

Salesian Newslink

A photograph of Pope Francis and another man in white robes kneeling at a wooden altar. Pope Francis is on the left, looking down with his hands clasped. The other man is on the right, also looking down with his hands clasped. They are in a church setting with wooden pews and a large wooden door in the background.

Easter Camp 2013
Volunteers' Meeting
The Salesian Family

Pope Francis:
SING & PROPHECY



Fr. Andrew Zdzieborski's
50th Anniversary
of Religious Profession

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Director & Editor: Fr. Javier A. Barrientos
Redaction Board: Fr. Dennis Higgins, Walter Thyрниang
Graphic Design: Fr. Javier A. Barrientos
Photos: Br. Walter Thyрниang, Sylvester Makumba,
Fr. Javier Barrientos, Joackim Mzanywa,
John Musonda, Faith Musabila.
E-mail: zmbsocialc@salesianszmb.org
Website: www.salesianszmb.org
Contribution from: Fr. George Chalissery, Dn. Jerome Bwalya,
Br. Walter Thyрниang, Fr. Jorge Ormeño,
Boniface Mbowo, Taonga Phiri.
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Like Jesus becoming radical in our love for the Father

Fr. Javier Antonio Barrientos

We read in the Gospels that Jesus did many things which went in opposite direction to society's trends. For example, he touched and applied mud into the blind's man eyes after he spat on the ground and mixed it with dust (Jn 9:6); with this action –done on a Sabbath, he not only challenged the Sabbath law but he also broke changed the understanding that sicknesses were God's punishment. He went even further, to his own disciples –who at first seemed to have grasped the meaning of discipleship, he challenged



their thirst for power and positions by telling that his kingdom is of a different nature (Mt 20:23). His teaching and way doing things changed societal taboos and ways of thinking; he was promoting a new culture. Jesus created a culture where the weak and undesired were now seen as people loved by God, rather than cursed by him. Jesus showed that authority is given to some for the purpose of service. With Jesus, women and children were no longer “property” but “people”. Jesus restored humanity

to its rightful place: to the top of creation. In Jesus' view, society, with its laws and customs was to be at the service of man. His approach, controversial to society's standards was radical in every way; he did so because he felt God loved him like a Son; and therefore his love for others (especially the weak) was fruit of this love.

Society undergoes tremendous and continuous change; generations succeed one another and although in many ways some similar patters remain, it is never the same. Nevertheless, society needs a positive change, too. Progress not always means making the world a better place for all. The rise of technology and scientific discovery averts the presence of God, and this cannot go without consequences.

We know that the core of Christianity is Jesus Christ; and therefore the call of Christianity is to bring God back to people's lives. The Church in many ways strives to be like Jesus, a sign in this world of the things to come. The Church, like Jesus- offers to society the opportunity to see things differently; to see at our world with God's eyes.

The Salesian Congregation (which is part of the Catholic Church and fully present in today's society) is now about to celebrate its 27th General Chapter. The Rector Major invites everyone “to become radical witness of the Gospel.” In other words, the chapter invites us all to be for our world like Jesus: signs of God's radical love for all, especially the weak and unloved! Surely, every Salesian is motivated and eager to take up the challenge.

Our ZMB Vice-Province has just celebrated the 7th Provincial Chapter, a chapter that encouraged all to be radical in every way: in our relationships with each other and the people we minister; in our dealings, projects, ministry, etc. The Provincial Chapter did not end with its last session, nor will it be kept as a beautiful document on a shelf in our communities' library, but the Provincial Chapter is a process that will help us become more like Jesus [radical like him in every way] and it will guide us through. It will remind us of God's love for all and our response to this love will be our love for God and all his creation, after to the example Jesus gave us: *radical in his love for the Father!* ☺

Don Bosco EDUCATOR



Fr Pascual Chavez SDB
RECTOR MAJOR



SALESIAN PEDAGOGY

IT'S ABOUT THE BAD GUYS
TREMBLING BEFORE THE GOOD
AND NOT THE GOOD
TREMBLING BEFORE THE BAD

rector major

D

ON BOSCO RELATES

I was a lively and attentive boy who, with my mother's permission went to the various festivals where there were acrobats and magicians. I always put myself in the front row, eyes fixed on their movements with which they tried to distract the audience. Little by little I could see their tricks; returning home, I repeated them for hours. But often the moves did not produce the desired effect. It wasn't easy to walk on that blessed rope between two trees. How many tumbles, how many peeled knees! And how many times I was wanted to throw everything into the air ... Then I started again, sweaty, tired, sometimes even disappointed. Then, a little by

little, I was able to get it together; I could feel the soles of my bare feet clinging to the rope; becoming one with my footsteps and I then did as I wanted, glad to repeat and to invent other movements. That's why, when I spoke to the boys, I said to them: "Let's hold on to easy things, but let's do it with perseverance." There you have it: my down-to-earth pedagogy, the result of so many victories and as many defeats, with the stubbornness that was one of my most marked characteristics.

That's how my style came into being, to educate without using big words, without any great ideological schemes, without references to many famous authors. That was how my pedagogy was born: I learned on the meadows of

the Becchi, later on the streets of Chieri, later still in prisons, in the streets, in the alleys of Valdocco. A pedagogy built in a courtyard.

I dared to prove it a few years later when I went to Chieri to continue my studies and was accepted by the teacher, in front of the whole class, with a not very exciting sentence: *"This is a guy or a large mole or a great talent"*. It made me feel awkward in the extreme; I remember coping with these words: *"That's something beyond the pale, Sir: I am a poor young man who wants to do his duty and progress in studies"*.

Then there was that blessed dream when I was 9-10 years old (the dream which was repeated many more times!) that I would get hammered, and the desire to become a priest for the boys became stronger ... And then I did something that didn't make a genius of me, but in fact, achieved a beautiful victory in my character, a real breakthrough; i.e., stretch out your hand to ask for help, something just to realise my dream. I would admit a little later to a Salesian: "You don't know how much this begging cost me". With my proud temperament, it was certainly not easy to be humble enough to ask. My courage was empowered by a high level of trust in Providence; and also what I had learned from my mother. At her school I had learned one rule that led me everywhere: "When I encounter a problem, treat it as if I found the road ahead blocked by a big boulder; if I can't remove it, I just turn around."

And I assure you: I found many large boulders on my path. I shall briefly mention some of them:

1860, for example, was a typically difficult year. Fr Cafasso, my friend, confessor and spiritual director had died; how much I missed his presence, his advice and his help with finances.

Then, from the Government side, I encountered serious difficulties, authentic "boulders": targeted searches which were disastrous to Valdocco, as if I were a criminal! My boys were living in fear, while armed guards entered every where. The

searches continued, creating a climate of fear and uncertainty. I wrote to the Minister of the Interior, Louis Farini, for an interview. I had the guts to tell him with humble determination: *"For my kids I demand justice and restoration of honour so that they don't lack the bread of life"*. I know that he took a great risk because these men were an anticlerical Government, but I didn't lack the necessary courage. And so gradually the searches stopped.

