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DON BOSCO

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM AET

BULLETIN



**YOUTH, FAITH
AND VOCATIONAL
DISCERNMENT**

Is God Calling You?

ከግዚአብሔር
ከየጠራችሁ ነጡ?



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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

Abba Lijo Vadakkan SDB

“
መልካም
አዲስ ዓመት
2010
”

A famous writer was in his study room. He picked up his pen and started writing:

- Last year, I had a surgery and my gall bladder was removed. I had to stay stuck to the bed due to this surgery for a long time.
- The same year I reached the age of 60 years and had to give up my favorite job. I had spent 30 years of my life in this publishing company.
- The same year I experienced the sorrow of the death of my father.
- And in the same year my son failed in his medical exam because he had a car accident. He had to stay in bed at hospital with the cast on for several days. The destruction of car was another loss.

At the end he wrote: "Alas! It was such a bad year!!"

When the writer's wife entered the room, she found her husband looking sad, lost in his thoughts. From behind his back she read what was written on the paper. She left the room silently and came back with another paper and placed it on side of her husband's writing.

When the writer saw this paper, he found this written on it:

- Last year I finally got rid of my gall bladder due to which I had spent years in pain.
- I turned 60 with sound health and got retired from my job. Now I can utilize my time to write something better with more focus and peace.
- The same year my father, at the age of 95, without depending on anyone or without any critical condition met his Creator.
- The same year, God blessed my son with a new life. My car was destroyed but my son stayed alive without getting any disability.

At the end she wrote: "This year was an immense blessing of God and it passed well!!"

The writer was indeed happy and amazed at such beautiful and encouraging interpretation of the happenings in his life in that year.

How amazing!!! The very same incidents

but totally different viewpoints!

Yes, the Ethiopian New Year is just in. We bade farewell to the year 2009 and we have welcomed 2010. Certainly taking a stock of the previous year, we can find that there were many things that happened in our lives which were happy and joyful but at the same time, there were also events that were not very happy. But if we have the attitude of the woman in the above mentioned story, I think we would certainly remain happy because in our daily lives we see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful but gratefulness that makes us happy. Let us wish good bye to the year 2009 with Gratitude and welcome the New Year 2010 with the Certitude that we will face every challenge that may come along the way with great Fortitude believing and trusting that God will not lead us where His Grace cannot keep us.

This issue of the Salesian Bulletin is dedicated to the young people, as Pope Francis has devoted the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be focused on the theme of "Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment." I hope that the readers will find in this issue several relevant reflections from the world of the young.

Wishing you all once again, a Happy Ethiopian New Year 2010.



Guidance

Abba Estifanos Gebremeskel SDB
Provincial Superior

Dear Friends,

The theme of our quarterly bulletin deals mainly about the young people today from different perspectives. The main reason is that the situation of the young people around the world is changing very fast and the classical youth ministry and education is being challenged. "... Young people are living according to the new values and have new criteria for their lives which constitute a culture that really is new; the traditional links in the chains for the transmission of culture and religion (the family, the school, the church...) have become weakened and are often in crisis. The circumstances surrounding the work of education and the apostolate are very different and are constantly changing". (Fr. Pascual Chávez Villanueva, Acts of the General Council N. 407)

The Church will dedicate one full year on Synod for the young people starting in October 2018. The theme of the Synod is: "Young people, the faith and vocational discernment. The prospect of the Preparatory Document of the Synod for young people is "To encounter, accompany and care for every young person, without exception"; "abandoning the rigid attitudes which make the proclamation of the joy of the Gospel less credible" and avoiding "anachronism".

For Don Bosco the young people are not recipient of the Church's pastoral activity but they are the chief agents in their development and in the processes which concern them. It is therefore fundamental that young people be

involved in their formation. The Church has to decide to examine herself on how she can lead young people and ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective way to announce the Good News today. "By listening to young people, the Church will once again hear the Lord speaking in today's world. Listening to their aspirations, the Church can glimpse the world which lies ahead and the paths she is called to follow."

The document presents some ideas regarding the accompaniment of young people, "beginning with the faith and listening to the tradition of the Church." The goal is to support them in their vocational discernment and in their "making fundamental choices in life," including creating awareness that "some of these choices are permanent." Discernment leads to a decision regarding one's vocation and "every vocation is

directed towards a mission undertaken with reluctance or enthusiasm." The Church is called to accompany the youth in their path, accepting "her call to collaborate in the joy of young people rather than be tempted to take control of their faith." "Every way of life imposes a choice, because a person cannot remain indefinitely in an undetermined state".

Finally "Seeing", as a pastoral strategy, means spending time with the youth to understand their concerns, joys, hopes and anxieties. "Calling," instead, means "awakening a desire from what blocks them or from the complacency which slows them down."

By listening to young people, the Church will once again hear the Lord speaking in today's world. Listening to their aspirations, the Church can glimpse the world which lies ahead and the paths she is called to follow.



Guest Review



Abba Mussie Dory

የጓደኝነት ሚና በወጣቶች ባህሪያ ቀረጻ ላይ

ጓደኝነት ተፈጥሮአዊ የሰው ልጅ ውስጣዊ ረሃብ ነው። ብቻችን ወይ የሥጋ ዘመዳችን ከምንላቸው ጋር ብቻ ስለማንኖር፤ በአጠቃላይ በማኅበራዊ ሕይወታችን፤ በሥራና በትምህርት፤ በጉርብትና፤ እንዲሁም በሌሎች በታዎችና አጋጣሚዎች፤ ከብዙ ዓይነት ሰዎች ጋር እንገናኛለን፤ እንኖራለን፤ በእነዚህ አጋጣሚዎች፤ በሃሳብ፤ በዓላማና ባህሪያ የሚመስለን ሰው ያስፈልገናል፤ እኛም የሚመስለንን ሰው እንፈልጋለን፤ ጓደኝነትንም እንመሠርታለን። እኛ ሰውን ለጓደኝነት መፈለጋችን፤ ሰው እኛን ለጓደኝነት መፈለጉ ደግሞ ትክክለኛና ጤናማ ነገር ነው። መጽሐፍ ቅዱስ ቢሆን “... ሰው ብቻውን ይሆን ዘንድ መልካም አይደለም” /ዘፍጥረት 2፡18/ ይል የለ?

በወጣትነት ዘመን ለጓደኝነት ያለን ስሜት፤ የማንነታችንና የወደፊት የሕይወት አቅጣጫችን ላይ የሚኖረው ድርሻ የጎላ ነው። ጠቢቡ ሰሎሞን፡ “ብረት ብረትን ይስለዋል፤ ሰውም ባለንጀራውን ይሰላል” /ምሳሌ 27፡17/ እንደሚለው፤ በቀጥታም ሆነ በተዘዋዋሪ የጓደኞቻችን ባህሪያ የእኛም ባህሪያ፤ ጠባያቸው ጠባያችን፤ ግብራቸው ግብራችን ስለሚሆን፤ በባህሪያ ቀረጻ፤ ጓደኝነት የሚጫወተው ሚና በቀላሉ የሚገመት አይሆንም። “ጓደኛህን ንገረኝና ማን እንደሆንክ እነግርሃለሁ”፤ እንዲሁም ደግሞ፡ “ከማን እንደምትውል ንገረኝና ማንነትህን እነግርሃለሁ” የሚሉ ብሂሎች የሚያረጋግጡትም፡ ጓደኝነት በባህሪያ ቀረጻ ረገድ የሚኖረው



አስተዋጽኦ ከፍተኛ መሆኑን ነው። በዚህም ምክንያት ፣ ወጣቶች እንዲያውን የልብ ዓደኛቸውን፣ አዘውትረው አብረው የሚውሏቸውን ሰዎች ሳይቀር በጥንቃቄ መምረጥ መቻል አለባቸው።

