them.

First of all, the Salesian for the youth of today must be a man of God and of prayer, a man of faith and full of hope. A man who lives deeply his being consecrated by God, a man who radiate happiness and joy. It is not a question of reducing our activities or projects and then dedicating more time for prayer and recollection. Don Bosco himself was a very busy person; he was able to carry on so many activities and enterprises but at the same time the people of his time was able to see and discover in him a man of God, a man of prayer, of faith and of hope. Why this does not happen with some of us? Perhaps, we can find the answer in what the gospel says: "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be" (Mt. 6:21). The treasure of Don Bosco undoubtedly was God and for this reason, his heart in the middle of all his occupations and enterprises, was always in the master, in Jesus. As a consequence everything that he did or said was a manifestation of God's love. The young people of today, implicitly or explicitly, desire a Salesian with a heart immerse in God, not a mere social worker but a man who is able to manifest and to proclaim God presence and love throughout his life of social and educational service.

Secondly, the Salesian for the youth of today must be a man totally available for the young. Reading the Salesian Bulletin of my country, I found a very interesting interview to a permanent deacon who did not grow in a Salesian environment but he is now teaching literature in one of the Salesian houses in Uruguay. During the interview, he commented that many people were asking him, how is possible that the Salesians are able to gather so many youngsters. What is the secret? He responded that for him the secret is what

has surprised him when he started to work in a Salesian house. He was amazed to see during the school break and in other moments in the playground the Salesians chatting, playing and sharing with the young. This is one of the keys of our pedagogy, an element that we cannot lose, the physical presence among the youngsters, what is called in our Salesian tradition: Assistance, the fatherly, brotherly and friendly physical presence among the youth. The young people of today demand from us this presence. They do not want to see us running from one place to other sustaining structures, they do not want to see us as managers of big projects, they do not want to see us as people who spend the majority of the time in the office or as guests who come to visit the places where the youngsters are and go. They expect



from us to spend our time not only for but especially with them. The playground is for us Salesians our second chapel, as the Salesian creed says: we believe that God is waiting us in the young.

Lastly, the Salesian for the youth of today must be a man full of missionary zeal.

A man full of enthusiasm who look for the poor youth wherever they are, a man ready to go to the peripheries facing the new challenges coming from youth. A man who is not attached to structures but faithful to people, a man who is not trapped with the ritornello 'we always did like this' but a man who is capable of searching new forms of serving and saving the young. We cannot be satisfied with the many youngsters who are coming to our houses. What about the so many youngsters who are not coming? We need to have the courage, the missionary zeal to go out from our comfort zone and face the new poverties of today. These youngsters are repeating what the young people of one of Don Bosco's missionary dream were saying: we were waiting so long for you.

I was touched by one of the answers given by one of the past pupils. To the question what do you see as missing in the Salesians of today? He responded, 'there is a missing of love'.

Immediately came to my mind the very famous and always current letter from



Rome. This masterpiece of the Salesian pedagogy reminds us Salesians that it is not enough to love; the young must realize that they are loved. They must feel that like Don Bosco our lives until the last breathe is for and with them. I hope that if Don Bosco was asked again as in that dream, where are the Salesians? He would answer with a smiling face and a heart full of satisfaction, they are there among the youth, sharing and giving their lives for them.

Perhaps somebody after reading this article can comment that 'there are not new things'. Yes, it is true, I will answer. There are not new things because what it is necessary is not to find new things but new ways of being present, new answers and proposals to continue being as Don Bosco deeply desire about his Salesians: To be signs of God's love to the young especially those who are poor.

Let us be courageous, let us overcome our fears. As our Rector Major Fr. Angel has boldly affirmed: 'The youngsters

are the ones who will save us,' not our securities, our projects or structures but the young. Let us listen to the youth of today because as a beautiful song of Don Bosco says, 'even paradise without the youth will not be a paradise for us'.