I never gave up! I said to the boys: *"The courage of the bad guys is not what makes others afraid. Be brave and you'll see them fold their wings"*. A French benefactor from Lyon had sent me a holy picture with a phrase I have never forgotten because it served as a guide: *"Be with God like the sparrow that feels the branch shake but still continues to sing, knowing that it has wings"*. It wasn't just a poetic expression, but an act of courageous confidence in the Providence of the Lord, because He alone *"is the master of our hearts"*.

When they were about to leave for their holidays, I used to say this to my kids: *"Be men and not branches! Lift your head high, walk straight in the service of God, within the family and outside, in the Church and in the square. What is human respect? A papermachè monster that does not bite. What are the impertinent words of these bad guys? Soap-bubbles that disappear in an instant. We cannot cure adversaries and their taunts. Remember that knowledge without conscience is nothing but the ruin of the soul."*

I never got tired of instilling into their little heads: "Give glory to God with your conduct, consolation to your relatives and your superiors. Otherwise a young, undisciplined 'lazybones', will be a disgraceful youth, a burden to his parents, a weight to his superiors, and a weight for himself".

The future would arise from Valdocco, "good citizens and honest Christians" of which the world has much need. ☺



Be open to the newness of the

HOLY SPIRIT



Source: ZENIT.ORG

/ Vatican City, May 20, 2013

By Junno Arocho Esteves

The Holy Father recalled the moment where the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, giving them the strength to spread the Gospel.

“Newness always makes us a bit fearful, because we feel more secure if we have everything under control, if we are the ones who build, program, and plan our lives,” Pope Francis said. “This is also the case when it comes to God. It is hard to abandon ourselves to him with complete trust, allowing the Holy Spirit to be the soul and guide of our lives.”

We fear that God may force us to strike out on new paths and leave behind our all too narrow, closed and selfish horizons in order to become open to his own. Yet throughout the history of salvation, whenever God reveals himself, He

brings newness—God always brings newness—and demands our complete trust.”

Drawing from the examples of Noah, Abraham and Moses, Pope Francis said that the “newness” of the Holy Spirit brought the joy, serenity and courage to proclaim the Gospel to the disciples of Christ. However, the Holy Father called on the faithful to ask themselves if they are “open to God’s surprises” or if we are “closed and fearful before the newness of the Holy Spirit.”

“The Holy Spirit,” the 76 year old pontiff said, “would appear to create disorder in the Church, since he brings the diversity of charisms and gifts; yet all this, by his working, is a great source of wealth, for the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of unity, which does not mean uniformity, but which leads everything back to harmony.”

“In the Church, it is the Holy Spirit who creates harmony. Only the Spirit can awaken diversity, plurality, and multiplicity, while at the same time building unity. Here too, when we are the ones who try to create diversity and close ourselves up in what makes us different and other, we bring division. When we are the ones who want to build unity in accordance with our human plans, we end up creating uniformity, standardization. But if instead we let ourselves be guided by the Spirit, richness, variety and diversity never become a source of conflict, because he impels us to experience variety within the communion of the Church.”

Pope Francis reminded the members from all the various movements and ecclesial realities of the Catholic Church to always remain true to the Church, warning that when one embarks on a “parallel journey” that goes beyond the Church’s teaching, they “are not one with the God of Jesus Christ.”

Concluding his homily, the Holy Father emphasized the need for the Holy Spirit, comparing to the wind which fills the sails of the soul and drives it forward.

“The Holy Spirit,” the Pope concluded, “draws us into the mystery of the living God and saves us from the threat of a Church which is gnostic and self-referential, closed in on herself; He impels us to open the doors and go forth to proclaim and bear witness to the goodness of the Gospel.”



The Way Ahead After the PC VII

Fr. George Chalisserly SDB
Provincial Superior of ZMB

The Seventh Provincial Chapter which we had, from 10-18 April 2013, was a memorable event in the history of ZMB. There were 26 Salesians, a representative from the Salesian Sisters and also one from the Salesian Cooperators. This Provincial Chapter was in preparation for the Coming 27th General Chapter which will be held in Rome at our Generalate during the months of February, March and the beginning of April 2014. The Theme of the Chapter was “*Witnesses to the Radical Approach of the Gospel – called to live in fidelity Don Bosco’s apostolic project ‘Work and Temperance’*”.

At the outset I must say that the moderator of the Chapter, Fr Christopher Rychcik, did a very good job in planning and organizing the Chapter. Our communities in the Vice-Province and our confreres who were in Nairobi and Moshi, took active part in studying the theme of the Chapter. Those others who were outside the province were also eager to know what was going on in ZMB. Besides, the main theme of the Chapter, we also did an evaluation of our communities, revised the Province Directory and the Organic Provincial Plan.

All the confreres were involved in the preparation of the Provincial Chapter, even though we started the preparations rather late. We did not come up with any so-called ‘radical’ ideas or suggestions as one might have expected! But there were some other values that came forth and which I believe are a radical message for the province. There was a very cordial and fraternal atmosphere during the discussions and deliberations of the Chapter. We also underlined the fact that whatever happens in every community is of interest to all the confreres of the Vice-Province. We were much more united and we all felt the need to own the Province.

We are now 78 confreres from 15 nationalities... a truly international community. We find ourselves here as we all have the same aim of helping young people following the example of St John Bosco and in this process, becoming saints. Thus we challenge the young to follow our example of holiness. In a

big group like ours, there is always the danger of dividing ourselves into smaller groups according to national, ethnic or other basis. But to see a group of people from different places, all working together for the same mission is perhaps the greatest gospel message we can give to the people here.

We have just celebrated the feast of Pentecost. The coming of the Holy Spirit made the apostles preach to the people who had gathered together in Jerusalem from different corners of the earth. Those who accepted the message of Peter were all baptized and became one single group of believers in Jesus, though they came from different backgrounds. The Holy Spirit made these different people into one group of believers. In the world today, we find so many divisions among different groups of people. It is so easy to break up into different groups. But I believe the Provincial Chapter made us into one group of Brothers who have the same aim to help young people in the context of our 4 countries of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Namibia. I guess this feeling of unity is the best fruit of the Provincial Chapter. I am sure for us in ZMB, we have had a good past, but the best is yet to come. The Provincial Chapter has given birth to a new ZMB!

On 24th May the Church celebrates the feast of Mary Help of Christians. Mary was the one who united the scattered apostles, and was keeping them together for the coming of the Spirit. She is the patroness of our Vice-Province. May Mary unite us all with that same desire to help young people like our father Don Bosco! May she guide and protect us every day of our life. Don Bosco was anxious towards the end of his life, whether the Salesians would stay together after his death. He would say: “*Love one another as brothers; love one another, help one another and bear with one another as brothers. God’s help and that of Mary Help of Christians will not be lacking. Promise me that you will love one another as Brothers*” (Don Bosco).

