

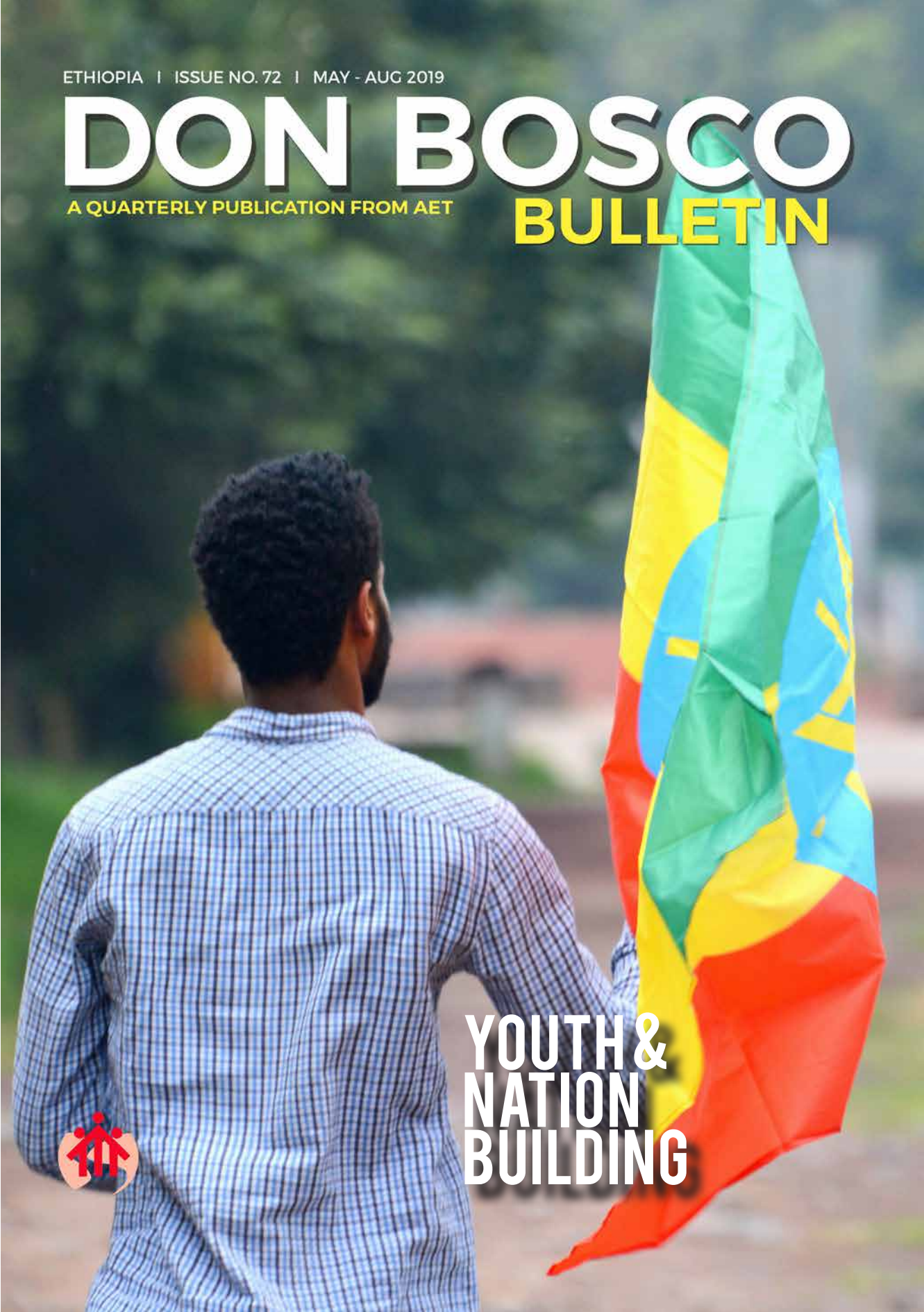
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# DON BOSCO

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM AET

# BULLETIN

YOUTH &  
NATION  
BUILDING



**STRONG - DURABLE - DEPENDABLE**

# AARTI STEEL PLC

**Quality is our Identity**

አርቲ  
ብረታ ብረት



AARTI-RAINBOW  
አርቲ-ቀበሌ

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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.







## One step at a time

**T**he topic for the current issue of the Don Bosco Bulletin is 'Youth and Nation Building'. This again is a topic very much spoken of in our country during these days. Certainly we don't want to give any political connotations to this whole subject but what we would like to do is to address this issue from a Catholic point of view. All the more, as this topic involves the young people, it becomes even more appealing to us as Salesians.

In the recent Apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis, words like "Life," "living," "alive" are terms repeated throughout the text more than 280 times, just as many times as the word "young," which is the key to the exhortation. A life lived to the full: this is the heart of the thinking of Pope Francis concerning young people. He writes: "Young people are not meant to become discouraged; they are meant to dream great things, to seek vast horizons, to aim higher, to take on the world, to accept challenges and to offer the best of themselves to the building of something better" (No. 15). Yes, **building of something better**, and that is where our topic finds its origin.

But it is not rare that we

often catch ourselves saying: "I'm already really busy, and how much of a difference can I really make?" I think this is especially true when we think about addressing massive social problems like tackling world hunger, fighting gender issues, stopping an unending war, finding a medicine for cancer or similar issues. But next time when we catch ourselves thinking that way, we will do well to remember the following story.

Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the beach for his morning walk. He had the habit of walking on the beach every morning before he began his work. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions. Off in the distance, the old man noticed a small boy approaching. As the boy walked, he paused every so often and as he grew closer, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea. The boy came closer still and the man called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young boy paused,

looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can't return to the sea by themselves," the boy replied. "When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water."

The old man replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference." The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, "Yes it makes little of difference to the ocean but it does make an ocean of difference for that little starfish who gets back his life!"

I think this is what we must keep in mind when we talk about a big topic like that of "Nation building". Yes, we might not be able to change the entire world, country or society all at once or in a fortnight, but at least we can change a small part of it, for someone. Just one step at a time.

Wish you all a Very Happy Ethiopian  
New Year 2012

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Abba Lijo Vadakkan SDB



# GUIDANCE

**Abba Hailemariam Medhin, sdb**  
**Provincial Superior**

## Education of Young People, one of the Keys in Building the Nation

**T**here was a saying going around in the social media which was almost like this “In order to destroy any nation, you do not need missiles or atomic bombs; but only teach students to cheat in exam”. The saying shows that education of our young people is a matter of life and death for any nation building. Here when I use the term “Nation”, I mean the people of the country. By education we do not mean filling the head of the young person with some information or knowledge, but bringing up young people to be able to take care of themselves

and the common good. To be able to contribute for the good of themselves as well as other people who are in the same locality, region, country or even the whole world.

Today the world has become so interconnected, that whatever happens in one corner of the world affects each one of us. So the education of young people needs to take into consideration that the way they act in life is not only matter of their own life, but it matters everyone. So they need to be educated to be able to contribute positively to the world we have, considering every person of the world as their own brother and sister.

It is because of this that the Catholic Church speaks of Integral Human Development. All aspects of

human being need to be addressed in their education. Social, physical, psychological, spiritual, intellectual aspects of our young people need to grow. Therefore, education starts from their families, surroundings, school ... etc.

As Salesians we have the inheritance of our Father and Founder Don Bosco – educating to be “Upright Citizens and Good Christians” (C.31). In this slogan is included all human and spiritual



growth of young people. Our Spiritual and Human aspects are not something separated but interwoven within the person, and for that reason we need to address in our educational settings human and spiritual aspects of our young people. While we create conducive

atmosphere, Oratory – home that welcomes, a parish that evangelizes, a school that prepares them for life and playground where friendship is developed (cf. C.40) – where young people take out and develop all their talents and aptitudes, “we help them to be open to truth and to develop in themselves a responsible freedom. To this end we commit ourselves to inculcating in them a convinced appreciation of truth values, which will lead them to a life of dialogue



and service” (C. 32).

Nations being collection of people, and our young people make part of that nation, and if they are educated in this matter, they will be able to build it. As Salesians we are committed in “educating them to the sense of moral, professional

and social responsibility. In this way we contribute to the development of both people and environment” (C. 33).

### **In the Ethiopian Context**

If we want to educate young people that contribute positively for the building up of the nation at this particular time of history, we need to work a lot on the capacity of critical thinking. As Ethiopians we often tend to be emotional and we are maneuvered easily, and more over our young people. Therefore, our educational settings need to assist our young people to be critical in their assessment of the situation of our nation. It is not an easy task, because the influence on the young people starts from their early age, and we do not know what influence that the parents have on them. Not only the close family but also the neighboring community and friends have a great influence. When they arrive in the educational institutions, we need to be ready to face young people coming from different views on the reality. This is because today in Ethiopia everyone is becoming expert interpreters of political situation and social as well as economical aspects of the nation.

The task of our educational institutes has to be able to show the young people that the reality is not that simple and is more than what they have grasped at home and in their neighborhood. And that the education

has to assist them to be open to learn more, by entering in dialogue with other people with different point of view, and continue to discover the reality day by day, because the reality is revealed slowly.

Since “we encounter young people at their present stage of freedom, [we] then accompany them, so that they may develop solid convictions and gradually assume the responsibility for the delicate process of their growth as human beings and as men of faith” (C.38). Young people educated in their moral responsibility, spiritual awareness, and sense of responsibility towards other human beings and environment, not with the set of knowledge but ready to learn every day, will build the nation that is healthy, and on return healthy nation will help to grow healthy population. We can conclude that “upright citizen and good Christians/believes” includes all what we have been saying. In order to be upright citizen, one needs to be well informed and be committed to the truth. And being good Christian/ believer leads one to take life as a gift and to be offered for the good of oneself and others. Therefore, let us be committed to educate our young people to be upright citizen and good Christians/believers, so that we may contribute for the building up of our nation.



COVER FEATURE

# GOOD NATION BUILDERS AND GOOD BELIEVERS



**I**f any day of the week, we switch on the TV to see the news I am sure that grant part of the information that we are going to see and hear is about destruction: innocent lives destruction by different kind of violence, moral and values destruction, buildings destruction and so on. It seems easier to destroy than to build something. After looking at all these images, a question arise to my mind, is this the world that we are preparing for the coming generations? Then, all of us are well aware regarding the last events in the country and unfortunately seems that signs of destruction and disintegration of the society are appearing here and there. And again the question comes, is this the kind of country that we want to pass to the coming generations? I think that if not all, the majority of us will answer NO. As a Church we cannot look at the other side; we need to take our responsibility and be builders and formators of builders of the society at all levels.

But, the topic proposed to me for this article and of this issue of the Salesian Bulletin is 'Youth and Nation Building'. How does the youth enter in this process of building?

