

# DON BOSCO BULLETIN

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM AET

## MOMENTS OF GRACE







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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.

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# EDITORIAL



Joel Welden, a famous counselor and psychologist says that one of the strangest seeds in the world is the seed of the Chinese bamboo tree. It lies buried in the soil for five years before any seedling or sprout appears above the ground. Think of it! Five years! During all these five years the seed is cultivated, i.e. watered

and fertilized regularly. Just think how frustrating it is! Doing the same things every day, not having any evidence that your efforts are having any effect? The only thing you know is that the result is supposed to come in 4 years. But then what happens on the fifth year is just awesome. One morning you wake up and see a small bamboo sprig, then the next day an even bigger one and in 5 weeks it has grown up to 90 ft. which is around 27 meters.

Has anyone thought why does the seedling take so long to emerge? Why does it grow so fast once it emerges? What do you think? – did it do all its growing in the last 5 weeks, or was it growing for all these 4 years? It's obvious that the bamboo was growing underground the whole time – without visible evidence; but certainly, IT WAS GROWING! Plant experts say that during its first five years in the soil, the bamboo seed was busy building an elaborate root system that enables it to grow 90 feet in six weeks.

I think the Bamboo tree offers some beautiful insights also for our lives. We can take at least three points for our reflection.

## 1. It all starts with a solid root system

To stand strong, the bamboo grows and develops its root system for 4 long years, so that it can support the whole structure and weight above ground when the day comes. Without that solid foundation, it wouldn't be able to support the size and the long life it does with that root system. The same thing also with our life. If we want to achieve long-term success, have great relationships, and get everything we wish in life, we need to have a solid foundation to support those things – our character, values, and our attitudes.

## 2. It takes small actions every day

In the early days, the bamboo does not grow overnight. In life too, there is no such thing as overnight success, even though that is what we wish and what the media constantly tells us. But real success takes time and diligent effort. We become successful by doing the right things on a regular basis to move closer to our goals. Small actions today make a big difference in the long run.

## 3. It takes persistence, patience and faith

Some dreams may take months or even years to accomplish. Successful people don't stop, they keep moving forward, even if they don't see immediate results. They know that if they put in the effort, doing the right things every day, then results will eventually come.

We are still at the start of our Ethiopian New Year 2009. Our Scholastic year has just begun a month ago. Let us take to heart the lessons from the Bamboo tree. Let us build a solid foundation to stand on (our character, values and attitudes), remembering that it takes small actions every day to make a big difference in the long run, which would also require from us a lot of patience and persistence.

Remember, great results cannot be achieved at once. The fear of being failed with our limitations often makes us feel that it is hardly worthwhile starting a thing at all. But we must remember this - everything must have a beginning. It is our duty to do what we can, and the cumulative effect of all the small efforts will, in the end, give amazing results. Wish you all a good beginning.

Abba Lijo Vadakkan SDB





**Abba Estifanos SDB**  
Provincial

**D**ear confreres,

We have a lot of things ahead of us to achieve in this school year. We have been insisting on the importance of planning to respond to our situation; to organize ourselves better in our lives and activities, to grow in our sense of belonging, in working deeper with our lay collaborators. All our meetings are designed to understand our situation better and come with an appropriate solution to the reality on the ground. It is also very vital in our planning the involvement of all of us in our community plan and of our lay collaborators in the EPP. Planning is more an attitude than an activity. We need more time and sharing to do it. Every year we start our school year with the rector's meeting in the province, to underline the role of the rector as a man of unity with his animation and governance respecting the rule of subsidiarity of power. Planning is part of his work that gives the community a unity and the ability to select areas of importance in our religious life and activities. I therefore invite the communities to discover the role of the rector and the importance of planning.

I would like to encourage all of us in these three areas:

To grow in our personal prayer of life, to be responsible in our formation as religious people, to be committed in our community life, to have time for meditation, study and reflection. I would like to ask you to be more faithful in our Sacramental life and devotion to Our Lady.

In our pastoral activities we need to read the signs of our time and make a serious study and reflection to address the challenges of the young people today; to make our activities more educative in particular our Youth Centres and oratories, to educate the young people to faith and assist them in their vocational discernment. We need to work on the family ministry and be courageous in venturing to the new frontiers of our times.

In these last years the province is working more and more in the self-sustainability. The awareness program has been very effective. It is time now to work more and more in our financial system to make it more professional, transparent. We need to identify our resources and implement projects to assist us in our finance, study more possibilities besides our external donors, that is to see possibilities locally. Make good use of our professional lay people in our organization to assist us in our endeavour.

The preventive System is not only pedagogy, but it is spirituality, our way of living. It should not be used only in our pastoral activities but also in our way of being Salesians. We need to study it more and more so as to use it in all that we do and in our way of living. The preventive system is a big inheritance that we have and the families have the right to it. We need to work more and more to propose to the society that we are serving. I urge all of us to make a good use of the GC27 and church documents in achieving our plans for this year.

At the end I would like to thank all the confreres and our lay collaborators for the beautiful activities that they are doing and I implore God for His graces and the assistance of Mary Our Help in our life and activities.

IN FOCUS

# YEAR OF MERCY

## *Quoting Pope Francis*

Abba Angelo SDB

U

nderstanding mercy means awareness of sin. Pope Francis offered his thoughts in a lengthy video message to bishops from all the countries of the Western hemisphere, gathered in Bogota, Colombia, for a special conference on the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

To appreciate God's mercy, one must recognize one's own sinfulness, if I want to take out the little straw from my brother's eye; I have to remove the 'plank' from my own eye first. To do this I have to admit that I'd have got a plank in my eye. What is this 'plank' Jesus is talking about? Well, all my sins, my limitations, my failings, and all the many times I have fallen... Jesus has looked upon me and drawn near to me. He has given me His hand and showed mercy.

God's mercy is understood in the context of "a history of sin to be remembered". Which sin? Ours: mine and yours. Conscious of God's Mercy the faithful should offer mercy to others. The response of mercy toward others contrasts with an attitude of fear, which serves only to separate, to divide, to attempt to distinguish with surgical precision one side from the other, to create false security and thus to build walls. We live in a society that is bleeding, and the price of its wounds normally ends up being paid by the most vulnerable. Our peoples already have enough suffering in their lives; they do not need us to add to it.

***"Just as God trusts us  
and expects us to change, we must treat  
others never based on fear but on the hope  
God has in our ability to change,"***

Which will it be: hope for change, or fear? The only thing acting out of fear accomplishes is to separate, to divide, to attempt to distinguish with surgical precision one side from the other, to create false security and thus to build walls. By contrast, acting on the basis of hope for change and conversion is something that encourages and incites. Hope looks to the future, it makes room for opportunity, and it keeps us moving forward. Fear-based action signifies guilt and punishment, while action based on the hope of transformation bespeaks trusting, learning, getting up, constantly trying to generate new opportunities.

Given the many attempts to fragment, divide and set our peoples at odds, such events help us to broaden our horizons and to continue our handshake; a great sign that encourages us in hope, a culture that is leaving by the roadside the faces of the elderly, children, and ethnic minorities seen as a threat. A culture that little by little promotes the comfort of a few and increases the suffering of many others. A culture that is

incapable of accompanying the young in their dreams but sedates them with promises of etereal happiness and hides the living memory of their elders. A culture that has squandered the wisdom of the indigenous peoples and has shown itself incapable of caring for the richness of their lands.

We live in a society that is bleeding, and the price of its wounds normally ends up being paid by the most vulnerable. But it is precisely to this society, to this culture, that the Lord sends us. He sends us with one program alone: to treat one another with mercy. To become neighbors to those thousands of defenseless people who walk on this earth by proposing a different way of treating them. St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy: Paul minces no words: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom Paul considers himself the worst. He is clearly aware of who he is, he does not conceal his past or even his present. But he describes himself in this way neither to excuse nor to justify himself, much less to boast of his condition.



For all our sins, our limitations, our failings, for all the many times we have fallen, Jesus has looked upon us and drawn near to us. He has given us his hand and showed us mercy. All of us can think back and remember the many times the Lord looked upon us, drew near and showed us mercy. All those times that the Lord kept trusting, kept betting on us.

The Pope encouraged his audience to concentrate on remembering their sin, not their alleged merits, and to grow in "a humble and guilt-free awareness of all those times we turned away from God – we, not someone else, not the person next to us, much less that of our people – and to be once more amazed by God's mercy. Mercy is not simply a beautiful word. It is a concrete act of drawing close to others and making them feel that "the last word has not yet been spoken" in their lives. These people must be treated in such a way "that those who feel crushed by the burden of their sins can feel relieved at being given another chance."

Paul's God starts a movement from heart to hands, the movement of one who is unafraid to draw near, to touch, and to caress, without being scandalized, without condemning, without dismissing anyone. A way of acting that becomes incarnate in people's lives. The way of mercy can seek what is best for the other person "in a way they can understand".