ጠቢቡ ሰሎሞን፡ “... ከጠቢባን ጋር የሚሄድ ጠቢብ ይሆናል” / ምሳሌ 13:20/ እንዲሁም ደግሞ፡ ነቢዩ ዳዊት፡ “ከቸር ሰው ጋር ቸር ትሆናለህ፣ ከቅን ሰው ጋር ቅን ትሆናለህ፣ ከንጹህ ሰው ጋር ንጹህ ትሆናለህ” /መዝሙር 18:25-26/ እንደሚሉት፡ ጥሩ ዓደኝነት ለመልካም ባህርይ መግባቱን ከፍተኛ አስተዋጽኦ አለው፤ በተቃራኒው ነቢዩ ዳዊት፡ “... ከጠማማም ጋር ጠማማ ሆነህ ትገኛለህ” /መዝ 18:26/፤ ጠቢቡ ሰሎሞን ደግሞ “... የተላሎች ባልጀራ ግን ጉዳት ያገኘዋል” /ምሳሌ 13:20/ እንደሚሉት፡ መጥፎ ዓደኝነት ደግሞ፡ ሰውን ወደ ኢግብረገባዊ ሁኔታዎች በመግፋት አፍራሽ ሚና ይጫወታል። በዚህም ምክንያት ነው ሓዋርያው ጳውሎስ፡ “... አትሳቱ፣ ከፉ ባለንጀርነት መልካምን አመል ያጠፋል” /1 ቆሮንጦስ 15:33/ ሲል፡ ጠቢቡ ሰሎሞን ደግሞ፡ “ከቀጡ ሰው ጋር ባልንጀራ አትሁን፣ ከወፈሩተኛም ጋር አትሂድ፤ መንገዱን እንዳትማር፣ ለነፍሱም ወጥመድ እንዳትገኝ” /ምሳሌ 22: 24-25/ የሚሉት፡ በዮናታንና በዳዊት /1 ሳሙኤል 18:10-15፣ 19:1-5/ እንዲሁም በሩትና በኑጋሚን /ሩት 1:16-18/ መካከል የነበረው ግንኙነት፡ ዓደኝነትን በተመለከተ ጊዜ የማይሸረው ምሳሌ ይሆናል።

ዓደኛዎች እርስ በርስ ይበልጥ ሊግባቡ የሚችሉት በብዙ ነገር፣ በተለይ ደግሞ ተመሳሳይ የሆነ ሥነ ምግባራዊና መንፈሳዊ አቋም ሲኖራቸው ስለሆነ፣ በተለይ በወጣትነታቸው ዘመን ፈጣሪን ከሚያስታውሱ /መክብብ 12:1/፣ እሱን ከሚፈሩ፣ እትዛዙን ከሚጠብቁና ሰውን ከሚያከብሩ /ምሳሌ 1:7፣ መክብብ 12:13፣ ሉቃስ 18:4/፣ ለአምላክና ለመሠረታዊ ሥርዓቶቹ ፍቅርና ታማኝነት ካላቸው /1 ዮሐንስ 5:3/ ሰዎች ጋር ዓደኛ መሆን ይገባናል። ለምን

ቢባል፡ የአውነተኛ ዓደኝነት ግቡ፡ በጸጋና በጌታ እውቀት በማደግ /2 ጴጥሮስ 3:18/፣ እንደ ነቢዩ ሳሙኤል በሰውና በጌታ ዘንድ ተወዳጅ እየሆንክ /1 ሳሙኤል 2:26/፣ በየዕለቱ በነገር ሁሉ “ሙሉ/ ፍጹም ሰው” ወደ ሆነው፡ ወደ ክርስቶስ መምሰል ማደግ ነው /አፌሶን 4:13-15/። የቅዱስ ዮሐንስ በስኮም ሆነ የማግባቱ ተልእኮ ደግሞ፡ ወጣቶች ጥሩ ክርስትያንና ቅን ዜጎች ሆነው እንዲያደጉ መኮትኮት ነው።

ወጣትነት ስሜታዊነት፣ እሳትነትና ፈጣንነት ነው። በዚህ ላይ የኢቻ/ዓደኛ ተፅዕኖ ከታከለበት ምን ያል አስቸጋሪ እንደሚሆን መገመት አያዳግትም። ሆኖም ግን፡ ፈጥኖ ወደ ወዳጅነት መግባት አደገኛ ነው። አብሮን የዋለ አብሮን ያደረ፣ በተለያየ የሕይወትና የስራ እንቅስቃሴዎቻችን ውስጥ የምናገኘው ሰው ሁሉ፡ አብሮን ሲሆን ደስ ስለሚለን፣ ከኛ ጋር ጥሩ ግኑኝነት ስላለው ብቻ የልብ ዓደኛችን ሊሆን አይችልም፤ ነገር ግን ከእነዚህ ሰዎች መሀል ሃሳቡ ከሃሳባችን፣ ዓላማው ከዓላማችን፣ ሕይወቱ ከሕይወታችን የሚገጣጠመው፣ በሥነ ምግባር የታነጸና ግኑኝነታችንን በግብረገባዊ መርሆች የሚመራ፡ እሱ ብቻ ዓደኛችን መሆን አለበት፡ ፡ እንዲህ ዓይነቱን ሰው ለመለየት፡ የእርሱን ትክክለኛ ባሕርይ፣ ዝንባሌ፣ ከሌሎች ሰዎች ጋር ያለው ግኑኝነት፣ የቅርብ ዓደኞቹ ማንነት፣ በአከባቢው ያሉ የጎለመሱና የተከበሩ ሰዎች ለእርሱ ያላቸው አመለካከት፣ እንዲሁም የሥነ ምግባር አቋሙንና አካሄዱን በደንብ ማወቅና መገምገም ይገባል፤ ይህ ደግሞ ብዙ ትዕግሥትና ብልሃት ብቻ ሳይሆን ጊዜም ይጠይቃል።

ከተቃራኒ ጾታ ጋር የሚደረግ ዓደኝነት ደግሞ፡ ከተፈጥሮአዊና አካላዊ ግፊት የተነሳ በሚከሰት የስሜት ማዕበል፣ በዙሪያህ ካለው ዓለም በምትቀምሰው ልቅ በሆነው የጾታዊ ዓደኝነት ዘይቤ ብቻ በመነዳት፣ እንዲሁም ባቻ ግፊት ላይ ከተመሰረተ፡ ሕይወትህ አስናክሎ “ሩቅ አላሚ ቅርብ አዳሪ” ሆነህ እንድትቀር ሊያደርግ

ይችላል። ለዚህም ነው ሓዋርያው ጳውሎስ፡ “... ከጐልማሳነት ከፋ ምኞች ሸሸ” /2 ጢሞቴዎስ 2:22/ የሚለው። ጌታ ደግሞ እያንዳንዳችንን ለቅድስና እንጂ ለምንዝርና አልጠራም /1 ተሰሎንቄ 4:3-7/።

ጤናማ ዳደኝነት የራሱ የሆኑ መገለጫዎች አሉት። እንደማለዳ ጤዛ ታይቶ የሚጠፋ፣ በሐሜትና በተንኮል የሚፈታ፣ ለታይታ የሚፈለግና ጊዜያዊ ስሜት የሚንፀባረቅበት፣ በጥቅም ፍለጋ ላይ የተመሠረተ አይደለም። እንደ መጽሐፍ ቅዱስ አገላለጽ፡ መልካም ወይም እውነተኛ ዳደኝነት የሚባለው፡ ራስን አሳልፎ እስከ መስጠት በሚደርስ ፍቅር የሚያፈቅር /ዘሌዋውያን 19:18፣ ማቴዎስ 22:35-40፣ ዮሐንስ 15:13/፣ ታማኝ /1 ሳሙኤል 20:42፣ ምሳሌ 16:28፣ 17:17፣ 18:24፣ 22:11/፣ ተባባሪ /ምሳሌ 27:10/፣ ቻይናይት ገብ /ምሳሌ 17:9/፣ በከፉም በደጉም የማይለይህ /ሩት 1:16-18/፣ ቅን /ምሳ 12:26-27፣ 27:6፣ መከብብ 7:5/፣ አስተዋይ /ምሳሌ 13:20/፣ ራስን የሚቆጣጠር /ምሳሌ 22:24-25፣ መከብብ 7:9/፣ ጥሩ ነገር የሚመክር /ምሳ 20:18፣ 27:9/፣ ጥንቁቅ /ምሳ 26:18-19/፣ ስላንተ የሚያስብ /ፊሊጲስቶስ 2:3/፣ በሐሳብና በዓላማ፣ በባህርይ፣ በእምነትና በምግባር የሚመስልህ፡

የሚያበረታታ /ምሳ 22:17፣ ኢዮብ 6:14፣ 1 ተሰሎንቄ 5:11/፣ በፍቅርና በቅንነት የሚገስጽ /ኢዮብ 16:21፣ መዝ 15:3፣ ምሳ 25:20፣ 27:6/፣ እንዲሁም ደግሞ እንደሆነከው የሚቀበልህና የሚወድህ /ምሳ 17:17/ ሰው ነው።

