

DON BOSCO

EASTERN AFRICA

SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO PUBLICATION

SALESIAN FAMILY BULLETIN
3RD QUARTER, NOVEMBER 2013



Rio

2013

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From the EDITOR

Is the value of human life diminishing...?

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4

Death is everywhere, it is all around us especially in the past months it was at our doorsteps. Those in Kenya were shocked and affected by the Westgate terrorist attack, we lost people we knew for no reason at all, those who watched the CCTV footages saw the ruthless shooting of innocent people, women and children. As someone wrote in the social media, “Politicians divide us, terrorists unite us” became so true. The hundreds of people who contributed, who lined up for donating blood for the victims irrespective of one’s background or any other affiliation was truly an experience to be cherished. Last month we heard the story of 300 immigrants who drowned in the sea on their way to Europe near the Italian Island of Lampedusa, around 90 people mostly women and children died in the Niger desert trying to escape to Europe looking for a better life, others in Iraq due to a series of bombs explosions, and the lists go on. With all these one can ask, have we lost the value of human life? Are we safe anywhere?

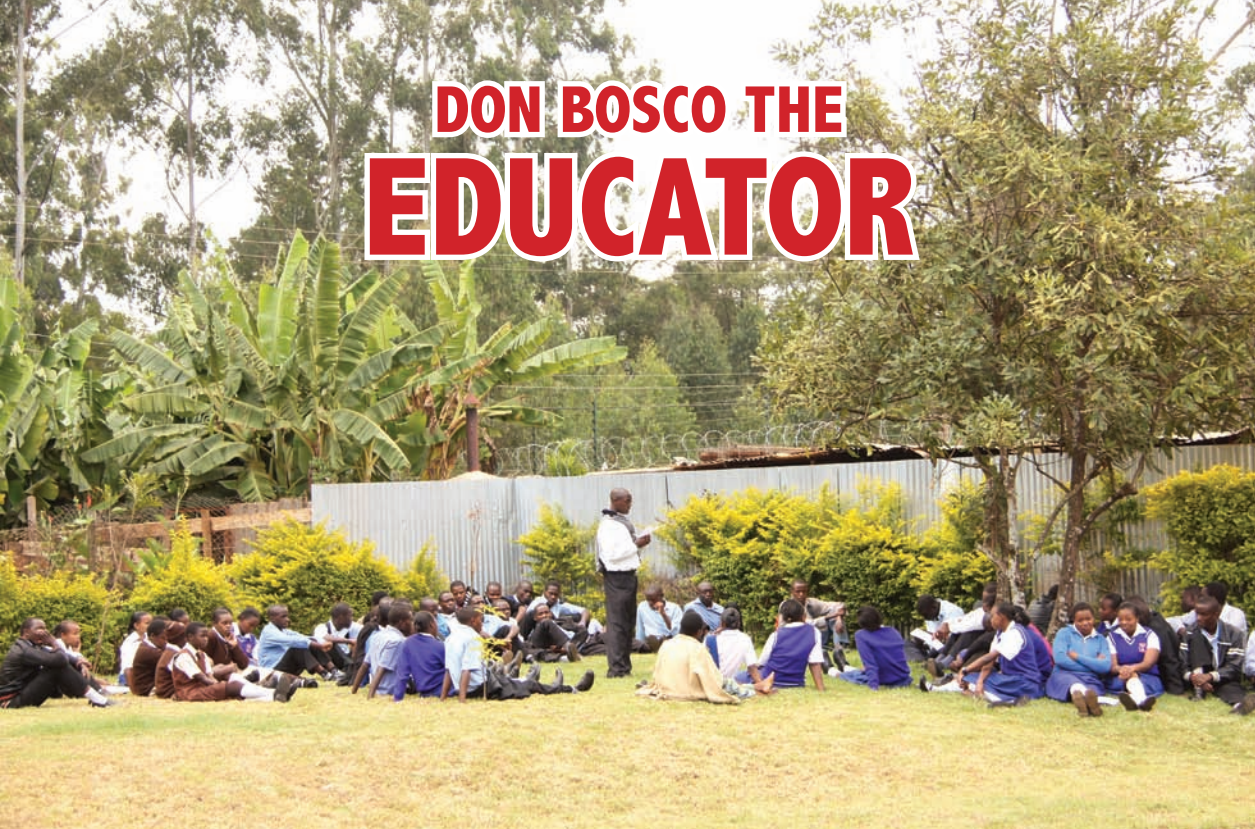
Last month the Salesians of Eastern Africa lost a heroic missionary Fr. Patrick Soreng. He was committed to his mission. He came back to Sudan after treatment even though he was still not well. He was truly a Salesian and it was demonstrated by those who knew him well: “Exceptional in many ways, always cheerful”, “Had all the Salesian qualities of head and heart”, “Polite, calm, cordial, helpful, receptive, respectful, self-sacrificing, interested in things of the community, happy in his vocation, abilities in music, sports, interested in youth work.” Yes he was truly a treasure, now he is interceding for the Salesian mission in Eastern Africa, especially for the people of Sudan.

This issue of the Salesian Bulletin (Don Bosco Eastern Africa) has a new format. The intention is to reach many more people outside the Salesian circle. And it is my hope that as Don Bosco intended it will project the image of the Salesian missions to the outside world. In it there is the message of the Rector Major which he usually writes for the Salesian bulletin and a good coverage of the World Youth Day in Rio written by our own Ben Agunga who was there with a small delegation of youth. The message of the Pope to the Youth at the closing day of the WYD too is given in full. Then there is the news from the Salesian mission (SDB and FMA) in Eastern Africa.

The year is coming to a close and it is time for stock taking. It calls all of us to stand back and see where am I heading in my journey?

Sebastian Koladiyil

DON BOSCO THE EDUCATOR



PASCUAL CHÁVEZ VILLANUEVA

DON BOSCO SAYS
**ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS I WAS
ASKED ...**

The first House in France

“Several times I was prompted to express some thoughts around the so-called Preventive System, that we were wont to use in our homes.”

It wasn't easy to translate into words the educational experience that I was living for 36 years. I seemed to be unable to express what is essential. There are experiences that mark our lives, but one cannot always put it on paper. Yet I felt an urgent need to do so.

Our Congregation, which was approved by the Church a few years earlier (April 3rd, 1874) was developing as the mustard seed mentioned by Jesus. There was the first missionary expedition (November 11th, 1875); and another was being prepared, and

then yet another. Already in November 1875 two priests, a cleric and a Salesian Brother had started in Nice a modest educational activity with the oratory and a boarding school for craftsmen and students: the St. Peter's Patronage. Nice, was a strip of land nestled in a beautiful landscape that from March 1860 was transferred by Cavour to France in the Treaty of Turin.

“The short treatise on the preventive system” is born

Liked because it spoke the language of young people. I approached the young universe as I used to do among young workers of Porta Palazzo or in dark prison cells in Turin or in dusty courtyards of Valdocco. I did not despise anything of what was a just and noble yearning of the youth. I tried to be faithful to God (the first dream was becoming a reality!) and the young people, without refusing anything that I considered useful and valid. I felt

solidarity with the young and the view to the future. How often I repeated to them, I wanted them to be happy *“in time and in eternity”*. The experience confirmed me more and more that courage is about daring to love, to know how to hope. I recommended to my Salesians: *“We need to know our times and how to adapt to them”*. Pedagogical flexibility and firm loyalty at the same time! When I insisted on fidelity that my Salesians had to bear witness, I certainly didn't demand that they copy me. I lived in a particular time and was influenced by a cultural form typical of the Nineteenth century. To copy me, would let me grow old gradually and reduce me to a ... museum piece that no one, out of respect, would dare touch! Do not copy, but revive! Dynamically, with fidelity to the present time! Fidelity to our mission on which both were vital meant going over what I had done as a Founder, and translating it into the present with nothing betrayed.

The three pillars of my educational system

The starting point and as a sure reference was **reason**. Not the cold

and anonymous imposition of a code. Dialogue with young people. Being aware of their anxieties, discerning their needs. The boy always in first place. I listened to him willingly and with sincere interest. I showed confidence in him. My educational method was that of true freedom. I was convinced that there could only be authentic education where there is liberty and respect for the person. And I suggested: *“You give free space to jump, run, cackle at will. Gymnastics, music, recitation, the theatre, the walks are very effective means to get discipline, help to morality and to health”*. I deliberately left out a confidence of incalculable value: *“For about 40 years dealing with the youth, I do not remember having used any punishment whatsoever”*.

