



chosen, then developed according to its different aspects: personal or human point of view, point of view of meaning or values, religious point of view. There are varied approaches: activities and small groups, sharing ideas around a story, wide games, vigil, celebration...

Everyday in the courtyard or during lunch time the Salesians and Sisters mingle as part of the life of the school: they are closer to the young people, share their games, their questions, their problems. Many question the meaning of their lives but without knowing who to talk to about it. It becomes an incredible opportunity for dialogue. The God question is never far away, and the 'missionaries' are not slow to raise it. What place does the 'Other' have in my life? Why do we have talents if we don't share them? How do we find signs of God in our lives? If they are not yet ready for a Eucharistic celebration, celebration can take other strong symbolic forms: sharing, forgiveness, solidarity...

## Life, faith, every topic is tackled

The leaders try to loosen the tongues of the young people, and adults as well. During the exchanges, once confidence has been established, the question of vocation comes up, and often enough a youngster will pose a personal question: "What does one have to do to become a religious?" Then there are informal moments, personal projects to be expressed: "Well, I'd like to be a specialist teacher for the handicapped, like my mum". And then there are comments about the Religious who run the event: "They were great! We thought they'd all be oldies like in the parish!"

One Principal told us: "As Principal, I appreciate this formidable work by the Salesians, and thank them very much. I was able to see our students differently: some who were timid shone out, others who seemed more

normally boisterous showed wisdom... to put it bluntly, I was surprised. The adults too were great, taking part in the games and working in with the mission, each in his or her own way, either by helping the students in their activities, or helping out with the logistics. Finally, speaking personally, I was able to talk very freely about God and the youngsters' faith with the Salesians: it has been personally enriching".

In many schools, the 'mission' has given a boost to the pastoral plan, adults have got going again, relationships between them and the kids has improved, the climate has changed. Each one comes to understand better what Salesian pastoral leadership is all about, the reference to Don Bosco is clearer, and is owned once again.

We are now preparing for the eighth year of this mission. It will be in Alsace, at a technical school.