Sometimes, the youth is the most vulnerable and manipulated part of our society. They are used with the excuse of building something different but with the hidden purpose of destroying. This is not just. The youth is one of the greatest treasures that a society, a nation can have. Nobody has the right to sacrifice them for his or her own selfish interest or hidden agenda. We must give them, their own space and opportunities. They are not the future but the present of a healthy nation; they are the builders of a society based on peace, tolerance and solidarity.

However, it is not enough to build; we must build properly, because as the Gospel says a house can be built on sand or on rock and we know quite well how the parable finishes. The youth needs the other statements of the society to help them to build on rock, to transmit them the values which make a society, a nation strong, to form them in principals that are not negotiable that do not change according to where the wind blows. As Salesians working with and for the youth I think this is our responsibility, our great and beautiful challenge. Don Bosco has brilliantly summarized it in

the sentence: “Good citizens, good Christians”. Perhaps in our context, we can say that our goal is to form: “Good nation builders, good believers”. Therefore, which are the pillars that we must share and transmit to the youth so that together we can build our nation on rock. I will propose some, it is not an exhaustible list but they are fundamental values that according to my understanding are necessary:

**The first** and fundamental one is GOD, as the psalm 126/127 says: “Unless the Lord builds the house in vain do its builders labor”. The foundation of the building, the foundation of the nation should be in God and not in ourselves. A God who is Father/Mother and this implies that all of us are sons and daughters and as a consequence brothers and sisters. We are different but we have a common origin. God is so much present at the roots of Ethiopia; we cannot allow losing these roots. We need to help the youth, first not to lose the deep sense of God which the Ethiopian culture is impregnated and second to educate them in the deep meaning of life.

**The second** one is to appreciate the richness of diversity: imagine for a moment a city with all the houses with the same size, the same type of construction, the same color, with

the same number of windows, doors and rooms, with the same kind of flowers and so on. I do not know you but me I will run away from that place after a day. It is a fallacy to try to build a society based on one group only because even after building on it, sooner or later they are going to realize that even among this group there are also differences too. The temptation to exclude others will always be present because to build a society in diversity is a great challenge but it brings a wonderful richness of opportunities difficult to imagine.

**The third** pillar is peace: somebody has said that the history of humanity is the history of wars.

**// Only twenty years of the twenty-first century has passed and how many wars already have been or are going on. However, it is only in peace that a nation can be built. A peace that it is not built on the absence of conflicts but a peace based on dialogue and respect, in looking together for the solutions to overcome these conflicts. //**





Only in this way the youth will develop all its capacities and potentialities.

**Lastly**, the value of solidarity: we need to build with responsibility because we are part of a bigger reality. We cannot build without thinking the consequence of our actions on our neighbors. If we damage them sooner or later we are going to damage ourselves. Our building must be based on a spirit of solidarity, of sharing,

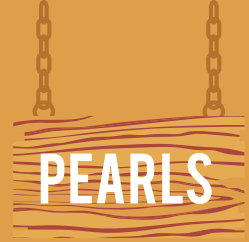
of taking care for each other and the environment, of looking for the common good of our common house.

Dear young, people do not allow anybody to take from you the dream that a better world, a better nation can really be built. Do not build on the sand of violence and hatred but build on the rock of God, diversity, peace and solidarity. This is the proper time, let us start!



**Abba Ignacio Laventure sdb**





# LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE

A Storeowner was tacking a sign above his door that read: Puppies for Sale.

The signs have a way of attracting children.... Soon a little boy appeared at the sign and asked, "How much are you gonna sell those puppies for?" The storeowner replied, "Anywhere from \$30-\$50". The little boy reached into his pocket and pulled out some change. "I have \$2.37, can I look at them?" The storeowner smiled and whistled. Out of the kennel came his dog, named Lady running down the aisle of his store followed by five little puppies. One puppy was lagging considerably behind. Immediately the little boy singled out the lagging, limping puppy. He asked "What's wrong with that little dog?"

The man explained that when the puppy was born, the doctor said that this puppy had a bad hip socket and would limp for the rest of his life. The little boy got really excited and said, "That's the puppy I want to buy!" The man replied, "No, you don't want to buy that little dog. If you really want

him, I'll give him to you". The little boy got upset. He looked straight into the man's eyes and said, "I don't want you to give him to me. He is worth every bit as much as the other dogs and I'll pay the full price. In fact, I will give you \$2.37 now and 50 cents every month until I have him paid for".

The man countered, "You really don't want to buy this puppy, son. He is never gonna be able to run, jump and play like other puppies". The little boy reached down and rolled up his trousers to reveal a badly twisted, crippled left leg supported by a big metal brace. He looked up at the man and said, "Well, I don't run so well myself and the little puppy will need someone who understands him!" The man was now biting his bottom lip. Tear swelled up in his eyes ... He smiled and said, "Son, I hope and pray that each and every one of these puppies will have an owner such as you!"

In Life, it doesn't matter who you are, whether someone ap-preciates you for what you are, accepts you, and loves you uncon-ditionally! A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks away!



# ወጣቶች እና ሀገር ግንባታ

**የ**ወጣቶች ሕይወት በተገቢው ሁኔታ መታነፅና ወጣቶች በሀገር ግንባታ አስተዋፅኦ እንዲያደርጉ ማስቻል ከቤተክርስቲያን ስብከተ ወንጌል ተግባር ተለይቶ የሚታይ አይደለም፡፡

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የወጣቶችና ሀገራዊ ግንባታ፣ ከወጣቶች ስኬት ስብከተ ወንጌል ተግባር ተለይቶ የሚታይ አይደለም፡፡ ሁሉም የሚከናወኑት በሀገር እና በወጣቶች ለወጣቶች ነው፡፡ በጥሩ ስነ ምግባር በወንጌል ቃል የታነፀ ወጣት በሌለበት ሀገር የሚገነባ ወጣትም ሆነ የተገነባ ሀገር ማስብ አይቻልም፡፡

በወጣቶች እምነት እና ጥሪን ማዳመጥ ዙሪያ በተገነዘቡ ሲኖድ የመጀመሪያው ተግባር በዘመናችን

ወጣቶች ያሉበትን ነባራዊ ሁኔታ በመገምገም የወቅቱ የቤተክርስቲያን ስብከተ ወንጌል ወጣቶች ከዘርፈ ብዙ ችግሮቻቸው ነፃ ሆነው የራሳቸው የነገ ህይወት ፍሬያማ በሆነ መንገድ እንዲመሩ ማነጽ መሆኑን አመልክቶአል። ወጣቶች ራሳቸው ለሕይወታቸው መታነጽ መሪ ተዋናይ እንዲሆኑ እንጂ ተመልካችና ጠባቂ መሆን እንደሌለባቸው ያስገነዝባል። ወጣቶች በመንፈሳዊ እና በማህበራዊ በኢኮኖሚያዊ ህይወት በወንጌል ቃል መሰረት ሲታነጽ ሀገርን ለመገንባትና ከሁሉም በላይ ክርስቲያናዊ የሕይወት ግብ ወደ ሆነው የቅድስና ህይወት መድረስ ይችላሉ።

በወጣቶች ዙሪያ በተካሄደው ሲኖድ ሌላው ትኩረት የተሰጠው ጉዳይ ወጣቶች ጥሪያቸውን ለመለየት ወይም ለማወቅ ጊዜ ወስደው በእምነት እግዚአብሔርን ማዳመጥና መልስ መስጠት እንዳለባቸው ነው። እግዚአብሔር እያንዳንዳችን ሲፈጥረን አላማ አለው ወይም በሕይወታችን የምንተገብረው ተልዕኮ ሰጥቶ ነው የፈጠረን። ይህ ተልዕኮ ጥሪያችን ነው። እያንዳንዱ ወጣት እግዚአብሔር የሰጠውን ተልዕኮ አውቆ መተግበር (መኖር) ሲችል ሰላም፣ፍቅር፣ፍትህ፣አንድነት፣ መተሳሰብ፣የሰፈነበት ሀገር ህዝብ በመገንባት ሂደት ይሳተፋል። ከዚህ በበለጠ በምንኖርበት ቦታ ሁሉ የእግዚአብሔር መንግስት መስፋፋት እገዛ እንደርጋለን። የእግዚአብሔር መንግስት ማለት ፍቅር ሰላም ፍትህ አንድነት የሰፈነበት ዓለም መፍጠር ማለት ነው። (ፍቅር ሰላም በሰፈነበት እግዚአብሔር ይኖራል።)

ር.ሊ.ጳ. ፋራንጅስኮስ በወጣቶች ዙሪያ ከተንሄደው ሲኖዶስ በኋላ «ክርስቶስ ሕያው ነው» በሚል ርዕስ በሰጡት ሐዋርያዊ ማነቃቂያ በመጀመሪያቹ ምዕራፎች ከደህነታችን ታሪክ እና ከቤተ ክርስቲያን ታሪክ በማጣቀስ በዘመናት ብዙ ወጣቶች ለእግዚአብሔር እቅድ እውን መሆን መሳተፍቸውና ለዘመኑ ወጣቶች አርአያ ሊሆኑ እንደሚችሉ በሰፊው አብራርተዋል።

ነብዩ ሳሙኤል የተጠራው በወጣትነቱ ነበር። ንጉስ ዳዊት ለንጉስነት የተመረጠው ገና ትንሽ ልጅ እያለ ነበር። ንጉስ ሰለሞን ህዝብና ሀገርን ለመምራት ሲቀበል ወጣት ነበር። እነዚህንና ሌሎችም ብዙ ወጣቶች በተሰጣቸው ተልዕኮ ሀገራቸውና ህዝባቸውን የገነቡ የእግዚአብሔርን ፍቃድ የፈፀሙ

ወጣቶች ነበሩ።

ር.ሊ.ጳ. ፋራንጅስኮስ «ክርስቶስ ሕያው ነው» በተሰኘው ሐዋርያዊ ማነቃቂያቸው ጌታችን ኢየሱስ ክርስቶስን እንደ ወጣት ገልጸውታል። በመፅሐፍ ቅዱስ የጌታችን ኢየሱስ ክርስቶስን ወጣትነት በሰፊው ባይገለጽም በጥቂቱ ከምናገኘው ገለፃ በወጣትነቱ ለተልዕኮው በቂ ዝግጅት ያደረገ እና ተልዕኮውን ገና በሰላሳ ሶስት ዓመቱ በተገቢው ሁኔታ መፈፀሙ ለዘመኑ ወጣቶች አርአያ እና አስተማሪ ሊሆን ይችላል ይላሉ። ወጣቶች ጊዜ ሳያጠፉ ራሳቸውን ለተልዕኮ እንዲያዘጋጁና እምቅ ሃይላቸውን ለተፈጠሩበት አላማ እንዲያውሉ የኢየሱስ ህይወት እንደ አንድ ወጣት ጥሩ ማነቃቂያ ነው። በተመሳሳይ ሁኔታ እመቤታችን ቅድስት ድንግል ማሪያም በወጣትነትዋ ሕይወትዋን ለእግዚአብሔር እቅድ ያስገዛች እና ለሰው ልጆች ደህንነት የተሰጠች ጥሩ ምሳሌ ናት ይላሉ።