The Preventive System did not impose anything; in exchange, I proposed a great deal. I offered a vision of a healthy integral humanism in which the boy was wholly included. My concern was to form consciences. I insisted: *“Allow yourself to be guided always by reason and not by passion”*. I was preparing young people for the challenges of life. I moved





them to the sense of duty, of work, of an honest profession. I offered reasons to live responsibly and with joy. As I wrote in the preface of the *Sacred History* I propose its sole purpose is to “*enlighten the mind to make good the heart*”. The experience convinced me that kids “*have a natural intelligence to know the good that is done to them personally, and are also given a sensitive heart easily open to recognition*”. My way of educating demanded much, but offered much more.

I had inherited from the family environment a faith simple and robust. **Religion** was the second column of my educational system. My relationship with God was that of a child. I was a priest very much in love with the Eucharist, punctual and fatherly in hearing the confessions of my kids and instilling in their hearts the assurance of forgiveness and of the divine embrace. In my continual contacts with them I tried to make “*good Christians and honest*

citizens”. I never got tired of holding up to them the example of the Holy Virgin as the Immaculate Conception and Help of Christians.

With the word ‘religion’ I did not mean an exercise of piety detached from life, but an expression of faith embodied in everyday life. Religion was “to make a beautiful suit for the Lord” with every young person, as had happened with Dominic Savio. And so the Preventive System was transformed into the pedagogy of youthful holiness.

It was not up to me to invent this educational method. Several saints and many educators had contributed. I was enriched by many without whom no one could boast an exclusive authorship. A group work which lasted for centuries. Having said that, for the sake of truth, I must also add that I have left my mark.

I want to touch on the third cornerstone of the Preventive System as I have lived it. I passed it on to my Salesians as sacred inheritance, almost

like a hallmark: **loving kindness**. Something that I had not invented myself, but which I made my own. Typical of my way of educating. An unmistakable badge of my pedagogy. In this word I have hidden a style of love that identified the teacher with youth, to love the same things they love, to transform the educative relationship in a style of filial and fraternal presence, a friendly and desired presence and the educational environment within a “family”. Here was all the love that I had received from my holy mother, here gushed forth the family spirit from which arose the works that were called ‘houses’, here they breathed the love, trust, respect, the taste of being and working together as I was absorbed in my farming surroundings and the friendliness of sympathy, of optimism, of human warmth. A love which turned the educators into “*loving fathers*”.

In those scanty 9 pages on the Preventive System, if read carefully, you will find that the word “heart” or equivalent expression has been used 19 times! When I met my kids or wrote to them I used the words “*my dear children*”. In the Piedmontese dialect which I was using to make myself understood better, the word ‘children’ refers not only to a biological gift and not even translated as the synonym “boys”, but included a broader and comprehensive meaning: the spiritual paternity, which the Apostle Paul could boast about (Gal 4.19) and why I practically used to translate into material, physical care, bread, intellectual food, moral and religious support. When I spoke of love, I was referring to an educational presence. Authority did the serving, the experience became a life lesson and love turned

itself into gift, proposal and offering. Love became irreplaceable educational law. Whence came the familiarity with a taste of true paternal affection, with a homely scent. And here I like to remember what a French journalist had written in 1883 speaking of the climate that reigned at Valdocco. Maybe it was a bit exaggerated, but it described a concrete situation. The journalist from Pèlerin stated: “from one place to another you *go like a family*”. The guys I understood to be in flight; from simple recipients to enthusiastic protagonists. Many had remained at my side. I started to reread the dream I had when I was still a child. The mysterious phrase said by that majestic lady: “*In time, you will understand everything*” began to acquire a deeper and truer sense. The educational values in which I had always believed, held up. The proof was in my eyes: my spiritual children, those guys whom I had one day welcomed and loved in Valdocco were on the job, as head of prestigious printing companies, directors of renowned schools, intrepid missionaries in Argentina. I could state clearly: “*the Congregation has nothing to fear. He trained men* “. I saw the scene observed in many dreams: “*Those animals had become lambs ... Many lambs became shepherds who took care of bringing up more. The shepherd boys growing up in large numbers, split and went elsewhere to collect other strange animals and guide them into other folds*”.

With the grace of the Lord and the maternal assistance of the Help of Christians the pedagogy of love, fantasy of charity has triumphed and in all latitudes of the world has grown my inheritance: *Da mihi animas!*

DON BOSCO SAYS

PASCUAL CHÁVEZ VILLANUEVA

WHOEVER IS LOVED, GETS ALL, ESPECIALLY FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

Driving the cart ...

On a sweltering and stifling day I walked to Turin in the company of the most loyal Fr Rua and another Salesian, when all of a sudden my eyes lingered on a scene that filled my heart with deep sadness: a young boy, perhaps 12 years old, was attempting to drag a cart-load of bricks on the uneven, cobblestoned road. He was an apprentice bricklayer, thin and small who, unable to move a weight more than his strength could bear, was crying in despair. I pulled away from the Salesians and ran to that poor guy, one of many who, in Turin by then embellished with many beautiful buildings, grew under inhuman masters to the tune of beatings and curses. I was struck by those tears running down his face. I approached, smiling with a slight nod of friendship and helped him push that weight up to the building site. Everyone marveled to see there in that place a priest in a black cassock; the boy, however, understood that he could fly as well as he really wanted if I got beside him as a solidarity gesture of real help.

I like to remember this fact, one among many, because I consider it a symbol of my great love for young people. Love is not made of words, love speaks directly, straight to the heart. Of this I was certain: the path that leads to the heart is what convinces most of all and wipes away all resistance and possible doubt.



A memorable evening

I remember with emotion, as if it were today, the evening of January 26th, 1854. After the prayers I gathered in my scanty room 4 youths (between 16 and 20 years old) who were with me for some time. I was going to offer them *“a trial of practical exercise of charity towards their neighbour”*. I couldn't go too far. If I had told them my intention was to found a religious congregation I wouldn't have achieved the goal. It was a time in which, with a simple stroke of the pen, various groups of monks and nuns had been erased. It was more prudent to ask whether they wanted to stay with me to help me to work with young people. I followed the example of Jesus who to the first disciples had only said: Come and see. From that evening we called ourselves “Salesians” for the first time. And with a fixed gaze on St. Francis de Sales, the champion of the goodness and the gentleness of the Gospel, we started. When I was about to be ordained priest, 18 years before, I had chosen among the resolutions: *“The charity and sweetness of St. Francis de Sales guides me in everything”*. In my heart, that evening, the Salesian Congregation was born; it would be definitively approved only 20 years later! I expected a long and difficult journey, a real *Way of the Cross*, I assure you ... So much so that, years later, I confessed: *“If I had known before that the founding of a religious society would cost many sorrows, hardships, oppositions and contradictions, perhaps I wouldn't have had the courage to undertake the work”*.

A whole heart

“The practical exercise of charity” which I proposed to the Group was not pie in the sky. It was a testimony that I bore for many years. It wasn't a fixed “obsession” of mine. It was my intention for young people. Later, someone would have called it “pastoral charity”. The Preventive System was not simply the system of kindness, but “kindness built into a system”. This last sentence wasn't said by me; it was written by a Salesian whom I knew as a boy and who regularly went to confession in the last years of my life. The basis was the love of God revealed by Jesus. I loved the young people because I knew that God loved them. I was never indifferent to any of them; and hence I was studying the best ways to do good and get increasingly closer to the Lord. With the experience gained over many years I was convinced more and more that I couldn't stop at the boy that I had before me, but had to see in him the man of tomorrow. I had to work with a perspective of the future.

That's why I used to be prepared to make room for sacrifices in order to reach high and noble ideals; I wasn't content just to stretch out sufficiently, but to expect the best out of everyone. Also because I had an unshakeable confidence in his potential. And hope always supported me; that's why I was encouraging my collaborators: *“Perhaps for some it will seem that your labours and your sweats have been thrown to the winds. For now, perhaps it will be so, but it won't be forever, not even for those who seem to be more unruly. The traits of kindness, which you have used for them, remain imprinted in their minds and hearts. The time will come when the good seed will germinate, will show its flowers and will produce its fruit.”*

In the last years of my life I felt rewarded to see how I was able to form a ‘team’ of the Salesians, very different from each other, but united and tuned into the same educative passion. So, I was able to enhance the burning and restless enthusiasm of a Cagliero, the stainless fidelity of Don Rua, the affability of Francesia, the journalistic

vigour of a Bonetti, the disarming calm of an Alasonatti, the unshakeable loyalty of Buzzetti, the intellectual genius of a Cerruti, the enterprising spirit of a former partisan like Fagnano ... As years before I had been able to channel towards a new and unimaginable path of youthful holiness the ardent impetuosity of a Michael Magone, the candour of a Francis Besucco, the growing apostolic character of Dominic Savio. I was surrounded by young people who hadn't been afraid to show the fascinating and demanding road of Christian commitment, of honesty, of love for the work done "with noble precision", of the serene and contagious joy, of smiles and of the passion for life.

