



by Teresio Bosco on Don Bosco's life. Thanks this I opted for Salesian life, because I saw that I could be a priest while continuing to work actively in education and for the betterment of the young.

In Year Five I was deeply moved by the harm that I saw happening when some of my classmates were sent away from school. They were often sent away for failing to pay their school fees. After looking at the situation, I realised that at least 90% of these students who had been sent away ended up paying their school fees by the end of the year, but in the meantime a good number of them had missed many of their classes, and so they failed.

Faced with this situation I decided to take action, and I loaned some of my classmates some of the money they needed so they could continue to follow their course. I had about six thousand francs with me as

pocket money which I had never touched. But I soon saw that I could not really do great things with so little. So along with some other friends, we set up an association called the '*Association des Jeunes pour la Construction de notre Avenir (AJECA)*' or, Youth Together for Building our Future. There were ten of us (six boys and four girls), all in Year Four. We organised all sorts of activities to help our classmates financially. During the longer holidays we held lots of football, basketball competitions. ..., offered holiday courses, and also sold school materials. After some five years we were well known to all the young people in the area and in surrounding areas. We had become leaders.

Thanks to these competitions I discovered the Salesian work at Cotonou for the first time, but it was not until 1999 that I really found out about this educational mission on behalf of the young and especially for the poorest of them"

