

# Salesian Newslink



Archdiocesan WYD Celebrations  
Youth Volunteer for Christ  
Pope Francis' Lenten Message

## GC 27:

Witnesses of Radicality of the Gospel





St Mary's Parish - Kabwe  
Stella girls preparing a traditional dance,  
Oratory children, parishioners after Sunday mass  
and stellas with their matron Mrs Chilekwa.

Director & Editor: Fr. Javier A. Barrientos  
Redaction Board: Fr. Dennis Higgins, Walter Thyrniang  
Graphic Design: Fr. Javier A. Barrientos  
Photos: Br. Walter Thyrniang, Fr. Javier Barrientos,  
Joackim Mzanywa, John Musonda, Faith  
Musabila.  
E-mail: [communication@salesianszmb.org](mailto:communication@salesianszmb.org)  
Website: [www.salesianszmb.org](http://www.salesianszmb.org)  
Contribution from: Fr. George Chalissery, Dn. Jerome Bwalya, Br. Walter  
Thyrniang, Fr. Jorge Ormeño, Fr. Michael  
Mbandama, Cl. Faith Musabila, Br. Robert Malusa,  
Sr Chanda Nsofwa & Sr Caroline Chitenta FMA.  
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## Mandela's LEGACY

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It is now few months after the death of Nelson Mandela [or Madiba as he is known South Africa]. His memories are still fresh; memories of the man who stood so firm in the face of trouble and difficulty. President Obama in his speech at Mandela's funeral said, "Madiba had a stubborn sense of fairness". And we all know that his stubborn sense of fairness is what made him great. Without Mandela's sense of fairness, South Africa would have plunged itself in an endless civil war, not until one side would have gained power to control and oppress the other.

At the end of his trial, the judge who could have sentenced Mandela and his companions to the death row for treason, argued that Madiba and his companions would serve life in prison because although found guilty of high treason and conspiracy, nevertheless they had high moral claims: "they were fighting to establish an equal and just society for all. For which they were ready to lay down their lives."

Fairness is a wonderful word that embodies the quality of making judgements that are free from discrimination. Our human experience, needless to say, always and naturally discriminates. Children are to be loved and protected, how parents ever, parents



have preference for their children not for every child of the world; a tribe or racial group do the same, and human institution is exempt. It is difficult to establish a pattern for this kind of behaviour, for the particular way in which we make a choice. However, the fact is we behave like this because we have learnt it that way.

Looking at the socio-political context of South Africa in which Mandela lived; we can conclude that despite the facts that would have made him react always violently, he simply showed an extraordinary sense of fairness. As all know, his sense of fairness did not always take him to use the right means. He learned to master his anger in order to bring about reconciliation. African nations and the world at large need leaders of the stature of Nelson Mandela.

Mandela's sense of fairness is necessarily to be found in the wisdom and culture of his native birthplace. In childhood society gives us the basic knowledge of life and a concrete worldview that is crucial for our behaviour and for the ways we think and judge. Love, respect, sense of purpose and order, etc, all these are values we learn at home. When we grow up we only perfect them in a way that is required by our age; and in some cases it also grows to a heroic degree, like Mandela, and many other outstanding figures known and also unknown to the world.

Assuming that Mandela got his sense of fairness from this tribal background, would it be justifiable that when that good upbringing is lacking the end product is a person without morals and values? Life puts on our way people who are far from being like Mandela. Are their families to blame for the type of people they have become? Is society to blame? Well, it is quite complicated to get a straight answer, but what is real is to witness the thousands of people who gathered at Mandela's funeral, world Presidents who were present that day, messages from prominent world figures that were read at the funeral: all these because Mandela was a man of a "stubborn sense of fairness". After conquering his anger, he was able to judge without discrimination and he taught South Africans to relent from anger and seek peace, unity and reconciliation. This does not mean, 'let's forget our past and move on' but rather 'let us heal our past and move on' because we are all members of the human race.

