

**OPENING MESSAGE FOR THE YEAR  
CELEBRATING THE BICENTENARY  
OF DON BOSCO'S BIRTH (1815-2015)**

**Ángel Fernández Artime, sdb**

**Rector Major**

199 years ago, on 16th August, 1815, a child came into the world, John Melchior Bosco, the son of humble peasant folk.

This year, as we begin the Bicentenary of this historical event, we thank God profoundly for what he did through his intervention in history, in the real history of these hills that make up the Becchi. In one of the articles of the Salesian Constitutions, it says that "With a feeling of humble gratitude, we believe that the Society of St Francis de Sales came into being not merely as a human venture but by the initiative of God... Through the motherly intervention of Mary

the Holy Spirit raised up St John Bosco to contribute to the salvation of youth. The Spirit formed within him the heart of a father and teacher, capable of total self-giving ..., The Church has acknowledged God's hand in this, especially by approving our Constitutions and proclaiming our Founder a saint."



The Salesian charism is the gift which God, through Don Bosco, has given the Church and the world. It was formed over time, from Mama Margaret's knees to friendship with good teachers of life and especially through everyday life in the company of young people. Today we find ourselves as the Salesian Family of Don Bosco, a Salesian Religious Family, along with many civic and Church authorities, friends of Don Bosco, and young people, amidst these very same hills where he was born, declaring the beginning of celebrations for the Bicentenary of his birth. After three years of preparation and one of celebration, the point of arrival will be next

August 16, 2015 when it will be 200 years since he came into the Church and the world for the good of young people.

The Bicentenary of St John Bosco's birth is a jubilee year, a 'year of Grace' which we would like to experience within the Salesian Family as deep gratitude to the Lord, humbly but with great joy, since it is the Lord who has blessed this beautiful spiritual and apostolic movement founded by Don Bosco under the guidance of the Help of Christians. It is a jubilee year for the more than thirty groups who make up this great family, and for many others who, inspired by Don Bosco, his charism, his mission and spirituality, are hoping to gain recognition as members of this family.

It is a jubilee year for the entire Salesian Movement which in one way or another makes reference to Don Bosco in their initiatives, activities, proposals, and who share his spirituality and efforts for the good of the young, especially those who are most in need. For all of us throughout the Salesian world this Bicentenary aims at being not just a time of simple celebration but a valuable opportunity offered us to look back with gratitude, to look at the present with confidence, and to dream of the future of the Salesian Family's evangelizing and educational mission with the energy and novelty of the Gospel. It is an opportunity for courage and a prophetic outlook, allowing ourselves to be led by the Spirit who will always lead us to the newness of God.

We believe this Bicentenary will be an opportunity for a true pastoral and spiritual renewal in our Family...

**"Give me souls and take away the rest,' Don Bosco**



*Jambo you(th) is a weekly News letter aimed at Helping young people in Molding their Daily Lives in Christ to Become*  
**GOOD CHRSTJANS AND RESPONSJBLE CJTJZENS**



**News:** Youth Sports day at Don Bosco Utume is coming up soon (October 2014)

**Inspirational:** It is never over until it's over, Beatrice, SHGSS

: Challenges are a blessing, Sr. Shanty, MSMHC.

: Life is a Vocation, Judith, Nzaikoni

: The value of silence in the life of a Christian, Hamweete SDB

: Bicontary Message, Don Angelo, Rector Major, SDB.

**Entertainment:** Did you Know and Cartoon of the Week

**IT IS NEVER OVER UNTIL IT'S OVER**  
**Beatrice Kathuku. State House Girls Secondary School, Nairobi.**



God is never done with you until you are pronounced dead on this earth. So under all circumstances whether tough or smooth know that there is a pillar to cling to. God does not disappoint and in his hands rests our lives. St Augustine said, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in God." When Jesus said on the cross, 'its finished' it meant that our lives were sorted that we only have to walk with him and our ways will be blessed. When you make God's business your business, he will make yours his too. Above all serve the Lord with all your heart, mind and soul. Amen.

**CHALLENGES ARE A BLESSING**

**Sr. Shanty Antony, Missionary to South Sudan.**

"Who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when he appears? for he is like a refiner's fire and puller's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier or silver and he will purify the priest, the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver that they may offer to the Lord offering in righteousness (Malachi 3: 2-3)

In Europe a man went in to a gold smith's shop and found some items he wished to buy. The entire time he was inside the shop but he never saw the shop keeper. In order to finalize his purchases he began to look for the proprietor. As he noticed in the rear of the shop, an

open door that led outside. As he stood in the door way he saw the shop keeper sitting over a fire upon which sat a huge pot. He would not take his eyes off the simmering pot even though the interested customer tried to speak to him about buying some of his dais. The customer asked if he could not leave what he was doing for a short while to come inside and take care of the transaction. However the refiner said "no". He stated that he could not leave the metal in the pot not even for one minute explaining it this way. It is very important that the metal which is gold does not harden until all the impurities are out of it. I intend for it to be pure gold. If the fire goes too hot it could ruin it and if the fire gets too cool the gold could harden with impurities still in it. He explained that he could not leave it nor take his eyes off it at all. He would need to sit over it until it was completely finished. The customer asked when that would be. And the refiner replied "I will know it is finished when I can look in the metal and see my reflections very clearly". To me this is such a beautiful story because it lets me know that God is always guarding my life and watching over the trials that come on my way to make sure they do not become too intense. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10: 13, Paul says that God will never allow more to come upon than we can bear. But with every temptation he will also provide a way out. Let us trust him, for he is always with us in our trials.