እንዲህ ዓይነቱን መልካም ዳደኛ ለማግኘት ከፈለግን፡ እኛም ራሳችን ለሌሎች ጥሩ ዳደኞች መሆን ይጠበቅብናል። ሰዎች እንዲታመኑልን ከፈለግን እኛ ታማኝ፣ ሰዎች እንዲያፈቅሩን ከፈለግን እኛ የፍቅር ሰዎች መሆን፣ ይገባናል። ባጭሩ፡ ከርስቶስም “እንግዲህ ሰዎች ሊያደርጉላችሁ የምትወዱትን ሁሉ፡ እናንተ ደግሞ እንዲሁ አድርጉላችሁ ...” /ማቴዎስ 7:12/ እንደሚለው፡ እኛ የማንፈልገውን የማንወደውን ነገር፣ ተንኮል፣ ምቀኝነት፣ ክደት፣ ጭካኔ፣ ቂም፣ በሌላው ላይ ማድረግ አይገባም። እንዲያውም፡ ዳደኝነት መወደድን ሳይሆን መውደድን፣ መፈቀርን ሳይሆን ማፍቀርን፣ መከበርን ሳይሆን ማክበርን፣ ጥቅም ማግኘትን ሳይሆን ማስገኘትን የሚጠይቅ ሥነ ምግባር ነው።

አባ ሙሴ ዶሪ
ከፍተኛ መንፈሳዊ ትምህርት ቤት ዓዲግራት



The Shark in Your Boat

The Japanese have always loved fresh fish. But the water close to Japan has not held many fish for decades. So to feed the Japanese population, fishing boats got bigger and went farther than ever. The return trip took more time, and the fish were not fresh. To solve this problem, fish companies installed freezers on their boats. However, the Japanese could taste the difference between fresh and frozen fish. And they did not like the taste of frozen fish. So, fishing companies installed fish tanks. They would catch the fish and stuff them in the tanks, fin to fin. After a little thrashing around, they get fresh-tasting fish to Japan. How did they manage?

To keep the fish tasting fresh, the Japanese fishing companies still put the fish in the tanks but with a small shark. The fish are challenged and hence are constantly on the move. The challenge they face keeps them alive and fresh!

Have you realized that some of us are also living in a pond but most of the time tired and dull? Basically in our lives, sharks are new challenges to keep us active. If you are steadily conquering challenges, you are happy. Your challenges keep you energized. Don't create success and revel in it in a state of inertia. You have the resources, skills and abilities to make a difference. Put a shark in your tank and see how far you can really go.





Last autumn 2016 it was announced – not without surprise – that the next Synod of Bishops, that will take place in October 2018, will tackle the theme “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment”. For the ‘Church in exit’ (EG 20) as projected by Pope Francis the youth horizon is surely one of the main challenges and opportunities in order to reveal the real missionary identity of the Church.

The evaluation that Pope Francis offers

about the new generations in the *Evangelii Gaudium* is clear and precise: “Youth ministry, as traditionally organized, has suffered the impact of social changes. Young people often fail to find responses to their concerns, needs, problems and hurts in the usual structures” (n. 105); he adds: “Even if it is not always easy to approach young people, progress has been made in two areas: the awareness that the entire community is called to evangelize and



Abba Aristide Marcandalli SDB

educate the young, and the urgent need for the young to exercise greater leadership" (n. 106).

Therefore it was noted that the first thing to do is LISTENING to them; the Pope continues: "Whenever we attempt to read the signs of the times it is helpful to listen to young people". They "call us to renewed and expansive hope, for they represent new directions for humanity and open us up to the future, lest we cling to a nostalgia for structures and customs which are no longer life-giving in today's world" (n.108).

Writing to young people in his letter of Presentation of the Preparatory Document to the Synod Pope Francis says: "A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity. Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices; do not delay when your conscience asks you to take risks in following the Master. The Church also wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and

let it be heard by your shepherds of souls. St Benedict urged the abbots to consult, even the young, before any important decision, because "the Lord often reveals to the younger what is best".

In a conversation-interview with the General Superiors of Religious Orders the Pope confirms: "Two words: listening and moving. This is important; not only asking the youth to listen to, but listen to them, the youth themselves. This is the first important duty of the Church: listen to the youth". And he added: "And in the preparation of the Synod the presence of the religious people is very important, since you are very much involved in youth pastoral".

Here comes the challenge also for us, Salesians of Don Bosco of AET:

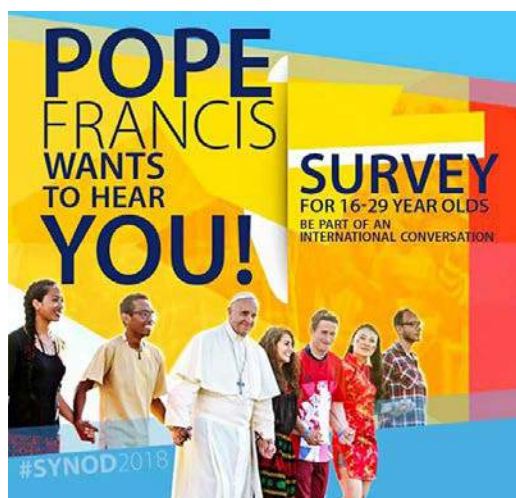
- How do we listen to the young people today?
- In which institutions are we listening to them here in Ethiopia?
- What Church structures do we have in order to listen to them? Does it really work?

The 'Questions' at the end of the Preparatory Document are surely a clear invitation to give voice to the youth so that this opportunity of the Synod may be expression of a Church really missionary and attentive to the needs of her young generations.



Synod of Bishops 2018. Salesians listening to young people

Rome: Synod 2018: Youth, Faith and



Vocational Discernment shall be a great blessing to the Church and to the young. In preparation for the Synod, a questionnaire is being sent to all the dioceses along with a preparatory document. Statistics, evaluation of the situation and sharing activities as suggested by the document will certainly act as a spring board for Salesian reflection and action for the future. "While the whole Church is moving towards a process of listening to the young, as Salesians we cannot remain passive, looking on as bystanders to see what is happening. As the theme is very

much 'Salesian', we are called by our Pope Francis in an audience with our Rector Major, Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, to play a proactive and a significant role in this process," states the Dicastery for Salesian Youth Pastoral in Rome. The contribution of Salesians (3 SDB and one FMA) to the Synod preparatory document is also a sign of an ecclesial recognition and an ecclesial responsibility. Hence the Youth Ministry Department is asking the Salesian Family to take concrete initiatives to organize youth forums to respond to the questionnaire effectively. Apart from sending the results to their respective dioceses, the request is for the document to be also sent to the Youth Ministry Sector - Fr. Patrick (paalexander@sdb.org) by 24th October 2017. The synthesis of the questionnaire will be taken up for sharing and discussion. There is another opportunity open since June 14, 2017: in view of the next 2018 Synod of Bishops, there is an ONLINE SURVEY addressing young people between 16-29 years of age from around the world in five languages (Italian, Spanish, English, French and Portuguese). It is open until next November 2017 and there is a website expressly dedicated to the Synod on Young People: <http://youth.synod2018.va>

Syria - Return to Aleppo

Aleppo - Syria: Returning five years later to a war-torn city, meeting friends and invaluable collaborators, realizing how much work is still to be done and how



much time has been wasted because of a useless war and, above all, start working to relaunch the mission is what the three Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, including the Middle East Provincial, Lina AbouNaoum, lived through having finally been able to spend a few days in Aleppo at the end of May. They met the Salesians, with the Director, Fr. George Fattal, who received them and offered them lunch and abundant food to bring to the old house at Aleppo. With the Knights of Malta, with whom they share the property of the house, they studied the possibility of restoration and of future activities in favor of the mission. The Melkite priests of the Church dedicated to St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Fr. BassamAshaji and Fr. Joseph Katat, promised their collaboration and encouraged their return. The Latin Bishop of Syria, Msgr. George AbouKhazen, gave his blessing and many other friends, among whom the Sisters of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, participated in the Holy Mass presided by the Bishop, along with the

Sisters of St. Joseph, the Hospital Sisters of St. Louis, the Carmelite Sisters, the Armenian Sisters, women, young people, and neighbors. Aleppo is coming alive again. The reality is cruel. There is the almost total destruction of a good part of the city. There are thousands who died and others are dispersed, and orphans. They speak of the 1500 stores that have been destroyed and looted. Today there is water, after a period of shortage; instead, electricity is furnished for only one hour during the day and at night.

