

ETHIOPIA

ISSUE NO 65

JAN-FEB-MAR-APR 2017

DON BOSCO BULLETIN

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM AET

EVERY HOME

A SCHOOL OF LIFE AND LOVE



ባዛልት

ኮንስትራክሽን ኃ.የተ.የግ.ማ

BAZALT CONSTRUCTION PLC.



-  **Real Estate**
-  **Water Works**
-  **Road Constructions**
-  **All Other Construction Related Works**



Mob: +251-930-01 39 07

+251-911-53 50 13

Office: +251 11 865 0607

E-mail:- bazaltcon21@g-mail.com



Perfection is our Catch-word



Safety is our Whole-mark



Always in the Vanguard of Progress

CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE



Editorial	2
The Voice of the Provincial	3
Guest Review	4
Valentines' Day Special	7
Family and Vocation	8
Salesian World (Global News)	12
Youth and Family	13
Rector Major Speaks	16
Lenten Special	18
We love you Don Bosco	21
Happiness is a Big Family	23
Catholic World	25
A Man after Heart of Don Bosco	26
Return of Valdocco	29
Inspirational	31
Salesian World (Local News)	32
Students' Corner	35

Editor: Abba Lijo Vadakkan SDB
 Graphic Design: Tesfamichael Tsige
 Email: vadakkanvadas@gmail.com
 Telephone: +251.931391199
 Website: www.donboscoethiopia.org
 Publishers: Don Bosco Printing Press, Mekanissa

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.

“ If there's a story you think we should be covering, please let us know! ”



EDITORIAL

Thanks to the social networking sites like the Facebook and Whatsapp that we get to read a lot of materials daily even by just scrolling through our smart phones. There is one such story that I came across quite some time ago but certainly brought a tear to my eyes. Here goes the story...

One day, a man was doing some work in his room and his eight year old son came up to him and said “Dad, May I ask you a question?” Father said, “Yeah of course, what is it that you want my son?” So his son asked, “Dad, how much do you earn an hour?” “But why?” asked the father. “No, I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?”, the son insisted. Rather unwilling but not wanting to offend his son, the father told him: “I make about 100 birr per hour.”

“Oh”, the little boy replied, with his head down. Looking up, he said, “Dad, may I please borrow 50 birr?” The father got furious and he said, “if the only reason you asked me about my pay is so that you can borrow some money to buy a silly toy or other nonsense, then march yourself to your room and go to bed. Think how you could be so selfish. I work hard every day and I wouldn’t permit this kind of childish behavior from you.”

The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door. The man sat down and started to get even angrier about the little boy’s questions. “How dare he ask such questions only to get some money?” After about an hour or so, the man had calmed down and decided to meet his son. “Are you sleeping my son?” He asked. “No dad, I’m awake,” replied the boy. “I’ve been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier”, said the man. “It’s been a long day and I took out my anger on you. Here it is the 50 birr you asked for”.

The little boy sat straight up, smiling “oh thank you, dad!” He yelled. Then, reaching under his pillow he pulled some crippled up notes. The little boy slowly counted out his money, then looked up at his father. “Why do you want money if you already had some?” the father grumbled. “Because I didn’t have enough, but now I do,” the little boy replied. “Dad I have 100 birr now. Can I buy an hour of your time? Please come home early tomorrow. I would like to have dinner with you and play with you for a while”. The father was dumbstruck.

In one of his recent tweets on Twitter Pope Francis wrote: “Parents, can you ‘waste time’ with your children? It is one of the most important things that you can do each day.” In the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* again the Pope reiterates the exhortation to the parents to devote time to their children, (n. 260). This short story too, is just a reminder to all of us working so hard in life! We should not let time slip through our fingers without having spent some time with those who really matter to us, those close to our hearts. If we die tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days. But the family & friends we leave behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. This issue of the Salesian Bulletin is dedicated totally to the families and I am hopeful that the readers would find good reflections on family.

Wishing everyone a fruitful season of lent.

Abba Lijo Vadakkan SDB



Abba Estifanos SDB
Provincial Superior in Ethiopia

Dear friends,

I am in-debt with all the persons who are giving their contributions to the Salesian Bulletin that comes out quarterly. The objective of this publication is to share different ideas of many brothers and sisters who contribute with their reflections, life experience, and share information that helps us to grow in our Human, Christian, and vocational journey. I am confident this could be an instrument of animation to many people.

In the last two years the Catholic Church devoted two Synods, the Extraordinary Synod in 2014 and the Ordinary one in 2015, to the reflection on the “Family”. The synods were important meetings that involved all the People of God – bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful of the particular Churches of the entire world who had contributed on practical suggestions and through their prayers. The Apostolic Exhortation “Amoris Laetitia” is an important document that has come out after the two Synods and made a deep reflection, in the light of the word of God, on the experience and challenges of the family; gives some pastoral perspectives that strengthen the Love in marriage, in the education of the children and above all it reflects on the Spirituality of Marriage and family accompaniment and dedicates a delicate reflection and proposals on the family.

This year, following the great Synod in the Church, Rev. Fr. Angel Fenardez Arttime, the Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco, has given the Strenna of 2017 to the Salesian Family on the family: “We Are a Family! Every home, a school of Life and Love”. He encourages us to take the family as a priority in our pastoral activity and give important guidelines on how to implement some urgent and sensitive issues.

The Rector Major has given us concrete directions on how to follow the families:

- The accompaniment of parents, married couples, and young people who come from difficult families; vocational accompaniment of young people particularly of those who plan for married life
- The help to families in educating with the heart and making children grow through affection that implies the use of our educational system [preventive system]
- The accompaniment and support of the parents in their mission of education, and their involvement as much as possible in the education of their children
- The assistance of parent in the education to love and in the sex education of their sons and daughters

The Rector Major emphasizes that the first contribution to be offered to families will be that of helping the family become aware that they really are the ‘patrimony of Humanity’ and the first and the shared school of humanity in which the vocation to love grows and is cultivated.

I really hope that we take this topic in our spiritual reading for our study and put it in our Educative Pastoral Plans and engage the family and young people in the Family Ministry.



"What God has joined, let not man put asunder!"

Concept of Family among the Orthodox Brethren

Dr. Jossi Jacob

Prof. of Systematic Theology

Holy Trinity Theological College Addis Ababa

Family is the smallest unit of the human society and of the Church. The beauty and strength of communion of love it expresses qualifies family to be the 'micro ecclesia', the smallest unit of the Church, the body of Christ. Sociologists regard family merely as a social institution, whereas for the Orthodox Church it is more a sacramental entity constituted of members processing mutual love and dependence in God. The communion between the members of a family has to be modeled on the self-less love and communion which is expressed in its utmost perfection in the most holy Trinity.

Strength of family lies in the marital fidelity and the union of love between the spouses. As we see in the Old Testament, marriage was a means simply for procreation and securing the continuation of the race (Gen. 16:1-3). Levirate marriages also are established with the same intension (Gen. 38:8). Generally the civil law considers marriage as a contract between the bride and bridegroom which acquires the status of a legal institution. In the New Testament, meaning of marriage changes radically. It became based on the eternal love of spouses for each other. Love rather than law and external obligation became the essential bond of communion in the family.

Sacramental Nature of Christian Family

When the Pharisees asked Jesus Christ about divorce in order to test him, Jesus answered quoting the two verses cited above from the Old Testament (Mt. 19:5). Christ's answer paved the foundation of the view of Church on marriage and divorce, "What therefore God has joined, let not man put asunder". The Church has striven hard to adhere to this principle throughout her life. The teaching of the Church is that

GUEST REVIEW



“THE VERY SACRAMENTAL NATURE OF MARRIAGE
MAKES THE FAMILY A SACRAMENTAL ENTITY
INSTITUTED BY GOD.”

marriage has been instituted by Christ and that marital relationship is the supreme relationship of love.