በቤተክርስቲያን ታሪክ በርካታ ወጣት ቅዱሳን ይገኛሉ። በአፍላ የወጣትነታቸው ዘመን የተሰጣቸውን ተልዕኮ በብቃት በመፈፀም ፈሪሃ እግዚአብሔር ያደረበት ማህበረሰብ እንዲገነባ እና የእግዚአብሔር መንግስት እውን እንዲሆን የተገኘባቸው።

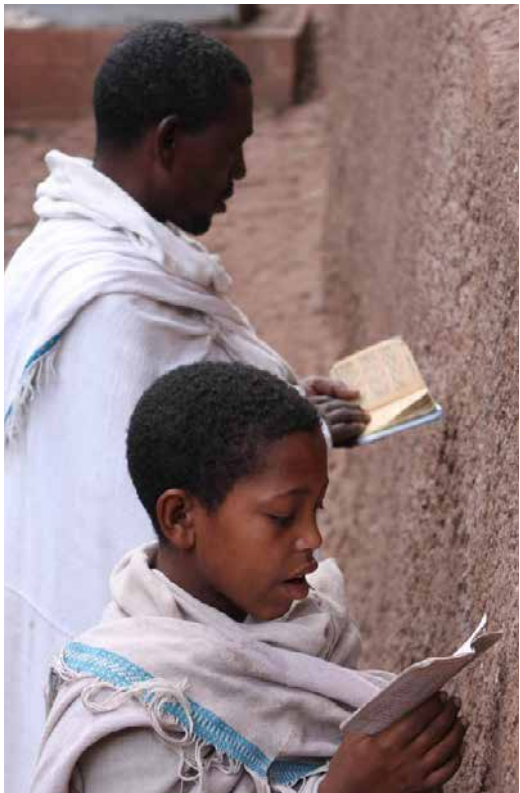
የሀገራችንም ታሪክ በጥልቀት ብንመረምር በርካቶች በወጣትነታቸው ህይወታቸውን ለሀገር እድገት፣ ክብር፣ ነፃነት፣ መስዋዕት ያደረጉ እና አሁን ያለችንን ሀገር ያቆዩልን እናገኛለን።

ስለዚህ የዘመኑ ወጣት ከአልባሌ ተግባራት ወጥቶ ፍቅር፣ሰላም፣ፍትህ፣አንድነት፣የሰፈነበት ሀገር ለመገንባት እና ፈሪሃ እግዚአብሔር የሰፈነበት ህብረተሰብ በመፍጠር የእግዚአብሔር መንግስት እንዲስፋፋና በሀገር ግንባታ አስተዋፅኦ ማድረግ ያለበት አሁን ነው።

ር.ሊ.ጳ. ፋራንጅስኮስ «ወጣቶች የእግዚአብሔር አሁኑ» ናችሁ ይላሉ። ይህ አባባል ወጣቶች የዛሬ ተመልካቾች የነገ ሀገር፣ዓለም ተረናቢዎች አይደሉም፤ ዛሬ ነው ነገ የሚጀምረው ማለታቸው ነው። ወጣቶች አሁኑኑ ወደ ተግባር መግባት አለባቸው። ልምድ ካላቸው ጋር ጎን ለጎን በመሄድ ነገ የሚጠብቃቸውን ሃላፊነት ተግባር ዛሬ መጀመር አለባቸው።

ወጣቶች በሚገጥማቸው ነባራዊ ሁኔታ ተስፋ እንዳይቆርጡና እግዚአብሔር ከሰጣቸው ተልዕኮ ወደ ኋላ እንዳይሉ ር.ሊ.ጳ ፋራንጅስኮስ

በአባታዊ ቋንቋ ለወጣቶች የማነቃቂያ መልዕክት ያስተላልፋሉ። ወጣቶች ሆይ እግዚአብሔር ይወዳችኋል። በምንም ዓይነት ሁኔታ ውስጥ ብትሆኑ የእግዚአብሔር ፍቅር አይለያችሁም ስለዚህ በዚህ ፍቅር በርትታችሁ ተነሱ። ወጣቶች ሆይ ክርስቶስ ስለ እናንተ ባለው ትልቅ ፍቅር እናንተን ለማዳን ራሱን በመስቀል ሰውቶአል። የክርስቶስ መስቀል ታሪክ ሳይሆን ዛሬም ህያው የሆነ ወደ መስቀሉ ለሚመለከቱ ሁሉ የሚያድን ነው። ስለዚህ ዛሬም እንደገና ለመራመድ ተነሱ ወደ መስቀሉ ተመልከቱ ወጣቶች ሆይ ክርስቶስ ዛሬም ህያው ነው። ስለዚህ ዛሬም ህይወት ይሰጣችኋል። ዓለማችን ጨለማ የዋጣት ቢመስልም ክርስቶስ በብርሃን ሊሞላት የሚችል ህያው ነው። ወደ እርሱ ከተጠጋን ህይወት እናገኛለን። ስለዚህ ተነሱ በርቱ ተልዕኮአችሁን አሁን ጀምሩ። መልዕክቱ ከሀገራችን ነባራዊ ሁኔታ አንፃር



መረዳትና ስፈለገ ሀገራችሁን ከዘረኝነት ከጥላቻ ክራስ ወዳድነት ከበቀል ነፃ በማድረግ ፍቅር፣ ሰላም፣ አንድነት፣ የሰፈነበት ሀገር ህዝብ በመገንባት በሀገራችንና በዓለማችን የእግዚአብሔር መንግስት

እውን እንዲሆን ስሩ የሚል ይሆናል።

ወጣቶች ሀገርንና ማህበረሰብን በመገንባት ተልዕኮአቸው መርላት የሌለባቸው ነጥብ ታሪካዊ መሰረታቸውና የቀደምት አያት ቅድመ አያቶቻቸው የሕይወት ልምድ እና ባህላዊ መሰረት ነው። ምክንያቱም ወደ ፊት ለመሄድ ወደ ኋላ መለስ ብለን የመጣንበትን መንገድ ማየትና ማወቅ ያስፈልጋል። ር.ሊ.ጳ. ፍራንቺስኮስ ወገና ባህሉን ታሪካዊ መሰረቱን የማያውቅና በዚያ ላይ ያልተመሰረተ ወጣትነት የጠለቀ ስር የሌለው የሚያምር ረጅም ዛፍ ይመስላል ይላሉ። እንዲህ አይነቱ ዛፍ በቀላሉ የመውድቅ እድሉ ሰፊ ነው። (ር.ሊ.ጳ. ፍራንቺስኮስ )

ስለዚህ ወጣቶች ሆይ የምትገነቡት ህይወት ሀገር ጠንካራ መሰረት ወይም ስር ያለው እንዲሆን ከቀደሙት ወላጆቻችሁ አያቶቻችሁ ልምድ መማር እና ከእነርሱ ጋር በቅርበት ሆናችሁ ምክራቸውን ጥበባቸውን ማዳመጥ አስፈላጊ ነው። «የወለደህ እርሱ ስለሆነ የአባትህን ምክር ስማ እናትህም ባረጃች ጊዜ አትናቃት» (ምሳሌ 23:22)

ወጣቶች የሀገርም ሆነ የቤተክርስቲያን የነገ ተስፋች ስለሆኑ ዛሬውኑ ህይወታቸው ለዚህ በሚያዘጋጁ መንገድ መታነጽ ይገባቸዋል። የነገው ሀገር ግንባታ የሚጀምረው ዛሬ ስለሆነ ወጣቶች ወንጌልን መሰረት ባደረገ ህይወት፣ ፍቅር፣ -ሰላም፣ እርቅ፣ አንድነት፣ እኩልነት እና ሰብዓዊ ክብር የሰፈነበት ሀገር እና ማህበረሰብ በመገንባት ሂደት መሳተፍ ይገባቸዋል። በዚህ ተግባራቸው የቤተክርስቲያን የስብከተ ወንጌል ተግባር ተባባሪዎች ይሆናሉ።



አባ ገብረመስቀል ሽኩር (ኮንሶላታ)





# Salesian World **GLOBAL NEWS**

## **Don Bosco University inaugurates "Micro Macro Observatory"**

**Soyapango, El Salvador:** On 15 August



2019, the Don Bosco University (UDB) of El Salvador inaugurated the "Micro Macro Observatory" (OMM), a center of scientific dissemination that is unique in all of Central America, especially dedicated to astronomy and natural sciences.

The OMM will allow the public to appreciate reality from two particular points of view: that of the rich complexity of the world that is imperceptible to the naked eye (micro), and that of the immensity of the universe (macro). In this way, the MMO will help people to expand their ability to perceive reality, understand their position in the world and consequently their responsibility towards "the common home". The Micro Macro Observatory is equipped with the most powerful telescope in Central America, with a diameter of 50 cm, as well as secondary telescopes, one of which is for observing the sun. Furthermore, it is equipped with biological, stereoscopic and digital microscopes to appreciate the realities

of the infinitely small. With its 700 m<sup>2</sup>, the OMM will offer a unique experience of immersion into the micro- and macro-cosmos. This innovative space was developed and created in collaboration with the German Foundation "Karlheinz Wolfgang Foundation for Health and Education" (KWS), with which the UDB has developed excellent collaborations since 2006. During the inauguration ceremony, the Rector of the University, Salesian brother Mario Olmos, underlined that the project includes three fundamental components: the physical infrastructure of the observatory, the technological equipment and the academic-scientific aspect of a university project, which will foster new careers and professions at the service of the country and scientific dissemination at all levels. **ANS**

## **Cause of Beatification and Canonization begun for Father Luigi Bolla, Salesian missionary**

**Lima, Peru:** On 1 August 2019, the Provincial Vicar of Peru, Fr Humberto Chávez, and Fr Vicente Santilli, officially presented to the Archbishop of Lima, mons. Carlos Gustavo Castillo Mattasoglio, the Supplexlibellus, that is the official request with which the



Salesian Congregation asks the opening of the diocesan Inquiry on the virtues, the fame of holiness and signs of Fr Luigi Bolla, SDB: an original witness of consecrated life, evangelization and inculturation of the Gospel and the Salesian charism in 60 years of life shared fully with the indigenous Shuar and Achuar peoples. His main mission was always to proclaim the Gospel to all the Achuars, whom he loved as children. At the same time, he worked tenaciously to accompany the Achuar people in their organization, encouraged their education and took care of the health and development of these people, who loved and appreciated him, calling him: "Yánuam' Jintia: Light star of the path". He died in Lima on 6 February 2013. The Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, wrote: "The spiritual and cultural heritage of Father Bolla is extraordinary and the start of his Cause of Beatification allows us to preserve, deepen and transmit it. Moreover, the relevance of this Cause is the great breadth it takes in relation to the celebration of the Synod of Bishops on the theme of Amazonia: new paths for the Church and for an integral ecology. A Synod that, as Father Bolla did, starts from listening to the indigenous peoples and communities living in the Amazon." (ANS)

