



40 of the Salesian Constitutions as its basic criterion: "a home that welcomes, parish that evangelises, school that prepares for life, and a playground where friends can meet and enjoy themselves".

The UPS is a **'home that welcomes'**, where people study in a spirit of friendship and solidarity, and are certain to find someone they can count on. The University has a Pastoral Team, a volunteer group which is especially helpful for students with difficulties typical for someone arriving in a country for the first time, barely knowing the language or finding themselves in an academic structure with quite different requirements from high school. This kind of welcome is experienced, for example, on the day that graduating students wel-

come the 'newbies' and show them around the university.

The UPS is also a **'parish'** which evangelises through its care and development of personal spirituality and offers communal services such as daily Mass, confessions, monthly retreats, opportunities for deepening faith or accepting a lay calling such as that of the Salesian Cooperator. Then there are particular experiences such as the traditional Lenten Wednesday services.

The UPS is also a **'playground'** for cultivating friendship in a happy spirit through moments of celebration like the 'Meeting of Peoples', or fellowship festivities for the feasts of Don Bosco and Mary Help of Christians, or Christmas preparation, or hiking trips

in and around Rome, curriculum days.

And above all, the UPS is a **'school that prepares them for life'**, its specific function. It does this through the variety and seriousness of its formation, its attention to scientific and cultural progress and instances which give life meaning. It is inspired by an all-round humanism which fosters eagerness in students and puts them at the heart of its intellectual and research efforts.

So the UPS aims clearly at being, and is, Don Bosco's University not only for youth, but is youthful in its approach, where the human being comes first and above everything else. This is no mere slogan, but an intent, a willingness and – we believe – also a reality that supports and becomes the atmosphere of its university education. 