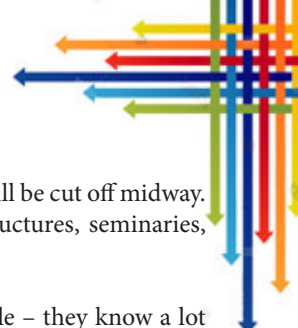
The action of the merciful Father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

He said that Christians are sometimes tempted to be scandalized, like the older son in the parable who begrudged his father's mercy towards his wayward brother.

We might be scandalized that he did not scold him but instead treated him for what he was: a son. We have a spiritual Alzheimer's," which is when we forget how the Lord has treated us, when we begin to judge and divide people up. We take on a separatist mindset that, without our realizing it, leads us to fragment our social and communal reality all the more. We fragment the present by creating 'groups'. Groups of good and bad, saints and sinners.

What made St. Paul a disciple was the trust God showed in him despite his many sins. If we have the





best plans, projects and theories about what to do, but lack mercy, our pastoral work will be cut off midway. Do the Bishops teach the path of showing mercy in their pastoral plans, parish structures, seminaries, missionary activity, clergy meetings and theology?

Today we are asked especially to show mercy to God's holy and faithful people – they know a lot about being merciful because they have a good memory –, to the people who come to our communities with their sufferings, sorrows and hurts. But also to the people, who do not come to our communities, yet are wounded by the paths of history and hope to receive mercy. Mercy is learned, because our Father continues to forgive us. To learn to show mercy is to learn from the Master how to become neighbors, unafraid of the outcast and those 'tainted' and marked by sin. To learn to hold out our hand to those who have fallen, without being afraid of what people will say. Any treatment lacking mercy, however just it may seem, ends up turning into mistreatment. Let us be grateful that God "trusts us to repeat with his people the immense acts of mercy He has shown us.

## Conclusion

"Be Merciful, just as your Father is Merciful"

When we look at one of the pictures taken in Rome's Rebibbia Prison, we can clearly see that during the meeting with assassin Ali Agca, St. John Paul II smiles. Andre Frossard wrote about Pope's behaviour:



"He holds the arm of his interlocutor, as if he wanted him to hug each other. Hug and save." Jesus teaches in parables about God the Father, who is looking for his children, and is delighted when he finds them. We can see the true and unconditional affection of God towards man – and this is his mercy. It radiates from God's Fatherhood. St. John Paul II wrote in one of his Encyclicals, that God's Mercy "is able to reach down to every prodigal son, to every human misery, and above all to

every form of moral misery, to sin. When this happens, the person who is the object of mercy does not feel humiliated, but rather found again and "restored to value." The father first and foremost expresses to him his joy that he has been "found again" and that he has "returned to life. So mercy is manifested in its true and proper aspect when it restores to value, promotes and draws good from all the forms of evil existing in the world and in man. Mercy is an especially creative proof of the love which does not allow itself to be "conquered by evil," but overcomes "evil with good.

Each of us should learn from the Father in the Jesus' parable. We often pray "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those, who trespass against us..." ...but we also have to remember about Jesus' reminder: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful". In the logic of God, mercy is not dependent on repentance and confession. These help us to receive God's love. But God does not wait for our initiative to show us His forgiving love. God's mercy is always unconditional and precedes our decisions. This is God's love.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said that "Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within the reach of every hand". It is up to us if we want to taste this fruit.



# 20 YEARS OF Blessings in AFRICA



Abba Thomas SDB

**I** consider my missionary experience in Africa as a great gift of God to me. I have learned a lot from the people with whom and for whom I worked there. Their deep sense of faith in God in spite of their poverty and pain was an eye opener to me. I learned to trust more in God's infinite love for them and for me. This faith has led them to put their trust always in prayer. In times of illness and other difficulties they would invariably ask to pray over them. In prayer they seemed to find the strength and resilience to face the sufferings and struggles of their lives.

Their respect, love and concern for one another and for their priests and religious, the affectionate welcome into their homes and their solidarity and readiness to assist one another in times of need have taught me to be more kind and considerate towards people around me, particularly the poor. Thus my African missionary experience will be a constant reminder to me of what they have taught me through the Gospel witness of their lives.

Even as a student of theology, I was very much involved in working for the poor through the Social Service Guild of Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore. This concern for the poor gave shape to the motto I chose at my priestly ordination: to bring the love of Christ to the poor. This was also the reason for my missionary vocation to go to Africa. My preferred destination was Ethiopia but the idea of my superiors to send me there to be the Rector of a Philosophate was far from my motive to go to Ethiopia. So they sent me to Namibia to take over a mission station from the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

In October 1996, I arrived in Namibia which has a population of 3,440,000 and of whom 20% are Catholics. We took over a mission in the north of the country with over 16,000 faithful and 37 outstations. Many of our Christians were poor. This was the perfect setting where I wanted to work. However Ethiopia always remained my first love.

Visiting the Christian communities to celebrate the Eucharist and sacraments, accompanying them in their struggles and pains, offering comfort and even help whenever possible was what I had dreamed of. During such visits to the villages, spending nights often at the back of a pick-up vehicle, in the open or in some thatched hut which served as a school building was no trouble compared to the joy of meeting the people, praying or singing with them and sitting around the fire and chatting with them long into the night. Their joy and laughter was contagious.

## LIFE EXPERIENCE

In the first years we were two confreres to visit our Christian communities in the far flung villages often covering a distance of 156 km to reach the most remote of them. A year later another confrere joined us. We had over three hundred boys and girls staying with us in the hostels of the parish. There was enough work in looking after them and ensuring their Christian formation and study. Though involved in development activities our main focus was the Christian communities at the center and in the villages as well as our boys and girls who stayed with us. The language was comparatively easy to learn and we were able to carry out fully our apostolate without the barrier of language.

10 years on I was offered an opportunity to go to Ethiopia to work in the parish of Gambella which I gladly accepted. It was a far cry from the previous parish with over 16,000 Christians. Gambella had less than 3000 Catholics with no outstations. With three ethnically diverse groups of Christians, language proved a formidable barrier. However availability of translators from English to local languages bridged that gap. After over five years there I moved to Dilla which is a parish with 17 outstations and a greater number of Christians. This was more like my first missionary experience and I enjoyed going to the outstations to carry out my pastoral activities. My Sunday prayer meetings, visits to the sick and looking after the women of the mothers' association was also pastorally rewarding.

all the way because it was even difficult to find translators here. I could not preach, teach or catechize in Amharic and after over three years here I realized that at my age I could not better my Amharic and with sadness in my heart I requested to return to my province of origin.

But my missionary journey will continue though not in Africa but in Northeast India where I had worked for 26 years as a priest. This is the scene of the early Salesian presence in India, where the courage and commitment of early missionaries and their sacrificing hard work laid the foundations of the Catholic Church here. Today there are 1.6 million Catholics in this

region and it is a bed-rock of catholic faith in this part of India.



## Global News

### Fr. Angel visits Myanmar



#### Myanmar:

During the recent visit to Myanmar, the RM spent the afternoon of

28 October with young people and the Salesian Family. The one-hour meeting with 700 young people from various Salesian houses was an experience that warmed the heart of the Rector Major. In his message to the young people the Rector Major emphasized the importance, in the life of a young person, of being happy, and he also stressed the need for them to live their vocation with enthusiasm. He challenged the young people to listen to the call to religious life, in particular the call to become Salesians or Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. To the many questions addressed to him, the Rector Major answered their questions with love and affection, and the young people were happy with his answers. **ANS**

### Salesians open Bakery school in Vietnam



**Vietnam** - In the capital of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, there is a

very special place in which disabled young people can learn a trade: it is a bakery, where the Salesians in the country want to give a future to these young people, who until now had little chance to get ahead in life. In Vietnam, out of a population of about 90 million people, 7.5 million suffer from some disability; of these, about 1.7 million are minors. Many of these disabilities are the result of chemical weapons used during the war in Vietnam, as, for example, the infamous Orange Agent. Today, however, there are also opportunities to be seized: Ho Chi Minh City, for example, is home to fifty 4 or 5 star

hotels, and hundreds of restaurants with different and interesting culinary offerings. Francis Van Hoi is a Vietnamese living in Germany, a past pupil of the Salesians, who maintains close ties with his homeland. Always concerned about the young people of Vietnam and the lack of opportunities, he has managed to make his dream a reality. With the support of the Salesians and other organizations, he has managed to open a bakery-school, where young people with disabilities can learn the trade, and so open up a road for the future. **ANS**

### Educating through music



#### Uganda -

Nine years ago, the Salesians in the centre

of Kampala, Uganda, started a new initiative teaching a small group of students to play the trumpet. It was so successful that the number of musicians and the number of instruments increased until soon they were able to form a school band, which give priority to the education of vulnerable children, providing for their social rehabilitation and preparing them for the future. It all started when most of the children attending the primary school decided to enrol in a new musical project to learn to play the trumpet, more than 50 children! Initially the course was only on Sundays and lasted two hours. The kids liked it so much that by the end of the year they were able to take part in a concert along with other older and more experienced students. As the students continued to make progress and their repertoire expanded, the band became increasingly skilled and other instruments were added. It currently consists of a series of trumpets, trombones, tubas, a French horn, flutes, clarinets, drums, bass drums, cymbals, and a

saxophone. Thanks to the Salesians the centre offers the band the instruments needed to help the children to discover and develop their talents. **ANS**

### CIVAM Meeting concludes in Lagos



**Nigeria** - The Fifteenth Conference of the Provinces and Vice-

Provinces of the Africa-Madagascar Region (CIVAM) took place from 17 to 23 October. It was chaired by the Regional Councillor Fr Américo Chausse. Among those present were Fr Guillermo Basañes, Councillor General for the Missions and Fr George Tharaniyil, Head of the "Don Bosco Tech Africa" project.