SO MANY
AMAZING STORIES
THAT CONSOLE AND
ENCOURAGE US





THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR

THE MULTICOLORED FACE OF DON BOSCO TODAY

DON ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME SDB



Dear friends of Don Bosco's Salesian Bulletin, I greet you most cordially. You must know that for Don Bosco the Salesian Bulletin was one of the most precious means that he had to make known all the good that he and his Salesian Family were (and are) doing.

As I write to you, I am thinking of January, the month in which we will participate in World Youth Day in Panama together with young people and Pope Francis, and the month of Don Bosco's feast day, January 31, which, God willing, I will celebrate there as well. The people of Panama have such a great veneration for Don Bosco that more than 700,000 participate in the procession on his feast day. Yes! That number is correct – more than 700,000 people.

Though I am looking toward January, the very Salesian month with so many feast days of our saints, a month dedicated to the Salesian Family and Don Bosco, presently, as I write these lines, I am engaged with the general council meeting that has just begun. This is when the Salesian general councilors return to Rome to gather with the Rector Major to “report” on their visits around the Salesian world on every continent, in one or other of our 1,936 presences. Many of them have just spent four months accompanying the confreres in one of our provinces.

Several hours at the beginning of our meeting were dedicated to sharing with

each other how we are and the experiences we have had in these past months. As I listened, my thoughts flew in all directions when hearing the many different, beautiful, and at times challenging testimonies. This is why I chose the title I did for this article, for today Don Bosco truly has a “multicolored face”:

We listened as one of the councilors described how in Yakutsk, in the middle of Siberian Russia, 6,000 km/3,700 miles east of Moscow, the Salesian community lives among and accompanies its people, few of whom are Catholics. (In fact, there were 15 at Holy Mass on the Sunday he was there.) Still, they share the daily joys and difficulties of those people.

Another councilor shared how one's heart is touched by the accompaniment given the very many poor families and the difficulties they face at the Mexican border crossing points of Nuevo Laredo, Ciudad Juarez, and Tijuana, among others. He spoke of how the Salesians live there to accompany these families and educate their children so that they can become freer each day from the drug- and sex-trafficking rings.

I listened while another of our Salesian confreres recounted his visit to



Nigeria, Ghana, and Sierra Leone. There we Salesians accompany young people who are in prison, just as Don Bosco did 170 years ago in the Generala, Turin's youth prison. It was Don Bosco's experience in the prisons when he was a young priest that left such a great impression on him, including making him sick to his stomach, and that brought him to the decision that he had to do all he could to help keep those young men and boys from returning to such a place. In those African nations today, the reality is no better than what Don Bosco knew. These young people, too, look forward to the daily visit of their Salesian friends.

I inquired about our presence in another African nation that I had visited and where we take in boys, girls, and teenagers who had been kidnapped for the purpose of harvesting their vital organs. Thanks to the Lord, they were saved by the police, and we were asked to take care of them until we could find their families. They often remain with us for years.

Then I shared the very beautiful experience I had myself when visiting various Salesian houses in Korea where boys – generally, teens and young adults – who have been sentenced for a minor offense live with us in genuine family spirit, feeling truly “at home.” Instead of being sent to some other place where they would be deprived of their freedom, they come for a few months or a year into a Salesian house that provides a rehabilitation program. It was a joy to hear from three judges whom I met that more than 85% of those young men and boys are definitively

rehabilitated and do not return to delinquency. This is another face of Don Bosco today – this time, with Asiatic-Korean features.

While listening to all these stories, it struck me that Don Bosco must be happy on account of his sons and daughters in the Salesian Family who are still today intent upon being faithful to the charism that God raised up in him. And I felt great joy while listening to all these reports – which are only the tip of the iceberg – about the great good that is being done for so many people. This made me think that today Don Bosco's face has many colors that he himself probably never imagined.

I am sharing these things with you, dear readers of the Salesian Bulletin, because I believe that we ought to spread the good news of the very many beautiful things that are happening and that are going to happen. A long time ago I learned the Chinese proverb, “A falling tree makes more noise than a growing forest.” This is precisely how it seems to be. Well, then, these reflections are what I wish to share with you – although they are just a tiny part of the silent growth in our forest.

Happy feast of Don Bosco! We will remember you in Panama in the midst of a wonderful multitude of young people.