### **Radio INE goes live!**

**Mestre, Italy:** Radio INE is a new feature show dedicated to life in the Salesian "San Marco" Province (INE) of Mestre. It was created in collaboration with IUSVE Cube Radio. It represents a radio program where young people can talk and, together with Provincial Fr Igino Biffi, discuss important

topics concerning vocation, formation and education. A summing up, also, of the most heartfelt and shared parts of the "Provincial's Letter", published every 24th of the month on the website [www.salesianinordest.it](http://www.salesianinordest.it) and sent to all the directors of the 33 Salesian realities of the Triveneto. The radio show will also be a place to talk about experiences and activities related to the work organized by the Youth Ministry Team of Mestre ([www.donboscoland.it](http://www.donboscoland.it)), with episodes featuring testimonials of young people who took part in the different activities. Last but not least, a space will be dedicated to the most popular news from the Salesian Houses in the Mestre Province. The presence of the Provincial, Fr Igino Biffi, will be flanked by radio show host Dr. Francesca Bonotto (integrated communication of the Salesian Province of "San Marco" INE of Mestre) and by several guests alternating from episode to episode, each narrating their story or experience of the activities of the month in the Province. One has but to tune in via the website [www.salesianordest.it](http://www.salesianordest.it) and follow the official pages of the social networks of the Salesian Province "San Marco" INE in Mestre to keep up to date. (ANS)



## **New degree course of “Social Communication, Digital Media and Culture” at Salesian Pontifical University**

**Rome, Italy:** Social Communication as communication at the service of the common good, Digital Media as environments-languages-means to be explored and experimented during the formative path, Culture as a laboratory of conscience and knowledge to form free men and women: these are the three fundamental axes of the new curriculum of studies that the Faculty of Social Communication Sciences (FSC) of the Salesian Pontifical University (UPS) in Rome is preparing to launch from the next academic year 2019-2020. The new path aims to offer its students skills and abilities to respond as professionals to the digital challenge. Today there is a need to continue to train competent people in communication languages, but in a new framework represented mainly by the digital network and environments. “The cultural, social, technological and professional changes that have characterized the last decades have made necessary a reflection that the Faculty wanted to concretize in the new curricular proposal entitled ‘Social Communication, Digital Media and Culture.’

### **Beatified Edvige Carboni, Salesian Cooperator**



**Pozzomaggiore, Italy:** On Saturday 15 June

2019 in Pozzomaggiore, Sardinia, Cardinal Angelo Becciu, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, beatified, on behalf of the Holy Father, Edvige Carboni, a humble and strong woman with a “life imbued with God”, who lived a life of manual and service work, in the family and towards many needy people she met, a life filled with graces and extraordinary supernatural gifts. Born in Pozzomaggiore on 3 May 1880, she wanted to become a religious, but had to stay close to her sick mother. Since then she spent a sober and collected domestic life, alternating household chores with moments of prayer. On July 14, 1911, the signs of the Passion of Jesus appeared on her body. This and other mystical phenomena that were attributed to her were investigated in the canonical process of 1925, to which she underwent with complete obedience. She then moved to Rome with the rest of her family, just as the Second World War was about to explode. Since she took up residence in Rome, until her death (1938-1952), Edvige belonged to the parish of the Salesians “Saint Mary Help of Christians” on Via Tuscolana. There she went almost every morning for Mass and Communion; there she gathered in prayer, usually in the chapel of Saint Anne; most of the ecstasies and prodigious events took place there; on 25 September 1941 she also became a Salesian Cooperator. Very devoted to the Madonna, who appeared to her several times, she received many graces from her. Many were the saints of which she had apparitions, particularly Don Bosco and Domenico Savio. (ANS)



# ወጣት ሆይ...

**ጌ**ዲዮን ወጣት ነበር የእግ/ዚር መልእክምወደ እርሱን ቀርቦ እንዲህ ይለዋል « አንተ ጎያልና ብርቱ ሰው እግዚአብሔር ከአንተ ጋር ነው፡፡» መሳፍንት 6:12 ሆይልና ብርታትን ስናስብ ሁልጊዜ አእምሮአችን ወደ ወጣቶች ወይም ወደ ወጣትነት ህይወታችን እንድናስብ ያደርገናል፡፡ ወጣት ሆይልና ብርታትአለው፤ ያሰበውን ለማድረግ ወደኃላ የማይል

ነው በዚያውም ልክ በቀላሉ ለሌሎች መጠቀሚያ መሆን አቅሙም የበዛ ነው፡፡ መልካም ለማድረግ ክፋትንም ለማከናወን ወጣት የተመቸ ሆይል ነው፡፡ በጣም በትልቅ ፍጥነት የምትቀያየረው አለማችን የራሷን ዓላማ ለማሳካት ወጣቶችን ትፈልጋለች፡፡ ማህበራዊ ድህረ ገጾች በእውነት ላይ የተመሰረተ ወይም በእውነት ላይ ያልተመሰረተውን መልዕክቶቻቸውን ለማስተላለፍ ወጣቱን ያጠምዳሉ፡፡ ሀገር እንደ ሀገር ለማደግና በአዲስ ተስፋ እራሷን



ለመገንባት ወጣቶችን ትፈልጋቸዋለች፤ ወጣት የሌላት ቤተክርስቲያን ተስፋዋ ይጨልማል የእናትነት ሚናዬን አልተወጣሁም ብላ ታዝናለች። ብፁዕ ርዕሰ ሊቃነ ጳጳስ ፍራንቸስኮስ እንዳሉት ወጣቶች የነገ ቤተክርስቲያን ሳሆኑ የዛሬ ቤተክርስቲያን ናቸው። በዘልማድ እንደምንለው «የነገ ሀገር ተረካቢ» ሳይሆኑ የዛሬ ሀገር ናቸው። ስለ ሀገር ግንባታ ስናስብ ደግሞ ወጣቶችን እናስባለን። ተፈጥሮ የቸረቻቸው ብርታትና ፅናት፣ እሩቅ አላሚነት በእነርሱ ተስፋ እንድናደርግ ያደርገናል። በዚህም ልክ በአሁን ሰዓት የኢትዮጵያ ወጣቶችን ስናስብ ፍርሃት በውስጣችን ያንዣብባል። በተለያዩ መልኩ አወቅን ባዮች ለሀገር ግንባታ ሳይሆን ሀገርን ለማፍረስ ወጣቱን ሲጠቀሙበት ማየታችን የተለመደ ሆኗልና። ማንኛውም ሰው ያለውን ነውና የሚሰጠው ወጣቱ ሀገሩን ከመገንባቱ በፊት በምን ላይ ነው የተገነባው? ለሀገር ደስታ ከመሆኑ በፊት የራሱን ደስታ ምን ውስጥ እየፈለገ ነው ያለው? የሚሉት ነጥቦችንና ሌሎችንም ጥያቄዎች ማንሳት ግድ ይላልና።

1. ወጣት ሆይ ሀገርን ከመገንባት በፊት በምን እየተገነባህ ነው? በጥላቻ የተገነባ አእምሮ ሰላምን ሊገነባ አይችልም። በሱስ የተጠመደ አእምሮ ለስራ ተነሳሽነት ሊኖረው አይችልም፤ በማህበራዊ ድህረገፅ ሱስ የተያዘ ማንነት በማህበራዊ ህይወት የሚገኘውን ደስታ ሊያጣጥም አይችልም። አንተ እራስህን በመልካም ስነምግባር ገነባህ ማለት አገርህ በስነምግባር ተገነባች ማለት ነው። አንተ እራስህን በእውቀት አሳደግህ ማለት ሀገርህ በእውቀት አደገች ማለት ነው። ለማደግ የራስ አስተዋፅዖ ያስፈልጋል። ለራስ እድገት ምን አስተዋፅዖ እያደረክ ነው?

2. ወጣት ሆይ ደስታን ከየት ነው የምታገኘው? ወጣትነት የደስታ ጊዜ ነው። ቅድስ ጳውሎስ በመልዕክቱ «ሁል ጊዜ በጌታ ደስ ይበላችሁ» (ፊል 4:4) ደስታ በሁለት ይከፈላል ጊዜያዊ ደስታ እና ዘለቄታ ያለው ደስታ። ጊዜያዊ ደስታ በምክንያት የሚመጣ የማይቆይ ሲሆን ዘለቄታ ያለው ደስታ

እራስን የመግዛትና የትግል ፍሬ ነው። በፈተና ጥሩ ውጤት አግኝቶ ለመደሰት ብዙ የሚያደክሙ የጥናት ሰዓታትን ማሳለፍ ያስፈልጋል። በዕደኝነት ህይወት ደስታን ለማግኘት ከራስ የመውጣት ትግልን ማለፍ ያስፈልጋል። ደስታ እርካሽና በገንዘብ የሚገዛ አይደለም። ነገር ግን ብዙ ወጣቶች ደስታን በቀላል ማግኘት ይፈልጋሉ። ብዙ ወጣቶች ከድብርት ለመውጣት፣ የህይወት ችግር ለመርሳት፣ በልጅነት የደረሰባቸውን ቁስል ላለማስታወስ፣ በቀላሉ ለመነቃቃትና ደስታን ለማግኘት እራሳቸውን በሚጎዱ ነገሮች ውስጥ ይደበቃሉ። (መጠጥ፣ ወሲብ፣ ጫት፣ ሀሽሽ፣ ዕፅ፣ internet addiction ወ.ዘ.ተ) ጎጂ የሆኑ ደስታን የመፈለግ መንገዶች ደስታን ከመስረቃቸውና ውስጥን ከመጉዳታቸው ባሻገር አደንዛዝም ናቸው። ሱስን ይፈጥራሉ።

ብፁዕ ርዕሰ ሊቃነ ጳጳስ ፍራንቸስኮስ ለዚህም ነው ለወጣቶች በጻፉት ዶክመንት «ክርስቶስ ህያው ነው» ቁጥር 143 ላይ « ወጣቶች ሆይ ህይወትን በረንዳ ላይ ቆሞ እንደሚያይ ሰው ተመልካቾች አትሁኑ፤ ደስታ የተደላደለ ሰፋ ላይ መቀመጥ አይደለም፤ ህይወት ከቲቪ/ ስልክ እስከሪን ፊት አትኑሩት፤ እንደቆመና አገልግሎት እንደማይሰጥ መኪና አትሁኑ፤ ጥሩ ውሳኔዎችን ወስኑ፤ አንዳንዴ መሳሳት ቢኖርም መሞከርን ውደዱ፤ በህይወት ጎዳና በድን ሆናችሁ አትጋዙ.....ካለ ጊዜያችሁ ጡረተኛ አትሁኑ» ያሉት። አንዳንዴ ጊዜያዊ ደስታን ለማግኘት ወጣቱ የሚሄድባቸው መንገዶች ሳያውቀው ህይወቱ በድን እንዲሆኑ የሚያደርጉ ነገሮች ከመሆናቸውም ባሻገር ካለእድሜው ጡረተኛ ያደርዋል። ስለሆነም እንኸን ሀገር ሊገነባ፣ ቤተሰቡን ሊረዳ ቀርቶ ለቤተሰቦችሽክም ለሀገርም እዳ ይሆናል። ደስታ እራስን በመግዛት ውስጥ፣ ጤናማ በሆነ ዕድኝት ውስጥ፣ ለራስ ህይወትና ለሌሎችም የህይወት እድገት በመስራት ውስጥ ይገኛል ይህ ደግሞ ትልቅ ሀገርን የመገንባት ህሴት ነው።

3. ወጣት ሆይ ሰጪ ነህ ወይስ ተቀባይ ብቻ/ እሩህሩህ እና ለሌላው ደራሽ ነህ ወይስ ተመልካች?