### Fr Tom Uzhunnalil: eight months later, still no news



(ANS - Rome) -

On 4 March 2016 a group of armed men attacked the

house of the Missionaries of Charity in Aden, Yemen, killing 16 people, including 4 Sisters. At the time of the attack on the sisters' house, an Indian Salesian priest, Fr Thomas Uzhunnalil, was present. As the hours passed it became clear that he had been abducted. Today, however, eight months later, we still have no definite news of him. Since 4 March there has been no definite news of the fate of the Indian missionary. Later, in July, images appeared on Fr Uzhunnalil's Facebook page that seemed to portray him in a bad state of health, blindfolded and beaten. But the authenticity of those images was immediately questioned by those who knew him best, beginning with his confreres of the Province of Bangalore, and shortly thereafter the Facebook page was closed. **ANS**



# DEVOTION

## A MARIAN COMMUNITY

Abba Larcher SDB

**I**n the E.P.P of our community, you may find it written “we foster the practice of the daily rosary and in keeping the attendances of the newcomers, we want to spread the devotion of our blessed mother Mary.”



I just want to give you a report about this initiative of “keeping the attendances of the new comers”. We started this practice on 1st October 2011. At the end of the activities in the youth center, after the concluding prayers of the day, I told the boys and girls of the oratory: “Today we start the daily recitation of the holy rosary. Those who want to participate are really most welcome. Sixteen of them joined and 12 of them on October 3rd received the rosary for having attended regularly for three consecutive days.

At the end of that October on 31st 2011, already 346 boys and girls of the youth center had passed to recite the daily rosary and 64 rosaries were distributed to those who attended regularly. At the end of November those who joined in saying the rosary were 559 and to those who attended for three days consecutively, the rosaries were distributed. At the end of December 2011, 717 boys and girls had passed to recite the daily rosary.

I make it short. At the end of 2012, that is on 31st December 2012, 2357 boys and girls of the youth center passed to say the Holy Rosary. It's worth mentioning that from 11 to 13 April 2013, Fr. Basanes joined us in the recitation of the rosary and left it written: “I encourage you to continue putting all your energies to make known and make Her loved by the youth and by the children.” As a consequence, those who had joined us in the recitation of the Holy rosary from 1st October 2011

to 31st December 2013 were 2803 and at the end of 2014, the number had gone up to 2942. On April 15th 2015 Fr. Mario, the Provincial Economist, joined us too, and left written: “Well done!” With the beginning of the extraordinary jubilee of Mercy we have already reached up to the number of 3256.

May this year of Mercy increase our devotion to the one whom we call: MOTHER OF MERCY!



"I DREAM OF A  
SALESIAN FAMILY WITH  
A MISSIONARY  
HEART"



Abba Angel Fernandez SDB

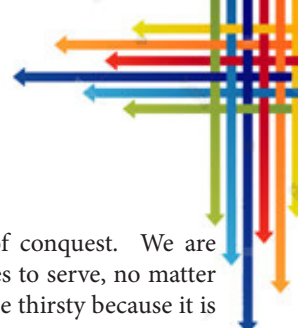
**T**he 147th Missionary Expedition proclaims that the Lord continues to love the Humanity that He willed and created and that we, the Salesian Family, feel filled with God's tenderness in a special way. It is precisely this fullness of love that seeks to "brim over" to all around us and calls forth from us a response of fidelity which is demanding.

Once again, Valdocco has been witness to the joyous and moving day of the departure of new missionaries. On November 11, 1875, Don Bosco sent his first missionaries to Patagonia, in Argentina. This was the legendary "first missionary expedition" headed by the young and courageous Giovanni Cagliero. As we well know, right from his youth, Don Bosco had nurtured the dream of becoming a missionary. Don Cafasso "blocked" that path as he accompanied Don Bosco along his vocational discernment, telling him that going to the missions was not for him. On September 25th of this year, I celebrated the sending of forty-three missionaries, both Religious and Lay, on missionary expedition number 147 because Don Bosco's "secret" dream never paused, not even during the two tragic World Wars.

This time, eighteen young Salesians and seventeen Daughters of Mary Help of Christians are leaving homeland and those whom they love and are setting off to the most diverse points of the globe. Seven young people (six young women and one young man) join them to do civil and missionary service for one year. Certainly, the Religious, instead, have made the choice "forever." They give the gift of their life: remaining with the poor, with those who feel most abandoned, and with their other Salesian Confrères and Sisters who are experiencing difficult times. They do so as members of the Church because God remains close to His suffering children.



Theirs is a gesture that speaks. It proclaims that the Lord continues to love the Humanity that He willed and created and that we, the Salesian Family, feel filled with God's tenderness in a special way. It is precisely this fullness of love that seeks to "brim over" to all around us and calls forth from us a response of fidelity which is demanding. For this reason, I told our missionaries that my dream is for a missionary



## 1. TO BE MISSIONARIES OF HUMANITY

The point of being missionaries in the world is not to make some type of conquest. We are missionaries so as to share life with the people who welcome us. We are missionaries to serve, no matter what the circumstances or the situations. We give food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty because it is good to do so, no matter what the consequences.

At the close of Vatican Council II, Blessed Paul VI stressed that the doctrine of that Council was channeled in one direction only: “the service of mankind, of every condition, in every weakness and need.” And I said in the Basilica in Torino: “You are sent to serve the men and women whom you find along your paths: in their diversity, with their intercultural and ancestral riches, in their dreams, in their anguish, and in their hopes. You must bring with you the riches of your own humanity, which you received from your families and your cultures, as well as the profound one that you have nourished daily in your trusting rapport with the Lord Jesus.”

## 2. TO BE MISSIONARIES OF MERCY AND OF FRATERNITY

The second petal of my missionary dream is a consequence of the first, just as I said to the participants: “Because you are missionaries of humanity, I invite you also to be missionaries of mercy and of fraternity. Today the entire world is suffering everywhere. You will find wars, divisions, extreme poverty, refugees, the hungry, the ill, and the abandoned. You will also meet with instances of racism and xenophobia, but you must bring a message of peace, of development, of pardon, and of fraternity - and not only as a discourse



or a sermon, but with your very own life, in the way you live your daily life, and in your witness. There can be no Salesian “neutrality” in the face of the sufferings of our people or before the situations of suffering and of lack of every kind. We must respond as quickly as possible, seeking to accompany the people in their life and searching for possible solutions together with them. Further, our response must always be the one of the Gospel, of the dignity of the human person, and of respect for life and of creation. The world has great need of fraternity and brotherhood!”

## 3. TO BE MISSIONARIES TO THE ONES WHO ARE “LAST”



To be a Salesian missionary today means to have one's eyes and hearts for those who are "the last" and the "little ones". I said to the missionaries: "I recommend with all my heart that you: have your eyes open wide to see the people and to look them straight in the eye; have your hearts and your arms open to receive them; and have the courage to give your entire life to them. Just like Don Bosco, you can be close to all but your heart must always be for those 'who are last' and your life must always be for them, too. I invite you to open your heart to so many people who live in precarious and painful, difficult situations; to be close to those who have no voice; to help them gain the justice that they deserve; to care with fraternity and solidarity for those wounded by life; and to stay far from that indifference which – way beyond not being helpful – humiliates.

And in regard to those who are "last" – never forget that we help them in their every necessity, but that we have learned from Don Bosco never to neglect the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Who speaks to us of our Good and Merciful God Who is our Father. Don Bosco was, above all, a priest with his heart full of God, with a heart of an educator who always sought to raise up in his young people the sense of God and of confidence in Him."

