



# Rock Out Youth Poverty

by Delano Perera

On a wet Sunday, January 30, 2011 many teens gathered together at Saint Joseph's Salesian Youth Renewal Center to take a stand against world poverty. The day was filled with talks, music, food, exhibits, and Mass to finish the day.

I was born in Sri Lanka, where I have seen many poor people on the streets. This event reminded me how lucky I am to have a roof over my head and food on my plate. When I first heard about the recession, I wondered if I would end up on the street, just like

the people I had seen back in Sri Lanka. Sometimes it is so easy to forget the poor on the street.

The food served that day was not anything fancy. It was food that a poor person would eat in a regular day: peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, plain bread, beans and tortillas, rice with yams, fruits, and boiled potatoes. Not the most pleasing food, but it was truly a reminder of how blessed we are.

Both of the guest speakers spoke to us about how poverty and disease take millions of lives each year. What really touched me was when I heard that 93 percent of the world's population makes less than 50 dollars a day.

celebrating mass and the feast of Saint John Bosco, who lived in the 1800s and brought the poor boys off the streets and gave them a home. Even though Saint John Bosco has passed away, his spirit will always be in those who serve the poor. He is truly a perfect model for us. It is sometimes easy to forget about the poor and abandoned. This event woke me up and energized me to work for the poor and follow Don Bosco. We have to "See Don Bosco and Be Don Bosco". Let's try to end world poverty by 2015.

We ended the day by

Delano Perera is a third year student at St. John Bosco High School, Bellflower, CA.