India - 13th National Boscoree Officially Launched

Nashik - India: Around 350 Scouts and Guides from various Salesian schools of the Mumbai Province, along with Salesian



priests, sisters and brothers from the communities in Nashik, participated in the official launch of the 13th National Boscoree, an all-India gathering of Scouts and Guides from Salesian schools. The event took place on 3 July at Don Bosco High School, Nashik. Salesian institutions in India have enthusiastically celebrated the Boscoree once every four years since it first began in 1974. This edition of the Boscoree is being hosted by the Salesian Mumbai Province, and will take place at Nashik from December 30, 2018 to January 3, 2019. Rt. Rev. Lourdes Daniel, Bishop

of Nashik diocese, was the chief guest for the occasion. Addressing the gathering, he encouraged the Scouts and Guides to cultivate a healthy mind and a healthy body, which would enable them to live a happy life. "You are the masterpiece of God's creation," Bishop Lourdes Daniel reminded the youngsters present. "You can bring glory to God by taking care of your body and mind, and by living in harmony with one another and all of creation," he added. Police Commissioner Dr. Ravindra Kumar Singhal, IPS, was the guest of honor for the event. He shared his personal experience with the Scouting Movement and thanked the Scouts and Guides for their valuable contribution to society. The Salesian Provincial of Mumbai, Fr Godfrey D'Souza, then unveiled the Official Logo of the 13th National Boscoree, while Sister Philomena D'Souza, FMA, presented the official website - www.boscoree2018.in - thus launching the Boscoree and declaring the registrations open. The program concluded with the students of Don Bosco Nashik presenting a well-choreographed song that aptly depicted the theme of the Boscoree.

"Sir, give me this water", Strenna 2018

Rome: The water of life, the one only Jesus can give, and Salesian focus on the education

of youth: these are the central elements of the Strenna 2018 theme: "Sir, give me this water. LET US CULTIVATE THE ART OF LISTENING AND ACCOMPANIMENT." The Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, during the summer session of the General Council, presented the Strenna's theme and guidelines, which will be made available, as per tradition, towards the new year.

Five points through which reflection of the strenna will be articulated:

- A MEETING THAT CANNOT LEAVE US UNMOVED - the meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan as a model of relationships with the young;
- A MEETING THAT MOVES A PERSON ON FURTHER - like Jesus, one must first seek the good in others and, as experts in Humanity, to help in necessary discernment;
- A MEETING THAT TRANSFORMS A LIFE - In the example of Jesus who listens and accompanies, it is necessary to support a pedagogy of processes;

The last two points - WITH WHAT PASTORAL ACTION IN MIND? - IN THE COMPANY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN ... - have only been suggested and shall be further discussed.



Own the Youth, Gain the Future



Bro. Mehari Habte SDB

Even if the intention of the author of this quote is questionable, I just want to take a quotation from Adolf Hitler from his speech delivered in 1935, a speech at the Reichsparteitag (National Party Convention) in which he declared, "He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future."

Don Bosco's idea of "Upright Citizens and Good Christians" when he first started to work with and for the youth, considering also the socio-economic and political situation of his time, was more or less the same. I think, that is also why national policy makers, and people working under youth department, and we also as Salesians and our collaborators in different ways aim to bring about the active participation of youth in the building up of economic, social, cultural as well as democratic system. The youth are envisioned as a generation with upright and liberal outlook and ideals, equipped with knowledge and professional skills for the betterment of their own lives, families,

countries and the world at large.

However, in practice, there are many anomalies and irregularities that hinder youth's active participation in socio-economic, political and cultural life, including persistent gender inequality, youth poverty, and a lack of awareness in different perspectives of life. To be very practical, from my personal point of view, there is a wide range of priority areas of action that we may still need to strengthen to equip the young people with proper education and formation for their lives. Of course, we are already doing many marvelous works in our different centers as the real presence of Don Bosco today. As all of us have different experiences according to our age, places we have worked, responsibilities we have discharged....etc, here I just want to share some of my



reflections regarding the challenges the young people face today.

Family Support

All of us have our families to thank for life. But far beyond that, I have my family to thank for the way my life has taken shape. My decisions about the Congregation, learning, work and service,... all link back to my family. Looking back on my parents' influence puts into perspective the possibilities and the limits of the youth in their lives. Under a good family's quiet but firm hand, the youth are taught to be bright but not arrogant. They are taught that talent is nothing when not accompanied by hard work. However, as they find themselves in the globalization phenomena, many families in today's society are in the so called "rat race" giving

only insufficient moments to their children to share with them practical historical, cultural, social, political, educational, and economic elements. Somehow "Having" has become more important than "Being". Most families of today, as we can see around, want to foster the big issue of freedom and decision of one's destiny in the process of bringing up their children. "I want to leave my child to be free and decide his/her own destiny" is becoming a motto for many. This is not speculation, I am writing from experience. How many of our students' parents periodically attend to our office to know how his/her child is performing at school? Has it not happened that in our school, when we send a child home to bring his/her parents to know his/her situation at school, and the child coming back without his/her




parents, because the parents have this or that business and they give priority to the work more than the child?

Education


As a student of University with young people coming from different regions of our country, my experience is that even though school enrolment and number of schools rose in different places where we are working, there is still a need to work on the quality of education. Sometimes, I really wonder on this regard! Most of the young people are not prepared to the level of achievement they are supposed to attain. Still levels of educational quality and high drop-out rates, as well as gender and rural-urban disparities remain major challenges for the achievement of universal basic education and a smooth school-to-work transition. Youth from rural areas, girls and young people from poor households face major obstacles in accessing and understanding university lectures. Looking around also I see a low quality of education in terms of poor physical facilities, lack of well-trained teachers, and shortage of learning materials, which absolutely exacerbate the problems of the educational system.

As Salesians therefore even though we cannot reach all the young people because of different limitations, it is very important to prepare the young people for their future life not only with a science but an art of life, not only to teach them

how to make life but also how to live their own lives by giving integrated education and formation. Our Schools should be not only centers of excellence but of human and Christian formation. When we say so, as usual, what immediately comes to our mind is that we have a minority of Catholics in our Schools. But this is really not wording every sentence of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, but it is the way we have to do what other schools do differently with elements of



Somehow “Having” has become more important than “Being”. Most families of today, as we can see around, want to foster the big issue of freedom and decision of one’s destiny in the process of bringing up their children.



faith and social teachings of the Church; in other words, quoting Don Bosco, “doing the ordinary things in an extraordinary manner.”

Health

The Greeks understood the importance of a Sound Mind in a Sound Body. That

credo became the foundation of their civilization. Looking back to cultural phenomena here in our country, the youth population faces a number of health challenges, including inadequate access to sexual and reproductive health information/services, prevalence of HIV/AIDS. A healthy citizen contributes a lot to growth and development. When I say health, the value of health education is not only collective and economic; it also serves definite individual and personal interests. It allows each individual to develop his or her capacity to improve both longevity and quality of life, in the holistic vision of health as defined by WHO: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and does not consist only in an absence of disease or infirmity." That is why some awareness programs and projects are aimed at different levels of the society.

Migration of the Youth

Since Homo erectus left Africa over a million years ago, the constant transfer of people between different countries were not halted. Migration has been a key human response to environmental, social, political, and economic changes. Since the creation of the state at about 3500 B.C, the mobility continued with different magnitude and nature. Population dynamics happens over time and space on the population. The very reasons for the happening of change of Population size, composition and distribution are migration, fertility and mortality.

Particularly, migration has a direct effect on the geographic distribution of population. Also it has direct link with other demographic forces as well as other aspects of social and economic changes. For instance, why is some area with a high rate of youth unemployment and high youth dependency ratio? This can sometimes be because of an unexpected increase in number of the population of that area due to migration. The causes for the migration are economic and none-economic. However, wide spread agreement now exists among social sciences researchers, that rural urban migration of the youth and as well as international migration can be explained primarily as the result of economic factor. The rate of urbanization in developing nations that has increased in alarming rate has also got its major share as a cause of migration of the young people.

As I read in a study by a researcher, Sandar: "In different parts of Africa, the migration of the young people is considered as a means to escape economic, social, political problems and challenges – it is a survival strategy" Here is where we are invited to instill conviction in the minds of our young people to accept their reality not to escape from it, quoting the old saying, "bloom where you are planted." Of course, words are not enough. As the danger is very high as we have received the news of ship capsized in the big Mediterranean Sea quite often as so many young people were

crossing to the other parts of the world thinking that the other side of the world is always greener. So, in case we may have unproductive resources, can we still think how to reorient the resource to mitigate these challenges even if our contribution may be a drop of water to the big sea water?