I am sure all of us in ZMB would take to heart this exhortation that came from the heart of our father. I wish you all dear friends a Very Happy Feast of Mary Help of Christians.

May we all enjoy her maternal intercession and guidance every day of our lives.

Thank you! ☺



Local NEWS



:: DIACONATE ORDINATIONS :: **Nairobi (Kenya) 19/05/13.**

The Salesian Theological College of Utume was graced with the ordination of 14 deacons. The deacons were ordained by bishop Clement Mulenga of Kabwe Diocese (Zambia). Among those ordained was Dn Macarius Mpundu sdb who comes from the Salesian Parish in Kabwe. The ordination was held on the 18th of May, 2013 at Utume in Nairobi (Kenya). The newly ordained deacon will work in Bauleni Parish during his holidays.

:: PROVINCIAL VISITATION :: **(MALAWI) 16/05/2013.**

The Provincial has conducted the canonical visitation of the Salesian communities of Malawi: Lilongwe and Nkhosakota. At the end of his visitation to both communities, the provincial council joined him in Lilongwe to hold the Council meeting of May 2013.

The Provincial arranged that the Provincial council would meet the house council of both communities at Lilongwe and Nkhosakota respectively. During the visit to Nkhosakota, the Provincial also visited Don Bosco Secondary School.



:: NEW MINISTRIES ::

Nairobi (Kenya) 01/05/13.

Seven Salesians of ZMB studying at the Salesian Theological College of Utume (Nairobi- Kenya) received ministries of Lector and Acolyte. The new Acolytes of ZMB Vice-Province are Aphonsious Hamweete, Peter Nguyen and Emmanuel M. Phiri. The new Lectors are Simbarashe Muza, Christopher Mukuka, Martin Nguyen and John Musonda. The Provincial Superior of AFE, Fr. Roland Gianni, spoke of the importance of the Ministries in the Church more specifically as the steps in discovering and deepening ones vocation towards priesthood.



:: MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY ::

Lusaka - Bauleni (ZAMBIA) 27/04/2013.

The Community of Bauleni was the venue for the meeting of the members of the Salesian Family in the south cone. Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Salesians of Don Bosco and Salesian Cooperators gathered at Bauleni community to study the Chart of the Salesian Family helped by Fr. Jose Pastor SDB, the World facilitator of the Salesian Family. Fr. Pastor came to Zambia accompanied by Sr. Lesley FMA and Fr. Giuseppe S. from the Formation Team of the Salesian Family. The participants came from Kabwe, Mansa, Mazabuka, Namibia and Lusaka. At the end of the meeting, children performed some traditional dances.



:: ANNUAL RETREAT ZMB :: **Chawama - Lusaka (ZAMBIA) 10-14/04/2013.-**

Fr. Selvam Sahaya SDB from AFE Province directed the first annual retreat of ZMB Vice-Province after for all confreres taking part in the VII Provincial Chapter. The retreat took place at the provincial house in Lusaka. Fr. Selvam helped the participants to get in touch with themselves and reality, with the help of the "seven-step-retreat". In some of his talks, the facilitator emphasized the idea of moving towards a closer relationship with God in Jesus as the basis for personal renewal. 'Conversion is not a personal achievement but the work of God's grace in us', he added.



:: HOLY CHILDHOOD FORMATION DAY - DON BOSCO MAKULULU ::

Kabwe (ZAMBIA) 06/04/2013.

650 Children from Don Bosco Makululu participated in the formation day organised by the St. Mary's Parish. At the end of the gathering all participants received a t-shirt donated by the Sternsings of St. Bernhard Parish in Badherrenalb (Germany). ☺

VII PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF ZMB VICE-PROVINCE

Lusaka (ZAMBIA) 14/04/2013.-

The provincial Superior of ZMB, Fr. George Chalissery officially inaugurated the VII Provincial Chapter on the morning of 13 April 2013. The Provincial Chapter was once again celebrated at the provincial house (Chawama) in preparation for the 27th General Chapter of the Salesian Congregation that will take place in Rome from February to April 2014.

Fr. Chalissery welcomed and thanked all participants to the provincial chapter and most especially he expressed his gratitude towards Fr. Christopher Rychcik, the moderator of the chapter.

The Chapter began with the Eucharistic celebration; it was presided by Right Rev. Bishop Clement Mulenga SDB, who is invited to the chapter as one of the 5 external. In his homily, Bishop Clement emphasised the importance of the chapter in the life of the province. Bishop Clement encouraged the members of the Chapter to be united and to cherish the riches of the various cultural groups which make up the Vice-Province.

During the Chapter sessions, the Provincial, Fr. George Chalissery read his report, which was followed by that of the provincial economist.

The Chapter members spent a good deal of time, gathered in groups, studying the working paper. The group work was later on presented to the general assembly for the approval of their deliberations which was subsequently recorded by the secretaries to be sent to Rome at the end of the Chapter. The themes for the group work were: "Mystics in the Spirit", "Prophets of Fraternity" and "Servants of the Young". There were two additional documents on the "Re-organisation of the Africa-Madagascar Region" and the possible modification of Constitutions Art. 172.

The discussions proved to be very useful and enriching, the fruit of the work of



PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

"Witnesses
to the Radical Approach of the Gospel
– called to live in fidelity
to Don Bosco's apostolic project:
'Work and Temperance'!"



the Moderator, Fr. Christopher Rychcik of the contribution from the communities resulted in a very condensed yet comprehensive document.

The second and third days were also spent in group work, this time dealing with the Organic Provincial Plan and the revision of the Provincial Directory.

Towards the end of the Chapter, the Moderator led the election of the Delegate of ZMB Vice-Province to the General Chapter. The lot fell on Fr. Michael Mbandama; his substitute is Fr. Norbert Lesa.

On the last day, the Provincial Superior of ZMB officially concluded the VII Provincial Chapter; and invited all participants to join the celebrations of the 2013 Provincial Day. During the Eucharistic celebration there was a special mention of the 50th Anniversary of Religious Profession of Fr. Andrew Zdzieborski, 25th Anniversary of Religious Profession of Fr. Sławomir Bartodziej and the 25th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination of Fr. Michał Wzietek.





YOUTH CONFERENCE

By Taonga Phiri
taongaphiri54@gmail.com

Our trip to Rundu, Namibia was born from the Easter Camp that was held in Chawama from the 28th to the 31st of March 2013 with the theme "CHRIST LIVES, he invites us to be missionaries". It was there that the young people from Namibia invited us to attend their Youth Conference. They said that they have attended youth rallies here in Zambia as well as some of the Easter Camps hence they wanted at least about 5 youth from Zambia also to attend their youth program as a way of encouraging their fellow young people in Rundu to be active youths, and to experience how they run their youth programs. It was great for me to attend the conference together with Robert, unlike the other 3 who did not make it. This invitation came at the right time and for me it made the theme for Easter Camp even more meaningful in the sense that we answered Christ's call of being missionaries.