A personalised education

Although I worked with many young people, my teaching was never mass-produced, anonymous, generalised. It was always personalised. I used to use a special notebook: in it I put notes of the profile of each lad, his temperament, his reactions, some lack of light-heartedness, but of those who stay as alert like a prudent man, the reported progress in study and in conduct. I was using this notebook for a personal accompaniment of every lad. I used the same method to advise those who were in charge of teaching the catechism. It was the *Notebook of Experience*. In it, the catechists had to record the problems, the mistakes that took place at school, out and about, in the yard, anywhere. I recommended them to read every now and again the remarks made, the measures taken and the results obtained. It was a task to verify constantly the things that needed attention and continual presence. For this, in the *Short treatise on the Preventive System* I had defined the educator as "*an individual dedicated to his students, ready to tackle every problem, every effort to achieve its purpose, which is the civil, moral and scientific education of his students*".

I dreamed of the educator as a "supporter", one who 'stands beside', the young lad, who knows everyone and asks from each one to be known in return. Just like the *Good Shepherd*, one who knows his sheep and is known by them.





IT IS COOL IN THE FURNANCE

Don Bosco before his death had a vision for the rest of the world based on which he sent his sons abroad to go and spread the good news despite the fact that it was so tough in some areas.

Trying to recall his dream on the roses and the petals as he, himself narrated to us when he started his work which was entrusted to him by a lady whom many of us said is Our Lady Help of Christian, Don Bosco said there were so many people who were ready to follow him but as the time went on some lost hope on the way and found their way back. The most interesting part for me is the other part where he thought of stopping his journey. As soon as he was thinking of that he found some of his own sons come up and take up the challenge and that made his dream come true.

This may seem contradictory to some if you consider the heading above, but my main aim of writing this article to you is that I want to share some of my reflections which I have gathered during my holidays experience in the refugee camp at Kakuma. I can say that the experience for me was an enriching one since I came to be in touch

with the reality of life, considering my historical background whereby I have never been in any war or come in contact with any victim of any war or any other calamity but this time was really an eye opener for me, just as St. Francis of Assisi who took nature to be the open book for his life, so to Kakuma was an open encyclopedia for me. From it I could praise and thank the Lord for the good things done unto me.

Why have I chosen the title which seems to be different from my reflection, the title chosen is due to the climatical condition of the camp, despite the fact that the temperature is high the sons of Don Bosco are still going on with the work entrusted into their care by the congregation, I asked some of the refugees on how they felt being in the camp despite the fact that the temperature was too high which is beyond the human normal temperature? Some told me that for them the temperature is not a big issue if they compare to where they came from, though there at the camp the temperature seems to be high yet they are sure of seeing the next day by the help of God. They are not only sure of life but also sure that something will be on the fire for a day.

With these few reflections I came up with the conclusion that life is not what others make you live but how one goes about it. And this I compared to the three men in the Holy Scripture I mean; Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who were thrown in the furnace by the king thinking that they will perish but to his surprise they survived to the extent of singing and praising the creator which later changed the life of King Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 3:1-100). The same is true for these people who will one day go back to their country and change the situations in their respective mother lands.

***Felix Wagi.
Don Bosco Moshi.***



Wonderful

Sunday at Khartoum

1st September 2013 was a wonderful Sunday for the Salesian Parish of Kalakla Gubba in Khartoum.

We had a colourful celebration of the Eucharist with H.L Bp Rudolf Deng Majak of Wau in one of our refugee centres in the outskirts of Khartoum. This centre is a refugee settlement of about 2850 people living in 460 make shift tents made of sack cloths and hardboard boxes. There are also few tarpaulin tents in the camp.

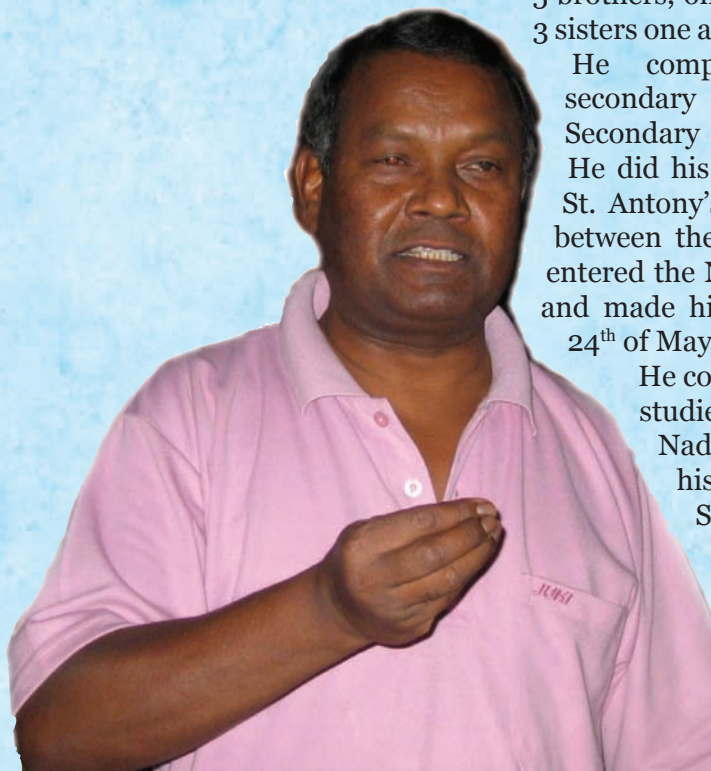
The Bishop is in Khartoum for the SCBC (Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference) and accepted to come and celebrate a Mass for our South Sudanese

settlement here. Most of the people here in this camp are from Western Bahrl Gazal state, hence they were overjoyed to see the bishop of their home country and state.

The Bishop was moved with the enthusiasm and active participation of the people in the Eucharistic celebration. He gave a vibrant and lively homily during the Mass and his message was well appreciated by the people with loud applause.



A Heroic Missionary goes Home to his father



him to heaven already. Death, we can say, was at home in Pat's family, out of 5 brothers, one passed away and out of 3 sisters one also is enjoying eternal life.

He completed his basic and secondary education at Kesramal Secondary School in August 1970. He did his pre-university studies at St. Antony's College, Shillong, India between the years 1976 to 1978. He entered the Novitiate in the year 1978 and made his first profession on the 24th of May 1979.

He completed his philosophical studies at Yercaud in Tamil Nadu, South India and his Bachelor's degree at St. Antony's College, Shillong, India. Fr. Pat was ordained a priest on the 31st of December, 1987.

Upon volunteering for the missions he was sent to Eastern Africa/

Sudan. He arrived at the St. Joseph's Vocational Training Centre in Khartoum at the end of 1991 and worked until he was transferred to St. Joseph's Parish in Kalakla as Asst. Parish Priest from 1997 up to 1998. Then he was sent to Wau community but he had to return to India for a knee operation.

Unfortunately, he developed some complications due to the operation and remained in Bombay, India. He spent the whole of 1999 in St. Dominic Savio community, Mumbai. He underwent

On 16th September (Monday) our confrere **Fr. Patrick Soreng SDB**, at the age of 61, breathed his last, a victim of a heart attack. May his soul rest in heaven's peace.

PAT was the usual name by which Fr. Patrick Soreng was known by everybody in the Sudan Delegation and in the communities he served.

Fr. Pat was born at Lakraberna in Orissa, central India on the 12th of February in the year 1952.

His father Joseph Soreng and his mother Balamdina Bilung preceded



4 operations and the right knee was badly damaged. He was even in a coma due to gangrene and was given the last sacrament; He spent 69 days in the hospital there.

Later Fr. Patrick joined the community of Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh in the Province of Mumbai from June 2002 till May 2004. During this time he was given the responsibility to look after the boys of the non-formal technical section. He taught the boys with great interest and was loved by them. As he returned to Kalakla in the year 2006 there he served as Assistant Parish Priest. But soon he returned to Kerala, India for a massage treatment during which he had a heart attack on the 3rd of April 2006.

On his return to Sudan he was put in-charge of the Aspirants in El-Obeid community from 2006 to 2007. From 2007 to 2010 he was appointed as the Superior of VTC Khartoum. 2010 to 2013 he was taken back to El-Obeid community as the Rector and the Principal of VTC community. In July 2013 he was transferred to Juba as the Principal of the Don Bosco School where he passed away.