My take of Mandela's legacy is his fairness; which is so needed in our society at all levels, from the family experience to the nation's governance; from the church to the parliament, from the school to the factory, from employers to employees, from me to you. ☺

## Salesian Spirituality



Fr Pascual Chavez SDB  
RECTOR MAJOR



Don Bosco's Life and Mission  
are described by Fr Ceria  
as "Union with God"

# Holiness for All

## A necessary foreword

Among the many things I have written, you will search in vain for my spiritual diary, a description of my intimate journey, or an autobiography in which people might see my spirituality. It was not my style.

Maybe because of that natural reserve which is typical of country people, or more likely because of the formation I received, I never felt like opening up. I preferred to keep in my heart the memory of so many experiences, struggles and apostolic achievements, rather than express them in public. For this reason, you will not find in my books and in my conversations or confidences any evidence of my personal relationship with God and his mystery.

## My experience with the Lord

I was not born a saint. I tell you that directly and in all simplicity. I struggled a lot to be faithful to the Lord, and to live up to my Christian commitments. I can assure you, it was not always easy. Saints have to become saints, little by little. Nobody has yet invented an instrument that measures holiness. Everything is grace, the collaboration of the creature with the Creator. And grace is beyond human control, because it is a gift from God.

I've always been an optimist by nature and out of personal conviction. I was never careless, much less naive. For me, life has always been, and continues to be, a wise and demanding teacher. I knew that it entails challenges and is never without difficulty or trial.

So that you can understand the ideal I had in my heart, I am going to write down now some reflections I had when I was about to enter the seminary in Chieri. I was 20 years old at the time! I was no longer a kid or a naive teenager dreamer ... "My life as it had been up to then, needed to be radically reformed. I had not been bad up to that, but I was dissipated, boastful, busy in games and sport, jumping, amusements and other similar things that made me happy at the time, but did not satisfy my heart." For her part, my mother - despite the intense emotion she felt when she saw me dressed in a cassock - said to me very clearly: "You have the garment of a priest. Remember that it is not the dress that honours your state. It is the practice of virtue. I would rather have a poor farmer for a son than a priest who neglects his duties."

In all humility and sincerity, I have always tried to serve God and work for his glory. Believe me, this is not a cliché. In my time that was a real life programme. It was the secret of my





# rector major

## Almost blocked in the Vatican...

At that time I felt I was already in heaven. I knew that here on the earth people were talking about an issue that, in my opinion, never existed! Given the immense amount of work and worries that beset me, some people were convinced that I did not have the time to pray. They began to ask, "When does Don Bosco pray?" The question could not be evaded. Indeed it merited a response. They discovered then a secret that I always thought did not need to be shouted to the four winds: the whole of my life was a prayer, because I prayed life! I taught this programme to my Salesians and I recommended it to young people as well. Spending hours in the confessional was prayer. So was writing dozens of letters late at night in the flickering light of a candle, going up and down the endless marble steps of the many houses I visited, having a friendly chat with the boys in the yard, celebrating Mass, gazing into the face of Mary Help of Christians... all this was prayer! Prayer was living in God's presence, as I had learned as a boy from my good Mother. For me, prayer was abandoning myself in total confidence to God's Providence. But teaching young people a trade, finding a job for many young men so that they could always be "good Christians and honest citizens" – this was also prayer. I prayed when I gave the farewell kiss to the first missionaries departing for Argentina, when I visited the Pope, when I welcomed bishops who had been driven from their diocese, when I wrote one of the many books of the Catholic Readings, when I multiplied the loaves in the basket or the hosts at the time of communion, when I was travelling from Turin to Barcelona or Paris to find the money needed to build the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome, or the money that was needed to spread the Gospel in the Argentine pampas. I was always going full swing, but my heart was always in intimacy with the Lord.