The conference ran from the 2nd to the 5th of May 2013. Robert and I started off on the morning of 1st of May. The special advisor for the youth (Paulus Tchavu) picked us up from Katima Mulilo border and we reached Rundu at 01:50hrs.

The conference was in Kaguni at the premises of a primary school. We went to attend the conference on the 2nd and it was basically about introductions. We were privileged to be given time to say a few words of which we did, it was an amazing moment.

The second day of the conference was entirely a sports day: basketball, netball, football and many other mini sports. They also had a bible quiz on this very day. We also took this opportunity to visit St Mary's Parish and we spent some time there watching the holy childhood rehearse for the feast of Dominic Savio. The third day is the one I enjoyed the most. The young people started by showcasing their cultural dances. It was really beautiful and 5 different youth groups took part. Later in the day there was a singing competition in which both senior and junior youths took part. This is a competition that attracted a lot of viewers. People from other places came to watch this competition. The performance of the choirs was amazing; the judges had tough time in doing their job. The conference was closed with mass on Sunday the 5th of May.

MY OVERALL VIEW OF THE CONFERENCE

I discovered that young people in Rundu are very energetic and vibrant. They are too much into culture and singing. The spiritual part needs more development. They need programs that can build on to their faith. They also need people who can help them to implement their programs. I was impressed with one youth who is married and is very active at youth programs; she even had a misunderstanding with her husband concerning her activeness but she stood up for what she believes in. Another man also impressed me; he married his fellow youth when they were both vibrant young people. The two of them now have a son who is also a vibrant youth. The couple is always present at almost all youth activities as a way of keeping the youth ministry alive and this proves that the spirit of Don Bosco is alive in Rundu. This conference made me realize that it's always important to stand for what we believe in if we want to be good Christians; so many things come in our way on our Christian journey. We are accused of doing so many things that we have not done, we are judged unjustly and many times we are hurt but this should not hinder our relationship with God.

OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE

We had a great time in Rundu; we visited a few places such as the beach and the river that demarcates Namibia and Angola. We left Rundu on the 7th of May 13, 2013 around 02hrs in the morning. We thank God for his travelling mercies and protection to and from Namibia. We also thank God for having given us this opportunity to experience and live another part of life. ☺



Jorge Mario BERGOGLIO
Pope FRANCIS



Sign & Prophecy

By Fr. Jorge E. Ormeño sdb



was not the exception. I think everybody was looking at the window and waiting who will be the next Pope. It was a long hour of hopeful expectation. I know it was not only Christians who were interested in the new Pope because the choice would, in a way, determine the way the Church is going to move. Then, after that unusually long hour we had the name of the new Pope being mentioned. I guess most of the people both in St. Peter's square and in the whole world were left in awe as to who is this new Pope. When I heard his name I immediately knew the person they were talking about. For a moment I thank God to have such a man of God to be our Pope.

Pope Francis, that is the way Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio chose to call himself. I think he did it purposely because, he, before being a Pope, is a believer, a man who has strived to live as a child of God, a follower of Christ, a man of the Church, a brother of many brothers. The first impression to all of us who were waiting was of a man who was more surprised of his election than we were; his silent looking at the crowd of people gather there in Rome gave the impression of a person who was afraid of the ministry he was starting. However, when he addressed the people of God, he gave a completely different impression: he was

a humble man who wanted to transmit the love of God even with his presence. He greeted as somebody we know would greet us: 'buona sera'.

That night Pope Francis taught us that the Pope was not supposed to be the most important. There, in our first few minutes with him, we learnt that God is always the most important and, because of that, we prayed to the Lord with him, as the way we used to do with our parents when we were little children: the very simple prayers for pope Benedict and then that prayer in silence for him and for the Church. He proposed to the whole Church to walk together to the encounter of the Lord. Then, he encouraged all not to get tired of going back to the Lord because He does not get tired of forgiving us.

He, finally, reminded us that to be a Christian is to do exactly what God does: to give life, to take care! Christian life is more than doing this or avoiding that; to be a Christian is to take care of each other! Tenderness is a quality of God and also of all his children. Then, we are not to be afraid of tenderness; that is the way to take care of each other, having an approach of tenderness to all the creatures that surround us. Maybe the very first way to take care with tenderness to people around us is to respect them in their own diversity, giving witness of a God that loves and respects all His creatures.

Now we can know that the choosing of his name was not only a matter of taste, but it is a program for a whole pontificate, a program for the whole Church. The first and foremost reform of a Church passes through every single Christian, passes through you and me. Everybody, from within and also outsiders, wants to see a rejuvenated Church. We already have a program to grow with God and then God who is ever with His Church will also in this time be with Her to produce the fruits of love and thus give witness to a living God.



By Gordon Chongo Mutale

EDUCATING young people TODAY

As often as this topic is discussed, it leaves a lot of gaps when it comes to understanding it. On top of that, education is dynamic; the way in which a child was educated in the past is definitely not the same as young people are educated today.

It must be remembered that where learning is concerned, there is an educator and the person "to be educated". Classical pedagogy put the educator at the centre of the learning process, where the educator becomes the sole giver of knowledge and the "student" on the receiving and passive side of the process. It is a fact that today in the education of a child there are many other things that demand consideration. Youth have developed or rather found themselves in their own culture where they have their own understanding; this understanding of the world, in a way differs from that of the adults'. This has become a threat to many adults as they think their traditional beliefs and understanding of the world is no longer meaningful to young people. I personally give it rather different interpretation. Maybe it is because am a youth myself and at the same time I am familiar with the Salesian Educative System. As such, I think I view it as both a youth and educator.

Today, it is difficult or even impossible to educate young people if you cut yourself off from the 'youth culture'. The 'youth culture' reminds us that we cannot go on trying to solve new problems using old solutions. In youth ministry, we often find the young people inviting us to participate in their world. Yet again, there are educators who refuse to enter this beautiful world.



Young people today are the leading protagonists in the so-called "Digital Continent". They are exposed to many things that come from the Media, much more than most adults. However, a strange thing today is to verify that a good number of educators waste lots of time and energy trying to correct behavioural patterns among the young, not bothering to find out where the traits they want to correct are coming from.

My appeal to all educators is to allow themselves to be challenged by their students and learn from them; to know what they know best and from there draw out the experience of life which will help them make a positive behavioural change. This attitude calls for an extraordinary effort to leave one's comfort zone of structured values and acquired knowledge to move to a zone where educator and student are both discovering the other side of the story and there the educator based on his experience helps the student to make his own choices and improve their knowledge; and even become 'educators' of their peers.