His missionary and pastoral vocation was fulfilled when answering to the appeal for serving in Sudan. As soon as the call came he gave his name and shortly after that Pat was in the Sudan. He was influential in Kalakla, Wau, St. Joseph VTC, Khartoum, and lastly in El Obeid. He helped the youth both in the South and in the North. With his cheerful character, professionalism, dedication and commitment he was able to help many youth and enable them to find their place in the Church and in the society. He created enthusiasm and joy in all who met him. His poor health always accompanied him, but no one knew the extent of his sufferings. Pat was always smiling, cheerful and busy, like Don Bosco. We know for sure that he will continue to be busy and cheerful in heaven.

Fr. Patrick, as one writes, had abundant time for God and for others! May he too be our constant intercessor before God!

Tributes to Fr. Pat

I am so sorry to hear about the sudden passing away of Fr. Patrick. I know him personally. He belongs to the group of Fr. Manuel. I was his assistant both in Juniorate and in Sunnyside. We were together in Rua Home. He was administrator. I have visited his home too. He was certainly an exceptional Salesian with tremendous zeal and enthusiasm. He was full of life and love for the boys. I will miss him. We shall continue to pray for his departed soul. May e rest in peace!

Fr. Alex Pulimoottil sdb

Observations on him by his formation superiors

“Polite, calm, cordial, helpful, receptive, respectful, self-sacrificing,

interested in things of the community, happy in his vocation, abilities in music, sports, interested in youth work.

“Religiously observant, hardworking and generous, zealous in the apostolate. Sociable, responsible in his works, gives his best to the community.”

In 1978 the letter of his parish priest in Orissa, Fr. Alois Ekka SVD, says: “He was a great help to me. I appreciate his initiatives and manners very much. My teachers and head catechists also liked his behavior. I know his family. He hails from a very good Catholic family. I recommend him very much for the religious life.”

His file contains many letters he wrote regularly from the missions to the provincial here, whom he addressed affectionately. His letters contained news of his works, how he spent his time and about some treatment he was undergoing in Mumbai. He showed interest in what was happening in the province and remembered people.

Salesian Family, Khartoum



I never worked with Fr. Patrick or saw him at the heart of the mission as I never visited Sudan. But I remember Fr. Patrick when he came to Don Bosco Boys' Town many years ago, may be in the early 90s when he was there for some updating on the machines and I was a student at Utume. I talked with him and I realized immediately how gifted he was in attracting others. Then for many years I did not see him until the recent Provincial Chapter. True, I did not see him for several years but was aware of his treatment for his leg, operation etc.

I was surprised when he met me he called me even before I could say a hello to him. I had even forgotten his face but he remembered me and I had the opportunity to converse with him many times during the Chapter. He was so keen about knowing about Don Bosco Didia and of our mission here. Though he had difficulty in walking never did he utter a word of complaint. He was smiling and joking always. In his smile I saw a person with great optimism in spite of his ill health and the great difficulties he had to face in Sudan. The photo of his which is passed around on the Facebook is the correct face of Fr. Patrick: his ever present smile. I am touched by his simplicity, great determination, optimism and joy. May all of us be able to face the challenges like him as he did, a true son of Don Bosco.

Thank you dear Fr. Patrick for your friendship. May the Good Lord welcome you to heaven and pray for us. May your life inspire many others to serve God, especially in Sudan.

Fr. Babu Augustine

Pat was a great man, a good and a zealous missionary. I could say that



because I worked with him at St. Joseph's Tech. school. Very hard working always he liked to be on toes in the place where the students are. A true son of Don Bosco, loved youth very much.

Br. Francis Chinnappan SDB

Fr. Patrick will continue to journey with us in our mission. I remember very well his smile and enthusiasm. Now we will treasure the message of his life.

Sr. Ruth del Pilar FMA (Ethiopia)

I am deeply sorry to hear that Fr. Patrick Soreng is no more. In the light of faith, we believe that he offer totally his life as a gift for the youth, especially for the Salesian mission in Sudan. He did good job in Sudan. I take this chance to make a condolence to the Salesian family and the Salesian delegation in Sudan. I promise to pray and communion with all of you in prayers and sacrifices for his soul will be rest in peace. We believe that The Lord will share His glory for him. With love in don Bosco,

Joseph Mai

I had just a brief encounter with Fr. Patrick during our visit to El-Obeid and then at Khartoum. I recognized in him a great missionary after the heart of Don Bosco. His constant painful companion the knee problem was borne cheerfully, as I could see from his cheerful disposition. I pray the Almighty God for whom all His faithful ones are alive, that the rest of us who are left behind, may be cheerful in times of trials and pain and surrender ourselves to the mission of Christ all the days of our life.

Henceforth I will always remember him, because God called him to his eternal Heavenly abode the day He sent me to this earthly home (16 Sep was my Birthday).

«I have come that they may life and have it abundantly»- Jesus Christ as recorded in Jn10:10b

In Christ and Don Bosco,
Maria Leelavathi Joseph (former Volunteer Salesian mission in Sudan) India

Wish I was there to say him good bye. Only we the Soreng family missed him, could not see him. Am happy that my SSps were there to bid farewell on behalf of my family. God Bless them.

It was I who used to trouble too much Pat uncle, when I find difficult in my life. He will give always positive answers to my difficulties. I will miss him very much. But he is with me always. I am so happy that our Generalate community members are great support to me.

Pat uncle called me with love Beta..... means my son instead of daughter.

***Sr Sunita Soreng SSps
(Generalate, Rome) Niece of Fr
Patrick Soreng***

We were age mates and worked together for the last year here at El Obeid as you know. Never will I forget some of his comments. Never will I forget his happiness when in company with other religious people whom he invited me to join.

***Mr Woli Zimmermann
(Volunteer in El Obeid, Sudan)***

We have only memories to cling to. And how wonderful they are: of a wonderful Salesian who gave of his very best for the mission, of a dear Brother, heroic in the way he lived out his Missionary commitment. May the Good Lord grant his eternal rest.

***Fr Stephen C SDB (Makuyu
KENYA)***

Fr. Patrick joined the community of Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh in the Province of Mumbai from June 2002 till May 2004. During this time he was given the responsibility to look after the boys of the non-formal technical section. He taught the boys with great interest and was loved by them. The Province of Mumbai is grateful to him for his dedication and hard work.

We ask the Almighty, the giver of all life to accept Fr. Patrick into his kingdom where he will enjoy eternal bliss. May his soul rest in peace.

Accompanying you in our prayers.

Fr Ivan SDB (Mumbai, INDIA)

He was a man who was very much committed to his mission and office, Even though he had very serious health complication, he ignored his well being and obeyed the superiors blindly with true religious spirit with simplicity of heart.

He was/is truly a Man of God. Yes, he had time for God and also time for everyone in the mission. He had accepted everything with a smile and overlooked his deteriorating health condition. My fond memory goes back to our stay together, right from the day of my arrival in to Sudan and up to the day when I wished him "all the best" at the Khartoum airport on his flight to Juba on 24th July 2013. Even after that we had email and google talk communication which strengthened me a lot.

I know it is a great loss for the delegation. I continue to pray to the Good Lord for repose of his Soul.

***Fr Johnson Paulraj SDB
(Chennai INDIA)***



A touching send-off to a Heroic Missionary



A touching farewell was given to Fr. Patrick Soreng. The Cortege proceeded from the Salesian Mission in Gumbo around 1.30 pm and we reached the Cathedral premises by 01.45 PM.

The Eucharist was presided over by his Lordship Santo Pio. Fr Patrick's life history and profile was read by Fr Jacob Thelekkadan the Rector of the Community. And the bishop gave a beautiful homily. Obviously Fr Patrick was known to him in Khartoum and he highlighted his wonderful qualities as a Missionary and as a holy Priest. There were about 45 Priests concelebrating with him - both Religious and Diocesan clergy. The church was packed with

Sisters and brothers and a lot of lay people. Many of our past pupils and Christians from the North were there too. The Mass began at 2.15 PM and we finished around 5.30 PM.

Then the entire Church moved to Rejaf (about 7 kms) where we had the final rites. The entire congregation moved in a convoy with the Traffic Police Car at the head with all its sirens blaring and clearing the way for the cortege. There were about 40 to 45 Cars belonging to various groups and Government authorities. The President of the Republic himself sent his personal representative for the funeral celebration. And a message was read on behalf of the President Salva Kirr Mayar Dit. The School Students sang a very touching song to Fr Patrick «God be with you till we meet again» at the burial site. The song was orchestrated with sobs and cries. And to think that with a month and a half being in Juba Patrick has touched the hearts of these youngsters.