መስጠት የተፈጥሮ ህግ ነው። ለምሳሌ አንድ የማንን ዛፍ ፍሬዬን ለማንም አልሰጠም ቢል ይበሰብሳል፡፡ ወንዝም ውሃዬን ለማንም አላጠጣም ቢልና ታቂሮ ቢቀመጥ ይሸታል። ሳይንስ እንደሚለው ሌሎችን መርዳት ከሌሎች ነገሮች የማናገኘውን ጤናማና ዘላቂታዊ ደስታ ይሰጠናል። ሀገርን መገንባት ጊዜን፣ እውቀትን፣ ጉልበትን ከመስጠት ጋር ይያዛል። መስጠት፣ ለሀገሬ ምን ላድርግላት? ወንድሜን እህቴን እንዴት ልንከባከበው/ባት? ከሚለው ጥያቄ ይነሳል፡፡ ዘር ቆጠራ ውስጥ አይገባም፡ ሰውን በሰው ዘርነቱ ብቻ መመልከትን ይጠይቃል። ክርስቲያናዊው መስጠት አጥር ወይም ወሰን የለውም። ደጉ ሳምራዊ በምንም ከእርሱ ጋር አንድ ሊሆን የማይችለውን አይሁዳዊ ተንከባከበ። (ሉቃ 10:25-37) ደጉን

በእንነዚህ ሁሉ ውስጥ ማለፍ ግድ ቢሆንም በክፋት ሰንሰለት ውስጥ አለመግባት የወጣቱ ምርጫ ነው። ሳምራዊው ተቀባይ ሳይሆን ሰጪ ሆነ፣ የወደቀውንና በዛ ዘመን በሳምራዊያን ዘንድ ጠላት ነው ተብሎ የሚታሰበውን አይሁዳዊ አነሳ። በአይሁዳዊው ውድቀት አልተደሰተም ምክንያቱም በአምላክ አምሳያ የተፈጠረው ሰው ውድቀት የእርሱም ውድቀት እንደሆነ በማወቁ ነው። እርህራሄና ሌሎችን መርዳት ከዘር፣ ከቋንቋ፣ ከጎሳ ያልፋል። ለዚህም ነው የህግ መምህሩ «ባልንጀራዬ ማን ነው» ቡሎ ኢየሱስን የጠየቀው። ኢየሱስ ስለ ደጉ ሳምራዊ ታሪክ የነገረው፡፡ ክርስቲያናዊ ፍቅርና እርህራሄ ከዘር ትስስር፣ ከህይማኖት ትስስር ይበልጣል። ፍቅር ገደብ የለውም ባልንጀራነት ፍቅርን አይፈጥርም ፍቅር ግን ባልንጀራን



ሳምራዊ ከካህኑና ከሌዋዊው የተለየ የሚያደርገው ነገር ተደብድቦ የወደቀውን አይሁዳዊ አይቶ በመራራቱ ነው። በዘር በተከፋፈለችው ኢትያ አንድ ወጣት ለሌላው መድረስ እንዲችል እንዲህ ሲወድቅ ሌላው እንዲያነሳ ሳይሆን አንዱ አንዱን የሚጥልበት ወጥመድ እንዲሰራ የሚገፋፉት ብዙ ነገሮች አሉ። ሌላውን አይቶ ከመራራት ይልቅ ከየት ከልል ነው የመጣው የሚል ጥያቄ ይቀድማል።

ይፈጥራል። ኢየሱስ በመጨረሻ ለህግ መምህሩ « ሂድና አንተም እንዲሁ አድርግ» (ሉቃ 10:29-37) ይለዋል። ሀገር መገንባት ወይም ኢትጵያን መገንባት ማለት ጥላቻን በፍቅር ማሸነፍ ነው። ዘር፣ ቀለም፣ ጎሳ ሳይባል የተጎዳን ወንድም ማንሳት ነው።

4. ወጣት ሆይ ቁጭት አለህ? በቡሉይ ኪዳን ነህምያ የእስራኤልን ቅጥር መፍረስ በሰማ ጊዜ

ተቆጮ፤ አለቀሰ። «የቀድሞ አባቶቼ የተቀበሩባት ከተማ ፍርስራሽ ሆኖ ስትቀርና የቅጽሮችዎም በሮች በእሳት ሲወድሙ እንዴት አላዝንም» (መ/ነህምያ 2፡ 3) ነህምያ አዝኖ ዝም አላለም ሌሎችን አስተባብሮ የእስራኤልን ቅጥር ሰራ። የዛሬዋ ኢትዮጵያ የሁላችንም አያቶች የኖሩባት የእኛም እናት ናት። በተለያየ ምክንያት ቅጥሩዋ እየፈረሰ ነው። ይህ ሁኔታ ቁጭት ውስጥ ከትቶት ቅጥርዋን ሊያድስ እየተነሳ ያለ ወጣት አለ ወይ? ወይስ ይህ ዘር ጠላትህ ነው አፈናቅለው? ይህ ዘር ቅድመ አያቶችህን በድህልና ዝረፋው ግደለው ሲባል የሚነሳ ነው? የጥያቄውን መልስ ለእናንተ ለአንባብያን ተወዋለው። ክርስቲያናዊ ቁጭት የፈረሰን ወደ መገንባት ያነሳሳል እንጂ የተገነባውን ለማፍረስ አይነሳሳም። ክርስቲያናዊ ቁጭት በእኔ ትውልድ ውስጥ ጥላቻ አይነግስም፤ አያቶቼ የደገመትን ስህተት አልደግምም የሚልና በይቅርታ የተሞላ ልብ ነው።

5. ወጣት ሆይ ከአንድነትና ከህብረት ጥላቻን ከፍፍልን ደጋፉ ነህ? አንድነትና ህብረት ሀገርን ይገነባል ጥላቻ ሀገርን ያጠፋል።

**«እኔ የሆንኩት አንተ በመሆንህ ነው» «I am because you are» የሚል ትልቅ የባንቱ ፍልስፍና ደቡብ አፍሪቃን ሲመራት ቆይቱአል። ትልቁ የደቡብ አፍሪቃ የሀይማኖት መሪ ዴዝሞን ቱቱ « I am human because I belong» ይላሉ። በባንቱ ፍልስፍና አንድ ሰው ሲጎዳ ሁሉም ይጎዳል።**

ከዚህም የተነሳ አንድነትን የሚያፈርስ ነገር ሁሉ ይወገዛል። በዚህም የተነሳ ብዙ አባባሎች አሉ «ድር ቢያድር አንበሳ ያስር» «በአንድነት ሆነህ ወንዙን ተሻገር አዞም አይተናኮልህም»። ሀገር መገንባት ህብረትን ይጠይቃል። ብፁዕ ርዕሰ ሊቃነ ጳጳስ ፍራንቸስኮስ «ክርስቶስ ህያው ነው» በሚለው

መልእክት ውስጥ ወጣቶች አዲስ ማህበረሰብ ለመገንባት በእምነት ላይ የተደገፈ ሀላፊነት መውሰድ ይገባቸዋል ይላሉ። «ወጣቶች ከትንንሽ ብድኖቻቸው ወጥተው ለሁሉም የሚጠቅም ነገር ለመስራት ማህበራዊ ጋደኝነት መመስረት አለባቸው። ማህበራዊ ጥላቻ አጥፊ ነው። በጥላቻ ቤተሰብ ተበትኖአል፤ ሀገራት ፈርሰዋል።...እራሳችንን በጦርነት እያጠፋን ነው ስለዚህ ማህበራዊ ጋደኝነት ለመመስረት መንገድ ፈልጉ» (ክርስቶስ ህያው ነው ቁ. 168 -169)። ወጣት ሆይ በጥላቻ ሀገርህን እየከፋፈልክ እያፈረሰካት ነው? ወጣትነትንና የሀገር ግንባታን ስንመለከት ብዙ ነገሮችን ማለት እንችላለን። ክርስቲያናዊ ወጣት የራሱ ተግዳሮቶች ያሉት ቢሆንም ሀገሩን ለመገንባት፤ ክፉውን ከደጉ ለይቶ መልካሙን ለመከተል፤ እንደሳምራዊው እርሁሩህ ሆኖ ሌላውን ለማገዝ፤ ከዘር ከቋንቋ ይልቅ ከወንድምና ከእህቶቹ ጋር የሚያስተሳስረው በክርስቶስ የሚገኝ ወንድማማችነት መሆኑን የሚያውቀው ከክርስቶስ ጋር ጥልቅ ወዳጅነት ሲኖረው ብቻ ነው። ይህ ወዳጅነት የሚመጣው በፀሎት የእግ/ዘር ቃል በማንበብና ተግባር ላይ በማዋል ብቻ ነው። በተግባር የማይታይ ክርስትና የሞተ ነው። በመጨረሻም እንደ ነህምያ ሁላችንም ሀገራችንን በፍቅር፤ በአንድነት፤ በመተሳሰብ ለመገንባት እግ/ዘር ጸጋውን ይስጠን። «ሰዎች ለእናንተ ሊያደርጉላችሁ የምትፈልጉትን እናንተም እንዲሁ ለእነርሱ አድርጉላቸው» (ሉቃስ 6፡ 31)



እህት ትዕግስተ ጌታቸው





# መልከም የመስቀል በዓል







# Striking the Balance

**I**t is self-evident to suggest that there is a bond between youth and national integration. The connection should be only symbiotic, one depending on the sustenance of the other. The youth in any nation, and in any generation are the wheels, and the engine of civilization. When the wheels are not oiled timely they could also get stuck resulting crisis of the whole society. The UN told us in 2015 there were 226 million youth (15-24) in Africa, which is a great asset. The society though seems to think about the youth as the leaders of tomorrow, what is at hand today values far important than what we are preparing to. Certainly, the challenges for youths that are central to Africa's current situation are numerous and varied including issues of employment, health and political participation.

