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Newsletter no. 39, January 2013

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In other news

WYD RIO 2103



Request from the joint YM and SC Commission at national level in Brazil - Could you please include this banner (and its link to their site at www.mjs.org.br) in your local Salesian websites.

REPEAT OF ETHNIQUE FESTIVAL, INDIA



After the success of the first "Ethnique" Festival, it was repeated this year with a range of culture, music and traditions of the young Mising ethnic



Animation - Letter from Fr Filiberto

My dear confreres and friends of SC,

Greetings for this most Salesian of months and

especially for the Feasts of St Francis de Sales and St John Bosco. With these two Feasts in mind, I present you with some invitations:

This 24th January the Pope will give the Church his message for World Communications Day, bearing the title: "Social Networks: Portals of Truth and Faith; new spaces for Evangelisation". For the past four years I have invited you to join with the Church, and as Church in study, reflection and application of the theme offered by the Pope on these occasions. I repeat the invitation and ask you to extend it to our houses of formation as well as those of the Salesian Sisters so that the World Communications Day yearly celebration becomes part of our calendar of events. Our Department and the Salesian Sisters' SC Sector has a combined celebration at the UPS each year bringing together formators and formandi.

The second invitation refers to 2015, and is about music painting, sculpture... in love and gratitude to inculturate Don Bosco's charism in each province. It is also about a Hymn to Don Bosco. The invitation to compose a hymn of high quality in musical, poetical terms, and for its quality of interpretation, was already made last year. How each province goes about this is up to them, but we suggest that the contents of the lyrics cover some of the following ideas at least: his passion for God and the salvation of the young; the extension and inculturation of the Salesian charism around the world; the love and gratitude felt by his children. The Provincial stage of this is to conclude in August 2013 (16th), and the various efforts will

group. The event took place from 4-7 January 2013 in the extensive buildings at “Don Bosco-Life Plus”.

The Festival opened on the afternoon of 4 January, with Mr J. Taku, a local official, as guest of honour. In his opening address Fr Thomas Kalapurackal, sdb, the Rector and Festival promoter, indicated how all cultural and ethnic differences are God's gift to humankind and that it is by seeing the worth of such differences that we build up the individual and the community.

Keeping the same setup as the earlier event, the Festival directly involved young Misings who attend the informal education program known as I-Card or the “Young Misings Association”, in total around 200 youngsters, mostly older youth who have left school but who do not as yet fully fit into the community. It was they who looked after all the preparation and execution of the Festival, from setting up areas, to lighting, making and selling craft items, performances, and preparing materials on local cuisine.

A novelty this time was the involvement of the “Rhythm of Dance” Dance school, which performed to public applause on 6 January. Other special attractions were the many stage scenes presented by the young Misings, who presented traditional stories from their culture and the various rituals that mark out community life. The Festival's aim, in fact, as well as presenting Mising culture for outside visitors, was to remind tribal youth themselves of the importance of belonging to a community. “We are proud to be Misings and are happy to show our rich culture, customs and rituals to the people” said a student, Rakesh Kuli.

The Ethnique Festival, which takes place in the first week of January each year, has brought much agreement amongst people and, while the basic structure remains the same “new ideas are welcome”, says Fr Kalapurackal. Public interest in what was on show was evident and many donations, in money and in kind, made the Festival possible.

A professor from JB college, Mrs. Nazrine Shamim Ahnmed, said: “It is an awesome festival where we come to learn about the Mising community. But as things are, there is need for more advertisement, so that the general public will be aware such a beautiful celebration.” “We have planted a seed. We are going to see it grow - says Fr. Thomas Kalapurackal - With the type of media attention and public support which has begun to show up, Ethnique is a sure bet. For the marginalized young, it is a dream come true”.

then be circulated after that date throughout the provinces in view of selecting one at regional level by 31 January 2014. From then until 16 August 2014 a final hymn will be chosen from amongst them for official use in 2015 around the world and especially for 16 August 2015.

The Department will animate and coordinate the various stages in collaboration with the Provincial SC Delegates and national and regional SC Delegates where these exist.

The realisation of a painting or sculpture, on the other hand, to commemorate the Bicentenary of Don Bosco's birth, again in view of selecting one in particular can follow a similar pattern: 16 August 2014 and 16 August 2015 for display in various strategic places around the world. Again, how this is handled should depend on Provinces, but the end result is to be shared with high resolution photos around the Salesian world as part of the artistic patrimony of the Congregation. Both creations (painting and sculpture) should follow a process that presents Salesians, SF, young people in the Province with: the spiritual foundation, vocational and pastoral fidelity, ecclesial and social visibility of Don Bosco and the Salesian charism. It fits within the framework of a vocational culture and the evangelisation and education of the young, especially the poorest among them.

