



COME AND SEE!

by Fr João de Brito Carvalho, sdb

The Rector Major's Strenna was disseminated, in its essentials, in July of the previous year, and became the point of departure for planning at province and local level. This allowed us to see that the provincial and local communities, pastoral and educative communities and Salesian Family Groups could take up the Rector Major's Strenna as a reference point for the school year and other pastoral activities throughout the year.

'Come and See' culture in Portugal

In early January 2011 we published 1,500 pamphlets containing the Rector Major's commentary on the Strenna. This pamphlet aimed at ensuring that a copy was in the hands of every participant when the Strenna was pre-

sented. On 15 January more than 600 people came together at Fatima (SDB, FMA, other member groups of the Salesian Family, and other lay people who share responsibility with us) in order to get to know its key idea: "Come and See". The commentary on the Strenna was presented in summary form by the two provincials (SDB and FMA) then further illustrated by a DVD which the Congregation produced and sent around the world. The meeting was coordinated by the national delegate for the Salesian Family.

As part of the plan to encourage a "culture of vocation" in each local community, the Provincial, during his canonical visitation to the communities, presented the Strenna and commentary to the SDBs, lay partners, SF Groups, Salesian Youth Movement, Parish

groups and so forth. Vocation teams in each community were particularly involved in this work. The DVD was especially useful, in its entirety or part thereof.

In order to broaden the reach of the Rector Major's reflections, a copy of the Strenna commentary was sent to key civil authorities in the country, to diocesan bishops and to other provincials of male and female religious communities.

At the Youth Ministry level

At national level, the province vocation team supported local communities in letting the Strenna be known, and in accompaniment of youngsters showing seeds of a calling to consecrated or priestly life.