Educating young people today, as it has always been, is a wonderful process: it is more like an adventure! 🌟

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
 you have given the world it's true light,
 Jesus your son – the Son of God.
 You abandoned yourself completely
 to God's call and thus became
 a wellspring of the goodness
 which flows forth from him.
 Show us Jesus, Lead us to him.
 Teach to know and love him,
 so that we too can become
 capable of true love
 and be fountains of living water
 in the midst of a thirsting world.
 (Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter,
 "God is Love" Solemnity of the Nativity of the
 Lord, 2005)

*Holy Mary, Mother of God you have given the world
 its true light, Jesus your son – the Son of God.*
 Jesus is the Light of the world (Jn 9:5). Jesus is our
 Light, our kindly Light leading us beyond the
 encircling gloom. It was Mary who gave us Jesus,
 her Son, to be our Light and a lamp for our steps
 (Ps 119:105) as we struggle on our earthly
 pilgrimage towards our Father's house (Jn 14:2).
 That is why we honour Mary so much, and thank
 her too. And that is why we thank God for giving
 us Mary, the mother of Jesus our Light.

Holy Mary, Mother of God... show us Jesus
 We ask Mary, the mother of Jesus, to show us
 Jesus, her Son. In the beautiful and ancient hymn
 of the church, the 'Salve Regina', the 'Hail Holy
 Queen', there is a similar prayer: "and after this
 our exile, show unto us the fruit of your womb,
 Jesus".

Like those Greeks who came to Philip, we too
 "desire to see Jesus" (Jn 12:22). Like Zaccheus, we
 too "desire to see Jesus" and "catch a glimpse of
 him" (Lk 19:3.4). With the great St. Augustine we
 too pray: "Lord, let me know you". And so we ask
 Mary, the mother of Jesus, to show us Jesus her
 Son.

*Holy Mary, Mother of God... Lead us to Jesus. Teach
 to know and love him*

To know Jesus is a great grace, the grace that St
 Paul prayer that the early Christians at Ephesus
 would receive: "until knowing the love of Christ,
 which is above all knowledge, you are filled with
 the utter fullness of God" (Eph 3:19). To know
 Jesus is to have eternal life is this: to know you, the
 only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have
 sent (Jn 17:3)

St Ignatius of Loyola, in his spiritual exercises,
 encourages the retreat to pray for this grace while
 contemplating the mysteries of Christ's life in the

■ MEDITATIONS ON

MARIAN PRAYER

By Fr. Tony Geoghegan, sj.



gospels: 'to ask for an interior knowledge of our
 Lord, who became human for me, that I may love
 him more intensely and follow him more closely.'

We should pray daily for the grace to know and
 love Jesus more because the heart of our
 motivation as disciples and apostles of the Lord is
 our personal relationship with Jesus (Jn 15:14).
 And this was the source of St Paul's motivation as
 missionary and preacher of the Good News: "It is
 the love of Christ which urges us on" (2Co 5:14).

To be capable of true love means that we love one
 another as Jesus loved us (Jn 13:34). His love for
 us was a sacrificial love (Jn 15:13). His love for us
 was all embracing, universal, excluding no one,
 not even his enemies who crucified him (Lk
 23:34). Often our loving is not true, not genuine,
 not faithful. Sometimes our loving is mixed with a
 lot of selfishness. It can be flawed and marred by
 different forms of exclusivism – excluding either
 some individuals or groups from our so-called
 'loving'.

Sometimes our loving is possessive and enslaving
 instead of being liberating and life giving. And so
 we pray for the grace to become capable of true
 love. If our loving is true loving then we can
 become 'fountains of living water in the midst of a
 thirsting world.' ❧

■ DID YOU KNOW THAT...

by Dn. Jerome Bwalya sdb



1. Bauleni has been the home heart for most of the Salesians in ZMB Vice-Province because of its being the formation house in the past and also because most of the Ordinations, Renewals, First and Final Professions have taken place from there. Bauleni was the home was the first Formation House in ZMB Vice Province.

2. That our father founder of ZMB Vice-Province Fr. Kaziemierz Cichecki died peacefully in his room in Bauleni community while we were having the first International Youth Rally in Chingola in the jubilee year of the Lord- 2000. He died on 9th September 2000.

3. Fr. Peter Gozdalski was the first Salesian priest to be ordained on the soil of ZMB Vice-Province. He was ordained in Nsakaluba (Luapula Province) in 1990 while late on the same year Fr. Joseph Skowron was also ordained in Luwingu. That was the beginning of all Salesian priestly ordination in ZMB.

4. Bishop Clement Mulenga was the first local vocation to be ordained priest in the ZMB Vice-Province. He was ordained in Luwingu on 26th April 1998, and he became the first bishop of Kabwe Diocese and first Salesian bishop in ZMB vice province.

5. Next year we are celebrating the Silver

Jubilee of the first local vocation to the Salesian Congregation in the ZMB Vice-Province – Br. Sylvester Makumba. He is the first Zambian Salesian and he made his first profession on 1st January 1989 in Lesotho and his final profession on 29th October 1995 in Bauleni (ZAMBIA). Although Zambian, he belonged to the Warsaw Province.

6. The first Rectors of ZMB vice province were Fr. Kazimierz Cichecki rector of Luwingu, Fr. Jozef Bem rector of Chingola and Fr. Piotr Boryczka rector of Kazembe. They were the first rectors when these communities still belonged to the Warsaw Province (PLE) of which Zambia was a delegation.

7. The first Parish in ZMB Vice-Province was Luwingu mission and that Fr. Jozef Ojczyk was the first Salesians Parish Priest; hence he was the first Parish Priest of ZMB.

8. The First Provincial Chapter in ZMB Vice-Province was held in 1995 and Fr. Jozef Czerwinski was its moderator. At the end of the Chapter, the first Provincial Directory was produced.

9. “Luwingu” was the first Salesian Headquarter for the Salesians in ZMB Vice-Province, since the Provincial Delegate, Fr. Kazimierz Cichecki resided there before he moved to Lusaka in 1985. The house at “Luzi Road” became the second Headquarter, and then “Makeni” being third, followed by “Chawama” being the four headquarter up to today.

10. Most of the Local Salesians vocations in ZMB Vice-Province are from Northern Province of Zambia, Kasama Archdiocese to be more specific! From that part of the world, where we do not have any Salesian community at present.

11. Among the Salesians presences that we have handed back (closed), IPUSUKILO Mission has been the place where we stayed the shortest period of time. The Salesians were there only for six years. We ran it after the White Fathers left in 1986, and we handed it back to Kasama Archdiocese 20th August 1992.



(ANS – Mendoza) 17/5/2013 - Argentina - The hostel of the oratory opens to the homeless.