#### 4. TO BE MISSIONARIES BECAUSE YOU ARE DISCIPLES

Never can we forget that the root and the strength of our being missionaries comes from being disciples. We are essentially missionary disciples, members of the faith-filled community which takes seriously Jesus' commandment to teach in His Name and to make all nations come to know the Merciful and Faithful God Who loves each one of His sons and daughters on the earth.



We are also the heirs of a tradition which is more than 100 years old - our Salesian Family. Be courageous proclaimers of the measureless mercy and free self-giving on the part of God, which is manifested, above all, among the poorest and the neediest.

May Mary, our Teacher and our Help, the Mother of Mercy, accompany you every day and in your every step. Learn from Her to be attentive to the needs of poor people, and of the poorest boys, girls, and young people whom, I am sure, you carry in your hearts. Learn from Her to praise God for the wonders that He does in every corner of the earth, in every culture, and in every nation.

### Don Bosco finds place in the Mission Sunday Exhibition



**Addis Abeba:** As a part of the initiative of the Eparchy of Addis Abeba, all the Congregations in the Eparchy were called upon to make a presentation of their respective congregations on Mission Sunday. The Salesians too found a place in the exhibition where in three of the practical trainees put up an exhibition stall to present the Salesian charism to the people of the Parish. The clerics were, Br. Samson Mekonnen, Br. Tariku Elias and Br. Mathewos Paulos. According to the report given by the clerics they found a welcome atmosphere in the exhibition and several people came to see the exhibition and many were interested in knowing about Don Bosco and the works being carried out by the Salesians in Ethiopia.

**Cl. Mathewos Paulos sdb**

### Don Bosco represented at the APPA workshop in Sheraton



**Addis Abeba:** A nationwide half day workshop, organized by APPA, Addis Abeba Printers' & Publishers' Association, in Addis Abeba Sheraton Hotel called on the participation of Don Bosco Mekanissa along with many stakeholders of the printing sector including officials from the government. The objective of

the workshop was to present and discuss the research document findings on the major problems, threats and remedies of the paper printing and publishing industry. The research findings were discussed among the stakeholders to final present it to the govt to draw attention and demand support for the printing industry so as to flourish and bring it to the level like the other manufacturing industries in the country. In the workshop senior experts from the Chemical and Construction Input credited the Salesians of Don Bosco for having initiated and started formally licensed and recognized TVET occupation standard level based training in the country. They urged private and government printers and publishers to take such initiatives as the Salesians of Don Bosco. Don Bosco Technical School of Mekanissa was represented by Br. Efred Umundal SDB, the Dean of the Technical College, Abba Lijo Vadakkan SDB, delegate of Social Communications AET, Mr. Atakilti VIS representative.

**Mr. Atakilti**

### Great beginning in Zway



**Zway:** The three schools of the South, (DB Zway, DB Adamitullu, FMA Zway) organized a seminar for the teachers of their schools. There was a wide interest in the participants which was very evident from the huge number of participants, as big as 220 teachers. The topic on discussion was the Pegagogy of Don Bosco and Abba

Samuel Abreha gave a beautiful input on this topic which was appreciated by all the teachers. There was also another input by Ato Hora from Meki diocese educational desk who spoke on the Educational psychology. It was for the first time to organize such a combined seminar involving also the participation of the Salesian sisters. Needless to say, the initiative was highly appreciated by all the participants and more such initiatives are expected in the future. L. Dawit SDB

### New Salesian Bishop for Ethiopia



**Hawassa:**

Abba Roberto, lovingly called Bobo, was ordained Bishop of Hawassa Vicariate on 8th

Ocotber, 2016. He was awaiting his appointment as Bishop of Gambella to replace Abba Melaku, but the Spirit has blown in another direction. Excited, with his usual simplicity and humility of heart, has been the protagonist of a beautiful feast lasting for about four hours lived in intense moments of prayers, songs, dances, with the participation of many young people and adults. The delivery of the Gospel, the Ring, the Purple skull cap, the Miter and Pastoral Staff was officiated by Cardinal Berhaneyesus, Archbishop of Addis Abeba, Mons. Tesfaselassie Medhin, the Bishop of Adigrat Eparchy and by Mons. Ceresoli, already retired Bishop of Hawassa. Then of course there was the grand feast with enjera for everyone, and



## Local News

the new Bishop was seen to be lining with the plate in his hand for a buffet, mingling among the faithful. Beginning of a great service, is it not?

### Sidamo News

#### New Priest for AET

**Adigrat:** Dn. Temesgen Tekka, hailing from Adigrat in the Tigray region was ordained a priest in the Salesian Congregation in the



presence of so many friends and well-wishers on 16, October, 2016. The deacon, a native of Adigrat was a boy in the

oratory of Gola, Adigrat and it was there that he matured his Salesian Vocation and expressed his wish to become a priest in the Congregation of Don Bosco. Dn. Temesgen coming from an Orthodox background found a hearty acceptance from the part of his family members especially his mother who is also working in Don Bosco Gola. "I am extremely happy and my dream has been fulfilled", said Temesgen immediately after his Ordination. He was ordained by Mons. Tesfaselassie Mehin, the Bishop of Adigrat Eparchy. After the ceremony in the Cathedral, the community of Gola Don Bosco organized a festive lunch for all the invited.

#### Rector's meeting held in Gotera

**Addis Abeba:** All the Rectors of AET province along with the provincial met for the meeting

of the Rectors in Salesianum, Gothara. The Meeting is



coordinated by Fr. Chrys Saldhana. A variety of topics like Formation of the EPC, Authority, Animation and Government, Assessment and Admissions, Conferences for Practical trainees etc are meant to offer a great input for the rectors in the animation of the various communities of the province. This is the first meeting of the Rectors for this scholastic year 2016-2017.

#### Insights on Soc. Comm from Benin



**Cotonou, Benin:** The Social Communication Provincial Delegates for the Africa-Madagascar Region concluded its 5 day meeting and marked the start of a renewed cycle of collaboration, connection and sharing of information. Encouragement from the ATE Provincial, Fr. Miguel Angel Nguema, has been a great help for the majority of SC delegates who have recently been appointed and were attending this biennial meeting for the first time. This meeting had made the participants become more

aware of this important task of animating the province as regards to Social Communication. They had looked into the many tasks that must be handled directly and other tasks that he must follow up indirectly. It is no surprise then, that provincial are advised to have full time persons in this sector. They were made aware too of realities that play when a crisis happens in the province and that our communication should be timely, respectful of the truth and respectful to all parties involved. During the discussions, inputs and homilies, the delegates have been realistic and exhibited a healthy balance, which are traits like those of Don Bosco - the communicator. They see that there are dangers in the use of new media, but also potentials for the spread of good influence. They follow the new trends of social media but also give attention to the old ones like the newspaper, booklets, radio & TV. They have shared also about the cultivating of one's spirituality to balance out the worldliness of the media. Abba Lijo Vadakkan represented the AET province at the meeting. **ANS**

#### New revised website for AET

The new revised website for AET will be officially launched on 25th November. All the confreres are warmly exhorted to visit our website and give your valuable comments and feedback.

[www.donboscoethiopia.org](http://www.donboscoethiopia.org)



DB MEKELLE



DB ADWA



DB DILLA



# RANDOM SHOTS



DB DEBREZEIT







DB ADIGRAT



DB SHIRE



HAWASSA



DB ZWAY



# REFLECTIONS



Abba Hailemariam SDB

**M**ercy is the central concept of the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to German theologian Walter Cardinal Kasper. God is merciful and he invites us and exhorts us to be merciful to one another so that the Kingdom of God can be inaugurated among us. Human situation and relations of today really is in-need of this message and practice of it. It is enough just to open one of the news channels to observe the confusion of human relations and suffering of many people in the hands of others. The famous “Fake Arab Spring” which destroyed Libya, Syria, Yemen and still destroying, is clear example of humanitarian crises that we have today. Going back to our own loved Ethiopia: the civil war of 17 years to overthrow Derg, the two year “aimless” war with Eritrea have left with us a great wound. The conflict on the “development plan of Addis Abeba and its surrounding Oromia Zones”, the conflicts in different parts of Amhara Region, just to mention some, are signs of the need to sit down and think critically about our relationship and our existence in this land. We need to think well about the purpose of our existence on this earth for short time as Psalmist says “The span of our life is Seventy years – Eighty for those who are strong” (Psalm 90:10).



I look at our purpose on this earth from a Christian point of view, and

before being a Christian we are human, so it is also from the human point of view. There are two fundamental questions that any human being should not neglect, even though, unfortunately often is overlooked or purposely put aside: First is “from where do I come?” and Second “where am I going?”

When these two questions are answered from Christian point of view, we are invited to reflect about God, whom we consider as the Beginning and the End of our life. He is our start and He is our End – “I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is the one to come, the Almighty” (Rev 1:8); “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End” (Rev 22:13).