## A Young Saint for Young People

I have said it many times: I was called for young people, especially those who were most in need of love and hope. They have always been the reason for my being and my actions. But I did not want them for myself. A priest, a very dear friend of mine, once said: "As a mother nourishes herself in order to nourish her child, Don Bosco nourished himself with God, to be able to nourish the rest of us." With all humility, I assure you that I see myself in these simple but true words. I wanted the young people to be my friends because I passionately wanted them to become friends of God. When one is a friend of God, one is on the way of holiness! 🌹

relationship with God, summed up in a phrase that also explained my service to young people. I really believed in it, you know. I was convinced, and experience confirmed it for me day after day, that the young people I met in the bars and on the streets of Turin, in the prisons, or employed by inhuman masters, really needed a helping hand, someone to take care of them, look after them, and lead them away from their bad habits to a better way of life. The dream I had at Becchi when I was nine or ten years old continued to pound my mind and my heart. I became convinced that only a holy priest totally committed to God would be able to offer them security and confidence, a full sense of life, joy in their hearts and, above all, hope. That's the conclusion I reached - holiness would be the best gift I could give them.

## When I met St Francis de Sales

Obviously, I did not meet him in person - I was born 250 years after him! There was one of his books in circulation in Piedmont at the time. I read it and found there a sentence that struck me and became the programme of my priestly life. I remember reading, "It is a mistake, or rather a heresy, to try to banish the devout life from the military, from the mechanic's workshop, the court of princes or the home of married people ... Wherever we are we can and must aspire to a perfect life." That became my goal! I tried to live it and offer it to my boys. It demanded courage! Speaking of holiness (yes, I did use that word!) to those boys seemed to most people an impossible task, but I believed in it. And I can say with conviction that to be holy is a wonderful ideal, and it's not difficult! Our friendship and fidelity to the Lord will one day be rewarded. I presented holiness as a vocation, something beautiful and attractive, but I also explained that it was demanding. It required sacrifice and renunciation. Practical holiness means fulfilling your daily duties well and living in friendship with the good God who made ? ? us all friends. This was a way of holiness that made young people apostles of their companions with friendliness and simplicity. I called it "the holiness of everyday life". Then I added a feature that I have always considered fundamental: it had to be a joyful holiness, which attracts us to what is good, that fascinates us and makes us "saviours of other young people".



He became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich (cf. 2 Cor 8:9)

These insights are inspired by the words of Saint Paul: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9). The Apostle was writing to the Christians of Corinth to encourage them to be generous in helping the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need. What do these words of Saint Paul mean for us Christians today?

#### Christ's grace

By making himself poor, Jesus did not seek poverty for its own sake but, as Saint Paul says "that by his poverty you might become rich". This is no mere play on words or a catch phrase. Rather, it sums up God's logic, the logic of love, the logic of the incarnation and the cross. God did not let our salvation drop down from heaven, like someone who gives alms from their abundance out of a sense of altruism and piety. Christ's love is different! Therefore, it is striking that the Apostle states that we were set free, not by Christ's riches but by his poverty. So what is this poverty by which Christ frees us and enriches us? It is his way of loving us, his way of being our neighbour, just as the Good Samaritan was neighbour to the man left half dead by the side of

Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it.

the road (Lk 10:25ff). What gives us true freedom, true salvation and true happiness is the compassion, tenderness and solidarity of his love. Christ's poverty which enriches us is his taking flesh and bearing our weaknesses and sins as an expression of God's infinite mercy to us.



## Pope Francis' Message for Lent 2014

He became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich (cf. 2 Cor 8:9)

Christ's poverty is the greatest treasure of all: Jesus' wealth is that of his boundless confidence in God the Father, his constant trust, his desire always and only to do the Father's will and give glory to him. Jesus is rich in the same way as a child who feels loved and who loves its parents, without doubting their love and tenderness for an instant. Jesus' wealth lies in his being the Son; his unique relationship with the Father is the sovereign prerogative of this Messiah who is poor.

It has been said that the only real regret lies in not being a saint (L. Bloy); we could also say that there is only one real kind of poverty: not living as children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ.

#### Our witness

Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it. Destitution is not the same as poverty: destitution is poverty

without faith, without support, without hope.

There are three types of destitution: material, moral and spiritual.

- Material destitution is what is normally called poverty.
- No less a concern is moral destitution, which consists in slavery to vice and sin.
- Many people no longer see meaning in life or prospects for the future, many have lost hope! This is called "Spiritual destitution" which we experience when we turn away from God and reject his love. In the Gospel we find the real antidote to spiritual destitution.