– For the second consecutive year the hostel of the oratory "Ceferino Namuncurá" in Mendoza, opens its doors to all adults who live on the street. A little more than a week of its initiation there are already 30 people who go there to sleep and get something hot to start the day. "This is the only place where we are treated as people"; "because of the good folk like you, clean, with a job, the study ... you take so much trouble to spend time with us?"; "If this year the hostel reopened I want to stay as a volunteer, because I want to return all the good that I have received."



(ANS – Nairobi) – 17/5/2013 - Kenya - Communications Professionals at work.

Two important social communications events took place last week at Nairobi in Kenya: the 12th Seminar for Television Producers of SIGNIS (the World Catholic Association for Communications), and the Catholic Media Festival, organized by the Catholic Media Houses of the Archdiocese of Nairobi. Both events were attended by the staff of the Salesian Audiovisual Centre, Bosco Eastern Africa Multimedia



(ANS – Lubumbashi) – 30/4/2013 - Democratic Republic of Congo - Salesian Games 2013

Young people from all the Salesian centres in the province of Katanga, as well as those from parishes run by the Salesians, are taking part in the 2013 tournament of the Salesian Games at the playing fields of Boys' Town in Lubumbashi. The programme started ten days ago and will finish tomorrow.

Young people from the parishes and oratories came together on 20-21 April, and then, the following weekend 27-28 April, young people from the Salesian schools. On both occasions the young people were highly motivated and determined to bring home a cup. They took part in the different disciplines and displayed a high standard of sportsmanship and good behavior. The officials for the various competitions were the students of the St Francis de Sales Institute of Theology and the St John Bosco Institute of Philosophy of Kansebula and the members of the St John Bosco Football Academy.

(ANS – Freetown) – 30/4/2013 - Sierra Leone - Don Bosco Fambul: stop sexual abuse and rape.

On the occasion of a press conference, on 19 April, the Salesian Brother Lothar Wagner

presented the annual report of the Girls Shelter. Since the Girls Shelter was opened, two years ago, 521 crisis interventions have been carried out including follow-up care for girls and young women who have experienced violence.

The Shelter is open all day long and staffed by professional social and pastoral workers. In comparison to last year, Brother Lothar this time presented shocking empirical findings. It is not only the increasing brutality of the perpetrators of violence against the girls that is alarming, but also the rising number of rapes against girls and young



women under the age of 14.

"Some of the girls were kept like slaves by their tormentors, oftentimes for years," Brother Lothar told the journalists. Among the perpetrators are teachers and religious leaders as well as complete strangers who are active in child trafficking. "The boldness that characterizes the way the perpetrators act against the girls and young women bears testimony of the perpetrators' grave moral void; oftentimes they do not even regard themselves as criminals but present themselves as benefactors," the director said. ☺

For more news of the Salesian World, visit www.infoans.org

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CAMP



Lusaka (ZAMBIA) 28-31/03/2013.-
ZMB EASTER CAMP.

46 Youngsters from the Salesian Youth Movement gathered at the provincial house to celebrate the Easter Festival. The Youth Department of ZMB organised the annual Easter Camp 'Living Christ' to help youngsters from the Salesian Youth Movement grow in their spiritual life by living the events of our salvation in a youthful atmosphere.

This year the event took place at the provincial house of ZMB Vice-Province [Lusaka – Chawama], just as it was back in 2009. The participants came from various locations within ZMB: Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia; only Malawi was not represented. The event began on Holy Thursday with the arrival of the various delegations; the first reflection of the day was on the 'Joy of Service', in preparation for the Celebration of the Washing of the Feet.

Youngsters from the various communities mingled with their peers in groups for the liturgy, camping and various services. The interaction among them was remarkable and their participation in the liturgy praiseworthy. On Good Friday all events spin around the passion of Christ. The group went to the streets to celebrate the Way of the Cross.

On Saturday, the celebration of the Easter Vigil helped all recognise all our good God does for us. As the liturgy unfolded, the various readings showed all participants

the constant intervention of God in the history of salvation until its climax in the resurrection of Christ.

On the Resurrection Sunday one of the main reflections dwelt on the possibility of engaging in the Salesian Voluntary Service as a way to live out our Christian call.

The presence of the young people from the communities of the Salesian Sisters was very strong and the Sisters themselves participated fully in the programme giving lot of joy to the event. ☺





Volunteers' Meeting 2013



:: ANNUAL MEETING OF VOLUNTEERS ::
Lusaka (ZAMBIA) 15-19/03/2013
Young volunteers from Austria, Czech Republic and Poland spend a few days of reflection at the provincial house of ZMB together with Fr. Antonio, the Provincial Youth Delegate and Mission Promotion.

The main purpose of the meeting was to spend some time together, reflecting on the identity of the Salesian Volunteer and the Salesian Voluntary Service, the goals of the Salesian Voluntary Service and also to revise the various aspects of the voluntary service in this part of Africa.

The meeting is a continuation of the formation programme volunteers undergo before coming to the province. During the meeting, the volunteers shared their community and working experiences.

The meeting started on Friday evening through Monday morning when after the outing and evaluation of the meeting the volunteers returned to their communities.

The experience of the Voluntary Service in ZMB is a phenomenon that is attracting many young people from Europe and other parts of the world as well as Africa to think of their Christian identity and avail themselves of a particular mission in the various sectors of the Salesian Mission here in Africa. ☺



VOLUNTEERS



*Voluntary service
has become
the practical expression
of an interior
attitude of service
and solidarity.*

*A volunteer
is a person
who is growing towards
a vision of life
as a gift.*

I am Ulrike Ebner. I left my home in southern Austria on the 26th of August 2012. I came to Lilongwe (capital city of Malawi) to spend one year in Lilongwe working as a volunteer at the Don Bosco Youth Technical Institute. I “Computer Skills” and in 5 different classes I have students who are learning the most important things about computers. I am responsible for the First Year Students of the Information and Communication Technology to whom I teach the ICDL (International Computer Driving License). On weekends I am working together with my co-volunteer Elisabeth at the Don Bosco Youth Centre. My main pursuit is to take care of the youngest members of the Youth Centre, the children who are not old enough to join one of the various clubs which are meeting and training every day. At the centre there is the so-called “Kids Corner”, it gives them a place to play, do some drawings and to make music at their will. Apart from the work at school and the youth centre we are part of an organisation called “BOSCO”, founded by Austrian volunteers together with members of staff that supports students financially but also in is a support group to cope with the emotional challenges they face in day-to-day life. ☺

wide variety of educational and recreational activities. Young people are coming to train football, play Scrabble and do weight lifting. They learn new dances or sing together in the Music Club. All together there are 16 different clubs at present, which welcome everyone who would like to join. In the mornings I am working in the office of the Youth Centre to arrange registers, financial reports or whatever occurs. In the afternoon, I have to make sure that children and youth are assisted with their materials and I help them organise games, shows and tournaments. For children we offer a playground, table games and since last year also what we call the “Kids Corner”, where they can play untroubled and gain important skills for life. In addition to this, Ulli and I are also working for the sponsorship organisation BOSCO, which supports students in the college. ☺