We finished the final rites by 6.00 pm and the members of the Salesian Family stayed on until the grave was completely covered and plastered. We laid all the wreathes we brought and said our own final Good Bye with prayers and blessing.

We reached home and all in the Mission (Salesians, Salesian Sisters, Caritas Sisters of Jesus, VSDB Sisters, Volunteers and Aspirants) came together for a Rosary service and concluded the evening with a Dinner as a family.

As we started our preparations for the funeral and other formalities I had said a prayer to Patrick, «Please Patrick help us give you a fitting and beautiful farewell. We are so few and to get things rolling was going to be difficult. Help us to go through all these with no hurdles». Sure enough, all ended well and in a most astonishing way and beyond our expectations. Thanks Pat.

May the soul of Fr Patrick Soreng rest in peace, Amen

Fr. Ferrington SDB, Superior of the Sudan Delegation

Catholic Communicators of Kenya are challenged to liaise with the changing Media Technology

The Vice chairman for the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) Social Communications Commission, Bishop David Kamau has challenged the Catholic Communicators to adhere with the changing technology while playing their role of evangelizing the society through media.

Bishop Kamau was speaking at the opening of 5 days Capacity Building Workshop *cum* Annual Meeting of Diocesan Media Practitioners and Communications Coordinators going on at Don Bosco Youth Education Services (DBYES) Center in Karen Nairobi from 28th October to 2nd November, 2012.

Bishop Kamau reminded the participants about their crucial role as experts in their field, and that the Bishops rely on them on issues of communication in the Church. "You have a huge responsibility bestowed on you to make sure that these projects succeed for the advancement of the Church's mission and mandate to spread the Gospel to all Nations," he said.

Bishop Kamau said that the trend in communications is changing very fast with the advancement of social media, and that the Church cannot be left behind. "Social media has taken the world by storm, especially in breaking news. We can no longer take these advancements for granted or afford to be left behind. We must therefore, constantly re-invent our communication strategies from time to time to be part of this phenomenal revolution in communication," he said.

Some of the topics covered during the training included the design and function of modern Diocesan Communication office; challenges and opportunities; Training on Information Communication Technology (ICT), Basic Web design for a dioceses,

photography and photo Journalism, Radio and video production, basic training on print media management, which included basic news gathering and reporting, editing and proof reading and media laws and Ethics.

Fr. Sebastian Koladiyil, SDB a senior lecture at the Institute of Social Communications at Tangaza College, a constituent college of Catholic University of Eastern Africa, one of the resource person in the training challenged the participants to start producing news items for radio from their various dioceses and emailing them to radio Waumini for broadcasting. "You can make the best News channel in the country because we know that many events are happening there and yet are not covered," he said.

The training which started on 28th October and ended on 2nd November was attended by 45 participants comprising of lay people, priests and religious men and women from National and Diocesan offices of communication including radio and Communications institutions staff from across the country.

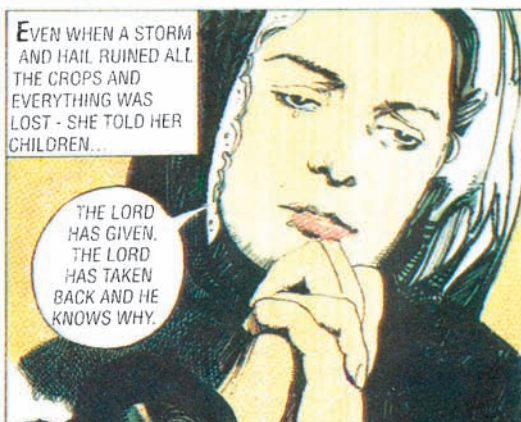
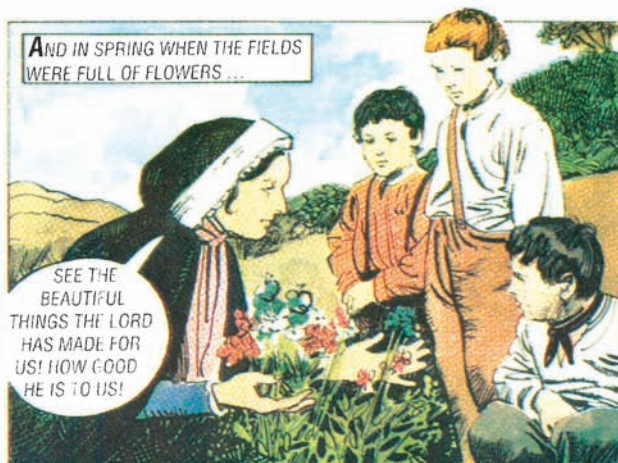
AMECEA News



A BOY WITH



A DREAM



THE PRIEST WAS VERY FAR AWAY AND HE HARDLY VISITED THEM SO SHE DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME. SHE TAUGHT HER BOYS THEIR CATECHISM

WHEN I WAS YOUNG I HEARD SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GOSPEL STORIES LISTEN... HERE'S ONE OF THEM.



The **spies** who got into the Vatican

Claims of eavesdropping on the Vatican are nothing new. But it's hard to imagine any current foreign snooping could match the spying frenzy of the Cold War when the communist "East" and democratic "West" were locked in an ideological battle.

After Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was elected Pope John Paul II in 1978, the Vatican did come under increased scrutiny as it was seen to be a decisive player in the anti-communist chess game.

Apparently double agent priests infiltrated the upper echelons of the Vatican and Czechoslovakian spies reportedly bugged the private studio of then-Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli by planting a hidden microphone inside a statue of Our Lady.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was spied on for three decades before he became pope by the Stasi — East Germany's communist secret police.

According to one agent, the cardinal prefect of the Vatican's Congregation

for the Doctrine of the Faith "would have an influence on the growth of anti-communist attitudes in the Catholic Church, especially in Latin America."

Agents wrote that Pope John Paul asked Cardinal Ratzinger to organize help for "counterrevolutionary activities in Poland" after the rise of the Solidarity movement in 1980.

Details of the Stasi's activities were published in 2005 by the German newspaper Bild am Sonntag. The Stasi archives show there was one agent in the Vatican who provided "exact details" of the 1978 conclave that elected Pope John Paul II.

The newspaper noted that the secret police had kept an extensive card file on then-Cardinal Ratzinger and had described him as "the most decided opponent of communism in the Vatican." Spies also described him as appearing "initially shy in conversation," but that he also possessed "a winning charm."

UCAN News



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2013

The World Youth Day is an event for the young people organized by the Catholic Church. It was started by Pope John Paul II in 1984. It is celebrated at the international level every 2-3 years in different nations. From July 15th to 28th, all roads led the young faithful to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for this year's historic World Youth Day. Over million pilgrims congregated at what was considered one of the most "populous" World Youth Day in the history of the Catholic Church. The historic Catholic Church's event marked the first international trip of the newly elected Pope Francis. The event celebrates the meeting of the young Catholic people from all over the world for the sake of harmony and faith. Masses, plays, vigils and meetings with the Pope and higher clergy were part of the extensive schedule in Rio. The motto was from the famous Gospel of St. Mathew: **"Go and make disciples of all nations.... (Matt: 20: 19)"** chosen by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in 2012.

Indeed the city of Rio was professional in welcoming everybody who came there with arms wide open as could be seen from one of their hallmark site, Christ the Redeemer, who welcomes all literally with open arms. Rio was rejuvenated with the arrival of so many young people of diverse ethnic groups and languages. It was one of the largest events that took place in that marvelous city in recent times a part from the forth coming World Cup 2014. This was reported by Archbishop of Rio De Janeiro, Don Orani Joao. The programme for the World Youth Day was divided in to central Acts, special Acts, catechesis, vocational Fair, cultural arts and a youth festival.

During the last World Youth Day in Madrid, the Holy Father, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, said that it was not possible to believe without the support from the faith of others and through our faith we help to support others in faith... the Church needs the youth and the youth need the Church. He went further to state that young people are the



church's youthful face that shines and becomes younger in joyfulness of its members. It is in this perspective that the Church through the WYD offers a privileged place where young Christians can witness and eagerly speak of others from all around the world that following Christ and actively participating in His Church is worthwhile.