With affection,





The pilot bishop of the South Pacific



Gizo, Solomon Islands: Known as the “flying bishop” of Solomon Islands, Bishop Luciano Capelli visits Catholics across dozens of islands by piloting a small airplane he also uses to deliver food and medicine. Capelli, an Italian, was a Salesian missionary in the Philippines for 35 years before coming to the Diocese of Gizo in October 2007. He arrived six months after an earthquake destroyed homes, schools, and churches across the Solomon Islands, a nation of nearly 1,000 islands in Oceania. “My first task was to encourage the people to rebuild the cathedral, the seven parishes and the 12 schools,” he explained in an interview with the Missioni Don Bosco portal. The Diocese of Gizo is comprised of some 40 islands with a total population of 136,347 inhabitants, 11 percent of which are Catholics, i.e. about 15,000. With financial support from the Italian Bishops’ Conference, Capelli was able to take flying lessons and the diocese received an ultralight small airplane. In the plane, which he himself has piloted since 2011, he visits hospitals, schools and communities, bringing medicine and basic necessities. **CNA**

Pope Francis ends synod, calls final document ‘work of the Holy Spirit’



Vatican City: Pope Francis closed the 2018 Synod of Bishops Oct. 27, calling the meeting’s final document the work of the Holy Spirit. The 167 paragraph text on young people, the faith, and vocational discernment was voted on paragraph by paragraph Saturday, following nearly a month of discussion on the topic. “We have made the document, we have studied it, we have approved it. Now the Holy Spirit gives us the document to work in our heart,” Pope Francis told the 250 bishops, nuns, and young people in synod hall at the conclusion of voting. The final document of the fifteenth ordinary synod touches on controversial topics, such as homosexuality and the concept of “synodality.” “It was the Spirit at work here,” Francis said. Two hundred forty-nine bishops voted in two sessions, passing the the synod document in its entirety Oct. 27. “Now is the time to defend Mother church from the great accuser with prayer and penance,” said Pope Francis, and reiterated his call for Catholics to pray the Rosary and pray to St. Michael the Archangel. **CNA**

Pope Francis to visit Morocco in 2019



Vatican City: Pope Francis will head to two cities in Morocco March 30-31, 2019, the Vatican announced. Pope Francis will visit the cities of Rabat and Casablanca, a Nov. 13 message stated. The schedule of the trip is not yet published. According to papal spokesman Greg Burke, the visit takes place at the invitation of King Mohammed VI of Morocco and the Catholic bishops. Francis will be the second pope to visit the country, after St. Pope John Paul II went in 1985 as the first pope to visit a Muslim country at the invitation of the state. Morocco, which is located on the north-west side of Africa, is a majority Muslim country. The total population, as of 2014, was around 29 million. There were an estimated 21,000 Catholics in the country in that year; just .1 percent of the population. The country has two archdioceses; one in Rabat, the country's capital city, and one based in Tangier.

Vietnamese Catholics urged to do penance for environment

Vietnam: A diocese in northern Vietnam has warned about rampant environmental pollution and asked Catholics to do penance to mark the fourth anniversary of the World day of Prayer for the care of Creation on 1 September. Vinh Diocese's committee for Justice and Peace warned that issues relating

to environmental pollution pose health risks to local people. www.ucanews.com

South Korea labels abortion an 'immoral medical action'

South Korea: The South Korean government included abortion in a list of 'immoral medical actions' earlier this month as the country's abortion law was revised to enable authorities to suspend medical professionals for performing abortions illegally. Abortion is reported to be very common in South Korea, although abortion is technically illegal, except in the cases of rape, incest or to save the mother's life. **CNA**

Catholic elected as leader of Germany's largest party



Munich, Germany: Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer was named the new leader of Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) at a special party conference December 7. A practicing Catholic, Kramp-Karrenbauer - known as AKK in the German press - was seen as the preferred choice of German chancellor and outgoing CDU leader Angela Merkel. A married mother of three, Kramp-Karrenbauer previously served as secretary general of the party and minister-president of the western German region of Saarland. She defeated Friedrich Merz, a

former member of the European Parliament and Bundestag, winning a run-off ballot with 517 of 1,001 potential votes. As head of the CDU, Kramp-Karrenbauer is now widely regarded as a possible chancellor-in-waiting behind Merkel, who has said she will step down at the end of her current term in 2021. Broadly seen as economically liberal, many political commentators have dubbed Kramp-Karrenbauer “mini-Merkel” and she is widely considered to be a continuity candidate with the current chancellor, who led the party from 2000-2018.