Then what is our relationship to this God? God has created us in His Generosity and Love. As Cardinal Kasper said, the centrality of our relationship with God, as Christians is Mercy. Pope Francis had declared the “Year of Mercy” to remind us about our relationship with God, who is the Start and the End of our life.

Mercy is God’s identity and the central message of the Gospel. God, who created us in his



generosity and love, accompanies us through His Mercy. The radical action that God took to express His love and mercy for us is sending to us His “Word became flesh . . . lived among us” (John 1:14). Jesus Christ, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us, called on us to live together as brothers and sisters, reminding us that we are children of one Father: “you have only one Father who is in heaven: “you have only one Father, and he is in heaven” (Matthew 23:9). For Jesus Christ there was no difference of color, tribe, religion, rich or poor whatever: “There can be neither Jew or Greek, there can be neither slave nor freeman, there can be neither male nor female – for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28); “. . . there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised and uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything” (Col. 3:11). All of us are invited to the wedding feast (cf. Matthew 22:1-14) and the only requirement to share in that Meal is to be ready to sit and share the meal with anyone. The Pharisees who were accused by Jesus were because they were not ready to sit at the same table with the sinners, women, prostitutes (converted), and tax collectors. The Pharisees and Scribes accused Jesus saying “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them” (Luke 15:2). The response of Jesus Christ to the Pharisees and Scribes, which he personalized with the elder Son, who refused to attend the feast of the return of his younger brother, calling him “. . . this son of yours” (Luke 15:30), is to invite him to join the celebration “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found” (Luke 15:31-32).

The Mercy of God calls on us first of all to recognize God’s paternity in our life. God is a Father to all of us and whatever ‘we are’ and whatever ‘we have’ comes from His Merciful Love. Once we recognize that we are children of God, it is also logical to accept others too – every human being – as God’s children as we are, and they need to be recognized as Our Brothers and Our Sisters. They are a gift to us to be loved and to be cared for.

Even there are many other elements about the expressions of the Mercy of God in our life, one important point touches on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Any time that we go back and ask forgiveness from God, God forgives us without asking us how many times we go to Him and ask pardon. The famous expression “God forgives always, man forgives sometimes, the Nature never forgives” is about taking care of our nature, otherwise, the consequence is grave, but at the same time it is about the identity of God’s Mercy. Since we are not passive, but active partners with God, who involves us in His relation with us, if we are forgiven our many sins, we are requested to forgive our fellow women and men for some of their misdeeds. Otherwise the forgiveness of God which is given freely to us cannot be “effective” in our life, we are not able to forgive in our turn: “And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother [and sister] from your heart” (Matthew 18:35). It is our own prayer that we repeat after Jesus has taught us that asks us to forgive in order to receive forgiveness of God: “And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us” (Matthew 6:12), and Jesus warns us: “Yes, if you forgive others their failings, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours; but if you do not forgive other, your Father will not forgive your failings either” (Matthew 6:14-15). Well, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the key to understand and live God’s Mercy and Forgiveness.

God’s Mercy is both a gift and a task: Be Merciful just as your Father is Merciful – Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate (Luke 6:36), may it be a year of Mercy in our loved country and among our loved people of Ethiopia as are concluding (Amete Mehret) – meaning the Year of Mercy!

## Beginning of a New Venture



Abba Haftu Giday SDB

**T**he Salesians in Shire are making waves as they launch a new initiative in Shire which they have named as “Friends of Don Bosco” in imitation of the group that already exists in Adwa and elsewhere in Ethiopia.

The group met together for their first meeting on 28, August 2016 and the program was opened with the welcoming words for the honorable guests who were present, Fr. Provincial Fr. Estifanos Gebremeskel, Br. Cesare Bullo, Mrs. Meaza and Mr. Antonio Raimondi. The welcoming words were delivered by the rector of the community of Shire Fr. Hagos Alema. The Master of the Ceremony, vice director of Don Bosco Shire School Mr. Zemichael continued his words of introduction reminding the people gathered of the responsibilities of Fr. Provincial and all the other honorable friends who were invited for the event.



Fr. Haftu Giday presented a short history of our founder and the main aim of the Salesians in the world in a special way in our country, Ethiopia. It was a nice occasion for him to present the pioneers of the mission of the Salesians in this country. The presence of Br. Cesare, one of the pioneers in the country was an added plus point to the gathering.

Br. Cesare had a chance to introduce himself to the friends of Don Bosco as one from the pioneers. He spoke about the pioneers who came with him during 1975, and he recalled the special role of Abune Sibhatleab Werku who offered great support to bring the Salesian mission to our country. He said that the Salesians who came with him were from different provinces and they met each other to come to Ethiopia. Br. Cesare seemingly expressed his happiness in seeing so many local benefactors which was always his dream and wish. As a suggestion he pointed out that if the friends of Don Bosco were to continue in this manner, the Salesian activity in Shire might grow rapidly into a preparatory school and even to a technical college.

# SALESIAN FAMILY

Antonio Raimondi made an exposition about the fast development in the country. Making a distinction between developed and developing countries, he said that the developed country has a good quality of health services and a good quality of educational centers. He said that the country which we call as 'developed' has these two qualities in action and not just in ideas. The Salesians of Shire are looking forward to having a good pedagogy center so that the students may have a quality education in the city.



Ms. Meaza also presented herself and her work in PDO project which is at the service of the province. She was grateful to the administrator of the city, to the friends of Don Bosco and to the Salesians in Shire.

At last our provincial Fr. Estifanos Gebremeskel made his speech giving thanks for all the invited guests. He said that the education starts first and foremost in the family therefore the base is the parents

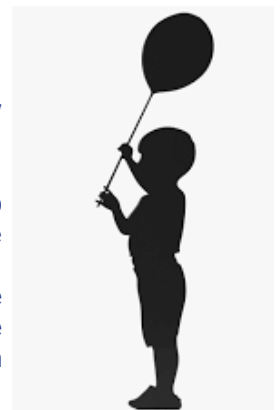
for a good education. As Catholics we look for a quality education because the Catholics were the ones who started the universities in Ethiopia. Pointing out to the various works that the Salesians have in the country like Mekele technical school, Adwa technical school and other high schools in the country, Fr. Provincial stated that these educational centers are preparing the skilled personnel for the country. According to him, the quality education was not just money and wealth but was the overall integral development of the person.

There were few questions that were put by the Friends of Don Bosco, like the future plan for a preparatory school and college. The answer of the provincial was quite positive in as much as there would be good collaboration and cooperation from the government authorities. The meeting ended on a happy note of having come together for a common mission and everyone departed from the meeting with a firm decision to work together for the betterment of Shire and Ethiopia at large.

## Pearls

There is a story about a balloon seller who sought to attract a crowd of kids by releasing helium-filled balloons. He let go a white balloon and it floated upwards. He did the same with a red and then a yellow one. Kids rushed to buy the balloons. Then a little African-American boy asked, 'If you filled a black balloon would it go up too?' 'Sure', the man replied, it's not the color of the balloon, but what's inside that counts'.

What makes us fly into the sky is not our external appearance, but the stuff we have inside us. Our learning, our character, the skills we have acquired and our whole personality. A disciplined and committed life will make us successful people in society, irrespective of our appearance.





# NEWS VATICAN

## Pope Francis reiterates a strong 'no' to women priests



Aboard the papal plane, Nov 1, 2016 / 10:36 am (CNA/EWTN News).- During a press conference

Tuesday aboard the papal plane from Sweden to Rome, Pope Francis said the issue of women priests has been clearly decided, while also clarifying the essential role of women in the Catholic Church. "On the ordination of women in the Catholic Church, the final word is clear, it was said by St. John Paul II and this remains," Pope Francis told journalists. The question concerning women priests in the Catholic Church was asked during the flight back to Rome after the Pope's Oct. 31-Nov. 1 trip to Sweden to participate in a joint Lutheran-Catholic commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. While there, the Pope participated in ecumenical events alongside Swedish Lutheran and Catholic leaders, including the first female Lutheran archbishop in Sweden, Antje Jackelén. She is the head of the Church of Sweden, the largest denomination of Lutheranism in Europe. CNA

## Fr. Arturo Sosa, new Superior General for Jesuits.



Vatican City, Oct 14, 2016 / 05:01 am (CNA/EWTN News).- After several weeks of discussion and discernment, the Jesuit

order has elected Fr. Arturo Sosa as their new Superior General, who will be taking over after the resignation of their former leader, Fr. Adolfo Nicolás. Former head of the Venezuelan Jesuit province, Fr. Sosa entered the Society of Jesus in 1966 and was ordained a priest in 1977. He has obtained degrees in philosophy, theology and political science, and was a member of the Social Center of the Venezuelan province from 1977-1996, when he was appointed as Superior of the Jesuits in Venezuela, guiding through the stormy waters of Hugo Chavez's dictatorship. In 2004, he was named General Counselor of the Society of Jesus, a position he held until 2011. He has until now served as president of the University in the State of Táchira, a role he has also held since 2004. Fr. Sosa's election as the 31st General Superior of the Jesuits marks the first time a Latin American has led the Society, and he takes the helm under the Catholic Church's first Jesuit and Latin American Pope. CNA

