



Salesian Youth Movement

by Fr Michael Pace, sdb



The tension between a 'maintenance' and a 'mission' Church is written into our Salesian DNA. Don Bosco's pedagogy built on sacramental pillars, our devotion to the Pope, and our trust in Mary Help of Christians make us 'at home' in a maintenance church, while our youth-centred 'da mihi animas' urges us to be cutting-edge in facilitating the encounter between youth and Christ.



This tension finds healthy resolution in the Salesian Youth Movement (SYM). More than any one 'work' ever could, the SYM reflects a church that is harmoniously 'maintenance and mission'. This is the kind of church the young need to experience when they come and see the Salesians.

In Toronto, for example, we have only one Salesian work: St. Benedict Parish. It is a fine work, but a *come and see* limited to it would be incomplete because it cannot adequately express the scope of the Salesian mission carried out in Toronto. The Salesian mission passes through the work, but is not limited to it. On the other hand, when we invite the young to come and see expressions of the SYM, they experience a vast network of evangelization efforts