The relationship between the bridegroom Jesus and the bride, the Church is a constant theme running in the liturgy for marriage of many of the Orthodox Churches. In his Epistle to Ephesians St. Paul interprets the relationship between Christ and the Church as a great mystery (Eph. 5:32). The liturgy qualifies Christ as the true bridegroom who chose the gentile daughter as His bride and cleansed her of all blemish and impurity with his own blood and submitted himself to be her bridegroom. It is in close association with this mystery that the Orthodox Church understands marital relationship too. The Church exhorts couples to build up a perfect relationship modelled on the unique and inseparable relationship between Christ and the Church. It is also pointed out here that marital relationships with merely superficial and erotic love or just worldly goals do not reach its perfection as God wishes. Ideas of utilitarianism and mere legalism should stay away from the nature of relationship among the members of every family. The unity and love of the Holy Trinity are to be reflected through the selfless love of the spouses. In this sense, couple entering marital relationship also becomes partakers of the mystery of the fellowship of love in the Holy Trinity and of the relationship between Christ and the Church. And it is thus the marriage becomes a sacrament.

In the Orthodox Church the sacramental Liturgy of marriage is always celebrated together with the Holy Eucharist. It is a practice which has its roots in the life of early Church. Tertullian writes, “Marriage is arranged by the Church confirmed by the oblation (Eucharist), sealed by the blessing, and inscribed in heaven by the angels.” (To His Wife, II, 8:6-9). Through the participation in the Holy Eucharist in togetherness, the foundation of family is laid well to be the micro ecclesia.

Family Life as Participation in Creation and Providence

The building up of family is being fulfilled in couple participating in God's act of creation with discretion and in freedom. They should have the great desire that the children born out of their love should be the children of the Kingdom of God. In 1 Timothy 2: 15 St. Paul mentions childbearing with proper faith and as a way to salvation, because it is a responsibility vested on the humanity to be partakers of the mystery of creation together with God. "Women however will be saved through child bearing, if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control." This exhortation is nothing meant to confine the role of women simply to child bearing, but specifying the responsibility of the men and women who are following family life to keep themselves and their children in faith fidelity to the love and will of God. The world needs today men and women who lead exemplary family life facing challenges with strong faith and commitment to the almighty. Each such family is the cornerstone of the Church and the whole human society. It is from the family that one first experiences love, sense of security, hope and all good qualities human beings are so badly in need of. The Christian marriage is a pointer to these lofty goals of family life.

Family life in the Orthodox understanding is one of the ways to express the selfless love which has been revealed in the very incarnation. For a Christian it opens a way to transcend the selfish motives and makes him use his freedom, resources and time for the members of the family without any selfish motives behind. So it is a chance extended by God for utilizing our freedom for others, as Jesus Christ never used his absolute freedom for him, but always for others. Family provides a chance for everyone to acquire a Christ-like entity by providing ourselves in abundant selfless love to others. Living in family doesn't need to be seen as an inferior way of life. The Church all through her life was constantly in conflict with the ideologies that disregarded the significance and dignity of family life and exalted it as a way of life which leads human beings to salvation and godliness by being like Him in virtues. It is a way of life which illumines us and makes us growing towards the likeness of God through selfless love and commitment for others.



“ The world needs today men and women who lead exemplary family life facing challenges with strong faith and commitment to the Almighty. ”

Valentines' Day Special

My dear....

I just want to make you realize how much I love and care about you. I saw you talking with your friends the other day, I waited all day long hoping you would turn and talk to me too but all in vain. It hurts me but I still love you. I saw you fall asleep last night and longed to hold you in my hands but you ignored me, you said no word to me nor to my Father. You slept of, you woke up late and rushed off to work without telling me a word. Oh, if you only knew how I always long for you. I try to show you the blue Sky, I whisper in the leaves of the trees, I shout in the mountain streams and birds. I cloth you, Shelter you and feed you. Oh, I miss walking and talking with you. Give me a chance so that one day, we may together spend eternity in Heaven. I know it's hard on this earth. That is why I want to Help you. I want you to meet my Father. He wants to help. I have the keys of all the Heavenly stores. Just to let you know incase you need anything. I will open and give it to you anytime. I am here waiting for you Alone.

I LOVE YOU,
Jesus your Valentine

LOVE
LETTER



Collected by Abba Abeje SDB



FAMILY AND VOCATION

Abba Alfred Roca SDB

The Good Luck

of a conceived child -before he/ she is born- lies in the fact of being WISHED AND WANTED, not merely tolerated, fruit of the love of a father and mother. “The gift of a new child, entrusted by the Lord to a father and mother, begins with acceptance, continues with lifelong protection and has as its final goal the joy of eternal life” (Amoris Laetitia, n 166).

It is in a family where the child grows and develops in all dimensions through the care of a father and mother who transmit love and warmth to the newly born, creating a good atmosphere for the assimilation of values towards full human and Christian maturity. It is in the family and through the family that the child will be open to others, to the civil society, to the Church and to transcendence.

The following words of Paul VI can help us to understand the great importance of the family in the Christian education of their children: “One cannot fail to stress the evangelizing action of the family in the apostolate of the laity. At different moments in the Church’s history, and also in the Second Vatican Council, the family has well deserved the beautiful name of ‘domestic Church’. This means that there should be

found in every Christian family the various aspects of the entire Church. Furthermore, the family, like the Church, ought to be a place where the Gospel is transmitted and from which the Gospel radiates”.

“In a family which is conscious of this mission, all the members evangelize and are evangelized. The parents not only communicate the Gospel to their children, but from their children they can themselves receive the same Gospel as deeply lived by them” (Evangelii Nuntiandi, n.71).

Pope Francis says: “One of the fundamental challenges facing families today is undoubtedly that of raising children, made all the more difficult and complex by today’s cultural reality and the powerful influence of the media”.

“The overall education of children is a ‘most serious duty’ and at the same time a ‘primary right of parents’. This is not just a task or a burden, but an essential and inalienable right that parents are called to defend and of which no one may claim to deprive them...” (Amoris Laetitia, . 84.)

Today what we can call the traditional family, which can be presented as the ideal, coexists with other forms. “A great number of children are born outside of wedlock, many of whom subsequently grow up with just one of their parents or in a blended or reconstructed family...” (Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, n. 45). Also in these families the child must be helped to obtain the necessary means to full development.

The family is also the fertile land where a priestly or religious vocation can be born and make the first steps. Parents committed with their neighbors and the poor, who give importance in their lives to prayer and sacraments, will educate their children in such a way that they can easily ask themselves if Christ is calling them to a life consecrated to God and at the service of others.

God certainly can call to religious or priestly life anybody even in the less favorable circumstances or situations hostile to religion, but it is evident that a good family atmosphere facilitates the call of God and the positive answer on the part of the one who is called. As pope Francis affirms ‘Seminarians and young religious must experience during their formation what is a good family life’.

“Seminarians should receive a more extensive interdisciplinary, and not merely doctrinal, formation in the areas of engagement and marriage. Their training does not always allow them to explore their own psychological and affective background and experiences. Some come from troubled families, with absent parents and a lack of emotional stability. There is a need to ensure that the formation process can enable them to attain the maturity and psychological balance needed for their future ministry. Family bonds are essential for reinforcing healthy self-esteem. It is important for

families to be part of the seminary process and priestly life, since they help to reaffirm these and to keep them grounded in reality. The presence of lay people, families and especially the presence of women in priestly formation, promotes an appreciation of the diversity and complementarity of the different vocations in the Church” (Amoris laetitia n. 203). Where the Pope says seminarians we can say aspirants, novices and young confreres.

We find a confirmation of the important role of the family in the awakening and maturing of a vocation if we look at our Father’s family at Becchi: A life of poverty, in need of working at an early age, orphan of father when he was only two, with difficult access to studies and formal education, but with the presence of Mamma Margherita who managed to bring up her children to full human and Christian maturity. Without her, the vocation, life, work and holiness of St. John Bosco cannot be understood. She



encouraged him, corrected him, brought him to prayer and sacraments, and cultivated in him values and virtues. Furthermore, when his son was already a priest, she went to live with him in a difficult apostolic field and collaborated in educating the young, the providence was sending to the Oratory at Valdocco. “The religious experience of Don Bosco has its deep roots in the daily family catechesis built on the witness and example of his mother” (Appunti per una storia spirituale del Sac. Gio’ Bosco”, p.12).

