



Don Bosco Žepče

by Fr Tihomir Šutalo, sdb

The Salesians arrived in Bosnia at the invitation of the Archbishop of Sarajevo and the local Croatian Government. They wanted to offer signs of hope to a suffering population, to people uncertain as to what the future held in store. In 1997 construction of the new Centre was begun and the Salesians began their pastoral work by taking up their activity in a school – it was a State school.

Political, financial and social uncertainty were in abundance, but with the help of Providence, the work began to grow. Many people and organisations from the international community have become part of the project, and we can truly say that we have been touched by the hand of Providence in such

a way that by 1999 a Technical Institute opened with the first 72 pupils, and the following year a Secondary school.

School Centre

Today, 16 years after the first Salesians came, and after 11 years of KŠC Don Bosco activity amidst young people in Žepče, we can proudly show how much has been built up for so many and what we are continuing to achieve in the Institute. The school is by now nearly 80% complete in construction terms. It is well equipped and certainly much better equipped than the state schools in the same area. The School has 60 staff, most of them with the appropriate degrees and training for their various subject fields.

The Secondary school has 200 pupils, and

the Technical school 350 pupils, distributed as follows:

- » 4 classes of economics (4 year)
- » 4 classes of mechanics (4 year)
- » 3 classes involving hydraulics welding and turning – 3 year)
- » 3 classes of electronics (– installation and autoelectronics – 3 year)

We are unable to respond to everyone who seeks a place, since so many families seek a better future for their children through our schools. The chief difficulty is that 80% of our pupils who complete their secondary and university preparation, or work preparation, leave the country (for Croatia, Italy, Germany) and often they do not return. This is a problem for us because we are aware that the young people do not see any hope if they remain in their own country.