In Lent we hope to find the whole Church ready to bear witness to all those who live in material, moral and spiritual destitution the Gospel message of the merciful love of God our Father, who is ready to embrace everyone in Christ. We can do this to the extent that we imitate Christ who became poor and enriched us by his poverty. Therefore as fruit of Lent, looking at Christ we can become merciful and act with mercy. ☺

Pope Francis, Lent 2014



# The 27 General Chapter

## Witnesses of the Radicality of the Gospel



### Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Salesian Generalate in Rome. We are just on the eve of beginning the 27th General Chapter of the Salesians of Don Bosco. The General Chapter takes place every six years. The First General Chapter was held at Lanzo near Turin, in 1877, attended by Don Bosco and 22 Salesians and lasted just 13 days. During his life time, Don Bosco attended the first four General Chapters of the Salesian Society.

For the present General Chapter, which is the 27th, there are 220 Salesians from 58 countries, taking part. The highest number of Chapter members are from Italy (34), followed by those from India (31), Spain (20), Brasil (13) and Poland (10). There are 127 Chapter members who will be taking part in a General Chapter for the first time. Fr Francesco Maraccani, who is the Procurator General of the Society, holds the record for the number of General Chapters that he will have attended. This is the 8th time that he is taking part in the General Chapter!!

Though we come from so many different countries, we will live as a happy family of the sons of Don Bosco. Though during the official meetings, there will be simultaneous translations in 5 languages, in the refectory, during informal moments; we will be able to communicate with each other with broken English, Italian, French, Spanish, etc. – at times even the sign language! There is already a spontaneous climate of joy that is visible, as we meet old and new friends from all over the world.

The Rector Major decided that the Chapter would begin with a short pilgrimage to the Salesian holy places to invoke the help of our father and founder Don Bosco and that of Mary Help of Christians, so that this Chapter will have a decisive effect of renewal in all the Salesians. All the Chapter members will meet in Turin on 22nd February. We will return to Rome on 24th and then have a short retreat. Then there would be the official opening of the Chapter with the report of the General Councillors on their different sectors of animation and then finally the report by the Rector Major on the state of the

Congregation.

During this Chapter, we will be studying the following theme: “Witnesses to the Radical Approach of the Gospel - Work and Temperance.” It is divided into 3 sub-themes: Mystics in the Spirit, Prophets of Fraternity and Servants of the Young. Basically it amounts to studying deeply how we can live as men of God, who are able to live together happily in fraternal communities and spend our entire lives for the salvation of the young. We will also discuss about some structural changes in the set up of the Salesian Society. Towards the end of March, we will also have the elections of the Rector Major and the other members of the General Council. During this Chapter, we will also have an audience with the Holy Father, Pope Francis. The Chapter will come to an end on 12 April 2014.

I would kindly request your prayers so that this General Chapter may go on well and that it will bring about a renewal among all the Salesians all over the world. Pope Francis in his latest exhortation “*Evangelii Gaudium* – the Joy of the Gospel” is inviting all Christians to be joyful because all of us have been redeemed by Jesus through His suffering and death – that we are precious to God... that we are people of great value. This is what should make us happy. This is the gospel message we are called to live and to share with others. I hope and pray that all of us Salesians in ZMB will be able to live this Gospel joy and transmit it to all the people especially the young with whom we are in contact in the different countries of our Vice-province. ☺

With best wishes and prayers,  
Yours aff.ly,

Fr George Chalissery SDB  
21 February 2014



## Chimese – Mansa (ZAMBIA)

17/02/2014. New School Prefects sworn in. Twenty four (24) students of Don Bosco Secondary School in Mansa took their oaths as prefects during a colourful ceremony led by the school manager Br. Walter Thyrniang in the presence of all the School Staff at a well organised morning assembly. A team of staff members conducted individual interviews and carefully selected the prefects who promised to work together and in collaboration with the school authority for the good of the school and their fellow students.