## Fr. Hamel moving towards the Altars

Rouen, France, Oct 2, 2016 / 12:07 pm (CNA/EWTN News).- The French diocese of Rouen has officially begun an inquiry into the beatification of French priest Jacques Hamel, killed by Islamic extremists earlier this summer, AET Don Basco Bulletin



after receiving a note from Pope Francis waiving the traditional five-year waiting period. Rouen's Archbishop Dominique Lebrun

made the announcement after celebrating a Mass Oct. 2 to re-open the church of Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray, where Fr. Hamel was killed by supporters of the Islamic State while saying Mass in July. Typically there is a five-year waiting period required after the death of a person before a diocese can begin official investigations for the beatification. Though waiving the rule isn't normal, other modern examples of the exemption are St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. John Paul II. According to an Oct. 2 statement released by the French Bishops Conference, Archbishop Lebrun was informed by the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints that Pope Francis "has dispensed of five year waiting period usually required before starting the official investigation of the beatification." In order to thank the Pope for "this exceptional gesture," Archbishop Lebrun decided to start the process on the day when Fr. Hamel's parish was re-opened. CNA

## To be merciful like the Father, not a slogan but a life commitment, Says Pope.



Vatican City, Sep 21, 2016 / 08:34 am (CNA/EWTN News).- On Wednesday, Pope Francis reflected on the theme of the Jubilee of Mercy, "Merciful like the Father," telling pilgrims that while imitating God's love can seem impossible, it's genuine effort, rather than quantity, that matters. To be "merciful like the Father" is not just "a slogan for effect, but a life commitment," the Pope said Sept. 21. However, he also questioned whether Jesus' words to his disciples in the Gospel of Luke are actually realistic, asking "is it really possible to love like God loves and to be merciful like him?" When looking back at the story of salvation history, Francis noted that God's entire revelation to man consists of his tireless love for humanity which culminates with Jesus' death on the Cross. "So great a love can be expressed only by God," he said, explaining that Jesus' call for humanity to be merciful like the Father "is not a question of quantity. Instead it is a summon to be signs, channels and witnesses to his mercy." "And the Church can't but be the sacrament of God's mercy in the world, in every time and across all humanity," he said, adding that "every Christian is called to be a witness of mercy, and this takes place on the path to holiness."CNA





# SALESIAN FAMILY



Mr. Tessema Moloro  
Salesian Cooperator

**F**irst and for most, I would like to thank God for giving us Don Bosco the founder of the Salesian congregation and the Salesian Family.

The Association of Salesian Cooperators was officially established in Addis Ababa in 1992. At that time, the number was only 10 who came together from different parishes in Addis Ababa. Later on Abba Dino was delegated to be the National coordinator for the Salesian cooperators in Ethiopia. Abba Dino was really committed in organizing and mobilizing the group in the Salesian Family spirit. In his spiritual direction and guidance, gradually the number of Salesian Cooperators reached upto 33. Wow! Abba Dino was not only the National coordinator but also the father for the Salesian Cooperators. He was very energetic in



animating, forming, guiding and coordinating the group. During his period, there were scheduled meetings, retreats and prayer programmes. We as a group also went to Bosco Children center during Christmas and Easter time where we shared different ideas and views with the children. We also engaged ourselves in playing with them, eating with them, singing and dancing along with the children. In short, during Abba Dino's time the Salesian Cooperators were very much active and energetic.

Well, Abba Dino left for another mission and the group was left without a shepherd for some time. As of last year, Abba Berhanu was assigned to coordinate the Salesian Cooperators in Addis. Yes, he took the initiative together with us and we had our first meeting with him in the presence of the vice Provincial Abba Isidoro in the Provincial House on April 10, 2016. During that meeting 10 cooperators attended the meeting and five of them were new members. The agenda of the day was: introduction of new members, Bible sharing by Abba Berhanu and about "the general objective of the Salesian Cooperators" presented by Abba Isidoro.

At this moment we still maintain ourselves as a group with the spirit of Don Bosco. We know that much needs to be done. There are many who are asking to join the ASC. As people keep moving to different places within the country and also out of the country, we don't have the exact number of Cooperators at the moment. We hope to present the exact statistics of the Salesian Cooperators in the upcoming edition. But certainly we realize how important and special our role in the Salesian Family is. We look forward to a renewal and rejuvenation in the coming year. We are proud to be part of the Salesian family. Always and everywhere along with Don Bosco.

# VOCATION ANIMATION

## PROMOTING A CULTURE OF VOCATION PROMOTION



Fr. Luan SDB

Co-ordinator - Vocation Animation

**V**ocation is a Gift from God the Father Almighty who has created us in His own Image and Likeness, and continues to draw us towards Him at every point of our life. In fact the word “vocation” comes from the Latin *vocatio*, meaning “a call”. What we choose as a vocation is not something we choose – it is something God has called us to and one of the key tasks of young adulthood is to discover that call and set off to follow it. We might not understand fully why He chose us particularly from so many other choices that He had? Out of His goodness, love and mercy that He reserves for us, He invites us to participate, collaborate and work with Him in His mission.

As the Document of Pastoral Guidelines for Fostering Vocations to Priestly Ministry says: “Vocations are fostered when boys and young men have an uplifting and transformative Christian experience. That experience can be found in family life, at school, in the parish, as an altar boy, in Catholic groups and associations or in volunteer work, all of which allow them to “know first-hand the reality of God himself, in communion with their brothers and in Gospel mission”.



All Catholics, including parents, teachers, catechists and group leaders, should help their young to see the Priestly or Religious Vocation as a Gift. Boys/girls and young men/women should be taught the value of prayer and meditation on God's word, so that they learn to hear what God is calling them to do with their lives.

In particular we Salesians, as the sons of Don Bosco, are called to be closer to God in our own mission, to BE, FOR and WITH the young. We see the image of God in these youngsters wherever they may be, in the school, youth center, aspirantate houses, parishes, technical colleges etc.... These are some points that I would like to suggest at the Individual, Community and Province level to promote the Priestly and Religious Vocation in the Church as a whole and in the Salesian Congregation in particular.



# VOCATION ANIMATION

## At the Community Level

- The Salesian communities by means of homilies, seminars and meetings should help the young to understand how God calls each person to His service.
- Salesian communities should pay special attention to organize Masses for the Youth. Through this we could inspire many youth to Salesian way of life.
- Communities should identify those Youth who show some indications of Vocation to Priestly or Religious life and give them due accompaniment. This accompaniment can be done by the Vocation Promoter assigned by the Rector in each community.
- Communities should strive to have Vocation Animation and 'Come and See' Programs during the year so that they help the youth to discern their Vocation.
- Communities should make efforts to organize meetings for Catholic Youth in Secondary Schools surrounding their Community.
- During School holidays, communities should organize Youth Animation Programs so that we give opportunities to youth to know our Salesian Charism better.
- Vocation Promoters in our communities should strive to visit Schools surrounding their communities in order to help young people discern well the choices of career they want to make in their life.

## At the Provincial Level

- At the Provincial level, we need to organize frequent meetings for Vocation Promoters from our Communities in order to give them guidelines and discern together on how best we can do Vocation Promotion in our local communities and help each other to accompany those youth who show signs of Salesian Vocation.
- Every year, the Province could organize a Vocation Day Youth Mass, especially on Vocation Sunday where we could gather many youth together from various communities. On this day, we could focus on the different aspects of the Salesian Vocation.

I think if we can implement some of these guidelines in our communities, we can really transform our communities to cradles of vocation to Religious and Priestly life. May Don Bosco be our inspiration and model.

## Did you know??

Unless food is mixed with saliva you can't taste it.

A female dolphin will assist in the birth of another's baby dolphin.

Human saliva contains a pain-killer called opiorphin that is six times more powerful than morphine.

If you Google 'Zerg Rush' Google will eat up the search results.

During pregnancy woman's brain shrinks and it takes up to six months to regain its original size.

Putting sugar on a cut or wound reduces pain and speed up the healing process.

Loneliness weakens immunity, having family and friend's increases immunity by 60%.

Temperature can affect appetite. A cold person is more likely to eat more food.

Your left lung is smaller than your right lung to make room for your heart.

The smell of freshly cut grass is actually the scent that plants release when in distress.