In general, I think, scanning the environment of the young people can be energizing to help them beat the odds — helping them build skills, confidence and connections in addressing the larger educational, social, political, economic, environmental and ethical issues in their communities. We must respect the power of families, no matter how weak the parental bond, and strengthen

their positive influence, as we cannot do much without the families. And we must remember also to prepare our young people for one of the most influential roles they may ever assume — as head of a future family.

“If we want to have a good society, we must concentrate all our forces on the Christian education of the young. Experience has taught me that if we wish to sustain civil society then we should take good care of the young.”

“Do you want to do a good deed? Teach the young!

Do you want to perform a holy act? Teach the young!

Do you want to do a holy thing? Teach the young!

Truly, now and for the future, among holy things, this is the holiest.”

(Don Bosco)







Test your brain

Collected by: Cl. Daniel Shifare SDB



Q: Poor people have it. Rich people need it. If you eat it you die. What is it?

A: Nothing

Q: I'm tall when I'm young and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?

A: A candle

Q: Mary's father has 5 daughters – Nana, Nene, Nini, Nono. What is the fifth daughters name?

A: If you answered Nunu, you are wrong. It's Mary!

Q: In a one-story pink house, there was a pink person, a pink cat, a pink fish, a pink computer, a pink chair, a pink table, a pink telephone, a pink shower– everything was pink!

What color were the stairs?

A: There weren't any stairs; it was a one story house!

Q: A dad and his son were riding their bikes and crashed. Two ambulances came and took them to different hospitals. The man's son was in the operating room and the doctor said, "I can't operate on you.

You're my son."

How is that possible?

A: The doctor is his mom!

Q: What is the longest word in the dictionary?

A: Smiles, because there is a mile between each 's'

Q: What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

A: Short

Q: What travels around the world but stays in one spot?

A: A stamp!

Q: What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment and never in one thousand years?

A: The letter M

Q: What has 4 eyes but can't see?

A: Mississippi

Q: If I have it, I don't share it. If I share it, I don't have it. What is it?

A: A Secret.

Q: Take away my first letter, and I still sound the same. Take away my last letter,

I still sound the same. Even take away my letter in the middle, I will still sound the same. I am a five letter word. What am I?

A: EMPTY

Q: What is at the end of a rainbow?

A: The letter W!

Q: What starts with the letter "t", is filled with "t" and ends in "t"?

A: Teapot!

Q: What is so delicate that saying its name breaks it?

A: Silence.

Q: You walk into a room with a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle, and a fireplace. Which do you light first?

A: The match.

Q: A man was driving his truck. His lights were not on. The moon was not out. Up ahead, a woman was crossing the street. How did he see her?

A: It was a bright and sunny day!

Q: What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?

A: A palm!

Q: If an electric train is travelling south, which way is the smoke going?

A: There is no smoke, it's an electric train!

Q: You draw a line. Without touching it, how do you make the line longer?

A: You draw a shorter line next to it, and it becomes the longer line.

Q: What has one eye but cannot see?

A: A needle

Q: How many months have 28 days?

A: All 12 months!

Q: We see it once in a year, twice in a week, and never in a day. What is it?

A: The letter "E"

Q: How do you make the number one disappear?

A: Add the letter G and it's "GONE"

JOKES

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."





THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR

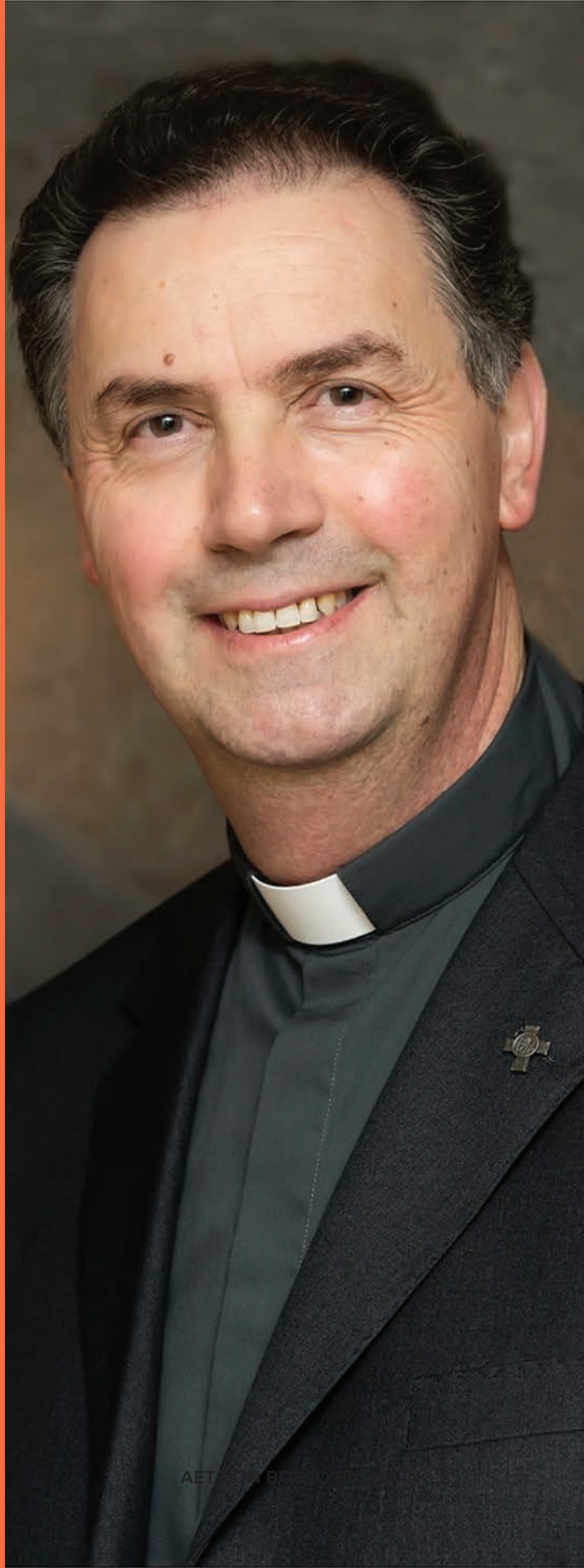
DON ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME

"Each new day is a blank page
presenting us with a host of
possibilities on the horizons of our life.
This is the incredible gift that we call
time."

In much of the world, September marks the beginning of school, and many families organize their life around this reality. In other places, the rhythm of life stays as it was because New Year's is at the center of the calendar and determines the changes. In both cases, however, a host of possibilities is presented to us. It is most natural to think that we will always see a new dawn, that we will have good health, and that life will hold many possibilities – but it is not always this way and neither is it so for everyone.

It is certain that time or, better, life – which has time as its measure – envelops a host of possibilities, relationships, and experiences...

Not long ago, I was speaking with a Brother in his 80s. He was advising me to live my life with passion – squeezing out of it all I could, just as one would squeeze a lemon or a bunch of grapes to get out all the juice. This is what this Brother, who has excellent intellectual, academic, and religious formation, told me. He did not mean to say that one must live a crazy life, running from one place to the other, or seeking this or that because one is dissatisfied. No. He was referring, rather, to the impassioned exercise of taking control of one's life, of this true gift received from the Lord of Life.



I wish to offer you some reflections about time and its possibilities. Let's imagine that there exists a bank which adds to our personal account 86,400 dollars every morning. This strange bank does not carry over our funds from one day to the next, but every night it takes out of our personal account whatever we have not used. Everyone of us has an account in one of these banks! What is the name on this bank? Time!

Each day this bank, beyond adding new funds, removes whatever is left over from the day before. It never keeps a balance. If the full amount is not used up in one day, what remains is lost. It cannot be reversed.

You cannot make any credit card charges to your account for the income of the following day. You must live in the present with the funds for today. So:

- **To understand well the value of an entire year, we can ask a student who has had to repeat a course;**
- **To understand the value of a month, we can ask a mother who gave birth to her baby prematurely;**
- **To understand the value of a week, we can ask the editor of a weekly publication;**
- **To understand the value of an hour, we can ask the help of those who are in love and who expect to see their loved one at any moment;**



- **To understand the value of a minute, we can ask someone traveling who missed his or her plane or train by just one minute;**
- **To understand the importance of a second, we can ask someone who avoided an accident by one;**
- **To understand the value of a millisecond, we can ask the athlete who earned a gold medal in the Olympics by this margin.**

Such is the value of time!

Thus, I think we should wish that each one of us treasure every moment of our lives. Let us give much more importance to this treasure by sharing it with others who are

most dear to us, especially by dedicating our time to them.

