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Fr Filiberto González Plasencia, sdb
General Councillor for SC

Dear friends,

"Nobody trod yesterday, nor treads today, nor will tread tomorrow the same path that I am treading now. God ensures that a new ray of sunshine and a virgin path lies ahead for each of us" (León Felipe).

We each have our story to tell if we wish to: the story of our life, our particular calling, a story of the lights we have received and the road we have taken.

Our story is our own unique one because it is a response to a personal call. Contrary to the pragmatic view of things, it is not woven of simple facts, free or paid for. It is woven of: important silences where we listened in all humility; our openness to dialogue and understanding; the risky decisions we have taken in order to move on. These are what set us on the road and measure the extent of our sharing. We will usually understand only at the end what our calling and response was, what the road and its point of arrival really are - and not always everything even then. Such was the case for Don Bosco when at the end of his life, old and ill, he said: "Now I understand; it is She who has achieved everything".

The theme running through the Magazine this year is life as a vocation. It is a pleasure to be able to present you with these testimonies of religious, priests, and lay people. They are simple testimonies of people who may be on in years, or may yet be young, men and women, responding to the call they have received in one or other part of the world where they were sought out.

The common factor in them all is a generous and unconditional commitment, cheerfulness, a desire to share their passion for God and for the very poor. God and the poor have become their call, their response and the meaning of their lives. You will also discover the testimony of those who give their life fully to the end: until their health is spent and the seed buried in the ground. They are alive in those who receive them and they live on beyond those who immediately know them.

All these people know that they are not alone and cannot remain alone. They are joined by people who love Don Bosco and his plans for the young, people who in various ways and means respond to their own calling to help poor young people.

We are offering you the Magazine this year not just with the intention of showing you ways to contribute or respond but also as a way of saying thank you for the vocation that you have so generously joined with ours.

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