Data collected by: Yeabsira Pofik, Class VIII Student, Don Bosco School Mekanissa



# CATOLIC NEWS

**Christian girls who barely escaped ISIS credit Mary for their safety**



**Kirkuk, Iraq:** Seven young women in Kirkuk credit the Virgin Mary for their safety after spending a harrowing eight hours hidden underneath

beds while Islamic State group fighters used their room as a hideout during an assault on the city. "The Virgin Mary was with them," Fr. Roni Momika told CNA. The priest, who ministers in refugee camps of Ankawa, Erbil in northern Iraq, was in cell phone contact with two of the girls while they hid under the beds. They gave him a play-by-play account of what was happening. Seven women, university students in Kirkuk, found themselves threatened by the Islamic State group's assault on the city on Oct. 21. When they heard the militants coming, the women quickly darted under four beds in one of the rooms, where they remained undiscovered for eight hours as ISIS fighters used the room as a refuge to eat, pray and hide from Iraqi Army forces. "I was speaking with them all the time," Fr. Momika said, noting how there was "a strong girl" who told him "Father, I will continue speaking with you and tell you all our news and what ISIS is saying." For the duration of their time there, the militants not only ate and prayed, but used the beds to care for two of their fighters who were wounded. CNA

**Ordination of first indigenous priest in Mongolia**



**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia,** On Sunday, August 30 Mongolia witnessed the ordination of its first indigenous priest, Fr. Joseph Enkh Baatar, a 29-year-old man who

represents the first fruits of 24 years of missionary work in the east Asian country. Bishop Wenceslao Padilla, the prefect of Ulaanbaatar, ordained Joseph Enkh Baatar a priest at an Aug. 28 Mass at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in the Mongolian capital. "Fr. Joseph's ordination is a blessing of God and a moment of immense joy and inspiration for our young Mongolian Church," Chamingel Ruffina, a member of the organizing committee for communications at the National Catechetical Center of Mongolia, told CNA Aug. 30. The first modern mission to Mongolia was established in 1922 and was entrusted to the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. But under a communist government influenced by the Soviet Union, religious expression was soon thereafter suppressed. Bishop Padilla, a member of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, was one of the first three missionaries allowed into Mongolia in

1992, after the fall of communism. He became superior of the mission in Mongolia, and was instrumental in helping to discern Fr. Baatar's vocation. CNA

**Mexico may be the most dangerous country to be a priest**



**Mexico City, Mexico,** With 15 priests killed in the last four years, Mexico is the most dangerous country to exercise priestly ministry in the entire world, Father Hugo Valdemar,

spokesman for the Archdiocese of Mexico, said recently. In a report published Sept. 21, the research unit of the Catholic Multimedia Center recorded 14 murders of priests from 2012 to 2016. The death of Fr. José Alfredo López Guillén, whose body was found the night of Sept. 24, brings that number to 15. Speaking to CNA, Fr. Valdemar stated that "it has become clear that Mexico is the country where ministers of the Catholic Church are most at risk." "Which is even surprising because there is still more risk in Mexico than, for example, in Syria or in those countries where Christians are persecuted by the Islamic State." Just few weeks before three priests were murdered in the states of Veracruz and Michoacán. Fathers Alejo Nabor Jiménez Juárez and José Alfredo Juárez de la Cruz were kidnapped and then murdered in the town of Poza Rica in Veracruz. Fr. López, the pastor of Janamuato, was kidnapped Sept. 19 in Michoacán. His body was found on Sept. 24 near Puruándiro. CNA

**Former Manchester Footballer to be a Dominican priest**

**London, England:** You might have heard of Phil Mulryne,



a Manchester United footballer who's shared the field with David Beckham and brought fame to Ireland with 27 caps – international appearances

– in his athletic career. But now, Mulryne is setting aside his jersey to pursue the vocation of a Catholic Dominican priest. "This for me was one of the major reasons that attracted me to the religious life," Mulryne said in a video interview posted by the Daily Mail. Mulryne, a 38-year old Irishman, began his career in football as a kid in 1994 when he attended the Manchester United youth academy, and eventually joined the Norwich league in 1999. His teammates were among the many of his surprised acquaintances to find out that he gave up his global fame and £500,000 in career earnings to pursue the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience as a Catholic priest. "It was a complete shock that he felt this was his calling," fellow footballer Paul McVeigh said, according to the Daily News. CNA



# MISSIONARY ANIMATION

## A NEW MISSIONARY CROSS



**T**his year's Salesian Missionary Expedition had a new Missionary Cross which is set to become part of a tradition, because from now on this will be the cross that the missionaries will receive each year. Here is a brief description of the different elements and their meaning:

- **The Cross:** the first powerful symbol is the cross itself. Receiving the Cross expresses many emotions and spiritual challenges. The life of the missionary is centred in the person of Christ and of Christ crucified. It implies that the missionary first receives and then passes on the great teaching of the Cross: the infinite love of the Father who gives the best of himself, his Son; love to the end that is obedient and generous in giving oneself to the will of the Father for the salvation of humanity.

- **The Mission and the Cross:** in traditional missionary iconography the missionary is depicted showing the cross to the people. That gesture, which to some might seem a bit naive, symbolizes that for us Salesians "Our highest knowledge [...] is to know Jesus Christ, and our greatest delight is to reveal to all people the unfathomable riches of his mystery." (Salesian Constitutions art. 34).

- **The Good Shepherd:** according to the Salesian charism the cross is lived in unlimited pastoral self-giving. The Good Shepherd reveals Salesian Christology: pastoral charity is the nucleus of the Salesian spirit, "the attitude that wins hearts by gentleness and self-giving" (Salesian Constitutions art. 10-11).

- **Da Mihi Animas cetera Tolle** (give me souls, take away the rest): This is the motto that characterized the Sons of Don Bosco from the beginning. In a missionary context this brief Salesian prayer acquires particular significance: leave everything, even one's land and culture, and the things that give security, in order to devote oneself without limit to those to whom one is sent, to be an instrument of salvation for them.

- **The Holy Spirit** who descends on the Good Shepherd as in the river Jordan, descends now on Christ present in the pastoral dynamism of the Church. Without the Holy Spirit, and without the light, discernment, strength and holiness that come from the Spirit, all missionary activity is no more than a series of activities, sometimes empty, carried out in distant places.

- **Matthew 28:19:** "Euntes ergo docete omnes nationes baptizantes eos in nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti" (Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit): the heart of the missionary mandate given by the Risen Lord. The text gives a mandate to teach all people so that they may become followers and disciples of Jesus (the Greek text emphasizes *mathêteúate*, "make disciples", which is more than just *docete*, "teach"). Evangelization, the fullness of grace, comes through words and deeds, with the greatest of all the sacramental graces which is baptism that plunges the person into the mystery of communion with God.

Courtesy: ANS

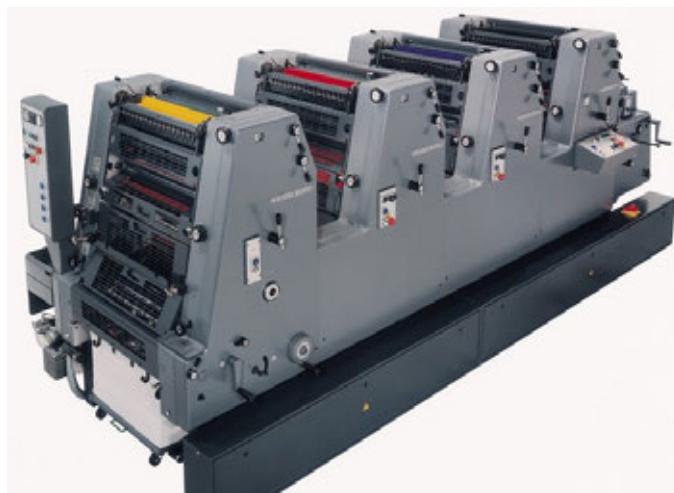
# PROJECT MATTERS

# PRINT YOUR FUTURE

**VIS** is an Italian NGO established in 1986 and is actually present in 53 countries worldwide and in Ethiopia it has been working since the 1990s, where it has carried out in numerous development projects aimed at the promotion of children, adolescents and youth. VIS has been registered and licensed by the Ethiopian Ministry of Justice, Charities & Societies Agency as an Ethiopian Foreign Charity in accordance with the Charities & Societies proclamation N. 621/2009 (accreditation n. 0005 issued on 8th October 2009, renewed on 16th November 2015) and has been accredited as Charity operating in the fields:

- **Water and sanitation;**
- **Education and vocational training.**

Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo (VIS), in partnership with the Salesians of Don Bosco are implementing and managing educational and vocational training centres and schools working in favour



of the neediest children of the country, with particular attention to the most vulnerable ones. VIS has been implementing a good numbers of educational projects since 2009 in different region of the country, more particularly in Addis Ababa, Mekelle, Adwa, Gambella, Zway and Dilla where Salesians of Don Bosco are present. Since 2014 VIS in partnership with the Salesians of Don Bosco and in Collaboration with the Ministry of Education - Federal TVET Agency has been realizing a printing and graphics project called "Print your Future: Development of the Printing and Graphic Sector in Ethiopia". It is a three

years project (July 2014 to July 2017) funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE) and Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI). Considering its contribution to Ethiopia's industrial development and economic growth, the Ethiopian Ministry of Education through Federal Technical, Vocational and Educational Agency signed the project and has been our key collaborators in implementing and realizing the project objective.