In the last five years, we have witnessed energy and enthusiasm among youth at every corner of the country in different forms. The high participation in public demonstrations, participating and supporting sport teams and so on. the growing ethnic consciousness and religious affiliation seem at times to go parallel. We have got the energy. We are growing and powerful more than ever. However, we need to grow conscious so that we are able to channel our energies productively.

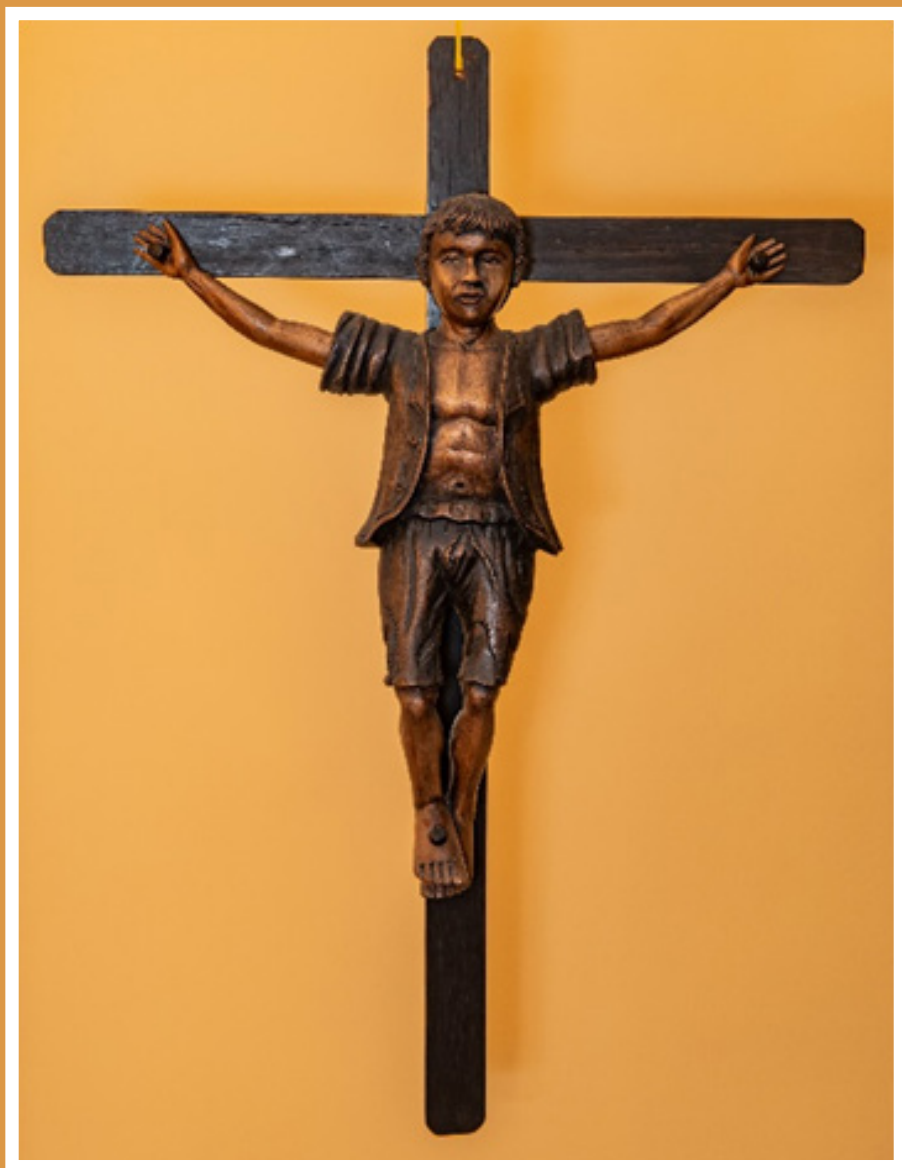




Idiots are people who appreciate only what belongs to them. Their language is my food, my culture, my tribe, my religion, my colour and so on. we need to be educated so as to educate others also how to admire the beauty and values in the other person. And on the other hand some appreciate exclusively what is foreign. The mentality that “what is imported is good and expensive; whatever is from the western world is of a superior value” needs to be balanced. Not all that is new is the best as not all that is old is bad or outdated. When we build a culture of educating ourselves and our youth to have the right attitude and value along with knowledge and skills will we get balanced and reasoning generation who will think independently and act responsibly.

The Chinese were historically great in their civilizations. They had numerous kingdoms and many revolutions. Never in their history of public demonstrations destroyed their properties. The Greeks in from the ten city states had unifying factors, that are their temple cult, their heroes like Homer, sports and their national consciousness. Which in our today's world we all have them yet probably need to learn how to again channel them rightly. We cannot allow the energy in us to destroy us. We cannot also allow the energy remain dormant. We are created to contribute positively as we help the youth realize their gifts and opportunities.

**Abba Tesfaye Matios SDB**







# THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR

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**JESUS AND THE CRUCIFIED  
OF THIS WORLD**

DON ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME SDB





**IN MY OFFICE IN ROME, I HAVE A CRUCIFIX THAT SPEAKS VOLUMES TO ME. IT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY THE SALESIANS IN PERU WHEN I WAS VISITING THEM.**

It is a cross (as we well know, the symbol of Christianity), but it is not our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who hangs on this one; rather, it bears the image of a poor boy. The message is clear and very strong: our Lord Jesus is being crucified in those who are being crucified in today's world.

In all truth I do not wish to make you sad, my dear friends, readers of the Salesian Bulletin. Much less, do I want to

create in you a "guilty conscience." But I do wish to place before you this question which I pose to myself very frequently: "Is it possible that we are incapable of making this world more just? Will we never succeed?"

I wish to believe that we can succeed, that it is possible, and that we are making headway little by little, by baby steps. But we still have a long way to go! I tell you this because in these last six years, as I traveled the world to our Salesian places, I encountered many crucifixions. This is truly a very strong expression, is it not?

Crucified were the street children whom I met in our Salesian

presences in Colombia, Sri Lanka, and Luanda in Angola (and in many other presences, where, lamentably, children live on the world's streets.

Crucified were the teenagers whom I came to know in Ciudad Don Bosco in Colombia, who had been forced to become guerrillas in FARC.

Crucified on a cross similar to the one that I have in my office were the teenaged and little girls who were abused sexually in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. These are now being sheltered and cared for in the Salesian house there. There are many others, however, still on the streets or imprisoned by Mafia-type groups.

Crucified were those boys and girls whom I encountered in the Don Bosco Home in Ghana, saved from the hands of the Mafia, who wanted them for organ extraction to sell on the black market to those who are looking for organ transplants. The day in which I arrived, I met nine little girls who had been "condemned" to death by those thugs. Fortunately, through Divine Providence, they were saved by the police at the last moment and brought to the Salesian house. But without a doubt there are many who still lose their lives.

Crucified were the many teenagers who have been living in prison for many years without having had a fair trial. Every day our Salesian confreres visit them, but they have little

hope. Among these young people in the prison some are terminally ill. Little hope is accorded them. God alone is their hope.

Crucified were the girls in various countries that I visited who were obliged to go to work. We negotiated to get permission for them to go to school, but the first to resist our proposal were their own families because they would lose those wages (no matter how little they might be).

Crucified for many years were the families of the Bororo and Xavante peoples in Brazil, who were in danger of losing their lands to powerful land barons (os fazendeiros). Crucified, too, by being shot to death were our Salesian confrere Fr. Rudolph and the Indian Simao, whose story I wrote on another occasion.

Crucified are the hundreds of orphan children whom I met in Aleppo. Thanks to an incomprehensible war, they have been robbed of everything.

Crucified for Jesus in these past months were our Salesian confreres Fr. Cesar Antonio and Fr. Fernando Hernandez, murdered in Burkina Faso.

Crucified in this world are all those who drown in Mare nostrum, the Mediterranean Sea, on account of human trafficking. They are launched onto the Mediterranean without safeguards and abandoned by the traffickers after they have paid huge sums of money for each "passage."





What an irony to call their voyage a “passage”!

On every continent and in many nations I met those who are crucified in this world. So today I want to say a few simple words to you: I refuse, and we must refuse, to view these realities in which the poor pay such high costs as common, expected, and natural. In the pharisaical and militant language of war, they use the expression “collateral damage” – but never, NEVER is a death, the loss of a human life, to be regarded as “collateral damage”!

When faced with so many crucifixions, we must see – must see only -- and be aware that these things can never be regarded as inevitable,

unavoidable. We must be super vigilant to condemn what is worthy of condemnation. We must be so active as to see what we must do and how and with whom we can unite forces.

The great people of history, the great and the small saints, have done so. They are many. The most well-known to us is our beloved Don Bosco. He constantly sought just answers to unjust situations.

To end, my friends: the next time that you contemplate a crucifix, recall some of these words since, most probably – and I say this with pain in my heart – there will still be others who will be crucified.