Let us not forget: time waits for no one. Let us also remember what is most important of all: as believers, we know that time is only a means, but the gift is life itself, given for us to share, and in this sharing we are truly happy.

My wish for you, dear readers, is that we do not let life just pass us by or live it in any old way. Once we have had the experience of living life fully, enjoying all the beauty and wonderful things that surround us – and even the difficulties which weigh us down at times – accepting this challenge becomes a passion.

May you be happy!

Rector Major

Don Angel Fernandez Arttime, SDB

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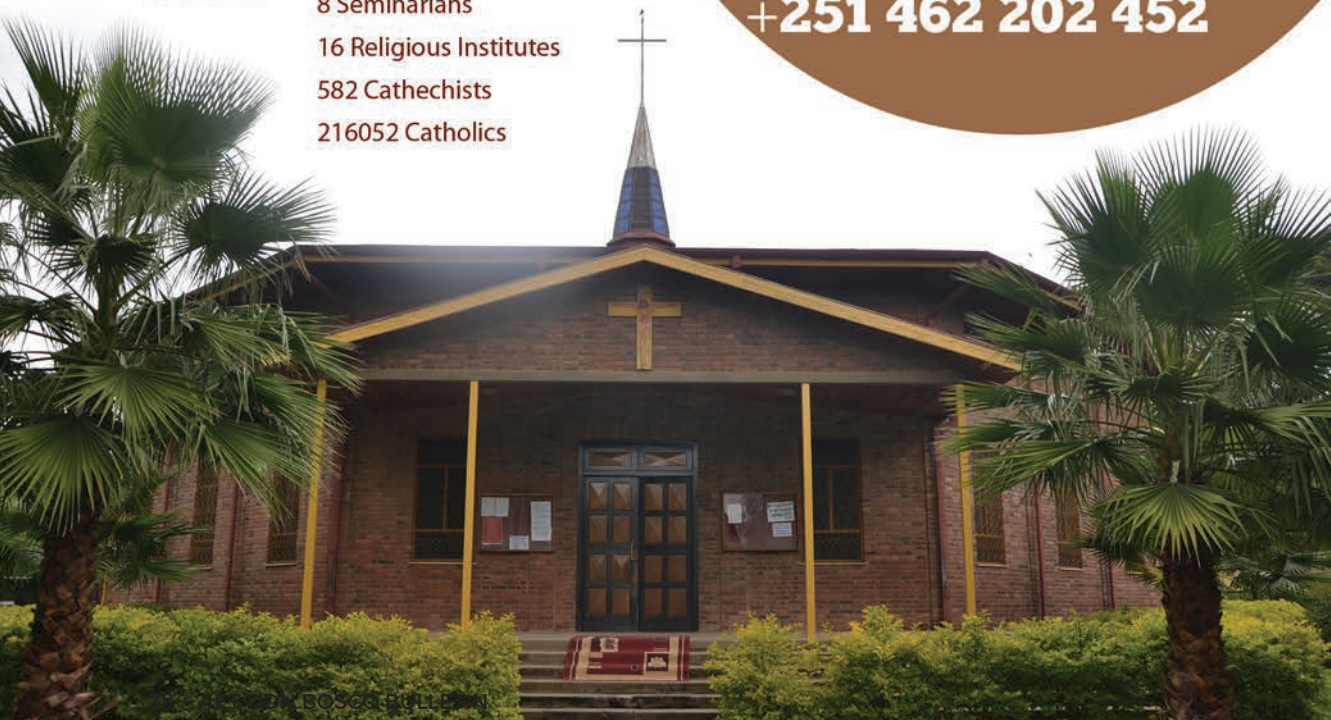
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Ordained a priest, former Manchester United footballer's goal is Christ



Dublin, Ireland: Former Irish soccer pro Philip Mulryne was ordained a priest of the Order of Preachers, or Dominicans, in July. Archbishop Joseph Augustine Di Noia, O.P., an assistant secretary at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, ordained him to the priesthood at Dublin's Saint Saviour's Church on July 8. "In a real sense, your experience as an athlete has helped to prepare you for this moment: you have known the meaning of working hard to attain a goal, and now the goal is Christ," Archbishop Di Noia said at the ordination Mass, according to The Irish News. "Impart to everyone the word of God which you have received with joy," the archbishop continued. "Meditating on the law of the Lord, see that you believe what you read, that you teach what you believe, and that you practice what you teach." As a Dominican, the new priest has professed vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience.

He will join the chaplaincy at Newbridge College in Ireland's County Kildare. He said his first Mass Monday at his home parish of St. Oliver Plunkett Church in the Lenadoon area of Belfast. In a video interview published by the U.K. newspaper Daily Mail in 2016, Mulryne said he was attracted by the ideals of the Dominican life: "To give oneself completely to God through the profession of the evangelical counsels, to take him as our example and despite our weakness and our defects, trust in Him that he will transform us by His grace, and thus being transformed, communicate the joy in knowing Him to everyone we meet. Father Mulryne's soccer career began when a talent scout for the prominent Manchester United Football Club saw him play for his parish soccer team and invited the then-14-year-old to try out for the club's youth team. He played soccer for Manchester United for only one game in 1997, sharing the field with star David Beckham. He later moved to the Norwich City club. The Irish native, born in Belfast, brought fame to Northern Ireland's international team by achieving 27 caps – international appearances – in his athletic career. His career earnings topped \$600,000. After suffering major injuries in 2008, he began to question how he would spend his days after his 2009 retirement. Fellow soccer

pro Paul McVeigh told the U.K. newspaper the Catholic Herald that Mulryne began to engage in charitable work and helped the homeless on a weekly basis. Bishop Noel Treanor of the Diocese of Down and Connor became influential in his life and later invited him to enter the seminary. He first entered the diocesan seminary at Saint Malachy's Belfast. On Oct. 30, 2016, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin ordained him a deacon in Belfast.

Keep your eyes fixed on the cross, Pope urges new cardinals

Vatican City: On 28 June 2017, Pope



Francis created five new cardinals, encouraging them to walk with Jesus, keeping their eyes fixed securely on the cross and on the realities of the world, not becoming distracted by prestige or honor. "I speak above all to you, dear new Cardinals. Jesus 'is walking ahead of you,' and he asks you to follow him resolutely on his way. He calls you to look at reality, not to let yourselves be distracted by other interests or prospects," the Pope said June 28. "He has not called you to become 'princes' of the Church, to 'sit at his right or at his left.' He calls you to serve like him and with him." "To serve the Father and your brothers and sisters. He calls you

to face as he did the sin of the world and its effects on today's humanity. Follow him, and walk ahead of the holy people of God, with your gaze fixed on the Lord's cross and resurrection." Pope Francis addressed the five bishops he chose to receive a red hat last month, and others present, during an ordinary consistory for the creation of new cardinals in St. Peter's Basilica.

Pope names Archbishop Luis Ladaria as Müller's successor to head CDF

Vatican City: The Vatican announced



Saturday that as Cardinal Gerhard Müller's term as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith comes to an end, the Pope has not renewed it, but has appointed Jesuit Archbishop Luis Ladaria to take his place. The decision was officially published in a July 1 communique from the Vatican, which stated the Holy Father's thanks to Cardinal Müller for his term. July 2 marks the end of Müller's five-year mandate as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which included the positions of president of the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei," the Pontifical Biblical Commission and the International Theological Commission. Ladaria, who has served as archbishop

of Thibica and as secretary of the CDF since 2008, will be succeeding Müller in each of the same duties. The Vatican did not specify what Cardinal Müller will be doing next. Müller was tapped to head the congregation, the most important dicastery in the Roman Curia, by Benedict XVI before his resignation in 2012. Pope Francis renewed Müller's appointment to the CDF and to each of the commissions after his election, allowing the prelate to serve the entirety of his 5-year term in each, which ends July 2. Müller is known to have been a conservative voice within the Curia, and, contrary to other German prelates, backed more traditional interpretations of Chapter 8 of Pope Francis' 2016 post-synodal apostolic exhortation, "Amoris Laetitia," on the reception of communion for divorced and remarried couples, insisting that it does not breach Church teaching. In addition to the nomination of Archbishop Ladaria as Müller's replacement, the Vatican also announced the appointment of Cardinal Giuseppe Betori, archbishop of Florence, as a member of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