Don Bosco, a tireless promoter of vocations, gave always great importance to family in the education of the boys of the Oratory and particularly in the searching for

vocations for his Congregation and the whole Church. He dedicated himself generously to family apostolate in his preaching and in his numerous writings, particularly with the publishing of the “*Letture Catoliche*”.

We can also see the importance given by Don Bosco to the family of candidates to the religious life in the way he dealt with the call to priestly-religious vocation of Don Rua and Don Rinaldi, his first and third successors. When he proposed them to join in what was going to be the Salesian Congregation, he met in the deeply religious mother of Rua and in the parents of Rinaldi a great help. We know the resistance that Philip was putting to the persistent invitation of Don Bosco, but Rinaldi's parents who wished to have a priest among their children, collaborated in dissipating the doubts and overcoming the difficulties that their son was finding and backed don Bosco's advice to Philip, then already 20, to join the Salesian seminary in Genoa.

After many years working in houses of formation and also through my experience as Provincial, I am deeply convinced of the importance of the family in the awakening, maturing and perseverance of a vocation of particular commitment. A solid human and Christian formation received in the early years together with the example of the parents and their accompaniment, are fundamental. Many of us can witness to this through our personal experience.

The ‘strenna’ of this year, “WE ARE A FAMILY”, invites us to grow in this fundamental dimension of our communities, not only among ourselves, but also open to the world that moves around us. I suggest that we can:

- Give more importance together with other members of the Salesian Family- to the family pastoral apostolate in Schools, Oratories and Parishes.
- Favor a good relationship with the parents of our aspirants, pre-novices, novices and young confreres helping them to appreciate the vocation their children have received from the Lord and to be near them in moments of crisis or doubts.
- To make the new candidates the Lord sends to our Community feel that they are wished, wanted and accepted, fully integrated in the Salesian Family and fraternally accompanied.



Salesian India launches first Web Radio

Sonada, India – On December 8th, at the “Salesian College” of Sonada, there was the beginning of the programmes of the first university web radio of Western Bengala. The Salesian radio “Voice of the Hills”, 90.8 FM, offers 25 programmes a week – most of them in Nepalese language – with 12 hours of broadcast per day, throughout the week, done by a team of



six djs, on social, cultural and religious themes, programmes for children, dedicated music, youth opinions and talent show. To tune in to the radio, visit site www.salesiancollege.in with any gadget provided with internet connection.

ANS

Installation of Don Bosco's Relic at Upper Hill Nairobi

Nairobi - On 28th January over 800 young



people came to spend the night with the first class Relic of Don Bosco at Don Bosco Utume, where the relic was resting for the last 4 months. They prayed, made confession, sang and danced around their Father and friend whole night. It was truly a touching moment. After the whole night together, with a group of people who came from Don Bosco Upper Hill, they went in a large convoy of buses, cars, pick-ups... with police escort to the final resting place of Don Bosco, to the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians. At the Shrine a solemn high Mass in typical African style followed. The Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya, the Chairman of the Catholic bishops' conference, many priests, Salesian and non-

Salesian, religious brothers and sisters, over 5000 Christians and even leaders from other religions joined in this joyful celebrations. During the Mass, ten Christians made promise as Salesian co-operators. At the end of the celebrations the relic was placed in its permanent resting place, inside the shrine of Mary Help of Christians.

ANS

Mr Jan Tyranowski is venerable

Vatican City – Among the decrees for which Pope Francis recently authorized the promulgation by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, there is also the one concerning the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Mr Jan Tyranowski, a lay person, born on February 9th, 1901 and deceased on March 15th, 1947, spiritual guide of Karol Wojtyła when the future Pope and saint was discerning his vocation to the priesthood, at the Salesian parish of Cracow-Debniki. The new Venerable was an important figure of the Salesian reality in Cracow in very difficult times. In February 1940 young Karol Wojtyła knew Mr Tyranowski at the Salesian parish, when he was taking part in the religious encounters



of the youth promoted by the Salesians. It was precisely Mr Tyranowski who became for him a key person, a sort of mentor and educator, because after the detention and deportation to Auschwitz of the parish priest, Fr. Jan Świerc, and of other

Salesians – who are all undergoing the inquiry for the cause of beatification – he was given the responsibility of the pastoral care of young men. He, a young parishioner and a tailor by profession, distinguished himself for his gift of human equilibrium, piety, apostolic zeal. He created the “circles of the living Rosary”, of which Karol Wojtyła was also a member, and the future Pope later defined him “educator-theologian, apostle of the greatness of God, of the beauty of God”. ANS

Do not laugh at us when we use the word 'love'
Prepare us to lead our lives not yours
Let us make our mistakes.....

REFLECTIONS

Youth & Family



Abba Samuel SDB

Family is a foundational social institute in shaping the lives of children across all cultures. Family is the first agency of education, where the young can be formed, informed, and transformed in order to reform their own life. Strong families give children love, identity, a personal history and a secure base from which to explore and enjoy life as they grow up. Family is of lifelong importance for children and its significance cannot be underestimated. What happens within the family has more impact on children's well-being and development than any other single factor.

It is widely accepted that the relationship that a mother and a father has with their child strongly influences the child's behavior. The same applies also to the relationship of the child with others including the grandparents, elders, siblings, relatives etc. It should also be recognized that the quality of relationships between adults in the family will also have an impact on their children. Loving one's children does not mean always letting them have their own way. It involves providing a positive role model, setting

appropriate boundaries and applying them consistently, all of which is integral to a secure, safe and nurturing home environment. This also helps the children to learn what an acceptable behavior is and what it is not, how to get along with people and how to resolve differences in an appropriate way. Essential life skills can be learned and taught by families doing basic activities within the family such as talking, listening, eating together, doing chores together and even playing together.

Parents are entrusted with the responsibility of taking care of their children as they are essential to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual development of their children. The child learns from family particular patterns of behavior which form a model for behavior outside the home for adulthood life.

George Lawton has captured the adolescent attitude and expressed the adolescent hope in the following one-liners:



- *Stand by us, not over us*
- *Make us feel we are loved and wanted*
- *Train us by being affectionately firm*
- *Bring us up, so we will not always need you*
- *Say nice work, when we do something really well*
- *Give direct answers to the direct questions*
- *Show interest in what we are doing*
- *Make us feel our home belongs to us*
- *Do not laugh at us when we use the word 'love'*
- *Prepare us to lead our lives not yours*
- *Let us make our mistakes*

These one-liners in some way sum up for us the importance of family in the education of the young which is to have a sense of living with a meaningful life, full of joy, responsibility and competence through dialogue and participation.

"All the successful men and women are big dreamers. They imagine what their future could be, ideal in every respect, and then they work every day towards their distant vision, goal and purpose" said Brian Tracy. The young people too have a dream to accomplish, to be someone, someday. Let us help them then, guide them and empower them towards realizing their dreams. "We are just helpers". "We can do anything we want to, if we stick to it long enough" said Hellen Keller.