The principal aim of the PRINT YOUR FUTURE project is to improve the Ethiopian workers' technical and professional skills and enlarge the chances of work placement for the young people in the sector of graphic and typographic arts as well as sector related new technologies. The project is mainly realized in Salesians of Don Bosco TVET College in Mekanisa area and the building of the formal printing and graphic school which is the first of its kind in the country; which is also one of the big deliverables of the project has been realized within one year rigorous hard work. The School is now offering its educational services to the poor and vulnerable young boys and girls who come from different corners of the country but mainly from the





The school has been licensed and recognized by Addis Ababa TVET Agency at the end of 2014, and has been offering formal courses to poor and vulnerable young boys in level I and level II in accordance to the Ethiopian TVET Qualification framework and Occupational Standard. Besides, based on the existing market demand it has been catering short competency based evening courses to informal and formal workers and operators of the printing industry sector who work day time. The level based courses are offered by the local experts,

The school building is well furnished and the workshop well equipped with latest machines and equipment such as GTO 52 one colour, GTO 52 two colour, GTO 52 four colour, Computer to Plate (CTP), Paper Cutting Machines, Laminating Machines, Stitching Machine, Perforating Machine, Polar Paper Cutting Machine, Cord Offset Machine, Letter Press Platen Machine, Pallet Truck, and many more to come through the good possibility of the project.

VIS calls up on all the donors and development agencies to work together for a better future of the young people and for the development of the country.

Atakelti Kahsay  
VIS Assistant Project  
Manager



# PROJECT MATTERS

## TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW



Atakelti Kahsay  
Vis Assistant Project  
Manager

### PROVISION OF REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION FOR CHILDREN AT RISK/CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

**O**n the 8th of December 2016 VIS signed the above mentioned project contract agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes and since then both VIS and UNODC have been working strictly in conformity with the country's laws which up-hold the street children's right and in agreement with the child rights of the United Nations convention, which states that every child has the right to get basic survival and educational services.

VIS is implementing this project in partnership with the Salesians of Don Bosco in Addis Ababa, Zway and Gambella. The specific objective of the project is to provide a daily education literacy program, Technical Vocational and Educational training, and reintegration services including reuniting children with their families, relatives, and societies, and support the network.



To realize the above mentioned objective children have been invited to participate in the come and see orientation programs organized in each center of the Salesians of Don Bosco in Addis Ababa, Gambella and Zway. So far the project has benefited over 200 street children through the different training packages which includes basic technical skill trainings such as automotive, woodwork, metalwork, bamboowork, leatherwork, and food preparation. More over, formal

accademic educatonal trainings have been provided to the children according to their poreferences and this particular support will continue possibly up to the university level with the good will and support of development actors such as the UNODC.

In line with the academic and technical educational trainings the children have also been receiving consistent and constructive counseling which helped them to change their behavior and mentality. The academic and technical trainings coupled with counseling has changed the way of life of the children who have been part of the project since its implementation.

VIS, always in strong partnership with the Salesians of Don Bosco have been relentlessly working to prepare and see a better world for the young boys and girls through the realization of various educational short and long term project, and will always be committed to its vision and mission in order to serve and help the poor, vulnerable and marginalized children so that they have a better world tomorrow and become decent and productive citizens.

# Dreaming of Success!



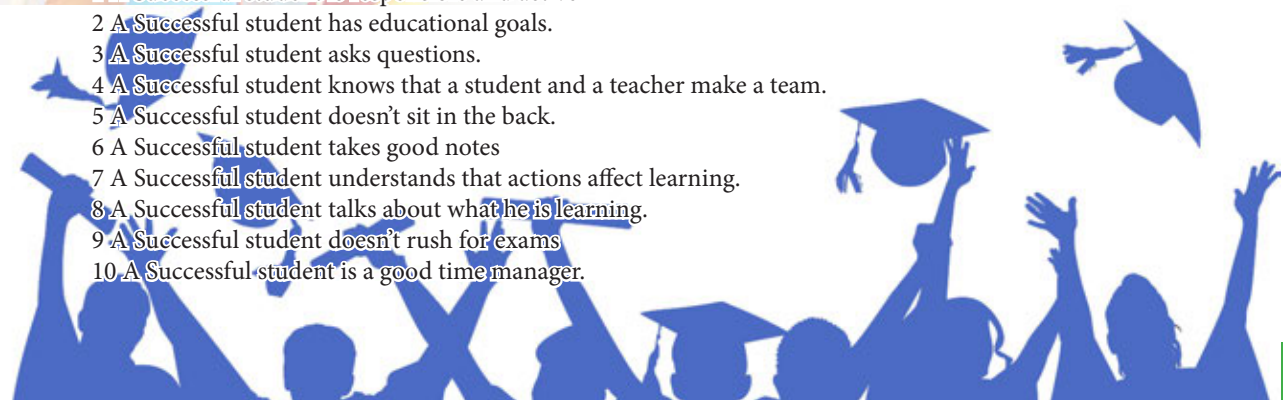
Br. Dagmawi SDB

This short message is trying to impart and show some clues, mainly for young people but, could be applied for students in whatever stages they are. I would like to address our students and the readers of this bulletin with the following quote “A thousand mile journey starts with a single step”, and can only be taken one step at a time. This quote tries to indicate the need of beginning, the need of unveiling our ignorance, and where to begin in order to be successful in our life. There is a beginning for everything; in whatever stages we might find ourselves in. If one is at level two in any field, and desire to move on to level five, he/she must first take the step towards level three. Admission of ignorance is often the first step in human’s education, and to move a step forward it is a must to accept one’s ignorance, because Education is the only weapon which can win against ignorance. I would like to quote the new level of thinking of the great scientist (Albert Einstein); he observed: “the significant problem we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at, when we created them”.

Here he is telling us the need of change. We need a new level, a deeper level of thinking, a paradigm based on the principles that accurately describe the territory of effective human being and interacting to solve this deep concern. And this new level of thinking is what Education can give by revealing one’s ignorance.

Human being needs a change and we have to be sure that educating oneself is the ladder towards it. Stephen R. Covey, in his book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, speaks of “inside - out” which means to start first with self; even more fundamentally, to start with most inside part of self - with one’s paradigms, character, and motives. He says: “If you want to have a happy marriage, then be the kind of person who generates positive energy and sidesteps negative energy rather than empowering it; if you want to have a more pleasant, cooperative teenager, then be a more understanding, empathic, consistent, loving parent; If you want to be successful and model student, then put your target in front of you, and follow what your teacher tells you; If you want to have more freedom, more latitude in your job, then be a more responsible, a more helpful, a more contributing employee; If you want to be trusted, then begin to be trustworthy”.

So the ‘inside-out’ approach is telling us, that private victories precede public victories, that making and keeping promises to ourselves proceeds making it to others. It says that it is futile to put personality ahead of character, to try to improve relationships with others before improving ourselves. At the end, I would like to put down ten characteristics of successful students.

- 1 A Successful student is responsible and active
  - 2 A Successful student has educational goals.
  - 3 A Successful student asks questions.
  - 4 A Successful student knows that a student and a teacher make a team.
  - 5 A Successful student doesn’t sit in the back.
  - 6 A Successful student takes good notes
  - 7 A Successful student understands that actions affect learning.
  - 8 A Successful student talks about what he is learning.
  - 9 A Successful student doesn’t rush for exams
  - 10 A Successful student is a good time manager.
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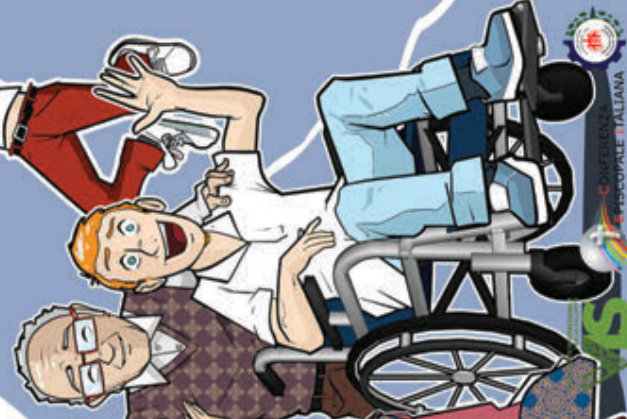


# WE ARE A FAMILY

## EVERY HOME A SCHOOL OF LIFE AND LOVE

STRENNNA 2017

Of the Rector Major  
Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime



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