So, my good Delegates, let us begin the year by working closely with other sectors, and by putting into practice for the main areas for organising Social Communications in each Province. Greetings from all the members of the SC Team and Department here. Have a happy celebration of the Salesian Feasts.

In Don Bosco,

Fr Filiberto González, Councillor for SC

Information: Technology behind the Spirituality Days



The 31st Salesian Family Spirituality Days have concluded as a success and to the satisfaction

of the organisers and especially all those who took part. This legacy of reflection, study, discussion

Peru - Special programs on Don Bosco on TV JN19



A strategic alliance between the Salesian Social Communication Centre and Peruvian TV broadcaster JN19 has resulted in a number of special transmissions on Don Bosco, beginning from this month, aimed at fostering awareness of his history and at spreading the Salesian charism around the world. This is particularly in view of the bicentenary of Don Bosco's birth.

The first special program is “Don Bosco, Saint of the young”, to be aired throughout January on Sundays at 9 p.m. And repeated on Monday evenings at 10 p.m. (Peru time). The Peruvian broadcasting team has shot a number of scenes in the Salesian Formation House and at Rosenthal de la Puente institute at Magdalena del Mar, involving Salesian post-novice José Luis Sánchez as conductor.

Another program, already scheduled since October last, is “Salesians in the world” and presents a number of documentaries from Salesian producers such as Missioni Don Bosco (Italy) and Productora Salesiana TVP (Perù). Thanks to this joint effort, Salesians in Peru now have a TV 'window' on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Another program is “Paths of Light”, with Fr Santo Dal Ben, Provincial of Peru, aired immediately after Mass at 6 p.m. From the 15th of each month until the end of the month.

This project began in October 2012, and programming production is managed by Kelly Medina from JN19 and Abel Camesasca, from Productora Salesiana TVP.

The programs can be seen [live on JN19](#), either on internet or direct, keeping in mind Peruvian time.

Tanzania - Good Salesians and upright citizens in a digital world

and shared involvement is all available on a website set up for the purpose.

For some years now the practice has developed and consolidated of gathering the materials being offered during this Salesian Family event and sharing them in real time.

At the same time as the Days began a section in [sdb.org](#) was opened – a website in its own right – which made all of these materials available as they were offered, especially the addresses, the prayer and liturgy booklet, photos, original audio track of the addresses, the summary video for each day and some other highlights such as the Rector Major's Good Nights.

This was all possible thanks to teamwork involving the organising group for the Spirituality Days, the Social Communications Department and Missioni Don Bosco.

This media support has two aims:

The first is to encourage an active involvement by participants. Through direct television technology the work in the hall is vastly more active; video summaries of the day come together easily and are projected each morning as work begins in the hall, and these help to focus people's attention on the theme; all this comes together finally in a complete video of the entire event.

The second aim is to broaden participation beyond the walls of the Salesianum and involve people at home in the same process of understanding and reflection which develops around the Strenna which the Rector Major hands over to the Salesian Family. Vital to this second aim is the patient work of translation that goes on for all the main addresses in various languages.

[The Spirituality Days website](#) -which will be updated with the latest material over the next day or two-will be left available for a number of weeks and then will 'migrate' to a CD which will be distributed, along with the final video to all the houses of the Salesians and Salesian Sisters.

Those promoting this effort hope that the resources made available will be made good use of at local level by individuals in the Salesian Family as well as by communities and local and regional consultative bodies. The materials can be used for reading, reflection and deeper study.



In the belief that every Salesian must be a good communicator, and that today's media and rapidly advancing communications technology are gifts which enhance communication when used wisely, 40 post-novices hailing from East Africa Province (AFE), Zambia Vice Province (ZMB), Southern Africa Vice Province (AFM) Sri Lanka Vice Province (LKC) and Guwahati Province, India (ING) took part in an intense seminar of reflection, theory and practice regarding the digital continent from 27 December 2012 to 3 January 2013.

The Seminar, led by experts in the field from the AFE Province's communications centre at DBYES-BEAMS, and from the Social Communications Department, Rome, engaged the young Salesians and their formators in a profound process of reflection on the impact of new media on their lives as consecrated Salesian Religious, educators and evangelisers, as well as in exploration of practical matters such as the production of newsletters, creating a web page, ways of evangelising through communications activities, especially through drama, music and other arts, and appropriate use of 'gadgets', and how to make best use of the various Congregational and Provincial websites and other media, as well as contributing to them. The seminar also covered areas such as ethics in the digital world, spirituality in this context, and awareness of how our habits of mind are profoundly altered by the tools we use.