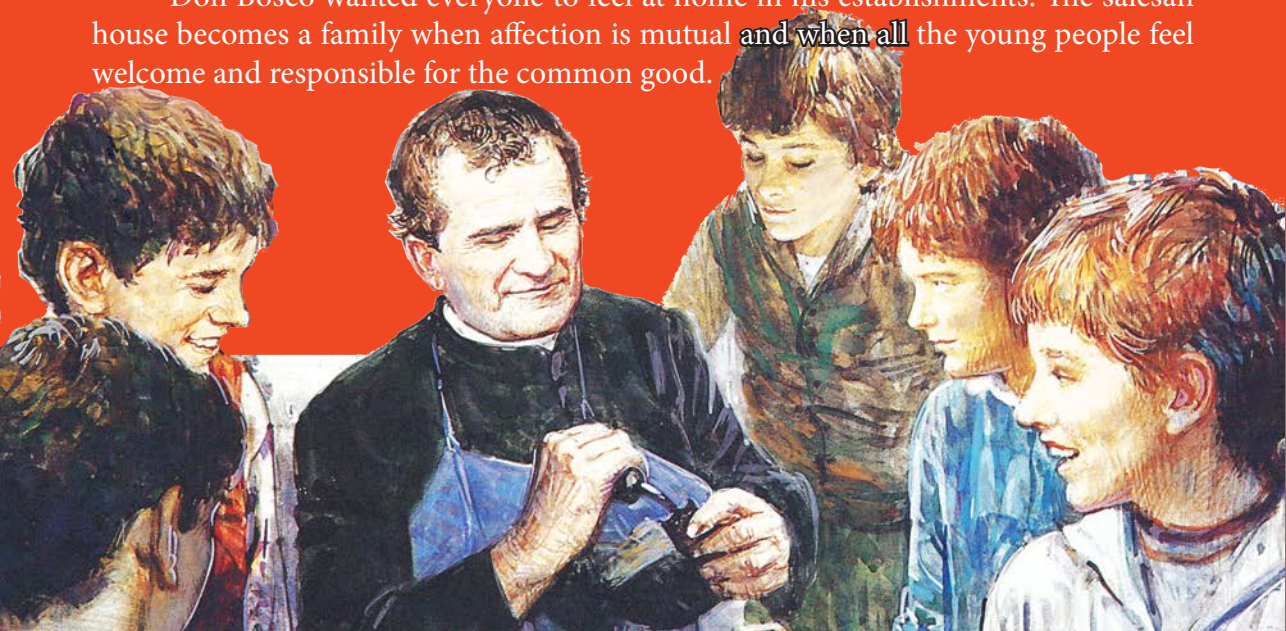
Don Bosco was a great dreamer and he accomplished his dream to be a Father, teacher and friend of the youth. Young people of today, easily give up because they are not ready to face the challenges. Thomas Alva Edison used to say: "There is always a better way". Almost in similar lines said Albert Einstein: "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new".

To conclude with the words of Thomas Edison who began his academic life as a failure, but changed over to success and became a role model to everyone, especially

to the young people used to say: “Be courageous. Have faith, and Go forward”. The salesian education is an education to values, a promoter and creator of responsible citizenship.

Dear families, educators and beloved young people, there is no great success without great commitment. So let us commit to work together, walk together. Working hard overcomes a whole lot of other obstacles. You can have unbelievable intelligence, you can have marvellous connections, and you can have great opportunities fall out of the sky. But in the end, hard work is the true, enduring characteristic of successful people. The message is very clear: let us work hard together and let us commit ourselves to bring some changes in the life of the youth through education. One quality that all successful people have is persistence. They are willing to spend more time accomplishing a task and to persevere in the face of many difficult odds. Some of the best lessons we ever learn are learned from the past mistakes. “The error of the past is the wisdom and success of the future” says Dr. Dale Turner.

Don Bosco wanted everyone to feel at home in his establishments. The salesian house becomes a family when affection is mutual and when all the young people feel welcome and responsible for the common good.



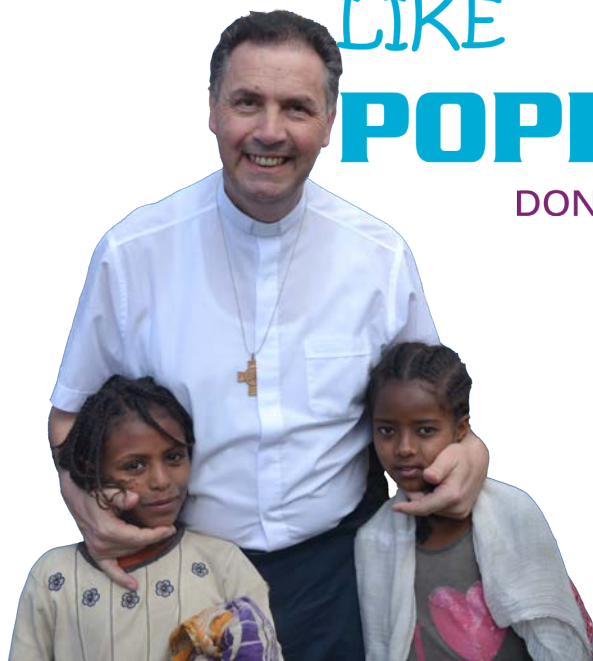
“For this reason Don Bosco wrote his letter to the young people with compassion and love with full of zeal, saying that, “whether I am at home or far away, I am always thinking of you. I have only one wish to see you happy both in this world and in the next”. This is the wish and the dream of the salesian family of Ethiopia; to see the young people happy, committed, and responsible with the competence to build up our country and our society.”

LIKE

R M SPEAKS

POPE FRANCIS

DON ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME



“My dear young people: I trust in you and I pray for you. Have the courage to be counter-cultural.” (Pope Francis)

In a world where quite often we silence God and where He is pushed aside, we need the witness of young people for whom the Lord is truly the Lord of their lives and the path to happiness and authenticity.

I recently returned from the Antilles, or more exactly, from the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Cuba, where we celebrated 100 years of Salesian presence and the beautiful feast of Don Bosco. As always, I met with our wonderful Salesian Family, with many lay people who have great affection for Don Bosco as well as for me, the Rector Major, and I also encountered some magnificent young people.

I remember that before I left for this trip, I had sent to all the young people of the Salesian world a message with a theme for the feast of Don Bosco. In that video I shared with them the words which Pope Francis had directed to them during one of his encounters with the young. Just like Pope Francis, and I know just like many of you, dear readers and friends, I trust in the young; I pray for the young; I encourage them to be courageous, to be the protagonists of their own lives, and to swim against the tide, to be countercultural.

I met with many bright young people who are capable of being animators of other youths, of other boys and girls; young people who were already working or who were still studying while working so as to be able to help out at home and at the same time to have greater opportunities in life. These young people, aged 20 to 25, who have no qualms about helping with liturgical celebrations as servers, or taking part in a magnificent choir in the church, or performing at the evening recreation, demonstrating their magnificent talents as actors and dancers. These, too, are our young people.

To these young people I say that there are many adults like us who place great hope in them; that there are many adults who encourage them to be courageous in

their life, recognizing that the world which we offer them is not an easy one and that opportunities are scarce. I also tell them that this is no fault of their own. We adults, too, must be self-critical. So, together with Pope Francis, I encourage them to have the strength to “swim against the current,” to be countercultural, when the call to be faithful to themselves and to Jesus resounds mightily within their hearts.

Dear young people, I tell you that the world needs you. ***This world of ours needs young people who feel attracted to make a commitment and are able to sacrifice themselves and love “until it hurts,” as Mother Teresa of Calcutta used to say in her day*** – she who is now a saint. We need young people who are capable, through their commitment, to give of their time and of themselves.

Is this asking too much? I do not think so. Certainly, I am setting the bar high, but it is the same as Don Bosco asked of his boys at Valdocco – whether in the normal things of everyday life or in the heroicity of attending to those who were ill with the cholera.

I also remind you young people of today that we need you because other young people need you. You are the ones who can best understand and help them because there are many young people who are “tired, bored, or disenchanted,” or who simply never get excited about anything. There are young people who are very weak and fragile and need other young people to speak to them about life, using their language, so as to show them that there are other paths and possibilities open to them. They need others who will help them truly believe that running away from the challenges of life is never a solution. They also need true “missionary disciples” who will help them discover Jesus in their lives and help them believe in Him – in a Jesus, I tell you, who will not sell them “a pig in a poke” (‘no les vende humo’) but will offer them life, authentic life, His life, and His very self.

A short while ago, Pope Francis wrote a message to all the young people of the world in which he said: “I do not fear.... 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.”

Hence, my invitation in these pages seeks to help many young people of the world be generous. It is also a call to us adults to stand beside them, place our bets on them, believe in them, trust in them, and pray for them – for those whose faith is alive, as well as for those who are seeking or simply feel lost. God never abandons any of His sons or daughters.

Be happy!

LENTEN SPECIAL

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2017

Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).