I am Elisabeth Graf. On August 17th, 2012, I arrived in Lilongwe, the capital city of Malawi to spend exactly 361 days for a voluntary service with the Salesians of Don Bosco. The Salesian project is huge and is based in Area 23 and is made up of a parish, a technical college and a youth centre. While my friend Ulli, is teaching at school, I'm working at the Youth Centre. With more than 400 registered members. The Oratory-Youth Centre is also very big and offers a

I am David Krkoška. I am 24 years old and I came from the Czech Republic. I've been in Africa since December, when I arrived with my wife Na a to start our volunteering mission in the Don Bosco Technical College in Hwange, Zimbabwe. Last year I finished my studies and since I'm a software engineer I work in the college as a lecturer in a Computer Department. I teach both basic and advanced courses there; my other big commitment is in the oratory,

where we receive children and youth to play with them, let them compete in games and sports and also pray with them during the assembly at the end of each day. I'm in charge of some other duties as well.

My volunteering service is a great experience that lets me do some of the things I like to do very much – being a volunteer, working with children and youth, tasting new food, listening to ethnical music, travelling and meeting new cultures with their customs and cultural differences. All of that is combined here in Hwange and I'm glad that I can be a part of a wonderful world of Salesian missions. ☺



To introduce myself I'll start by saying that, "my name is Na a Bart ková; I come from the Czech Republic, I'm 25 years old and since December I've been volunteering with my husband in Don Bosco Hwange, Zimbabwe." For me, to be part of mission is like a fulfilled desire. When I was 16 years old, I got a prophecy about being a missionary in Africa. God was calling me later again, but I was so afraid that I set a condition – I will go only with a husband. Later I met David and we both felt the desire to be volunteers for one year of our lives. We got married after our university studies just before leaving to Zimbabwe. I studied Environmental Simulations which is close both to computers and mathematics, thus

in the Technical College I teach basics in those two fields. Although I'm not good in sports, with David we organize sports and gaming events and we run the oratory. I love being with the children, playing or making some drawings with them, teaching them to play guitar and different games and, what is the most important for me, sharing Jesus' love with all the students and oratorians. I'm grateful for having this chance to be a part of Salesian work. ☺



My name is Anna Gordziejewska. I'm 30 years old. I come from Poland. I stay in Zambia, in Kabwe in Don Bosco Youth Centre from September 2012. There in Kabwe there is an Oratory for youth and for kids. The Oratory section for kids we started this year. This oratory is mainly during the weekends, but also it sometimes runs during the week. I have charge of the girl's group. My group is made up of almost 50 girls. We play board games and some outdoor games too. We do some painting as well. Sometimes we do sport competitions for girls and boys together. Kids very like it. During the school holidays, I lead special activities for children. We had also Christmas Party and Easter Party. On the weekends I go to Makululu, where I work in a project that prepares children to begin their schooling years. The name of the project is "Don Bosco Preschool". There are about 100

children, age from 3 years to 9 years. There are 2 groups and the third one is my group. I teach Literacy, English, Maths and singing. Back in the community I also have other duties, for example painting and in the weekend I water the garden and do a bit of house cleaning. I'll stay in Zambia up to August 2013. I like this country. People here are very kind and I feel like one of them. ☺



My name is Tomek Witkowski. I'm 26 years old. I am from Poland. In September 2012 I came to Zambia to work as a volunteer. I stay in Kabwe in place called: Don Bosco Youth Centre. I live together with three priests, one religious brother and another volunteer. This is our community and because I live together with priests in one place, I feel like I'm living in a convent, in the positive sense! It is an amazing and a very interesting experience. As a volunteer I do many different works: I teach computers, I water the garden in the weekends together with Ana; I do maintenance in the house and oratory. The work with the kids is what I like the most. I'm trying to be like a father to them and I want them to feel at home any time they come to Don Bosco Youth Centre. I'm going to stay in Zambia up to August 2013. I like Zambians are very friendly and I like them so much. Even the way they play makes me to feel so happy. ☺



The Salesian Family

Charism and Legacy



By Fr. Jorge E. Ormeño sdb

Right from the beginning Don Bosco was not alone in the mission God entrusted to him. There was a group of people that in different forms had the same Spirit and shared the same mission, though in different Christian vocations. As the youth apostolate matured, Don Bosco realized that there was a movement of people gathered around him carrying out the mission God entrusted to him. Along time, the followers of Don Bosco and the movement of people around them have come to understand that their lives followed the same Spirit and shared the same mission. They understood they had a common Charismatic identity. It is from this vast movement of people that the Salesian Family was born.



Meeting of the members of the Salesian Family in Bauleni - Lusaka (Zambia)

The term 'family', in Salesian Family, describes the link that connects the different groups that compose it. The ties of spiritual relationship and of apostolic affinity link the different groups. These ties are an expression of communion that is interior, charismatic and spiritual. Though there are groups of diverse type they are united, as in a family, by common baptism (united with God and with His Church—Christian Identity); by a common reference to Mary Help of Christians and to Don Bosco (Salesian history); by the spirit of Don Bosco (Salesian spirituality); by the same method (Salesian humanism); by the mission for the young

and the poor (Salesian mission); by recognizing a centre of unity in Don Bosco and his successors (Salesian Rector Major). The term 'Salesian', on the other hand, refers to a particular spirituality. Don Bosco took St. Francis de Sales as his patron and model in his humanism and his pastoral charity. St Francis looked at life with optimism: people are good because God loves them (Salesian humanism) and gave himself completely to his people as Jesus the Good Shepherd (Pastoral charity).

The understanding on their common call, identity and mission of the Salesian Family has come to maturity in these last decades. The documents on the Salesian Family want to underline this understanding. The latest of these documents is the *Charter of the Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family*. The Charter is the result of a long process of reflection and agreement of the *World Consultative Committee of the Salesian Family*. This charter gathers the reflections and the experiences of the previous documents. It describes the characteristics and the distinguishing elements of the Salesian Family.

All the groups in the Salesian Family participate in the Salesian Vocation. They share the same vocation, God's call to Don Bosco. They, like Don Bosco, experience God in a particular way, a God who calls them to be disciples and apostles. They, like Don Bosco, recognize themselves as apostles to the young and/or the working classes. They share the Salesian mission and they carry it out in their different ways of life.

Moreover, the Salesian Family does not only have the same vocation and the same mission. They also share the same method to carry out their apostolate: the Salesian educative method. The Salesian educative method is a way of realising their mission inspired by the spiritual and pedagogical patrimony of Don Bosco. They collaborate with God the Father in his paternal concern for all his children, especially the most vulnerable. Through the sacraments, they enter in communion with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who gives his life for his brothers and sisters. They are part of a larger community, the Church, which makes God present among us and is his missionary. They are in contact with people in

their daily activities and with the approach proper to the sons and daughters of Don Bosco, approach that is characterized by loving-kindness.