Nineteen Algerian martyrs beatified

Oran, Algeria: Bishop Pierre Claverie and his 18 companions, who were martyred in Algeria between 1994 and 1996, were beatified on December 8. AFP reported that some 1,200 people attended the Dec. 8 ceremony at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Holy Cross. Among them were relatives and friends of the beatified. The beatification was celebrated by Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Blessed Claverie and his



companions were killed during the Algerian Civil War by Islamists. Archbishop Paul Desfarges of Algiers noted the “thousands

of victims of the Algerian civil war,” calling them anonymous heroes. “We did not want a beatification between Christians, because these brothers and sisters died among tens and tens of thousands of Algerian” Muslims, he stated. Algeria’s population is almost entirely Muslim. Relatives of those beatified were received by Muslim dignitaries at the Ibn Badis Grand Mosque, where Mostaphajaber, an imam, said, “We Muslims associate this event with much joy.” “These Christian martyrs killed during this national tragedy ... had a good mission -- (they were) determined to spread peace.” **CNA**

Monegasque princess removed from British line of succession for becoming Catholic



Monaco: Princess Alexandra of Hanover, a member of the royal family of Monaco, has reportedly been removed from her distant place in the British line of succession after having become a Catholic. The news was reported in English Sept. 27 by Royal Central, which cited Point de Vue, a French weekly. Because the British monarch is head of the Church of England, which is the established church, British law bars Catholics from succeeding to the throne. The Succession to the Crown Act 2013 allowed heirs to the

throne to marry Catholics, among other changes. However, the law still stipulates that the acting British sovereign mustn't be a Catholic. Catholics have been barred from the English throne since the Act of Settlement 1701. Along with Alexandra, Lord Nicholas Windsor has also been excluded from the British line of succession for becoming Catholic. Lord Nicholas is a great-grandson of George V, and was baptized in the Church of England. He was received into the Catholic Church in 2001. **CNA**

Vatican approves second miracle for Blessed John Henry Newman



Vatican: A second miracle attributed to Blessed John Henry Newman has reportedly been approved by the Vatican, fueling expectation that his canonization could occur as early as next year. Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth in the United Kingdom wrote in email newsletter to his diocese last week that he had received a copy of the relatio, or official report, about the second miracle needed for Newman's canonization. "It looks now as if Newman might be canonised, all being well, later next year," wrote Egan

in the newsletter. According Fr. Ignatius Harrison, the postulator of Newman's cause for canonization, there are now two more steps to be taken before Newman can be canonized. First, a commission of bishops has to approve of the canonization, and then Pope Francis must declare him a saint. Harrison told the U.K.'s Catholic Herald that he too hopes that this will occur in 2019, but added that "there's no way of knowing" if, or when, this will happen. The Catholic Herald reported that the canonization could occur after Easter 2019. Newman's second miracle concerned the healing of an American pregnant woman. The woman prayed for the intercession of Cardinal Newman at the time of a life-threatening diagnosis, and her doctors have been unable to explain how or why she was able to suddenly recover. This miracle was investigated by the Archdiocese of Chicago, and apparently has now been confirmed. **CNA**

Holy See renews appeal to ban killer robots

Geneva, Switzerland: A Vatican representative to the United Nations called on the international community to ban killer robots – known as Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) – in a speech in Geneva last week. "In order to prevent an arms race and the increase of inequalities and instability, it is an imperative duty to act promptly: now is the time to prevent LAWS from becoming the reality of tomorrow's warfare," said Archbishop Ivan Jurkovic, permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations. **CNA**

Laugh- tonic

**"A joyful HEART is
GOOD MEDICINE"**

1. Who was the fastest runner in the race?

Adam. He was first in the human race.