Lent is a favourable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply. I would now like to consider the parable of the rich

man and Lazarus (cf. Lk 16:19-31). Let us find inspiration in this meaningful story, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. It exhorts us to sincere conversion.

1. The other person is a gift

The parable begins by presenting its two main characters. The poor man is described in greater detail: he is wretched and lacks the strength even to stand. Lying before the door of the rich man, he fed on the crumbs falling from his table. His body is full of sores and dogs come to lick his wounds (cf. vv. 20-21). The picture is one of great misery; it portrays a man disgraced and pitiful. The scene is even more dramatic if we consider that the poor man is called Lazarus: a name full of promise, which literally means God helps. This character is not anonymous. His features are clearly delineated and he appears as an individual with his own story. While practically invisible to the rich man, we see and know him as someone familiar. He becomes a face, and as such, a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A right relationship with people

consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summon to conversion and to change. The parable first invites us to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbour or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable. But in order to do this, we have to take seriously what the Gospel tells us about the rich man.



2. Sin blinds us

The parable is unsparing in its description of the contradictions associated with the rich man (cf. v. 19). Unlike poor Lazarus, he does not have a name; he is simply called “a rich man”. His opulence was seen in his extravagant

and expensive robes. Purple cloth was even more precious than silver and gold, and was thus reserved to divinities (cf. Jer 10:9) and kings (cf. Jg 8:26), while fine linen gave one an almost sacred character. The man was clearly ostentatious about his wealth, and in the habit of displaying it daily: “He feasted sumptuously every day” (v. 19). In him we can catch a dramatic glimpse of the corruption of sin, which progresses in three successive stages: love of money, vanity and pride (cf. Homily, 20 September 2013).

The Apostle Paul tells us that “the love of money is the root of all evils” (1 Tim 6:10). It is the main cause of corruption and a source of envy, strife and suspicion. Money can come to dominate us, even to the point of becoming a tyrannical idol (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 55). Instead of being an instrument at our service for doing good and showing solidarity towards others, money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace.

The parable then shows that the rich man’s greed makes him vain. His personality finds expression in appearances, in showing others what he can do. But his appearance masks an interior emptiness. His life is a prisoner to outward appearances, to the most superficial and fleeting aspects of existence (cf. *ibid.*, 62). The lowest rung of this moral degradation is pride. The rich man dresses like a king and acts like a god, forgetting that he is merely mortal. For those corrupted by love of riches, nothing exists beyond their own ego. Those around them do not come into their line of sight. The result of attachment to money is a sort of blindness. The rich man does not see the poor man who is starving, hurting, lying at his door.

3. The Word is a gift

The Gospel of the rich man and Lazarus helps us to make a good preparation

for the approach of Easter. The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us to an experience quite similar to that of the rich man. When the priest imposes the ashes on our heads, he repeats the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. As it turned out, the rich man and the poor man both died, and the greater part of the parable takes place in the afterlife. The two characters suddenly discover that “we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it” (1 Tim 6:7).

We too see what happens in the afterlife. There the rich man speaks at length with Abraham, whom he calls “father” (Lk 16:24.27), as a sign that he belongs to God’s people. This detail makes his life appear all the more contradictory, for until this moment there had been no mention of his relation to God. In fact, there was no place for God in his life. His only god was himself.

The rich man recognizes Lazarus only amid the torments of the afterlife. He wants the poor man to alleviate his suffering with a drop of water. What he asks of Lazarus is similar to what he could have done but never did. Abraham tells him: “During your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus had his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony” (v. 25). In the afterlife, a kind of fairness is restored and life’s evils are balanced by good.

The parable goes on to offer a message for all Christians. The rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, who are still alive. But Abraham answers: “They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them” (v. 29). Countering the rich man’s objections, he adds: “If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead” (v. 31).

The rich man’s real problem thus comes to the fore. At the root of all his ills was the failure to heed God’s word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to

despise his neighbour. **“The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God. When we close our heart to the gift of God’s word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.”**

Dear friends, Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in His Word, in the Sacraments and in our neighbour. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.

A month long preparation for the Feast of Don Bosco began already in the first week of January with the presentation of the Strenna of the Rector Major Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, "We are a Family". Several initiatives were held to mark the event of the feast; just to mention a few: Salesian Pedagogy course prepared by Abba Samuel for the teachers, Spiritual Pilgrimage for the faithful of the parish church and then the Feast day celebration on 31 January.

The feast was celebrated in three sectors: In the school, parish and oratory. Tuesday morning at 8:00 am our students gathered in the youth center field. The day was opened with the speech of Fr. Rector Abba Tesfay Kidane, encouraging the students to be responsible, and not to forget the content of education. In his speech he thanked the school members and Salesians for the wonderful cooperation and a spirit of collaboration that existed in the school. He also asked the students to be accountable and good citizens of the country. Thereafter several moving poems, speeches, cultural



dances and funny games followed. The competitions were held between Don Bosco Wallame Junior School and Holy Cross Junior and High school. The schools battled it out for the top honors in football, volley ball, and many other sports and Don Bosco Wallame School went home with several prizes.

On Saturday, 4th of February the competitions were held at the oratory level between workers and youth center members. Competitions were held for five teams/ Workshop, teachers, guards, Wallame sports team and Health club/ playing foot ball simultaneously on the same pitch. At the end of the games, the health club was declared the winners. Finally, Fr. Tesfay welcomed all the workers for a common meal and congratulated each and every one for their commitment towards the service of the young people.

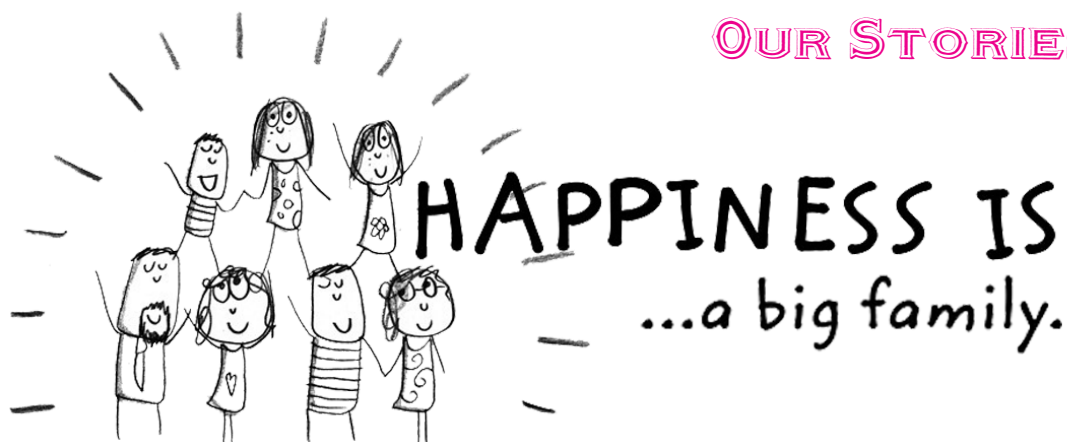
Don Bosco feast in the Parish was celebrated on 5th of February. The feast attracted a huge number of faithful who came from the various centers/outstations of our apostolate travelling even more than 11kms. Reminding ourselves of the theme of the event “we are a family”, the day was marked by various celebrations full of significance and deep joy. The Eucharist in honor of St. John Bosco was presided over by his Excellency Bishop Roberto and concelebrated by several priests including the new parish priest Abba Thomas Tesfaye.

The songs and liturgical animation of the Mass was done by the wonderful choir of the parish. Present for the occasion were religious fathers, sisters, members of Salesian family as well as teachers, pupils, parents, villagers and collaborators of SDB. After the Mass there were different presentations prepared by the pupils from various out stations, and sectors of Don Bosco. After the Mass followed a moment of refreshment in the hall with the cutting of the traditional bread and words of welcome for the new parish priest. The feast was concluded with the words of Abuna Roberto and a common meal offered to all those who had come from the seventeen outstations.