For First World Day of the Poor, Francis encourages personal encounter

Vatican City: In his message for the first World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis said that the suffering and broken bodies of the poor are where we encounter the body of Christ – and to know Christ we must know the poor. "If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch



his body in the suffering bodies of the poor, as a response to the sacramental communion bestowed in the Eucharist," he said in his message, released June 13. "The Body of Christ, broken in the sacred liturgy, can be seen, through charity and sharing, in the faces and persons of the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters." "We may think of the poor simply as the beneficiaries of our occasional volunteer work, or of impromptu acts of generosity that appease our conscience," he continued. And these acts may be good for putting other's needs more clearly before us, but what they should ultimately do is "lead to a true encounter with the poor and a sharing that becomes a way of life." On our paths to becoming true disciples of Christ, we find confirmation of our evangelical authenticity in the charity and sharing stemming from a real encounter, he said. "This way of life gives rise to joy and peace of soul, because we touch with our own hands the flesh of Christ." Pope Francis established the World Day of the Poor in his apostolic letter, "Misericordia et misera," presented Nov. 20, 2016 at the end of the Church's Jubilee Year of Mercy. To be celebrated on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time – this year falling

on Nov. 19 – the idea came about, he explained, during the Jubilee for Socially Excluded People, highlighting in particular the homeless, which took place at the Vatican near the end of the Jubilee. “At the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy, I wanted to offer the Church a World Day of the Poor, so that throughout the world Christian communities can become an ever greater sign of Christ’s charity for the least and those most in need,” the Pope explained in the message. Pope Francis himself will celebrate Mass on Sunday, Nov. 19 in St. Peter’s Basilica, Archbishop Rino Fisichella told journalists at a press

conference on the Pope’s message June 13. Afterward, there will be a lunch for the poor, serving around 500, in the Pope Paul VI hall. The theme for the World Day of the Poor, which includes a special logo depicting an open door, and one person welcoming another inside, is “Let us love, not with words but with deeds.” Words alone aren’t enough, the Pope pointed out in his message, illustrating the point with the words of St. James in his epistle.



**SOCIETY OF THE HELPERS OF MARY
CELEBRATING
PLATINUM JUBILEE**

**THE ALMIGHTY
HAS DONE
GREAT THINGS FOR US**



SUCCESS STORIES

DID YOU KNOW ?



By, Sr. Justina SSL

Despite having years of experience as a software engineer, he was the one whom no one wanted to hire. He worked in the companies like Yahoo and Apple Computer, yet he was turned down by two major companies Facebook and Twitter. Later, he built an application which was acquired by Facebook in 2014.

He is none other than Brian Acton, the founder of WhatsApp.

Brian Acton was born in Michigan and grew up in Central Florida. He was a computer science graduate from Stanford University. He was the 44th employee hired by Yahoo. During his Yahoo days he met Jan Koum, the co-founder of WhatsApp. In 2007, they decided to quit Yahoo and they started travelling South America for a year. Back in 2009, they both applied at Facebook, but both were rejected. Eventually Brian Acton teamed up with Jan Koum and developed WhatsApp, which he incorporated on his birthday Feb. 24, 2009. Over the years, WhatsApp has become one of the most widely used apps around the world.

WhatsApp was acquired by Facebook in 2014. The founders agreed to sell off WhatsApp to Facebook for \$19 billion USD in cash and stock. Brian holds a stake of 20% in the company.

According to Brian Acton, 'Life is all about adventure and achieving success or nothing.' This thrill helped him to develop WhatsApp, which is now used by over 450 million users worldwide. The man who was once rejected as an employee at Facebook, now holds stakes in the company. His net worth is \$3.4 billion. Brian Acton, who is now ranked 190th wealthiest man in the USA has fondly tweeted from his personal Twitter account that he was once rejected by Facebook and Twitter.

SALESIAN WORLD

LOCAL NEWS

Past pupils' Meeting in Mekanissa



Mekanissa: It was indeed a red-letter day in the history of Don Bosco Mekanissa as more than 50 past pupils of various centers of Don Bosco in Ethiopia gathered together for a day of sharing and being together on Sunday, 4th June 2017. Even though it was on a short notice, the confreres of the community especially Abba Hailemariam, Br. Endalk and Br. Dagmawi set out to contact all the Past Pupils in all earnestness. Their efforts were certainly not in vain as a good number of past pupils responded to the invitation with great interest and enthusiasm. The gathering witnessed the participation of a wide variety of 'Don Bosco Products' ranging from well-established level 1 Contractors to freshly graduated students from universities. The one characteristic common to all of them was that they were truly happy and contented of their formation at Don Bosco. After a moment of input regarding the identity of Don Bosco Past Pupil, and Past Pupil in the mind of Don

Bosco, there was a time of sharing regarding the expectations of the Salesians regarding the Past Pupils and the past pupils from the Salesians. The meeting was ended with nominating of contact persons for each center and the group dispersed with the desire and determination to carry on in the future the initiative already begun.

Former Salesians gather at Salesianum



Addis Abeba: "Please don't call us ex-salesians, we have still the Salesian spirit within us. Don Bosco is still alive in our hearts", these were the words and sentiments of everyone who participated the gathering of the former Salesians which was held at the Salesianum in Addis Abeba on 4th June 2017. There were more than 15 former Salesians who attended the meeting at Gothara, where there was also present the Provincial, Vicar, Youth Ministry delegate and Abba Samuel, the in-charge for

Past pupils. The meeting was certainly a long awaited one and everyone who were present expressed their joy and happiness in being part of the family once again. In his inaugural speech the Provincial expressed his great satisfaction and joy in seeing the members and reminded them of the great responsibility that they have in witnessing and living in their lives, the great values they have imbibed in the Salesian settings. There was also a moment of sharing for the members and everyone shared so spontaneously how the Salesian formation had contributed so much in their upbringing. The group decided to call themselves “Associates of Don Bosco” instead of the redundant terminology “Ex-Salesians”. The meeting was later ended with the Eucharistic celebration which was presided over by revered Fr. Estifanos, the provincial.

Feast of MHOC at Dilla

Dilla: “Have devotion to Mary Help of Christians



and you will see what miracles are”, these words of Don Bosco becomes a reality at every Feast of MHOC in the various Salesian parishes in the Salesian world. This year too, it was witnessed in a living manner at Don Bosco Dilla, in the South Sidamo region, where hundreds of faithful gathered to honor Mary under the title of Mary Help of Christians on 24 May 2017. The celebrations began with the solemn procession carrying the statue of Mary from the Sisters’ compound, to the Parish church with a colorful

group of children and young people, singing praises of Mary, spreading flowers all along the way, while the adults and elderly kept reciting the decades of the Holy Rosary all along the procession. Upon reaching the Church the statue of Mary was received with honor inside the parish church. The solemn Eucharist was presided over by the newly appointed Bishop of Hawassa Abuna Roberto Bergamaschi SDB who invited the people to increase their love towards their heavenly who is ever ready to assist them in their life journey. The presence of Fr. Chavez SDB who was also present in Dilla to preach the retreat added special honor to the entire feast. After the solemn Eucharist there was lunch offered for all the faithful of the parish which was attended by hundreds of people.

Spiritual renewal for AET with Fr. Pascual Chavez

Dilla: It was indeed a moment of grace for the entire province of AET as the Rector Major



Emeritus Rev. Fr. Pascual Chavez was in the province to animate two sets of Spiritual retreats for the entire Salesian Family in Ethiopia. The retreat participants included from the Salesian fathers and brothers, Salesian sisters, Sisters of MSMHOC, volunteers and cooperators from the various houses in the country and even abroad as was the case with the Salesian sisters who also included sisters from South Sudan. The retreats were held in two locations

as Debrezeit and Dilla from 14 to 21 and 23 to 29 May respectively. “For this is the will of God, your Sanctification”, a quote from the letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians set the whole tone for the retreat. Fr. Pascual having been Rector Major for two terms and one term as President of the Conference of Superiors’ General, with his wide knowledge of the Congregation and the Consecrated Life in general was able to animate the groups to an experience of conversion and renewal through many reflections from Pope Francis and the previous rector majors like Fr. Vigano and Fr. Vecchi. It was a lived experience of the paternity of Don Bosco for the entire group of the participants and everyone left the retreat house with the determination to live more fully and actively the wonderful charism of Don Bosco. May God bless Fr. Pascual with His choicest blessings.