2. Why are atoms Catholic?

Because they have mass.

3. Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?

Nope — just an apple.

4. Why did the unemployed man get excited while reading his Bible?

He thought he saw a Job.

5. If Mary had Jesus, and Jesus was a little lamb...

Does that mean Mary had a little lamb?

6. What's so funny about forbidden fruits?

They create many jams.

7. Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?

He just knew there was something fishy about it.

8. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

Absolutely ruthless

9. The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose.

Mosquitoes come close, though.

10. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

11. Who was the first tennis player in the bible?

Joseph because he served in Pharaoh's court

12. Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?

David — he rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep

13. How do groups of angels greet each other?

Halo, halo, halo!

14. What do we have that Adam never had?

Ancestors.

15. What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

16. How do you make Holy Water?

You take some regular water and boil the devil out of it.

17. Why did God create man before woman?

Because He didn't want any advice on how to do it.

18. Why did Noah have to punish and discipline the chickens on the Ark?

They were using fowl language.

19. Who was the smartest man in the Bible?

Abraham. He knew a Lot.

20. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

Samson — he brought the house down

21. Who was the best female finance lady in the Bible?

Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet

22. What do they call pastors in Germany?

German Shepherds



Collected by Nathaniel Ayele
Don Bosco High School Mekanissa

SALESIAN WORLD

LOCAL NEWS

Grade 12 students in DB Dilla makes Christmas memorable



Dilla: The grade 12 students of Dilla had an idea of helping the 500 kids of the feeding center. By volunteer basis some took turns in tutoring them in their studies. And they also wanted to give gifts for Christmas. So they decided to do fund raising. They collected 1 birr each every Friday from students of grades 9-12 since the start of the school year up until the last Friday of December 2018. They sold tickets for fund raising to everybody in the school. Many bought the tickets and the most number of buyers were from the elementary students. With the money they collected, they were able to buy clothes for every kid in the feeding center. On 4th December they had the Christmas party with the kids. The grade 12 students with some grade 8 students organized themselves for the party. Some distributed clothes. Others helped the kitchen mamas in cooking. Some assisted in rearranging the dining hall. Others helped in distributing meals. Everybody felt happy, most especially the grade 12 students who had this initiative. They had been preparing for this since the beginning of the scholastic year. Fr. Rector, Abba Tesfaye Kidane SDB was also very happy

because the idea had come from the students themselves and they themselves organized everything. There was just one teacher/advisor who monitored them so as not to go overboard their enthusiasm. She really guided the student very well, according to Fr. Rector. This is the first time that this kind of activity has been done in Dilla and we are hoping that it is just the beginning of many initiatives from our students who in their own way help other kids too. It is a concrete example of Youth serving Youth, a true Salesian spirit. And hopefully when they get older they still continue to help others in need. A value which Salesians want their past pupils to have Altruism, men and women for others. (Reported by Bro. Efren SDB)

Capacity building training held at Salesianum

Addis Ababa: A capacity building training was held at Salesian, Gotera from 24 December to 28 December 2018. The training was part of the 13 Months' Solar



Power Program which has been a three-year project that has been working mainly on training the youth in Photovoltaic home system, installation of solar system for SDB TVET centers and awareness raising on the importance of solar energy. The capacity

training was mainly for project personnel from 14 Salesian houses of the province. The training was conducted on the topic of Project Cycle Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. All in all the participants were 20 from the various houses such as Bosco Children, Addis Ababa, Mekanissa, Debre-zeit, Zway, Hawassa, Dilla, Soddo, Mekelle, Adwa, Adigrat and Gambella. The training was blessed and opened by Fr. Provincial Fr. Estifanos Gebremeskel and PDO Executive Director Brother Cesare Bullo. The training aimed at equipping the project personnel of the Province with the necessary knowledge, skill and attitude towards better project management and result based project monitoring and evaluation. At the end of the training all the participants were able to acquire and understanding on result based project management, logical framework and the skills to use long frame on their work for planning, implementing and monitoring of projects and establish monitoring and evaluation.