L. Aman Abraha SDB





WE ARE A FAMILY: EVERY HOME A SCHOOL OF LIFE AND LOVE

August 5th, 2015 Almaz, Masresha, Aster, Tigist and Lomi with their 6 children entered the gate of Nigat project. One year and half has passed from that day and we would like to share with you what has been done with them and what has come out of the project.

Nigat is a salesian project run by *Amici del Sidamo* and located in St. Joseph house in Lancia-Goterà area. The staff counts 15 people with different roles. Up to now 59 young mothers with their 62 babies have been welcomed for some months in the project. Almost all of them came from countryside areas sent by their families to work in Addis to help them and to have a better life. The situation they found here in Addis was different from their expectations: most of the time they were exploited and the promises they have been given were not fulfilled. Some of them were living with their boyfriends, some others were in the streets, others had been raped: the result is always the same: they remain alone with a child.

Nigat project has been thought with the aim of supporting these young mothers. During their stay in the project the mothers live in groups in rented houses in the surrounding. From Monday to Saturday they attend the activities at the center. The first 3 months are thought as orientation period: they have time to stay with their children to enhance their relationship with them, they participate in some workshops such as food preparation, sewing and hairdressing to understand which field would be more profitable for their future and they attend literacy classes according to their scholastic level. After this period, through counseling with social workers, they choose a vocational training in order to be competent and find a job. For everyone of them we are trying to find the best way to accompany them: some decide to go back to their

families, others start a new life here in Addis Abeba even if life conditions are very hard for single mothers.

If we make a review of this small project which we began almost two years ago, we can only thank the Lord for all the daily graces that He has offered us during this short period. When we see a 20 year old girl learning to write her name, when the Providence finds for us a free daycare for some children who have finished the program, when the parents of a girl convince her to come back home... all these are moments when we feel that we are accompanied by the Lord. With all these of course, there are our small daily failures which we can only apologize for, when we are not patient enough, when we don't believe that there is space to change, when we prefer to sit and chat instead of giving support to a mother who is not able to feed her child... this is all part of the story.

But at the end of the day, we feel happy and fulfilled to see so many children happy with their mothers and that is our greatest point of satisfaction.

**Compiled by Luca & Laura
Volunteers in DB Mekanissa**



CATHOLIC NEWS

Colombian nun kidnapped in Mali

Bamako, Mali: The Colombian bishops



are asking for prayers after a religious sister from Colombia was kidnapped from the home where she served

in Mali. Sister Gloria Cecilia Narváez, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate, was abducted by armed men Tuesday night, according to officials. The men forced Sister Cecilia to hand over the keys to the community's ambulance, according to the superior, Sister Noemi Quesada. The vehicle was later found abandoned. While all four of the sisters who live in the house in Karangasso were present at the time of the intrusion, the other three managed to escape. So far, no one has taken responsibility for the kidnapping. CNA

Pope Francis might meet Mr. Trump

Vatican City: Pope Francis might meet with



President Donald Trump at the end of May. The British newspaper The Tablet, citing diplomatic sources, said the two will meet during President Trump's visit to Italy. Trump will go to the G7 summit of world leaders meeting held May 26-27 in Taormina, Sicily. The president and the Pope have sometimes been put at odds. During a Feb. 18, 2016 in-flight press conference, Reuters reporter Philip Pullella asked the Pope to respond to Donald Trump's immigration stand. Pope

Francis answered: "A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian. This is not in the Gospel." The pontiff added he would "give the benefit of the doubt" to the political candidate. CNA

Mother Mary receives a new title

Detroit, Mich: Earlier this month, the International Marian Association submitted a request to Pope Francis, asking for the public recognition of the title of Mary as "Co-Redemptrix with Jesus the Redeemer." The 10 page document was submitted by the Theological Commission of the International Marian Association, a group of more than 100 theologians, bishops, priests, religious, and lay leaders from over 20 countries dedicated to the "full truth and love of Mary, Mother of Jesus." It comes during the 100th year anniversary of the Marian apparitions at Fatima, Portugal. The significance of the request, if it were to receive approval, is that the faithful would be given further clarity on Mary's unique role in cooperation with Christ in the work of redemption, Dr. Robert Fastiggi, Professor of Mariology at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, told EWTN News. CNA

Vatican newspaper gets a new look

Vatican City: the Vatican unveiled a "new and improved" weekly edition of its newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, which has begun with the Jan. 19 issue, and include updates to both content and the newspaper's look, according to the director. The changes are intended to merge new with old, keeping the newspaper's fundamental characteristic, that it's an "echo of papal teaching," Director Giovanni Maria Vian told journalists Jan. 10. New voices, including both secular and Catholic writers, will be added to four of the main sections of the paper: Vatican information, international news, religious news, and culture. CNA

A Man after HEART of Don BOSCO



Be it Festa or Feria, Christmas or Easter, Meskel or Temket there is someone who is always at his job, A Salesian 24/7, Man with an 'oratorian heart', 'Man of few words and more actions', Yes, we are speaking about a special Salesian, someone who never likes to be in the lime-light but reminds you of the character of St. Joseph of the Scriptures... enough with the adjectives. It is none other than Br. Donato, though he likes to be addressed simply as Donato. The word 'Donato' in English means "Gifted" or "Given". Yes, certainly he is a gift not only to the community of Mekanissa but to the whole of Ethiopia. This Salesian after the heart of Don Bosco landed in Ethiopia almost thirty years ago and has been touching the hearts of hundreds of young people ever since his arrival in Ethiopia in the year 1988. Of the thirty years spent in Ethiopia, 12 years were

spent in Zway and the rest 18 years at Mekanissa in Addis Abeba. Though he never liked to talk or to appear for an interview, with much resistance he agreed to talk for a short interview of the Bulletin. This is what he had to say:

Donato, how would you describe yourself?

Donato: Bohh,, I am a simple Salesian lay brother and I prefer to be called simply Donato. I chose to be a brother rather than a priest so that I can be more near to the young people. When one is a priest, people might feel little bit of distance, but when they see you as one of them, they feel free to approach you. That's why I am happy to be a brother.

How about this choice of coming to Ethiopia?

Donato: Actually there was a need in the missions of Brazil. But since I was the only child in my family, going that far was difficult. Then there was a need in Ethiopia. First it was in Dilla and after one year in Zway. My life was lived in poverty till the age of 28 and therefore my strength for the missionary choice came from my own life lived in poverty. I opted to come to Ethiopia to give a future to the poor youth of Ethiopia through oratory and classes of drawing which I have been doing for the past thirty years, 12 in Zway and 18 in Mekanissa.

How do you see these thirty years of your life lived in Ethiopia?

Donato: I have been very happy for these years of my life in Ethiopia. In Ethiopia I feel that I have been able to live the “*Cuore Oratoriano*”, the oratorian heart. To be near the poor, the needy, being with children has always been my joy. In Ethiopia I have been able to live fully the ‘Grace of Unity’. The two poles – Passion for God and Compassion for Humanity, these two things go together through this energy which I call as the “Grace of Unity”.



Donato in his artistic workshop

What were your challenges during your stay in Ethiopia?

Donato: The main challenge has been the problem of language. I never had time to go to the school to learn the language. It has been just learned informally with children in the playground. With the study of Amharic, the English was forgotten which I had learned in Liberia before coming to Ethiopia. Other than the challenge of language I didn't have any other major challenges in Ethiopia.

Dear Donato, as you have been a missionary for over thirty years, and almost 40 years as a Salesian, what will be your advice to the Salesians of our province, especially to the young ones?

Donato: Learn to live the “Grace of Unity”. We have to learn the connection between the two poles that I spoke of early. The horizontal and the vertical dimension of our life – hands extended towards God and at the same time towards the young. This is fundamental for our life as Salesians and this “Grace of Unity” can be arrived at only through Personal Prayer, Family atmosphere and an Oratorian Heart.