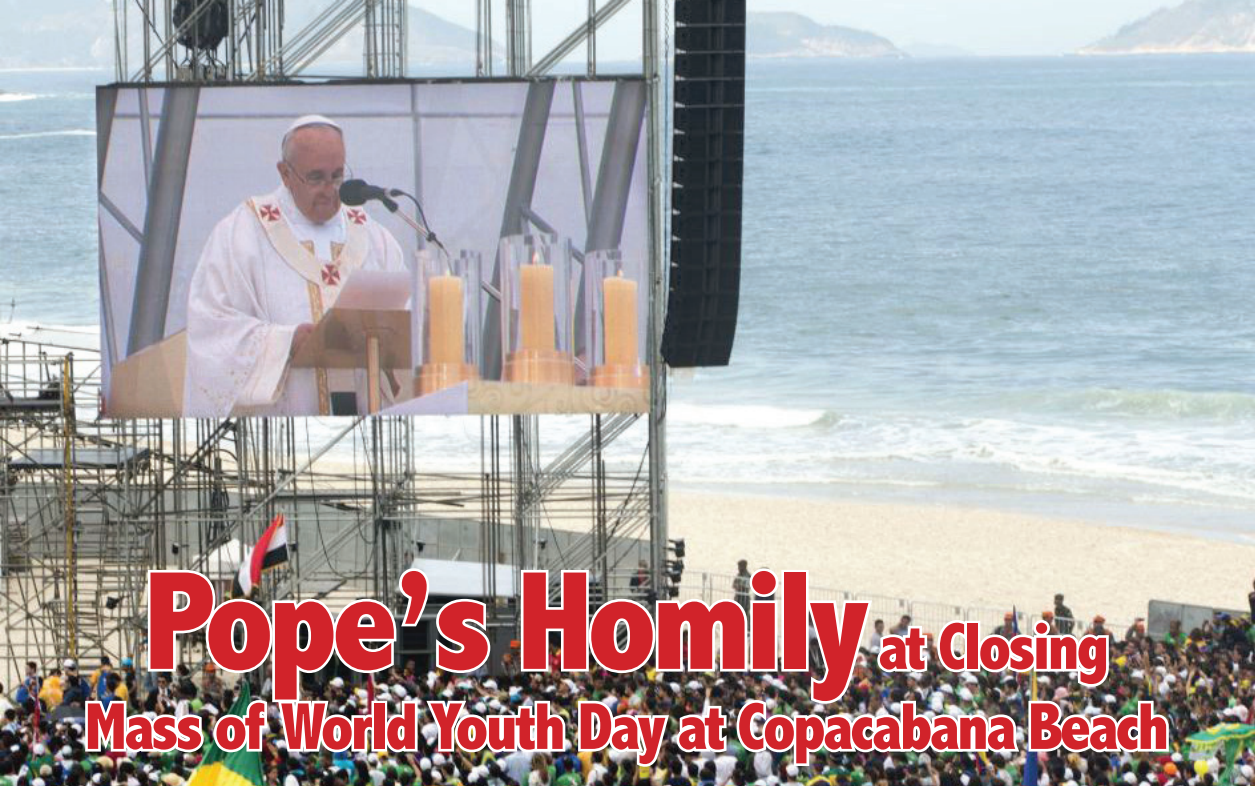
Pope Francis in his concluding homily at Cobacabana Beach in Rio, urged young Catholics to go out and spread their Faith "to the fringes of the society, even to those who seem farthest away and most indifferent." He called all to join forces and become *missionaries without borders*.

He said that Jesus did not tell his disciples to share the Gospel; "if you would like to, if you have the time," instead he commanded them to proclaim the Good News to the whole world. He urged the youth to be creative and audacious and above all not to be afraid. The Pope had some parting words to the Bishops and the thousand priests who accompanied their young pilgrims to Rio. He told them that the pilgrimage was just one step on the young people's journey of faith. He appealed to them to continue accompanying them with generosity and joy, help them become actively engaged in the church and above all never let them feel alone. *What an encouragement from the Holy Father to the Salesians who in following the footsteps of the founder, Don Bosco are sent to the young .Kudos! Salesians never give up your noble mission to the young.*

In concluding his inspiring homily, the Holy Father turned to the youth urging them that as they return to their homes (countries), they should not be afraid to be generous with Christ, to bear witness to His Gospel and to be a "force of love and mercy that has the courage to want to transform the world.

The next World Youth Day will be held in 2016 in Krakow, Poland... Lets meet there to celebrate with the young.

Fr. Benn Agunga, SDB
(Don Bosco Y E S)



Pope's Homily at Closing Mass of World Youth Day at Copacabana Beach

Brother Bishops and Priests,
Dear Young Friends,

“Go and make disciples of all nations”. With these words, Jesus is speaking to each one of us, saying: “It was wonderful to take part in World Youth Day, to live the faith together with young people from the four corners of the earth, but now you must go, now you must pass on this experience to others.” Jesus is calling you to be a disciple with a mission! Today, in the light of the word of God that we have heard, what is the Lord saying to us? Three simple ideas: Go, do not be afraid, and serve.

1. Go. During these days here in Rio, you have been able to enjoy the wonderful experience of meeting Jesus, meeting him together with others, and you have sensed the joy of faith. But the experience of this encounter must not remain locked up in your life or in the small group of your parish, your movement, or your community. That would be like withholding oxygen from a flame that was burning strongly. Faith is a flame that grows stronger the more it is shared and passed on, so that everyone may know, love and confess Jesus Christ, the Lord of life and history (cf. Rom 10:9).

Careful, though! Jesus did not say: “if you would like to, if you have the time”, but: “Go and make disciples of all nations.” Sharing the experience of faith, bearing witness to the faith, proclaiming the Gospel: this is a command that the Lord entrusts to the whole Church, and that includes you; but it is a command that is born not from a desire for domination or power but from the force of love, from the fact that Jesus first came into our midst and gave us, not a part of himself, but the whole of himself, he gave his life in order to save us and to show us the love and mercy of God. Jesus does not treat us as slaves, but as free men, as friends, as brothers and sisters; and he not only sends us, he accompanies us, he is always beside us in our mission of love.

Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us to everyone. The Gospel is for everyone, not just for some. It is not only for those who seem closer

to us, more receptive, more welcoming. It is for everyone. Do not be afraid to go and to bring Christ into every area of life, to the fringes of society, even to those who seem farthest away, most indifferent. The Lord seeks all, he wants everyone to feel the warmth of his mercy and his love.

In particular, I would like Christ's command: "Go" to resonate in you young people from the Church in Latin America, engaged in the continental mission promoted by the Bishops. Brazil, Latin America, the whole world needs Christ! Saint Paul says: "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!" (1 Cor. 9:16). This continent has received the proclamation of the Gospel which has marked its history and borne much fruit. Now this proclamation is entrusted also to you that it may resound with fresh power. The Church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity and the joy that is so characteristic of you. A great Apostle of Brazil, Blessed José de Anchieta, set off on the mission when he was only nineteen years old. Do you know what the best tool is for evangelizing the young? Another young person. This is the path to follow!

2. Do not be afraid. Some people might think: "I have no particular preparation, how can I go and proclaim the Gospel?" My dear friend, your fear is not so very different from that of Jeremiah, a young man like you, when he was called by God to be a prophet. We have just heard his words: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth". God says the same thing to you as he said to Jeremiah: "Be not afraid ... for I am with you to deliver you" (Jer 1:7, 8). He is with us!

"Do not be afraid!" When we go to proclaim Christ, it is he himself who goes before us and guides us. When he sent his disciples on mission, he promised: "I am with you always" (Mt 28:20). And this is also true for us! Jesus does not leave us alone, he never leaves you alone! He always accompanies you.

And then, Jesus did not say: "One of you go", but "All of you go": we are sent together. Dear young friends, be aware of the companionship of the whole Church and also the communion of the saints on this mission. When we face challenges together, then we are strong, we discover resources we did not know we had. Jesus did not call the Apostles to live in isolation, he called them to form a group, a community.

I would like to address you, dear priests concelebrating with me at this Eucharist: you have come to accompany your young people, and this is wonderful, to share this experience of faith with them! But it is a stage on the journey. Please continue to accompany them with generosity and joy, help them to become actively engaged in the Church; never let them feel alone! And at this point I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Youth Ministry groups, to the Movements and the new Communities that accompany the young



people in their experience of being Church. They are so creative, so audacious. Carry on and do not be afraid!

3. The final word: serve. The opening words of the psalm that we proclaimed are: “Sing to the Lord a new song” (Psalm 95:1). What is this new song? It does not consist of words, it is not a melody, it is the song of your life, it is allowing our life to be identified with that of Jesus, it is sharing his sentiments, his thoughts, his actions. And the life of Jesus is a life for others. It is a life of service.

In our Second Reading today, Saint Paul says: “I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more” (1 Cor. 9:19). In order to proclaim Jesus, Paul made himself “a slave to all”. Evangelizing means bearing personal witness to the love of God, it is overcoming our selfishness, it is serving by bending down to wash the feet of our brethren, as Jesus did.