AET rejoices at the Sacerdotal ordination of two of its deacons



Mekanissa: The Vice-province of AET was in jubilation as two of its deacons, Dn. Asmare Legesse and Dn. Desta Welde were ordained priests on 17 November 2018. The event was organized at the Salesian Community of Don Bosco Mekanissa, Addis Ababa in the beautiful shrine of Mary Help of Christians. The two deacons were ordained by Bishop Roberto

Bergamaschi SDB, the Vicar Apostolic of Hawassa Vicariate. The deacons had successfully completed their Theological Studies at the Salesian Theological of Ratisbonne, Israel and had been already assigned to the communities of Gambella and Adamittullu respectively. Several friends, well-wishers and family members attended the prayerful ceremony in which the newly ordained priests too expressed their gratitude to God and to the Congregation for all the love and care that they have received throughout the formation time. After a few days of thanksgiving Masses in the various communities of the vice province they will be back to their respective communities to begin their apostolic activity assigned to them. We accompany them with our prayers.

IVECO rewards two sons of Don Bosco



Bosco Children: Amanuel and Demelash, that's how they call themselves, two boys who would have just ended up on the streets of Addis but thanks to the great work carried out by Salesians of Don Bosco at Bosco Children, that they found a welcome home in the house of Don Bosco. Both of them had been inmates of Bosco Children in Addis Ababa, a center for rehabilitation for vulnerable children on the street. Both the students had been frequenting the Automotive course organized by the IVECO, and had excelled academically. The presence of Giuseppe Conte, the Prime Minister of Italy on

13 October, was a welcome occasion to reward the excellence of these two outstanding students and both of them were awarded in the presence of many invited guests, for their outstanding performance. In the photo are seen Brother Cesare Bullo, the PDO director of AET and Abba Angelo Regazzo, economist of Bosco Children where these two boys are residents.

Great rejoicing for the Salesians as Ethiopia-Eritrea boarder opens after 20 years



Mekelle: Ethiopians and Eritreans have been celebrating the reopening of two key crossing points more than 20 years after a border war shut them. Hundreds of people from the two countries hugged each other and some wept as their leaders led celebrations to mark the reopening. The same was the feelings also for the Salesians as the confreres from Eritrea visited the house of Makelle in Ethiopia on 15 September 2018. The meeting was a very cordial one as the confreres met with the provincial of Ethiopia, Don Estifanos Gebremeskel and Brother Cesare Bullo along with other confreres of the community of Makelle. The group consisted of two perpetually professed confreres, three priests and Abba Petros Abraha, who is the superior of the delegation. "This is a home-coming for us, we are so moved and touched to see these places which has lot of

emotional attachment for us" said Abba Petros, who leads the Eritrean delegation at this moment. The two countries had been together as a single province, but due to the tensed political situations, the countries had been separated a few years ago, leaving Ethiopia to be a single province of AET and Eritrea directly under the Generalate at Rome. Even though not really sure as regards the future mingling of the two countries to form a single province, the political re-joining has evoked a sense of excitement of joy and jubilation among the people and especially among the confreres of the two countries. The re-joining of the two countries has coincided with the Ethiopian New Year, adding to the festive atmosphere in the country.

Inauguration of new workshops of "Don Bosco Children"



Bosco Children: on 28 November, the new workshops of the "Don Bosco Children" project were officially opened at the Salesian center of Mekanissa, in Addis Ababa. With the creation of these new structures, the opportunities for vocational training and employment for the "boys of Don Bosco" in Ethiopia are further extended. The construction of these new laboratories was agreed upon with the project partner companies, all active in the automotive sector: "CNH Industrial Italy", "CNHI International", "New Holland" and "Moenco". Taking part in the opening ceremony were: Mgr. Luigi

Bianco, Apostolic Nuncio in Ethiopia; Daniela Ropolo, Head of the sustainable development project "CNH Industrial"; Fr Estifanos Gebremeskel, Provincial of the Vice Province of Ethiopia (AET); Fr Angelo Regazzo, SDB; and several other representatives of the Government and the bodies involved.