**NB:** Send your comments or feedback to the editors, [jamboyouth@gmail.com](mailto:jamboyouth@gmail.com)

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## THE VALUE OF SILENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN,

**Dr Alphoncius Hamweete, SDB, Nairobi**

We are living in a world where a lot of people are afraid of silence. Silence seemingly has become the greatest enemy of mankind. A lot of people have no time set aside for themselves, they avoid sacred places like churches, bedrooms are noisy and even when they are at church, they are only present in bodies but their minds and spirits are far off. They are destructing themselves with loud music or by spending a lot of hours sitting behind phones or computers chatting on social networks in the name of avoiding loneliness and boredom. They have replaced real life relationships with virtual relationships. They are promoting a busy culture which prevents them from looking deep inside themselves and because of this they have become strangers to themselves.

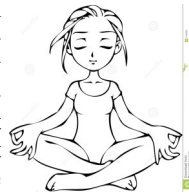


Silence is one simple path that leads us towards God. This same path takes us to the centre of who we really are. With silence we come to learn the state of our soul. Silence may provide answers to difficult questions of our lives. If we want to be deeply connected with God and deeply connected with ourselves, we need to have moments of silence to reflect upon our lives by listening to ourselves, reading scriptures and re-examining our lives.

The goal of silence is to reach the purity of heart. We fear silence because we are scared to discover that we don't have a pure heart. Sometimes we are afraid of the pain which can be found in silence which is the pain to discover our emotional wounds. If we do not have a pure heart, we cannot see God. We need moments of silence to re-examine our actions, correct our ways of life and re-focus on what is essential in life.



Silence provides us with inner security, inner spiritual balance and gives us confidence to face our day to day life challenges. Jesus Christ is the master of silence. He used to withdraw himself from the crowd and go to lonely places. We see Him before beginning his public ministry he was led into the wilderness by the spirit where he stayed alone for forty days and forty nights, also before making major decisions for example of calling his apostles he went to a lonely place to meet God the Father in silence and after his ministry he had occasions of withdrawing himself from the busy schedule going to lonely places. Too much noisy can suck our energy and make us scattered, emotionally tensed and disoriented in life. According to the experts of interior life, they say a person needs two moments of silence in a day. It is necessary to spend at least 15 minutes of silence after waking up in the morning and at night before sleeping.



*"I've begun to realize that you can listen to silence and learn from it. It has a quality and a dimension all its own."*

— **Chaim Potok, The Chosen**

⇒ 8% of people have an extra rib

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ⇒ 11% of people are left handed.
- ⇒ August has the highest percentage of births
- ⇒ Unless food is mixed with saliva you can't taste it
- ⇒ The average person falls asleep in 7 minutes
- ⇒ Most lipsticks contain fish scales
- ⇒ Birds need gravity to swallow
- ⇒ The longest recorded flight of a chicken was 13 seconds
- ⇒ 85% of plant life is found in the ocean

## LIFE IS A VOCATION Judith Mutheu, Nzaikoni, Nairobi

I found one of the readings of this month very challenging to both us the young people and to everyone. The gospel came from Luke 5:1-11, which reflects Jesus' calling of the first disciples.

Reflecting on the gospel passage we can ask ourselves the question, 'Why did Jesus perform the miracle of the great catch of fish? It is obvious and with no doubt that the great crowd of people who had pressed upon Jesus had something to do with this miracle. They were very hungry for God and were eager to hear his word. Jesus wanted to use this occasion to teach his disciples an important lesson. Although, Simon was worried from a night of fruitless toil, he nonetheless pressed upon Jesus for his word of command. At your word I will let down the nets. When we meet with disappointment and failure, do we press upon the Lord, like Simon to hear his word and to receive his command? This incident tells us an important truth about how God works in and through us for his glory. God expects of us greater things than we can do by ourselves.

When we co-operate with God in his works, we accomplish far beyond what we can do on our own. When God's word is spoken his kingdom is revealed and his power is released. When people respond to God's word with faith and obedience they are changed and made a new creation in Christ (2 Cor 5:17)



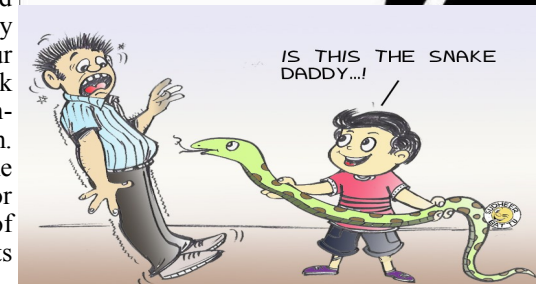
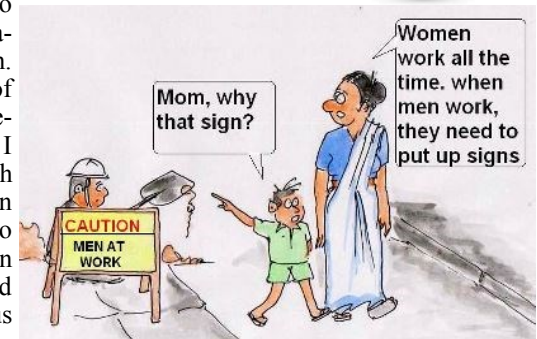
God chooses ordinary people like you and me as his ambassadors and He uses the ordinary circumstances of our daily lives and work situations to draw others into his kingdom. Jesus speaks the same

message to us today. We will catch people for the kingdom of God if we allow the light of Jesus Christ to shine through us. God wants

others to be the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak and witness to the joy of the gospel. Paul the Apostle says, "thanks be to God who in Christ Jesus always leads us in triumph and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. 'For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.'" (2 Cor 2:15)

## CARTOON OF THE WEEK

*"An honourable laughter is Therapeutically sweet.."*



All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them. ~Walt Disney

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Jambo You(th) 2014

Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm. ~Winston Churchill

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