**May the good Lord bless you.**





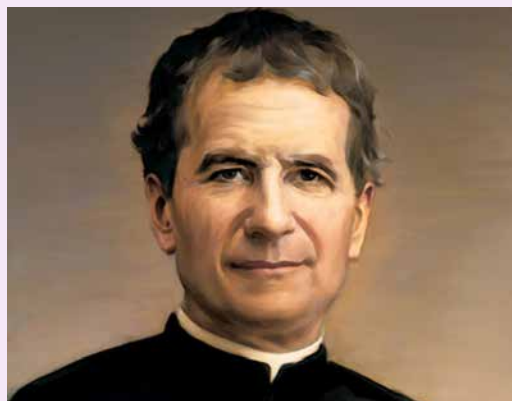
## Pope Francis to create 13 new cardinals in October consistory



**Vatican City:** Pope Francis has announced that he will create 13 new cardinals, from every part of the world, in a consistory on Oct. 5. Among them are 10 who are eligible to vote in a future conclave. Coming from North America, Central America, Africa, Europe, and Asia, Pope Francis said that “their origin expresses the missionary vocation of the Church, which continues to proclaim the merciful love of God to all people on earth. “Among those to be elevated to cardinal is Canadian Jesuit Fr. Michael Czerny, the head of the Migrants and Refugees section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Two other red hat recipients also work inside the Vatican. They are: Spanish Archbishop Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, prefect of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue; and Portuguese Archbishop José Tolentino Mendonça, librarian of the Holy Roman Church. From Africa

are Archbishop Fridolin Ambongo Besungu of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Archbishop Cristobal Lopez Romero sdb of Rabat in Morocco. There is Archbishop Ignatius Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo of Jakarta in Indonesia and Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini of Huehuetenango, Guatemala. North America is represented only by Archbishop Juan de la Caridad Garcia Rodriguez of Havana, Cuba. Archbishops Jean Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg and Matteo Zuppi of Bologna represent Europe. **CNA**

## On prevention of child abuse, Pope Francis points to St. John Bosco's example



**Vatican City:** In an unscripted video message that appears to have been recorded on a cell phone, Pope Francis spoke of the need for an “apostolate of prevention” to protect minors from abuse. “Prevention. Prevention. Because you never know where a child will be

abused, where the child will be misled, where someone will teach him to smoke drugs, a form of corruption. Let us not think that only sexual abuse is the only type of abuse. Any type of corruption is an abuse of a child,” Pope Francis said in Spanish in a YouTube video published on July 18 by the Pontifical University of Mexico. The pope sent the video message to participants in a July 1-26 course on the protection of minors organized by CEPROME, the Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Formation for the Protection of Minors. In the video, Francis stressed the importance of preventing abuse, pointing to the examples of St. John Bosco’s education of children and modern drug-use prevention. “I’ll make a comparison how to take care of a person to prevent from using drugs,” Pope Francis said, implying that preventing drug abuse is usually simpler than trying to help someone with a drug problem to recover. Similarly, the Pope said, the Church must focus attention on the prevention of abuse, so that no children suffer the devastating effects of sexual abuse. “Now in this case it’s how to prevent the abuse of minors,” Pope Francis said. “The apostolate of prevention, Don Bosco intuited this. Don Bosco instituted a form of education called a preventive system,” he said, adding that while this system was criticized at the time, “later, it was recognized that there was a great value of the preventive system.” **CNA**

### **EWTN to launch African news agency**



**Rome, Italy:** EWTN Global Catholic Network has announced that it will launch a news service for the African continent. By starting this new service the EWTN hopes to build up the African Church and also ensure that the voice of the African Church is heard more clearly around the world with content that is shared through EWTN's other news platforms.” ACI-Africa will be headed by Father Don Bosco Onyalla, a priest of the Diocese of Rumbek in South Sudan. Onyalla is a journalist who established and previously oversaw the Catholic News Agency For Africa (CANAA), a project of the African bishops conference. Onyalla's work has included producing websites, newsletters and social media updates for the bishops, as well as working with diocesan, national and regional episcopal communication directors throughout Africa. He speaks English, French, and Swahili, as well as the local languages of Luhya and Dinka. “I look forward to interacting with fellow Catholic journalists under the EWTN umbrella, to facilitating the telling of Africa's story by Africans, and to the challenges involved in setting

up a news agency in the vast and multi-cultural context that is Africa,” Onyalla said. **CNA**

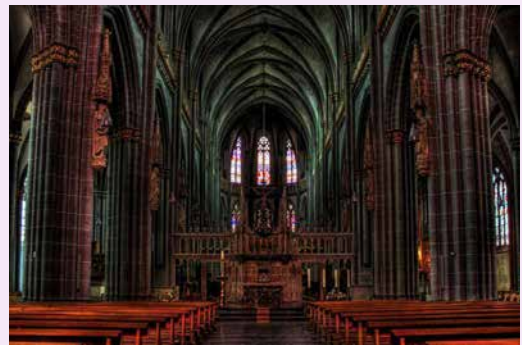
### **Eritreans suffering from seizure of Catholic health clinics, aid group says**



**Asmara, Eritrea:** The Eritrean government’s recent closure of all Catholic-run health clinics in the country will have devastating effects for the people of the country, warned the pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need. Sources in the country told the agency that the situation is dire and denounced the international indifference and lack of response. “They are preventing us from offering what little we could give, in places where no one cares for the population, not even the state,” a source told Aid to the Church in Need, according to Vatican News. “What will the people do?” Last month, military forces arrived at the Church’s 22 health care clinics, telling patients to return to their homes, and subsequently guarding the buildings. The government justified its seizures of the property under a 1995 decree restricting social and welfare

projects to the state. The decree has been used intermittently since then to seize or close ecclesial services. According to the BBC, analysts believe the recent seizures were retaliatory, after the Church in April called for reforms to reduce emigration. The bishops had also called for national reconciliation. When the government interrupts the work of the Church, it is the people who suffer, Aid to the Church in Need said. The Eritrean bishops have objected to the seizure of the clinics, stressing that the Church’s social services are not an act of opposition to the government. “Any measure that prevents us from fulfilling ... the obligations that come to us from the supreme commandment of brotherly love is and remains a violation of the fundamental right of religious freedom,” the bishops said in a statement **CNA**

### **Catholic Church in Germany lost 200,000 members last year**



**Berlin, Germany:** Continuing a years-long trend, the Catholic Church in Germany saw a significant drop in membership this past year, losing more than 200,000 members in 2018.

According to the German Bishops' Conference, the Catholic Church in the country declined by 216,078 members last year. Protestant churches saw a similar drop, with 220,000 members leaving during that time period. Fr. Hans Langendörfer, SJ, secretary of the German Bishops' Conference, said the numbers show a need for the Church in Germany to be "more self-critical and constructive." "The current statistics are worrying. There is nothing to gloss over about the numbers, they confirm a trend that has shaped the Church in recent years," he said in a statement. Adding that a loss of trust and credibility has caused great damage, the priest went on to say that Church leaders must examine the question of how to make the Catholic Church a welcoming environment, where people can find hope and feel at home. Recent sex abuse scandals in the Catholic Church could be contributing to some of this drop, according to surveys cited by German broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW). However, Church membership in Germany has been declining for years. Priestly ordinations have also plummeted. In 2005, a total of 122 diocesan priests were ordained in the country. Ten years later, just 58 men were ordained priests. Some 53% of the country's population remains either Catholic or Protestant, according to DW. Both churches currently have more than 20 million members. However, the University of Freiburg predicted

that membership in both churches will be cut in half by 2060, dropping from a combined total of 45 million currently to below 23 million in the next 40 years.

### **Japan awards priest for promoting friendship in Africa through judo**



**Dublin, Ireland:** A Capuchin Franciscan priest from Northern Ireland who spent 50 years on mission in Zambia has been awarded one of Japan's highest honors for his promotion of judo in Africa. "It's a great recognition. I'm very proud of it, but I'm also surprised and overcome by the enormity of it. It's not something I was expecting at all," Father Jude McKenna told the Belfast Telegraph. The 84-year-old judo expert is one of this year's recipients of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, awarded each year by the Japanese government. The award is "given to people who make a very significant contribution to the spread of Japanese culture," the priest told the Belfast Telegraph. McKenna, a native of Ballymoney, Northern Ireland, lived in Zambia from 1966 until 2017, when he retired to Dublin due to failing eyesight. McKenna's twin brother Brian was



ordained a priest at the same time as Jude and they both joined the Capuchin Franciscans. When the time came for the brothers to be given their assignments, Jude was sent to Zambia, and Brian to California. Father Jude said he was always a keen boxer, and after three visits to Japan, developed an affinity for judo, a form of self-defense developed in Japan in 1882 that today is generally practiced as a sport. In addition to his missionary work in Africa, McKenna helped to spread the practice of judo across Zambia and throughout Africa. He founded the Lusaka Central Sports Club in Zambia's capital. McKenna's award, given June 26 by Japan's Ambassador to Ireland Mari Miyoshi in Dublin, was in recognition of his "outstanding contribution towards strengthening bilateral relations and promoting friendship between Japan and Zambia through judo," the Belfast Telegraph reports. **CNA**

### **Caritas head applauds Philippines new anti-poverty measure**



**Manila, Philippines:** A new law in the Philippines to support those living in poverty has won the praise of Caritas Manila, a Catholic aid agency in the

country. "We congratulate and support President Duterte 100% in his bold signing of this Magna Carta for the Poor," said Father Anton Pascual, executive director of Caritas Manila, according to UCA News. "That's what good government is all about, taking care of the poor and marginalized," he said. The priest voiced hope that sufficient resources will be dedicated to the implementation of the law, noting that government efficiency is "always a problem" in the country. Earlier this week, the government of the Philippines announced that President Rodrigo Duterte had signed legislation known as the "Magna Carta for the Poor." The law seeks to ensure that those whose income is below the national poverty line will have their basic needs met. It says that the government must prioritize programs that offer food, housing, mental and physical health care, education and work for the poor. The law states that within six months, the National Anti-Poverty Commission must create regulations to implement the provisions of the legislation, Philippine News Agency reported. As of 2015, more than 20% of the population in the Philippines was living below the national poverty line, according to the Asian Development Bank. The praise of Duterte marks a positive interaction in what has been an often-tense relationship between the president and the Catholic Church. **CNA**

## Laugh- tonic

A man walks into a bar and says, "Give me a beer before the problems start!" He drinks the beer and then orders another saying, "Give me a beer before the problems start!"

The bartender looks confused. This goes on for a while, and after the fifth beer the bartender is totally confused and asks the man "When are you going to pay for these beers?"

The man answers, "Now the problems start!"



A man is praying to God one day and asks, "How long is a million years?" To his surprise God answers, saying "To me, it's about one minute."

The man then asks, "God, how much is one million dollars?" and God replies, "To me, it's a penny."

The man thinks and then asks, "God, may I have a penny?"

God replies, "Wait a minute."



Jim is at a New Year's party when he turns to his friend, Brian, and asks for a cigarette.

Brian says to him, "I thought you'd made a New Year's resolution to quit smoking?"

Jim replies, "I'm in the process of quit-

ting. Right now, I'm in the middle of phase one."

"Phase one?" asks Brian

"Yeah," laughs Jim. "I've quit buying."



My old aunts would come and tease me at weddings, "Well Sarah? Do you think you'll be next?"

We've settled this quickly once I've started doing the same to them at funerals.



Two donkeys are standing at a roadside, one asks the other: So, shall we cross?

The other shakes his head: "No way, look at what happened to the zebra."



One company owner asks another:

"Tell me, Jim, how come your employees are always on time in the mornings?"

Jim replies: "Easy. 30 employees and 20 parking spaces."



# SALESIAN WORLD

## LOCAL NEWS

### Graduation in Mekelle



**Mekelle:** In a colorful ceremony in which several officials at the local, national and even international level participated, there took place on 22 June, the graduation of Don Bosco Poly Technic College Mekelle, one of the leading Technical colleges in Tigray. More than two hundred people participated in the program. There were altogether 338 graduates (64 majoring in the field of Automotive Engine service Level III & IV, 58 in Automotive Power Train Technology Level III & IV, 40 in Machine Technology Level IV and about 176 graduates of short Term Training Programs) who graduated in several fields of study. It was indeed a great moment of pride for the entire college.