A painting of Donato in the oratory of Mekanissa

It's more than 40 years since the Salesians have made their first appearance in the Ethiopian soil. The first place of arrival in Ethiopia was Mekelle in 1975. Since then the Salesians in Ethiopia have been touching the lives of hundred of youngsters all over the country through its well-established schools, TVET centers, oratories, parishes etc. As the mother house of the Salesians in Ethiopia, Mekelle enjoys a privileged place among all the Salesian houses in Ethiopia. It is really remarkable how Mekelle has grown in the past years and has developed into a mighty presence in the northern part of the country, catering to over thousands of children on a daily basis. Here is an account of what happens in Mekelle at this moment:

Sports Activities:

Football: Football tournament for small children: with 12 teams; three days football training for junior boys; every week football tournament for junior of the surrounding areas; Friday afternoon and Saturday morning the fields are reserved for the students

Return of VALDOCCO at Mekelle



of the college. Saturday morning: from 7 o'clock to 8,30 the field is reserved for our past pupils of the factories nearby. From 9 o'clock to 10,30 is the turn of Mass sport. From 10,45 to 12,15 is the turn of aspirants. Afternoon: 2,30 is the turn for competitions.

Basketball: we enjoy a beautiful team of adults competing with other wereda teams. We shall start soon a team of junior basketball players. The wereda tournament is at hand and the players are training regularly.

Volleyball: The boys especially the aspirants are crazy about it. Here too we enjoy a fantastic team of adult players with already experience in competitions game with the

prisoners, university students and Mesfen factory workers.

Clubs: Our youth centre has three reorganized clubs:

Drama club: with the participation of 10 persons and one instructor. (training almost every day,) they have already participated in different celebrations,

Dance club: with the participation of 6 persons and one instructor. They have already participated in several occasions.

Social club: with the participation of six girls: three from the college and three from the youth centre. They collected from the students of the college more than 400 birr and with the collaboration of the Youth Centre prepared 10 packets of food and blankets which they distributed on Christmas vigil to 10 very poor families

Youth centre and college social activities.



This year the youth centre in collaboration with the instructors of the college with their students carried out the programme that our church and superiors proposed to us on “Human trafficking”. In different situations the problem was presented:

To the instructors: through a conference organized by fr. Tino, a strip of a film showing the real situation, and distribution of leaflets prepared by our office in Addis Abeba.

To students: Abba Tino, gathering all his students of the third year, illustrated the danger of this “Human Trafficking” which for many ends in abuse, exploitation and death. Bro. Samson repeated the same subject with his students and finally the subject was dealt with all the students and instructors of the college in a general assembly.

Thus goes life in Mekelle. Much is done and much more can be done but we are always hopeful that however insignificant it might be, we will continue the good work in the name of Don Bosco for the greater glory of God and the good of our bretheren.



Abba Tino SDB



10 QUOTES THAT WILL CHANGE THE WAY YOU ATTEND THE HOLY MASS

- * When the Eucharist is being celebrated, the sanctuary is filled with countless angels who adore the divine victim immolated on the altar. ~ **St. John Chrysostom**
- * The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating Mass. ~ **St. Augustine**
- * If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy. ~ **Saint Jean Vianney**
- * The celebration of Holy Mass is as valuable as the death of Jesus on the cross. ~ **Saint Thomas Aquinas**
- * Once, St. Teresa was overwhelmed with God's Goodness and asked Our Lord "How can I thank you?" Our Lord replied, "ATTEND ONE MASS."
- * "My Son so loves those who assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that, if it were necessary He would die for them as many times as they've heard Masses." **Our Lady to Blessed Alan.**
- * When we receive Holy Communion, we experience something extraordinary – a joy, a fragrance, a well-being that thrills the whole body and causes it to exalt. ~ **Saint Jean Vianney**
- * There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us. ~ **Saint Jean Vianney**
- * When we have been to Holy Communion, the balm of love envelops the soul as the flower envelops the bee. ~ **Saint Jean Vianney**
- * It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass. ~ **St. Pio of Pietrelcina**

Courtesy: Whatsapp Post

Seminar on Human Trafficking in Addis

Addis Abeba: With the concluding interventions of four Bishops (Dioceses of Meki, Adigrat, Gambella, Addis Abeba)



and contributions from the various representatives of the Catholic Secretariates, the one and half day seminar on Human Trafficking and illegal migration came to a beautiful end on 22 November 2016 at the Salesian Provincial House in Addis Abeba. In relation to the first day of the seminar, the second day witnessed an active and enthusiastic participation of all those present at the seminar as there were forums offered for questions and clarifications. The various representatives from the different dioceses made a synthetic presentation of all the activities and initiatives that were held in the respective dioceses in the course of one year. The seminar was concluded with the intervention and concluding words of the Provincial of AET province, Fr. Estifanos Gebremeskel who reiterated upon the need to seek a way out to avoid illegal migration and human trafficking especially among the young in our centers. Br. Cesare Bullo, the director of PDO in AET province thanked the CEI and VIDES for the great contribution they made for the realization of this project in Ethiopia. A special note of thanks was also said to the other organizations especially the 'Missioni Don Bosco', Torino who have contributed and is still contributing towards the realization of the project in Ethiopia.

Inauguration of Don Bosco High School Gambella

Gambella: On Monday, November 28, 2016, there was the 'first' inauguration ceremony of the new High School in Gambella. It is said 'First' since there are also other donors

SALESIAN WORLD

and other inaugurations will follow in future. In the presence of Fr. Jose Andolsek, Don Bosco Mission in Slovenia and Carinzia



(Austria), Fr. Matyaz Krizhar, Missio Slovenia Director, Slovenian 'Radio Ognoshe'

journalists, Father Estifanos Gebremeskel, AET provincial, Brother Cesare Bullo PDO Executive Director, Ms. Meaza T/ Giorgis, PDO Executive Director assistant, local authorities, diocesan priests and MC sisters, Friends of Don Bosco and parents' committee members and many other friends of our Catholic Mission, it took place in a simple but very important ceremony that signed another fundamental step in the consolidation process of our service in the town of Gambella. **Abba Aristide SDB**

MSMHC opens their new presence in Ethiopia

Meki: Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC), or the 'Ferrando Sisters', as they are



usually called are overjoyed as they begin their second presence in Ethiopia at Arsinegelle in the vicariate of Meki in Ethiopia. The Congregation had made its entry in Ethiopia almost two years ago and had been already working at Meki. With the opening of the new convent in Arsinegelle, the Congregation will be opening its second presence in the Ethiopian soil. The inauguration and the blessing of the St. Mary's Convent at Arsinegelle took place on 22nd November 2016. Rev. Sr. Philomina Mathew, the Mother General of the Congregation who had come all the way from India to take part in the

local news

function, cut the ribbon and inaugurated the convent and Fr. Mullett blessed the house.

Sr. Annie MSMHC

Mekelle honors Mary with 'Serenade'

Mekelle: The community of Don Bosco Mekelle had a beautiful moment of the Feast day celebrations of Immaculate Conception on



Saturday 10th December 2016 together with the religious communities in Mekelle. After the Holy Eucharist there was the blessing of the newly constructed "Don Bosco Resort", a new initiative which was realized to mark the 40th anniversary of the presence of Don Bosco in Makelle. Around 6.30 pm there were different competitions held among the sodality teams of the seminarians which was accompanied by beautiful dramas, dances, quiz and songs on Mary performed by the aspirants. It was really a moment of "Salesian serenade" in honor of our Blessed Mother. The gathering concluded with a sumptuous supper for all the invited guests.

Abba Luan. SDB.

Tri-monthly recollection at Zway

Zway: It was really a moment of get-together for the entire Salesian family as they gathered at Zway Don Bosco for the



tri-monthly retreat of the first semester. The retreat was scheduled for 30-31 December, even though everyone could not arrive on 30th. A few representatives from each community arrived already on 30th and the retreat began with the Solemn Christmas Novena at 6 pm. After the Novena followed the supper after which there was a spiritual

SALESIAN WORLD

film for those who wished to see. On the following day the assembly gathered again at 9 am in the community chapel for the Morning Prayers and animation on the Strenna of the Rector Major which was coordinated by the Salesian Sisters. After the animation program Bp. Abraha Desta gave the conference in which he spoke at length about the faith journey of Abraham our father in faith, and the faith journey that each one was called to make. The retreat ended with the solemn lunch for the entire Salesian Family.