Don Bosco India and Don Bosco Ethiopia join hands in Vocational Training

Mekanissa: One of the missions of the “Print your future” project, a dream project of the VIS realized in Ethiopia, has been offering tools and



the opportunities for students and laborers in graphic industry to improve their knowledge and skills to express it best in their workplace and to share it with their colleagues. With this vision, Don Bosco Mekanissa organized a course in graphic design and layout in Photoshop and Indesign and another course in printing

technology and maintenance of machines from 24 April to 6 May, 2017. The great novelty was that the course became a reality thanks to the collaboration of the graphic school DON BOSCO IMAGE, KOCHI-INDIA. Indian professors came to share their experiences and professionalism with enthusiasm and passion. The courses were attended by more than 60 people, including students from Don Bosco Mekanissa, members of the Graphic Arts and Press Association and TVET agency professionals. The course witnessed two weeks of total immersion in the training to create a good graphic product. Professors proved to be able to convey graphic knowledge by going beyond cultural differences and language difficulties by creating a synergistic team of work and collaboration with all the participants. Although the courses started from basic content respecting the level of professional knowledge of all the participants, the final result was good and satisfactory. Eventually the students received a certificate and in turn, they presented with exquisitely cultural gifts expressing their gratitude and appreciation and their will to make the treasures of what they had already learned.

SYM Gathering held at Mekelle and Zway

Zway: It was indeed a great moment of joy and integration for the entire youth of the oratories of the North and South as two SYM gatherings were held in the province in the month of April and May. The visit of Youth Ministry delegate to the various oratories of the province prior to the SYM gathering made the ground ready for such a get-together. The SYM 2017 had as its theme, “We are a Family”. The SYM of the north was held at Makelle from 28 – 30 April that saw the wide participation of more than 90 young people who came from the various houses in the north. The presence of FMA Adwa also

added a special flavor to the whole gathering. There were invited speakers like Abba Mussie Dory, Abba Teum Berhe, Abba Samuel Abreha, and Vol. Bruno Minini who also gave special sessions to the young people which were very much appreciated by everyone. Similar



gathering of SYM in the south was held at Zway from 5 – 7 May. The event gathered together a total of more than 180 young people who had gathered from the various houses of the south. The two FMA houses of Dilla and Zway were also present for the gathering. In the south too there were eminent speakers like Abba Groum SJ, Sr. Aigena FMA and the others who came to take sessions for young people. The Inter-Oratory matches, Quiz competitions, Group sharing, and many other sessions made the SYM active and participative. The “Best Oratory Cup” of the year was won by FMA Adwa in the north and SDB Gambella in the south.

AET Province bids farewell to Br. Mellese

Zway: It was with great shock that the province of AET and the whole family members of Br. Mellese received the shocking news of his sudden demise on 8th April 2017. Br. Mellese was a lay brother, who had been a student of Computer Science in France. He had almost completed his Master’s Degree in France and was about to return to his mother province in

the month of June to take his new appointment as director of a school in the province. The reason for his death was diagnosed to be Aortic Dissection. Following the tragic news of his death the provincial, Abba Estifanos Gebremeskel and Br. Cesare left for France to see to the further



arrangements for his funeral. The dead body of Br. Mellese arrived in Ethiopia on 21 April. The dead body was received in Gothara the provincial house on the same night and the following day the body was taken to Zway for burial. A large crowd of people attended the funeral at Zway, among which many were salesians, friends and family members of Br. Mellese. All the Salesian houses of Ethiopia were represented at the funeral. Abuna Abraha of Meki Vicariate and Abuna Roberto of Awassa vicariate were also present for the funeral. Certainly the death of Mellese has left a great void in our hearts. But the words of our Constitutions come to our aid: “Death for the Salesian is made bright by the hope of entering into the joy of his Lord, and when it happens that a salesian dies working for souls, the Congregation has won a great triumph.”

If there's a story you think we should be covering, please do let us know.

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Cl. Gona Akirso SDB

the indespesability of VALUE

In the Oxford Dictionary, a 'Value' is defined as something that is important and worthwhile to care for. It usually refers to certain actions such as the need to act with justice, truthfulness, honesty and peace etc. These are valuable actions that we promote in our daily life for the benefit of a community. Without them our society becomes less human; lack of order deepens and selfishness increases. Indeed we must treasure and encourage certain values. To achieve this we need necessary convictions and responsibility to carry them out. In the Gospel too there are certain Christian values that Jesus

emphasized and spoke about; the need for justice, understanding, compassion forgiveness, community building and respect for others.

These days a great majority of young people are moving from more settled and traditional rural backgrounds to large towns and cities. This situation exists in our country and is now becoming a real cause for concern. Many young people are attracted by what they see and hear. Their desire for education intensifies since education creates opportunities for work and money. This enables and allows them

to take part in many activities. Although this process is a natural one and exists throughout the world, it must not overlook the confusion that it creates in the young people themselves. They enter into a cultural crisis, unable to distinguish what is essential in the other world and in the traditional values. Often they think that foreign life style is better and far superior to their preceding way of living. I would like to point out some destructive effects of foreign culture by examining two particular areas of our life in the modern society.

Education and Fashion

Education is valuable and helpful for the growth and well-being of any society; however, it does have some limitations. Somehow the present educational system reveals some negative qualities. For instance, the aggressive character that leads to a greater egoism. In this case we need to maintain a balance with traditional values by claiming that education is not only being for oneself, it must also be at the service of the local community. Students do not feel more important because of their education. Yes, as students they might have the opportunity of education. They are being educated not only for themselves but also for the benefit and advantage of the society in which they live and work. They have to share a little of the benefit of this education with those who have never had the opportunity to receive it.

Their desire for education intensifies since education creates opportunities for work and money. This enables and allows them to take part in many activities. Although this process is a natural one and exists throughout the world, it must not overlook the confusion that it creates in the young people themselves.

Another factor that worries me is that so many young people spend so much of money on clothes and cosmetics. I agree that the desire to increase one's physical appearance is normal, especially for adolescents. But I ask myself whether a good physical appearance is a value to be achieved at any cost. Since our body is a gift from God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), we respect it daily through food, exercise, cleaning and dressing; not to do this would be an insult to our Creator. We are created very beautiful. I wonder whether God wants us to spend so much time and money on our hairstyle, dress patterns and skin lotions. Why does this present fashion catch the attention of so many



Young people? Firstly, society has made fashion into a value that is imperative; Radio, TV and Newspaper adverts lead to experience this belief by creating wants that do not really exist. Should we believe and accept everything what TV/Media speak about? No, we have to test what is Valuable and what is Beauty and what is really Necessary. Unfortunately almost “all media exist to invest our lives with artificial perception and arbitrary values.”

Therefore; just to be aware of this situation is the basis for the change. Of course some times change can frighten us. Large groups of young people are unconscious that they are becoming western in their fashion and other material desires. The straight hairstyle is a simple example of this point and things such like. Understanding should lead to reflection. We need to ask questions such as; Are we really happy with our situations? What would we like to see changed in regard to fashion? How does all this compare with our traditional and Christian values? If we

are too fashion conscious, then we spend less on our family and society. For this reason; we have to be informed, aware and responsible particularly in accepting the consequences of our actions.

We have a task to help and serve the children and youth in our society to help them to understand their own selves, to accept the real value, to be able to distinguish the right value from the wrong one. To take this in account the position of family is very important because family is the basic institution where the children and young people are trained and educated to understand norms, values and expectations. We Salesians of Don Bosco direct the first concern to the education of children and young people who are entrusted to us in order to make them “Honest Citizens and Good Christians” by helping them to keep their value because they are the future Church and Society of this world. Let us become companions of their journey to look after in their conscious the great values; first of all love towards God, love for one's country, love for the family, love for themselves and love for their naturally given values. Being together with them, let us evaluate the challenge that our youth are facing in the modern world. Thus, value must be our beauty and our loveliness, our identity and our personality. Let us be prudent in our choice and in our discernment in order to be ourselves. These are all for the betterment of the human race and of the given society.

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**HAPPY
FEAST OF
MESKEL**

MEKI VICARIATE CATHEDRAL

Inaugurated on 24th May 2017



ST. LUKE CATHOLIC HOSPITAL & COLLEGE OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY



St. Luke Catholic Hospital and College of Nursing and Midwifery provides health care services in a spirit of equality and justice, promoting physical and psychological help without discrimination for religious, ethnic, political, social or economic status. In particular it promotes the defence of life in accordance with the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church and guarantees access to health services to those more in need, the poor and the under privileged, the children and the women during pregnancy. The College of Nursing and Midwifery trains Ethiopian citizens to become dedicated and professional health staff to provide quality health service to the community.

- Providing quality medical and paramedical services at the lowest cost.
- Providing community health and integrated devolvement activities.
- Providing possibilities for the hospital staff to develop their professional competence, leadership skill and talents, exercising responsible stewardship in the use of material resources.
- Providing quality health education for three years, for clinical nurses and midwives training.

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