In addition to the reflection process, a kind of 'scrutinium digitalis', the student body also drew up a draft communications policy for the community which they have submitted to the Council of the Community. The policy is based on the SSCS or Salesian Social Communications System, a document which was explored in depth at the seminar and offered to the students as their guiding principle for current and future action in the communications field.

From you

Formation: Theology & Communication no. 2

Language matters. There is a difference between theology of communication and communication theology. A prominent commentator in this area of communication and its relation to theology (or vice versa) is Franz-Josef Eilers SVD. He is decidedly against the term 'theology of communication', which he says sounds like "an initiative to 'baptize' the Mass Media and Mass communication to bring them into the flock of Christian Faith".

We need to clear the ground a little and at least know what it is we are talking about.

By way of a summary of writings on communication and theology over recent years commissioned by the World Association for Christian Communication (WACCS), Paul Soukup SJ explores the various ways in which 'theology' and 'communication' can come together:

- theology of communication: theological reflection on communication
- communicative theology: encounter with God from a human communications perspective
- communication theology: communications as a hermeneutical principle for theology
- theological communication: communicating theological content, perhaps as in evangelisation

He goes on to say that it might be best, in the end, to just use a simple conjunctive theology and communication. He adds that whereas in the past, theology was the queen of sciences (and we know that philosophy was regarded as the handmaid to that), today's academic world would not take that view. Instead communications and media play the role of mediation in general, including between our life experience and our act of believing; they are better known and appreciated in academic terms today, so it is at least timely and sensible to see communications as a mediator in our *Fides quaerens intellectum* (theological) efforts today.

Of the theology and communications approaches listed above, only 'communication theology' seems to suggest that communication may have intrinsic theological import. It is one thing to recommend various communications processes as useful for theological reflection, or to reflect in theological terms on these processes, but it is quite another to see these processes or some of them at least, as providing insight into our understanding of God.

The original reality of communication, then, is



I thought that it may be possible to place the attached picture to have people send their birthday wished to Fr Arthur Lenti who turns 90 on 31 January 2013!

Here is a link that they can post their greetings to:

[Don Bosco Hall](#)

or

[Facebook](#)

Fr John Roche,
Don Bosco Hall, Berkeley USA

Forward to a friend

Know someone who might be interested in this email? Why not forward it to them.

Meetings

BRAZIL: animation visit to 6 Provinces: 16 Feb - 9 March

ROME: Pisana-Salesianum, 11-14 April 2013, the SC

World Advisory Council (aka Consulta).

ROME: UPS, 3-4 May 2013 Formators and formandi, initial formation Italy for study of World Communications Day Message 2013.

ROME: Pisana-Salesianum, 9-12 May 2012, all SC Delegates Europe.

ROME: Pisana 3-6 October, European Publishers

THAILAND: 21-24 October 2013 all SC Delegates EAO (precise location t.b.a).

theological because, in the first instance, it is an action that can be applied to God, which is what we do.

Production: Argentina, Bicentenary Project



The Bicentenary of the birth of the Father, Teacher and Friend of youth has been cause for a wide range of initiatives, including in Argentina. In 2012 the Bicentenary Project guided by the National Salesian Communications Team (ENCOS) was set in motion. For 2013 there will be material and resources for formation to Salesian pedagogy made available since this is the theme specified by Strenna 2013, one of the stages as we head towards the Bicentenary in 2015.

The proposal will follow the course laid down in 2012. The first year saw resources and materials for individuals, communities and Salesian works, updated weekly on the national Salesian website for Argentina - www.donbosco.org.ar - focused on an historical appreciation of Don Bosco.

Last year two videos were prepared presenting the essential elements of Don Bosco's history, and the Salesian Formation School for Argentina was put in place. It is a two year course, and offers Salesian formation to more than 600 Salesians, Salesian Sisters and laity in 60 plus works throughout the country.

For 2013 new modules are being prepared on Community Formation in Salesian Pedagogy under the title of "Education is a thing of the heart", and a series of videos which begin with Don Bosco's history and provide information for understanding the context of his activity and educational choices.

All materials produced until now as part of this Project and published by the provinces in Argentina are available in www.pedagogiadedonbosco.com.ar

CS News comes from the

Social Communications Department

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