Three words: Go, do not be afraid, and serve. Follow these three words: Go, do not be afraid, and serve. If you follow these three ideas, you will experience that the one who evangelizes is evangelized, the one who transmits the joy of faith receives joy.



Dear young friends, as you return to your homes, do not be afraid to be generous with Christ, to bear witness to his Gospel. In the first Reading, when God sends the prophet Jeremiah, he gives him the power to “pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant” (1:10). It is the same for you. Bringing the Gospel is bringing God’s power to pluck up and break down evil and violence, to destroy and overthrow the barriers of selfishness, intolerance and hatred, so as to build a new world. Jesus Christ is counting on you! The Church is counting on you! The Pope is counting on you! May Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, always accompany you with her tenderness: “Go and make disciples of all nations”. Amen.

Church's Catholicity embraces all of Humanity, Pope says

During his weekly general audience Pope Francis explored the different elements of what makes the Church Catholic, reflecting on why we call ourselves by that name.

“Dear Brothers and Sisters: In the Creed, we profess that the Church is ‘catholic;’ in other words, she is universal,” CNA quoted the Pope saying during his October 9 audience in a rainy St Peter’s Square.

He told the thousands of pilgrims present that the Catholic identity of the Church can be understood in many ways, first of all because “she proclaims the apostolic faith in its entirety.”

“She is the place where we meet Christ in his sacraments and receive the spiritual gifts needed to grow in holiness together with our brothers and sisters.” He then explained that the Church is universal because “her communion embraces the whole human race,” urging that “she is sent to bring to the entire world the joy of salvation and the truth of the Gospel.

“She reconciles the wonderful diversity of God’s gifts to build up his People in unity and harmony.” He concluded his reflections by urging those gathered with to pray to God, asking him to “make us more catholic.”

CISA



10th Anniversary of **Maria Romero Home** 2013



It is not happiness that makes us grateful but gratefulness that makes us happy. Those words highlighted the celebration of the 10th anniversary of Maria Romero Children's Home in Hurlingham on July 6, 2013. The Home which officially opened on 6th July 2003 was named after Blessed Maria Romero, a saintly Salesian Sister who worked among the poor in Costa Rica. In the past 10 years 68 girls have passed through the Home, and though they could not all be present for the celebration, a good number attended as they often do for seminars offered on various occasions. Present were also the FMA community, lay collaborators and benefactors. The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Fr. Benjamin, AP (by popular vote from the girls) who is the Chaplain in the D.O.D. where they formerly attended Mass and received the sacraments. A festive lunch and entertainment followed concluded by speeches and cutting of the cake.

Sr. Mary Owuoth, fma



The month of August is usually “harvest month” for the FMA of the East African Province AFE and this year was no different. During this month young women at different stages of formation proceed on to the next step in their journey of becoming FMA, *sowers* of His Word and Love in the field of the young people.

The first event took place on 14th August as 10 postulants from 3 African Provinces entered the Novitiate as novices in a simple, prayerful ceremony at the Novitiate in Mutuini. Sr. Chantal Mukase, the newly appointed Provincial presented the new novices to Sr. Teresa Fernandes the Novice Mistress who welcomed them with enthusiasm as they joined the second years to form an army of 20 strong.

At Mass the following morning, 15th August seventeen Sisters with temporary vows renewed them for one or two more years. However, the focus of that day was the first profession of three novices, **Sr. Adeline Benimana** from Rwanda, **Sr. Grace Ndegi** and **Sr. Florence Kaveke** both from Kenya. The Eucharist was celebrated in the Mututini school hall decorated beautifully with their chosen theme motto *You are the Light of the world*. Fr. Gnanaselvam Sahaya, sdb presided over the Eucharistic celebration with Sr. Chantal Mukase, Provincial, receiving the vows of the sisters. After Mass lunch was served followed by different group presentations and gift giving. Keeping with tradition Sr. Chantal announced the assignments of the newly professed Sisters to the curiosity and joy of all: Sr. Adeline - Gisenyi, Rwanda, Sr. Florence - Embu, and Sr. Grace - Laura Vicuna Makuyu.



The climax of the harvest season was the Final Profession of **Sr. Jacqueline Kiura** and **Sr. Lawrenzia Ndwiga** on 24th August 2013 at Don Bosco Girls' in Embu. The jubilant crowd of family and friends, Vides volunteers, Sisters, novices and aspirants celebrated in simplicity and joy the final commitment of the sisters who took the theme of the mustard seed which was beautifully displayed on the backdrop behind the altar. The SDB Provincial, Fr. Gianni Rolandi, was the main celebrant, assisted by nine other SDB and Diocesan priests. Sr. Chantal Mukase, FMA Provincial of AFE Province again, received their vows and welcomed them warmly into the Congregation as perpetual members. The rest of the day continued in celebration with lunch, entertainment, speeches and gift giving.





DAR HOLIDAY CAMPS 2013

Temeke Mikoroshoni is a densely populated area in Dar Es Salaam where the FMA have a thriving mission frequented by young people especially on weekends, most of whom come from unstable families that are greatly challenged morally, spiritually and financially. Thus the June holiday camp from 10th to 29th was a joint effort of the SDB, especially Fr. Augustine and his community of Upanga, 3 Salesian brothers, 4 volunteers from Macerata, 22 animators from the Youth Centre and Bunju, truly were divided between the two centers(Temeke & Bunju).

This also marked the starting of a new oratory in Bunju, where we hope to have a new presence in the near future. About 350 children and young people took part in the camp in Temeke and 160 in Bunju where they experienced the Salesian spirit for the first time. Towards the end of camp, all the participants visited the communities within Dar and the beach, opportunities that many of them rarely have. Before the camp started the animators worked hard clearing the bushes to provide a field for the young people in Bunju. Their presence was a gift freely shared and enjoyed by all the young people and an example of what it means to give gratuitously.

Sr. Veronica Mwikali, fma

ROOTED IN CHRIST

VIDES MUTUINI CAMP 2013

August 16th- 30th saw the grand animation of a two weeks camp run by the VIDES Volunteers , Sisters /Novices and local animators in Mutuini – Dagoretti area. The camp which registered over 900 children and youth was carried out in one location; Mutuini Educational Centre. The VIDES Volunteers whose main objective is to reach out to as many children and youth as possible especially those who are socially deprived, were so happy to have this camp which everyone was describing as fabulous, enriching wonderful and unforgettable. The daily program was characterized by a morning of intense formation based on the theme “ REJOICING IN THE LORD THROUGH THE FAITH WE PROFESS”. It was done in a creative way and the participants made a journey in moral and Spiritual growth. The participants and all those animating the camp shared in the common meal for lunch. The afternoon was characterized by the creative work(Art and craft) which the participants enjoyed to the full. They had plenty of educative games which made them interact freely. The Volunteers too had moments of their own formation especially the days before the camp and in the weekends as well as evening hours.. They led children into charity work experiences around the surrounding villages. The sick, elderly and very poor people were visited. It was an all renewing experience to all including those who received the visits. For two days within the camp, we had a free medical checkup organized by Fr. Selvam SDB and His doctor friend. Children and youth were given medical advice and they were all happy. Many compliments from the parents and guardians were received during and after the camp. We concluded in a wonderful celebration in which the young presented an item as a summary of what they had learnt pertaining to faith and joy. We had the joy of welcoming in our midst the County representative of this ward who happens to be a past pupil of Mutuini oratory honorable Martin. He was very happy as he narrated his experience as an oratorian when this mission began. In our closing ceremony we welcomed the senior chief of Mutuini location Honorable Mukuria, with his Assistant Honorable Kang’ethe and the police boss of this area. They were all moved by the kind of animation these children and youth of this locality had received. Nobody wanted to end the camp! We pray that the fire in which they all left this camp with, will keep burning in their lives and bring them to a more understanding of Jesus Christ who gives meaning to our faith.



Sr. Laurenzia FMA



Handing On the Torch

August 5th 2013 Makuyu

The Bible tells us that there's a time and place for everything under the sun. Thus these words became a reality on August 5th in Makuyu with the official change of Provincial for the Salesian Sisters of AFE Province. The date was meaningful because the Congregation was founded on August 5, 1872 and is the date when many Sisters make their first profession throughout the world.

Sr. Teresa Fernandes, serving as AFE Provincial from 2007 to 2013 handed over the responsibility to Sr. Chantal Mukase, who has been the Novice mistress for the past 6 years.