L. Dawit SDB.

St. Stephen celebrated at Adamitullu

15th January was certainly a day of great joy and merry for the people in and around Adamittullu as the parish church of St. Stephen



celebrated its patron saint on this second Sunday of Christmas season. The

Feast day Mass which began at 9 am, celebrated by Abba Tesfaye the Parish priest and concelebrated by the priests from the neighbouring communities, was attended by hundreds of people who came from near and far, even as far as some of the outstations of the parish church of Zway. All those who came to take part in the feast were deeply impressed by the melodious singing which was done by the choirs of Adamitullu and Mekanissa. This was an evident sign of the collaboration and family spirit that exists between the Salesian parishes. After the Mass there was Eucharistic adoration in which all the faithful participated with great devotion. Later on there was a sumptuous lunch offered by the community to all those who came to take part in the feast day celebration.

Cl. Tariku SDB.

Workshop for the finance persons in Addis

Addis Abeba: A five days workshop for the finance persons organized by the PDO came to a fruitful conclusion on 27 January at the Salesianum in Addis Abeba. Of the five days workshop, four days were intended



exclusively for the finance persons who were gathered from the various

Salesian houses in Ethiopia. There were more than 25 persons who took part in the workshop which aimed at giving a support for the finance persons of the various Salesian houses, insisting upon the need for accountability and transparency in the accounting sector. The workshop also saw to the providing of some practical helps to the accountants in order to have a smooth reporting between the Catholic Church, Ethiopian Government and the Provincial Economist. The various interventions that were held by Brother Cesare, Mr. Henok, Mr. Alemseged, Mr. Berhanu insisted on the role, duties and responsibilities of accountants in keeping the record of all financial transactions of projects, school administration, community matters and various sectors. It was deemed very much important to work in synergy with Economist, Rector and various sectors of the community. It was also very much opportune that there was the visit of the procurator of Missioni Don Bosco Turin, Brother Giampietro Pettenon to Ethiopia and the input he delivered at the occasion was very much appreciated by all the participants. The final day of the workshop saw the presence of all the Salesian economists from the various houses who also came to join the meeting along with their accountants. The workshop ended on a happy note as all the participants were grateful to PDO for the

work accomplished during the week which would definitely help them out in their future work as accountants and administrators.

Brother Cesare SDB.

Annual Retreat at Gol'a

It was certainly a moment of grace for the whole province of AET as 30 Salesians



gathered together for our annual retreat in Adigrat, in the community dedicated to Blessed Gebre Michael. The retreat began on 05 January with vespers and an introductory talk by the preacher Abba Hailemariam Medhin. The central theme of the retreat was on the "Love of God". Abba Hailemariam, the preacher helped the participants to contemplate, reflect and meditate upon the real Love of God in our lives. In the Eucharistic celebrations a remembrance was made of all the confreres who had been serving God through the young people in their earthly pilgrimage, in Ethiopia. Furthermore there was a daily one hour adoration which was a treasured moment for everyone to sit at the Master's feet to be able to feel His love in our personal lives. The hearty welcome offered by the community of Adigrat was enjoyed by all the participants of the retreat. Special thanks to Abba Estifanos Gebremeskel, the provincial who made it a point to be with the confreres all through the retreat and Abba Hailemariam Medhin for his guidance as the preacher.

Br. Asfaw SDB

**For more news log on to -
www.donboscoethiopia.org**

STUDENTS' CORNER

What are you sowing??



Cl. Kubrom SDB

Family is a community of people, a school where to begin a proper way of existing and living. It is also a field where human beings make their preparation for next rank of life. I think we will have to speak about the Holy Family of Nazareth when we sound the word 'family', as we do about St. John when we sound the word 'love'. Every family has a perfect model. St. John Paul II, in one of his teachings, called the Holy Family of Nazareth "The prototype and example for all Christian families", intending to say that every individual family has to find its model in the Holy Family of Nazareth.

The Rector Major of the Society of St. Francis of Sales, in his Strenna of 2017 "We are a Family", wrote that the family "is the first school for children, a group which is indispensable in giving the young a sense of belonging and the best refuge for elderly." After such clarifications about family, let us put some questions to ourselves:

"Do biblical families still bear meaning for today's Christian families? Do we feel these realities still present in our societies today?"

What makes a family attractive and wonderful is the good quality that parents show to each other and to their children. When they have time to share their experiences and familiarity, they can build up more skill, talent, openness, fidelity and love. The family in which a child is fully developed finds security, good example; courage and everything that can bring about changes in his/her

future life. The care and guidance that children receive from their parents help them to be confident and able to face easily the challenges that they confront.

Parents must have an intimate relation, so that the children may learn from them love and respect each other. Sometimes it is not uncommon to hear parents saying "Rubbish, you are hopeless. I mourn the night that I conceived you." Teenagers, who come out from such kind of families, will end up in the middle of the road. Imagine what happens to these youngsters? They cannot make assuring choices in their life and in consequence they become distrustful to the world around them.



It is not a mistake to say that many young people clothe “two codes” today. The one they speak publicly and the other one they live by. The latter one is inferior to the former one. I’m saying this from the familiarity that I have with the young people of today, by observing the phenomena in my travels. Often we hear them saying, “It is my life. I will do what I want with it.” Such kind of personality brings more damage than good, and makes them find their way without accompaniment and help.

Many ancient sages used to say “If you plant good seeds, you will have a good garden.” To foresee our future life, is to create it today and now. We have heard the saying: “They will reap what they sow”. If a farmer sows wheat in his field, he is going to have wheat. Similar thing can happen to young people. If they build up today a positive manner in their lives, next level will be pleasant and splendid. Instead if they sow procrastination, lack of vision, marching without plan, and other negative attitudes, their life will be immersed in darkness and sorrow. “Failure attracts failure” and together it destroys their life.

“It is not how big the house is. It is how happy the home is”. The individual members of the family may have very high qualities but if there is no happiness and respect in the family, the home will be unattractive. A similar thing can be said about us religious people too: there can be a member of the community well qualified in many aspects, but if there is always conflict, dishonesty, backbiting and partiality, what is the use of being together?

What message could we draw from this little article? We could choose to be either part of the problem or part of the solution. Many Christian and even non-Christian families need an urgent help today. We then ask ourselves if we can do something in favor of families beginning with our reality as educators and pastors, which I believe would be the greatest help that the Salesian Family could offer to the young people of today.



COMPLETING 60 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

NATIVITY GIRLS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



OUR VISION

» INSPIRED BY THE WORD OF GOD, WE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS EMPOWER AND TRANSFORM YOUNG GIRLS

» EMPHASIZING HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A JUST AND HUMAN SOCIETY

» SHAPING AND MOTIVATING YOUNG TO BE DEDICATED CITIZENS OF TOMORROW.

ADDRESS

Nativity Girls Catholic School
www.ngs-addis.com
ngs.addis@gmail.com
Tel- 0111562565
ADDIS ABEBA - ETHIOPIA



THE AMLION TECHNOLOGY GROUP



Beam IT Solutions PLC
Aspire for the Best!



ኢትዮ ሌል አስተባባሪና የጉዞ ወኪል
ETL TOUR AND TRAVEL

MANY SERVICES UNDER ONE UMBRELLA

Amlion Systems PLC: A company for your IT systems, financial management systems design, and related. For more information visit www.amlionsystems.com

Amlion Printing and Advertising PLC: A company for your printing, advertising and promotions needs. For more information visit www.amlionpa.com

Beam IT Solutions PLC: A company venturing on web-based technology, e-commerce and e-tendering, website design, hosting and related activities. For more information visit www.beamitsolutions.com

ETL Tour and Travel: A company that you should rely on, a company doing travel agency, tour, car rent, hotel reservation, event organizing and management, and related services. For more information visit www.ethiotourline.com

Other Services: Other company services are available on the portals mentioned above and other websites on the portals.

For enquiries call us on: +251 91 143 9458 / +251 91 171 4690
+251 92 128 2710 / +251 91 021 7091

www.AmlionGroup.com