### Graduation in Bosco Children

**Bosco Children, Mekanissa:** On 22 June 2019 took place at Bosco

Children Mekanissa, the graduation



ceremony of over 100 graduates who were graduating in five fields of study like Leather works, furniture making, automotive, basic metal works and food preparation. The ceremony gathered in a family atmosphere more than 200 people from near and far including the parents, friends, well-wishers and collaborators of Bosco Children. Needless to say, it was indeed a memorable moment in the history of Bosco Children. The Bosco Children center which offers short-term courses in several skills is also in the process of expanding its services by opening many other new departments like Electricity, Electronics, Mobile maintenance, Tailoring and Hair-dressing for men and Theatrical art.

### Perpetual Profession of two young Salesians

**Addis Ababa:** In a prayerful ceremony that took place on 21 July, 2019 there



was the perpetual profession of two of our clerics who gave their permanent 'Yes' to the Lord in the Salesian Congregation. Cl. Tariku Elias, hailing from Dilla and Cl. Fissuh Misgina from Alitena. Cl. Fissuh had spent two years in Zway for his practical training while Cl. Tariku was in Mekelle for his regency period. Right now both of them are pursuing their studies in Theology at the Salesian Theology of Utume in Kenya.

### **Annual retreat in Dilla**



**Dilla:** As part of the series of preparatory retreats in preparation for the upcoming General Chapter, the third of the series was held in Dilla from 04 to 10 August. The retreat was preached by Fr. Joe Boenzi who also preached the same retreat in Adigrat

from 26 to 01 August. Both the retreats were participated by a good number of salesians who were highly appreciative of the salesian retreat preached by Fr. Boenzi. There were also the MSMHC sisters from Meki and Arsinegelli who participated in the one week long retreat. Fr. Boenzi who gave his availability to preach these retreats is a professor of Salesianity in the Salesian University in Rome as well as the Salesian Study center at Berkeley. We thank him for this commendable service that he has rendered to the province.

### **Installation of the New Provincial**



**Addis Ababa:** On 11th August took place the installation of Abba Hailemariam as the 4th superior of AET Vice-province. The ceremony which began with the Holy Eucharist presided over by the Regional for Africa-Madagascar Fr. Americo, concluded with a festive dinner in which several invited guests like Fr. Azira, the Provincial of AFE Province, Fr. Petros, the superior of Don Bosco Eritrea, many other invited persons, cooperators, well-wishers and collaborators participated. Abba



Estifanos Gebremeskel, who served the province for the past 6 years was profusely thanked for his selfless service while the new provincial was ushered in promising him a whole-hearted collaboration and cooperation by the entire province. Abba Hailmariam who holds a doctorate in Dogmatic Theology had been serving as the Rector of Don Bosco Mekanissa as he was chosen as the provincial of AET province.

### First profession of two novices in Morogoro



**Morogoro, Tanzania:** On 15th August there was the first profession of 23 novices, hailing from five countries Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia, in the Salesian novitiate of Morogoro in Tanzania. In the prayerful ceremony that took place at the novitiate chapel Fr. Azira the Provincial of AFE province presided over the Mass. We are happy that two of our novices Asmaru Mengesha and Sintayehu Tadesse made their first profession on this day. After having spent formative years in the Aspirantate of Zway and Soddo, one year of pre-novitiate in

Addis Ababa, the two candidates were sent to Tanzania for their novitiate year. Now, after having completed their novitiate in Morogoro they will proceed to Moshi, in Tanzania for their philosophical studies. We wish all the very best.

### Priestly ordination of Dn. Yosief Hailu at Adigrat



**Adigrat:** On 25th August there was the Sacerdotal Ordination of Dn. Yosief Hailu at the Holy Savior Cathedral in Adigrat. The ordination was conferred by his excellency Mons. Tesfaselassie Medhin, the Bishop of Adigrat Eparchy. Dn. Yosief was ordained along with another cleric belonging to the Missionaries of Africa. After the religious function in the Cathedral there was a festive lunch organized for all the guests and well-wishers of Abba Yosief at Don Bosco Gola. Abba Yosief now will proceed to the Salesian novitiate house in Debrezeit to serve the house as the economer.

## Rectors' meeting in Addis



**Addis Ababa:** From 27 to 29 August there took place at Salesianum in Addis the meeting of all the Rectors and Economers. The first two days were dedicated for the rectors and the final day there were also the Economers of various houses participating in the meeting. The first day of the meeting was organized by Fr. Pier Fausto Frizzoli on matters of consecrated life and religious discipline. On the second and third day more time was dedicated to tackling and discussing internal topics of the province. There were also several interventions from PDO on project matters, from the lawyer about the new labor law and related issues.

## Graduation of Mekanissa College



**Mekanissa:** On 24 August there

was the graduation ceremony at the Don Bosco TVET College Mekanissa. The graduation ceremony aimed at congratulating the young graduates who were graduating both from Short term and regular courses in three departments of study namely: Electricity, Metal Manufacturing and Printing & Graphics. There were altogether 122 students who were graduating. The college which was mainly offering regular courses in the three departments, has recently opened itself to offering short-term courses in order to cater to many young people. As part of the campaign against Human Trafficking the college has engaged itself in offering free courses in the above mentioned departments for the coming two years.



## Abba Larreta completes 93 years of age

**Mekanissa:** "Our span is seventy years but eighty for those who are strong". These are the words of the psalmist but abba Larreta has overruled all

these sayings and he is in excitement for having completed 93 years of age. Of these 93 years almost 38 has been spent in Africa. As he celebrated the Holy Mass in thanksgiving to the Lord for these years of his life, he repeatedly said: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for his love endures forever". Abba Larreta is now in Don Bosco Mekanissa starting from last year, after having spent many years in Debrezeit in the Salesian novitiate. An interview about Fr. Larreta is included in this issue of the Salesian bulletin on pg. 42.

### **New vocational training opportunities for young Ethiopians in Makelle**



**Makelle:** The inauguration ceremony of a new structure designed to allow many young people in need of studying and training as Automotive Technicians was held on May 30th, in Makelle, Ethiopia. Carried out at the "Don Bosco Poly Technic College", the project, which operates within the Technical-Vocational Education Institute (TVET) of Macallè, was possible thanks to the collaboration between the "Opera

Don Bosco" Onlus Foundation, based in Milan, and CNH Industrial, thanks to its "TechPro2" program. The industrial giant of commercial vehicles will train and form teachers who will hold the courses and workshops within the new structure, providing them with all the tools, both theoretical and operational (thanks to the donation of an IVECO 682 vehicle). In this way, the young people who will attend the courses at the Salesian center will learn a strategic profession for that specific area of Africa and Ethiopia, a crossroads of large-scale traffic of heavy vehicles transiting, in fact, from Makallè to reach different parts of Africa. "We are thrilled that a giant like CNH Industrial and its IVECO brand have taken to heart a very important project for us: the TVET of Macallè is for us a strategic formation center, which today has always counted on several vocational training courses including motor mechanics, electrical engineering, machine tool mechanics, welding, cutting and sewing," said Fr Giuliano Giacomazzi, Salesian Provincial of Lombardo Emiliana and member of the Council of the non-profit "Opera Don Bosco" Foundation. "In the last year," added the ILE Provincial, "we have expanded the structure with a view to implementing the training offer of the center, thanks to one of our generous benefactors".





# FROM OUR GARDEN

**SINCE  
1926**

Abba Jose Gabriel Larreta, a Salesian Missionary from Spain, for the past 16 years in Ethiopia. 93 years of age, but still very active and agile in his mission. He actively participates in the life of the community and contributes effectively to the spreading of the Salesian Charism in Don Bosco Mekanissa.



# 38 OF YEARS AFRICAN ADVENTURE

## **1. CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR ORIGINS?**

Well, me a simple Salesian priest, born in Pamplona (Navara) on 2nd September 1926. I was born into a very good and God-fearing family. I was the fourth child among the 9 siblings in my family. I can say I was sandwiched between three boys before me, three girls after me, and then later on again two more boys. So altogether we were nine children in the family. A very happy contented family that I was born into.

## **2. YOUR MISSIONARY VOCATION AND HOW IN ETHIOPIA?**

I had always desired to become a missionary. My first choice of destination was Japan, influenced by

the life of St. Francis Xavier. In Navarra, in my home I had lot of books as my parents were avid readers and the first book I had read was the life of St. Francis Xavier. In the Salesian Congregation I was not granted permission to go for the missions until I was 55 years old because after the civil war (1936-1939) my university titles were more necessary as the head of our colleges and schools.

Regarding my choice for Ethiopia – I had left for the missions in Africa in 1981. After having spent 7 years in Mali, 7 in Togo, 2 in Benin, 2 in Mali I was called to Rome in the Direzione Generale. While being in Rome, there was once the visit of the provincial of Ethiopia Abba Roca who told me about how young the province of Ethiopia was and asked me if I was ready for a personal engagement in Ethiopia. I was then the official translator for the General Chapter. I expressed my willingness to come to Ethiopia and asked the then Rector Major Fr. Chavez who gave me the permission only for one year. Later he extended it for 2 years. After two years .....(he laughs...) until now!

## **3. SOME UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS IN YOUR LIFE?**

Well, in these 93 years of my life there are indeed many unforgettable moments in my life. But somethings still remain very impressive. One of them is the Eucharistic Congress in

Barcelona. Can you believe, there were 800 new priests. I was there as one of them as it was also my ordination. Another unforgettable event is the Missionary expedition of 1981 when I was sent to Mali in West Africa as a missionary. I still keep the Missionary Cross I received on that day.

#### **4. WHAT WERE SOME CHALLENGES THAT YOU FACED IN YOUR SALESIAN LIFE?**

The political situations in Spain made it difficult for our schools and colleges in Spain. Because of my titles in Philosophy, Theology, Spanish, French and English obliged me to stay in Spain for the sake of our schools.

The six months that I had to spend in learning the Bambara language in West Africa – we were totally isolated

in a desert to learn and to practice the language among ourselves.

Later on being sent to Togo without any preparation and even in Benin. Later on the situation of war in Mali, our house was assaulted.

Of course there was also the challenge of sickness. I was affected with Malaria more than 12 times, especially in Benin and Haiti.

#### **5. WHAT WILL BE YOUR ADVICE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE MOREOVER TO THE YOUNG SALESIANS?**

Conviction based on deep faith in God which will certainly lead one to a Happy Perseverance. So if you ask me to just name three words:

**Conviction, Faith, Perseverance.**



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ዘመናዊ  
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# Don Bosco

## TVET COLLEGE MEKANISSA

- General Metal Fabrication (GMFA)
- Machining
- Industrial Electrical Machines & D.S
- Building Electrical Installation
- Printing Technology &  
Graphics Design Level 1 & Level 2

በሁሉም የሥልጠና ዘርፎች  
የአጭር ጊዜ ሥልጠናዎች  
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