The members of the Salesian Family live their salesianity in their concrete ways of life. Their way of life transpires a commitment. It is an evangelical life. Their commitment in their Christian lives is lived in active fraternity with other groups of the Salesian family. They work together with the other groups and they know



how to link forces to the betterment of the mission.

The Salesian Family is a living reality in the Church. It is the custodian of Don Bosco's spirituality and is called to have it alive in the larger Salesian movement by being precisely what they are: Salesians. Here we have tried to point out the history, the meaning, the identity in its main features, the vocation, the mission, the spirituality and the formation of the Salesian Family. ☺



LUFUBU 2013

Salesian Mission Day



The Salesian Community of St. Isidro (Lufubu) in co-operation with the Delegate for Mission Promotion in ZMB, Volunteers and Aspirants organised a series of conferences and other activities to commemorate the Salesian Mission Day 2013, from 01-06 May 2013. The meeting ended with the celebrations in honour of St. Dominic Savio.

The Rector of the Community, Fr. Czeslaw Lenczuk invited the Mission Delegate of ZMB to organise together a "Mission-Week" for the children of Lufubu village in the north of Zambia, where the community is located. The idea was to create awareness on the sense of Mission in the Catholic community of Lufubu and to get to know the various ways in the which all can participate in the missionary activity of the Church and the Salesian Congregation. Volunteers, Aspirants and some close collaborators came together to organise the event in which over 156 children, teenagers and adolescents took part. The event is part of the formation programme of the community in its outreach plan for the children and adolescents of Lufubu village (ZAMBIA) in order to help them grow and mature in their

faith, as good Catholics.

The programme was based on series of meetings and group work on the theme of the "Initial Proclamation of Jesus." The starting point was to get to know Jesus more in depth as well as to share the joy of being his followers. The participants were very happy to share their own experience and suggested ways to let Jesus be known more and more among their parents, siblings and other relatives.

Fr. Czeslaw organised a wonderful programme that included a visit to Lake Mweru (70km from Lufubu) in the border with Congo D.R. All participants had the chance to attend mass by the lake and later on get a splash on the lake. Fr. Jorge Ormeño SDB, presided over the eucharist and stressed the idea of being missionaries by acknowledging the love of God and being witnesses of this love to all.

During the various sessions, the three aspirants from Zambia, Adrian Matebesi, Andrew Phiri and I. Katongo helped with the translations from English into Bemba. Polish Volunteers Christopher and Ilona helped with the kitchen, movies and recreation. ☺





LONGING FOR PARADISE

the reality of youth migration

Some people say: “paradise is the place where everyone longs to be.” Is paradise already with us or it will be in future? One might ask this question. Of course, there are all sorts of meanings to the word 'paradise'. Nevertheless, we will discover that somehow the idea of an earthly paradise is already here with us but it depends on how each one makes efforts to relate with God, humans beings and nature in order to experience it.

It was during my short visit to German; from 22 to 27 of January 2013, when young people from all continents gathered in Bonn to share some ideas on the causes of migration.

The topic helped us to look into how we can become self sustainable especially if we had to remain in rural and underdeveloped areas in order to develop them. It is a common way of thinking to say that “good life is only found in big cities”. This is why we find many undeveloped areas especially on the country side. People have lost the essence of hard working, thinking that when you sit in class everything will be given on a silver plate. Is it not the very thing which has led to the increase in laziness hence leading to corruption?

Many people have left their homes in search of greener pastures. Today, as it was in the past, this continues leading to the increase

in migrations from the rural areas to the big cities. But as people go to the long desired areas, all face big challenges like a new language, discrimination, hard living conditions, lack of proper sanitation, etc.

During one of the sessions we had, three people from different countries shared their experiences as migrants: one of them from Kenya living in Germany for 8 years now; another from America also married in Germany and a third one from Germany who had gone to India as a volunteer. From these three experiences, we discovered that each person is a book in which you can read some of the challenges everyone faces in life.

We did not look into migrations only, but as people who work with the young, we had to look into the things that can help young people to become good Christians and citizens of the society in which they live. Being the children of Don Bosco, we shared our experiences from our youth centres and areas where our work is done to see the challenges our communities face on daily basis.

The meeting was an opportunity to learn from our unrecognized mistakes of our daily life. During one of the sessions, we had an exercise meant to give us an insight in problem-solving. In the exercise, we were given to make a bridge with 18 planks of the same size. We were not allowed to use nails but at the same time the bridge had to be strong enough to support a person. The exercise helped us to know all that it required to work as a group and to think outside the box. If you don't have someone to guide the group, where each person has to listen to other people's ideas, and where also everyone who can contribute, then nothing good will be done.

The meeting ended with good resolutions; but above all, I believe that unless we start helping young people change their ways of thinking by showing them that through hard work and self sacrifice we can develop our rural settings and make it a better place to live, the migration from the rural settings to big cities will be an endless story. People in the rural settings always hope that development will come from outside, as educators we ought to accompany the young to build up their communities, develop them and make it a wonderful place to live. 🌱



Photo

Social Communication Department
Box 31148 - Lusaka | Zambia
zmbsocialc@salesianszmb.org



ZMB PHOTO - Issue No 26

1. Castelfandolfo-Rome (Italy) Newly elected Pope Francis pays a visit to Benedict XVI.
2. Chawama-Lusaka (ZAMBIA): Rectors' Meeting presided by the Provincial, Fr. George Chalissery.
3. Chawama -Lusaka: Bishop Clement Mulenga celebrating mass during the VII Provincial Chapter.
4. Lufubu (ZAMBIA): Fr. Chester Lenczuk explains to Fr. Jorge the new developments in Lufubu Mission.
5. Lilongwe (MALAWI): Fr. George Chalissery giving the morning talk to the students of Don Bosco Technical Institute.
6. Chawama-Lusaka (ZAMBIA) : Fr. Kim and the Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia during the last night of the Chapter.

- 7-8. Kabwe (ZAMBIA): Children of the Holy Childhood from Don Bosco Makululu and St. Mary's parish during a formation programme.
9. Mukalashi -Kabwei (ZAMBIA): Fr. Mariusz Skowron celebrating the Easter Sunday in one of the outstations.
10. Lilongwe (MALAWI): Bro. Sylvester and the council while inspecting the 'Girls Hostel'.
11. Chawama-Lusaka (ZAMBIA): Confreres while preparing for the group photo on the last day of the Provincial Chapter.
12. Bauleni - Lusaka (ZAMBIA): Salesian Co-operators, Volunteers, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and Salesians of Don Bosco on the day of formation and celebration of the Salesian Family.
13. Design for the 2013 CampoBosco in Kabwe.