The newly opened workshop will serve to provide short-term courses for dozens of students on the "Operation and maintenance of agricultural machinery".

Reunion after 20 years, memorable day at Don Bosco Mekanissa



Mekanissa: Don Bosco High School Mekanissa is in a joyful mood as the school is completing 20 years of its dedicated service in the field of education. The Salesian community had been already planning to mark this event in a particular manner but the real boost came when some of the past pupils came voluntarily to their alma mater with the request to celebrate this event in the compound as Past Pupils. The suggestion was very well received by the Salesian community and as a moment of first encounter they decided to gather together before Christmas. On 5th December was the Christmas program for the students of the school and the Past Pupils joined along with them in making this day a colorful one. More than 250 past pupils had been contacted but around 150 of them took part in the event. The most interesting was the T-shirt that they had

designed with the image of Don Bosco. The specialty was that the image of Don Bosco on the T-shirt was composed of all the important persons and events that they remembered from their school days.

Past pupils gather at Bosco Children



Bosco Children: "Don Bosco is our father and will always remain so", these were the sentiments running through all the past pupils that gathered together at Bosco Children to share their experiences and celebrate the joy of Christmas with the Bosco Children community. There were more than 22 past pupils who had gathered on 6 January at Bosco Children center, Jemo. The meeting had been convened by Brother Endalkachew, the dean of the Technical center. After a brief introduction by Abba Angelo Regazzo and an input on Past Pupils by Abba Lijo Vadakken, there was lunch program for all the past pupils present. After the lunch there were games and other entertainment programs organized for them. Everyone present really appreciated the role of Don Bosco in their lives and were enthusiastic about the formation that they had received at the center. In the meeting that followed all of them agreed to continue similar meetings occasionally and to be active protagonists in carrying out the mission and vision of Don Bosco in the world.

A close-up photograph of a man with grey hair and a warm smile, surrounded by a group of African children. The children are wearing white long-sleeved shirts with a circular school crest. Some children are holding yellow and red fabric. In the background, a person wears a yellow shirt with 'AUXILIUM CATHOLICUM SCHOOL' printed on it.

FROM OUR GARDEN

Nuovo Fiore in Africa

1. Could you tell us something about you?



My name is Ricardo Braglia, and I am a healthcare entrepreneur and developer of medicine, mainly for cancer treatments. I own a company that is named as HELSINN which is focus on cancer drugs production and distribution. My two sons went to salesian school in Lugano and that is how I began my Salesian contact. In 2007 Sr. Pina from Ethiopia came to Lugano. She is the first one who spoke to us about the possibility of helping projects in Ethiopia. We just started as a family project and it has already become an NGO/Foundation later on.

2. How about this idea of New Flower in Africa?



I was coming two or three times a year to Ethiopia and then it was a friend of mine who asked my interests. Hearing my story he is the one who pushed me to begin a foundation and we took the name from Addis Ababa.

3. What were your other projects?

In South Sudan, Tonj, with brother Cesare, in Mekeinnsa, in Bosco Children, the High school in Gambella, the Elementary school in Dilla, Grades 6,7,8 in Zway, and moreover with the Cistersians and Cappuchins in Hosanna, in Congo with the Salesian fathers and sisters, in Ghana with the Salesian sisters and in Togo and in Madagascar.

4. Why this special interest in education?

I was already spending money in charity in the medicine sector but I realized that it was not really helping people completely. Some people were just re-selling the medicine. But I realized that spending money on education had greater advantage. Investing money in education meant so many values being propagated like the value of love, value of family, value of improving yourself etc.

5. What would be your piece of advice to our young people?



My advice is: hard work, curiosity and have always a dream. For me it was an important dream to find Sr. Pina, starting with a small piece of land and building a school in Bole. Today our Foundation built 15 projects in 6 counties in Africa, serving more than 12,500 students all over from kindergarten to high school grades.





DO YOU DREAM TO BE A SALESIAN SISTER ONE DAY?

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