The theme of the 2014 General Chapter - *Home: a place of encounter and of sending forth* - set the tone for a day mixed with emotions of gratitude, nostalgia and anticipation of the future. In his homily at the Eucharistic celebration Fr. Gianni Rolandi, SDB Provincial said that Sr. Teresa will now sing her Magnificat not only because she has finished her responsibility, but for the wonders God worked through her for the growth of the province these past years. Instead, he stated that Sr. Chantal's Magnificat will be sung differently as she is sent forth to take up a new role with meekness, compassion and patience.

After mass a delicious meal was enjoyed by all with each community contributing in the preparation. The afternoon was permeated with a creative entertainment program, gift giving, and words and songs of appreciation to Sr. Teresa and warm welcome to Sr. Chantal in her new role of animation in the Province.

Sr. Virginia Bickford, fma

UN names Charity Day in honour of Blessed Teresa

Hundreds of people who gathered to observe the death anniversary of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata on September 5th also observed the UN's first International Day of Charity designated to honor the Catholic nun.

"Those who want to please Mother Teresa on her feast day should emulate her charity first at home and then among the poor in the neighbourhood," Sister Prema the head of the Missionaries of Charity said on Thursday in Kolkata.

She was speaking after a morning prayer program marking the 16th death anniversary of Blessed Teresa.



The nun, popularly known as Mother Teresa, founded the Missionaries of Charity (MC) congregation in 1950, two years after leaving the Loreto sisters to work among the poorest of the poor in the slums of what is now Kolkata. She dedicated the rest of her life to working in this eastern Indian city, where her congregation is also based.

"The MC mother house is the hub of charity," said Father Dominic Gomes, vicar general of Kolkata archdiocese, pointing out that some 5,100 nuns from the congregation work in over 120 nations.

The UN general assembly on December 12 last year adopted a resolution introduced by Hungary designating September 5 as International Day of Charity.

Its aim is to organize special events and increase public support for charities that "promote the rights of the marginalized and underprivileged and spreads the message of humanity in conflict situations," Csaba Kőrösi, Hungary's UN ambassador, told the General Assembly when introducing the resolution.

Blessed Teresa, who won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, was born on August 26, 1910. She went to India as a missionary at the age of 19 and died at the age of 87, in 1997.

In 2003, the Vatican beatified her, calling her "Blessed," which is one step away from her canonization that will make her a saint.

ICAN

Pope Francis has been named Man of the Year

Pope Francis has been named Man of the Year by Vanity Fair's Italian edition in recognition of his words and deeds during his first one hundred days as pontiff. The magazine's front cover features the 76-year-old Pope Francis waving at a crowd, dressed simply in plain white robes and a white skull cap.

The article begins by quoting Pope Francis' March 28 invocation for priests to be "shepherds living with the smell of the sheep," and goes on to feature the praise of five celebrities about him, including Sir Elton John and Italian opera singer Andrea Bocelli.

Elton John warmly said, "Francis is a miracle of humility in an era of vanity," and went on to say that he hoped the Pope's message of compassion would extend to marginalized groups which "have a desperate need of his love," including gays and lesbians. Despite the Vatican's historically steadfast stance on issues like gay marriage, Sir John, who has been in a civil partnership since 2005, expressed his hope that Pope Francis could "reach out to children, women, men who live with HIV and AIDS -- often alone, and hidden away in silence."

"His first one hundred days have already placed him in the category of world leaders who make history," said Vanity Fair. "But the revolution continues."





Pope Francis

Don Bosco the Missionary:

Fr Chávez to the missionaries

The traditional meeting of the Rector Major with the Salesians participating in the Preparatory Course for new missionaries took place yesterday, 16 September. Fr Pascuál Chavez spoke to the missionaries about the distinctive characteristics of Don Bosco's missionary spirit, and he responded to their questions.

To encourage a spontaneous informal approach right from the start, the Rector Major was welcomed with a song and all the missionaries were introduced to him. Then Fr Chávez gave a talk on the theme of Don Bosco the missionary, and presented him as a model for every Salesian missionary.

The Rector Major emphasized three aspects:

- Obedience to the Lord's command: *You shall be my witnesses even to the ends of the earth* (Acts 1,8). "For us Salesians, the first reason is obedience to the Lord Jesus. God wills that the whole world be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."
- Conviction of the value of the Gospel as leaven, capable of transforming every culture. "The Gospel can be inculturated in every culture, but should not be identified with any one culture. The Cross challenges and obliges every culture to look at itself again. It purifies and raises up every culture. In other words, the whole world is in need of the Gospel."
- Predilection for the young is the distinguishing mark of the Salesians: "Young people do not count in society, they are relegated to the role of spectators in history. But when Jesus was asked, '*Who is the most important?*', he called a little child and put him in the centre."

The Rector Major concluded his talk by reading a letter of the Servant of God Nino Baglieri, and by giving some advice in response to the questions of the missionaries. He put them on their guard against offering young people only entertainment and failing to prepare them for the challenges in life. He told them not to regard young people only as *the future* of society, overlooking the potential they already have now in *the present*.

When he was asked what his wishes were for these missionaries of the last missionary expedition of his term as Rector Major, Fr Chávez offered three suggestions: "Take care of yourselves in every way, physically and mentally; take particular care of your spiritual life; and live your lives with joy!"



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Fr Bregolin: “The Pope’s invitation makes us think and should make us decide”



The Salesian Congregation, through its superiors, continues to take seriously the requests of Pope Francis. Fr Chavez was the first to launch the initiative for a day of prayer and fasting for peace in the Middle East on the part of the whole Salesian Family. Now Fr Bregolin, the Vicar of the Rector Major gives voice to the desire of the Salesians to devote themselves ever more to serve the poor, the immigrants and refugees.

In an interview with Vatican Radio on the words of Pope Francis about welcoming refugees in religious institutes, Fr Bregolin said: “This cry of the Pope on behalf of the poor is a prophetic cry that invites the Church to become fully responsible for the care of the poorest. It is very easy just to talk. The Pope’s appeal is for concrete action.”

The Pope used strong words in calling for religious structures to be used. “*The empty religious houses are not ours, they belong to the body of Christ*,” the Pope said. These words have a bearing on our present and future vision for the Congregation. Fr Bregolin said, “In our 2008 General Chapter, one of the principal lines of action was precisely to seek new frontiers. Since we are especially dedicated to the young, our main priority is for poor young people. However, there are also external situations which have led us to this, such as the great waves of immigration in recent years. Some of our buildings are being used directly to welcome immigrants. I would also like to point out the great amount of attention that is given to young immigrants

in traditional structures like our oratories. There are some places which are open and active in this regard, but more needs to be done.”

The words of the Pope do not come therefore as a threat to the Congregation, says Fr Bregolin, but more as “an encouragement to see how we can put our charism of love to better use in the service of young people. I believe that this is an invitation that makes us think and should make us decide.”



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144th Salesian Missionary Expedition: “Take care of the many Lazaruses in the world”



On September 29, commencing at 12.00 noon, the Rector Major, Fr Pascual Chávez, presided at Mass for the commissioning of the 144th Salesian Missionary Expedition. The Basilica of Mary Help of Christians was full of young people, Salesians, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and Salesian Family members who shared the joy of those being sent to evangelize. This year, as well as the Salesian confreres, 16 Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and 6 lay volunteers received the missionary cross.

The missionaries come from many different parts of the world, and are being sent to many different parts. In recent years, Europe has also to be considered as a land in need of evangelization and the Salesian Congregation has responded with Project Europe.

In his homily, Fr Pascual Chávez made reference to the Gospel of the day and called the missionaries to have a special sensitivity for the millions of Lazaruses who survive in squalid conditions in the shadow of our affluent consumerist society. He said that Salesian missionaries have always had a focus on the marginalized and the poor. Don Bosco himself has always insisted that his spiritual children go to meet the needy.

The celebration of the missionary mandate is a tradition that dates back to Don Bosco. On November 11, 1875, in the same basilica, the first ten Salesians leaving for Patagonia, Argentina were handed the missionary cross, a sign of their mandate of evangelization and education. Two years later, some missionaries of the Sisters of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians joined the expedition. In recent years, with the development of awareness and the involvement of the laity, Salesian Cooperators and Salesian NGO volunteers also joined the missionary expedition.

The Superior General of the FMA, Mother Yvonne Reungoat, and some FMA Provincials were present at the Mass and at the Harambée festivities that preceded it.

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From the testament of don Bosco to the benefactors: "Without your charity I could do nothing or very little. With your charity we cooperated with God to wipe many tears and save many souls".



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of the Rector Major Fr Pascual Chávez

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walk in holiness
according to our
specific vocation

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**the glory of God and
the salvation of souls**