Tsabango – Lilongwe (MALAWI)  
15/02/2014. Meeting of Parents for the 1<sup>st</sup> Year Students. The Management of Don Bosco Technical College – Lilongwe called all the parents of the new students to be informed of the Programme and Activities of the College. Around 200 parents and guardians attended the meeting which was chaired by the Principal Fr Michael Mbandama. The meeting began with the opening prayer led by Br Robert Malusa SDB. Among the topics were also discussed matters regarding the school and examination fees. Mr. Patrick Masala facilitated the session.



## Chawama – Lusaka (ZAMBIA)

11-12/02/2014. Meeting of Parish Priests of ZMB. Following the annual calendar of activities 7 Parish Priests representing the Salesian Parishes of Kazembe, Rundu, Bauleni, Harare, Hwange, Kabwe and Mansa gathered at the provincial house for a two-day-seminar on the Salesian Parish. Only the parish priest of Nkhotakota and Lilongwe were not present for various reasons. The meeting was chaired by the Provincial of ZMB, Fr George Chalissery and with the interventions of the Youth Delegate, the Provincial Economist and an invited guest who shared some new insights from the Canon law on what regards Marriage issues.



## Rundu (NAMIBIA)

09/02/2014. The Catholic Youth in Action. Don Bosco Youth Centre – Rundu was chosen to host the first National Camp for the Catholic Youth. National Leaders from the Catholic Youth from Namibia facilitated the meetings during the camp which gathered hundreds of young people from Okavango region. The Salesian Community of Rundu welcomed the participants and Deacon Jerome Bwalya SDB helped them with the programme, especially with the liturgical part of the programme. The meeting began on Friday 7, February and ended on Sunday with the send off mass. During the concluding mass, the National Leader thanked the Salesian Community for their help and welcoming attitude.

## Moshi (TANZANIA)

06-07/02/2014. Curatorium Meeting for Provincials of AFM, AFE and ZMB. Fr Gianni Rolandi (AFE), Fr Francois Duffour (AFM) and Fr George Chalissery (ZMB) gathered together with the Staff Members of Moshi Community led by Fr Vincent Tembo (ZMB) for the annual curatorium meeting. During the meeting Fr Vincent gave a thorough report for the academic year 2012-2013.

## Lusaka (ZAMBIA)

05/02/2014. A Day with the Children and Youth of Makeni Refugee Camp. The Novice Master and all the Salesian Novices of AFM and ZMB visited Makeni Refugee Camp in an effort to share the joys and sorrows of the children and youth of the camp. The Salesian Novices who are preparing themselves to become educators, like St John Bosco, visited the camp with interest and brought joy to the youth who live there. The initiative was shared with the FMA sisters who run City of Hope who also joined in the adventure. The day experience at the camp helped to create a family-like atmosphere among the youth.



## Kabwe (ZAMBIA)

29/01/2014. Let's bear the fruits which the Salesians planted. The Oratory group in close collaboration with Br Kennedy Mayamiko SDB has organised a day of reflection for the evaluation of the year 2013 at Don Bosco Youth Centre – Kabwe. The initiative comes as part of the





programme to develop what the Salesian community has been working on for many years as part of the educative and pastoral plan for the young people of Kabwe. The number of Salesians is now smaller and thus the collaboration with lay people is urgently felt. The group showed maturity in looking at the current situation and coming up with ways to improve the oratory group. The meeting ended in an anticipated celebration of the Feast of St John Bosco.



**Chimese - Mansa (ZAMBIA)**  
27/01/2014. Preparation of the Episcopal Consecration of the New Bishop. The Evangelisation Team of St James Parish held a day of final preparations for the Episcopal consecration of the New Bishop of Mansa Fr Patrick Chisanga OFM. St James Parish has been honoured with the hosting of the bishop's consecration. The bishop's consecration will take place at St James Parish on 1 February 2014.

**Victoria Falls (ZIMBABWE)**  
27/01/2014. Community without borders. The Salesian Community of Hwange (Zimbabwe) held their first annual community meeting at the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia.



The Rector of the community, Fr Bruno Zamberlan, called together Br Frantisek Radecki and Br Christopher Kole for a community meeting, the first of the year 2014. Fr Bruno is operating from Zambia since his work permit for Zimbabwe is not yet approved. Until now the parish is without a resident priest. In the meantime the bishop of Hwange, Mons. Alberto Serrano administers the parish aware of the critical situation of the community.



**Chimese - Mansa (ZAMBIA)**  
25/01/2014. Pius Mupaya a casualty of the Don Bosco Acrobatics Team. The rector of Mansa community Fr Oswald Mulenga accompanied by Cl Maurice Tichi SDB and a group of young people went to Mansa General Hospital to visit Mr Pius Mulenga, a member of the acrobatics team who remained seriously injured after a routine practice at Don Bosco youth centre when he missed landing on a mattress, by collapsing on the pavement. The situation is quite delicate and Pius has been referred to Lusaka to the University Teaching Hospital (UTH).

**Kuomboka - Lusaka (ZAMBIA)**  
16-17/01/2014. Meeting of Administrators of ZMB Communities. The Provincial Economist of ZMB facilitated the meeting of the Administrators of ZMB. Ten administrators representing the communities of Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi spared two days of their busy timetable to gather at the provincial house for the annual meeting. Only Rundu and Nkhotakota were absent. The Provincial Economist briefed the administrators of the financial situation of ZMB, presenting the Financial Year 2013 and the Budget

for 2014; he also presented the new way of organising the finances in ZMB according to the New Accounting System established some time back.

**Chimese - Mansa (ZAMBIA)**

13/01/2014. First day of the School Year for Don Bosco Secondary School. Students from Grade 8 and 9 came to Don Bosco



Mansa for their first school day of the year 2014. The School Manager, Br Walter Thyрниang together with 17 staff members welcomed the students on the first day of the first year of operations of the New Secondary School. The actual number is 240 students which will increase the following years as the Grades 10, 11 and 12 will be added. Due to the ordination of the new bishop of Mansa, the official blessing of the school will be scheduled for the month of March 2014.

**Chingola (ZAMBIA)**

09/01/2014. Blessing of the recently rebuilt Pre-Novitiate. The Provincial of ZMB, Fr George Chalissery has blessed the new premises of the Salesian Pre-Novitiate in Chingola. The Salesian



Community with the help of the Rector Major has completed the reconstruction of the Pre-novitiate blown away last year during a heavy storm. Mr. Kazimierz Piejo was entrusted with the reconstruction of the old building. The rector of the community, Fr Leszek Aksamit, thanked the provincial for the support offered

to the community during the process of reconstruction. He asked the Provincial to make extensive to the Rector Major his heartfelt gratitude.

#### Lilongwe (MALAWI)

05/01/2014. Young People Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. On Sunday 5 January, the Archbishop of Lilongwe Tarcisius Gervasio Siayaye administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a multitude of over 200 young people. The ceremony took place in the new church. The Provincial of ZMB was also present during the confirmation mass and during the thanksgiving Fr George thanked the archbishop for his presence at Don Bosco Area 23. The provincial invited the archbishop to consecrate the church once it will



be completed and fully furnished.

#### Chelston – Lusaka (ZAMBIA)

28/12/2013. Feast of the Holy Innocents. The Novice Master and the novices from ZMB were invited to participate in the annual feast of the Holy Innocents that takes place at the Jesuit Novitiate in Lusaka. Novices from various congregations both male and female were also present. The programme began with the Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr Peter, the Novice Master from the Comboni Missionaries. After mass, the novices presented sketches, songs and other items for the entertainment all those present. Luch followed the



presentations and as a conclusion there was a sports competition. The Salesian Novices showed their enthusiasm and talent by putting on stage well prepared cultural items.

#### Tsabango – Lilongwe (MALAWI)

15/12/2014. From the Youth Hall to the New Parish Building. The new parish church in Area 23, Lilongwe has now been opened for



the public worship. For the last 18 years parishioners of Don Bosco Parish have been gathering at various locations for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. It first started under a tent at the parking place of the community; later on it was shifted to the youth hall of the youth centre. Although not yet fully completed, the parish priest Fr Patrick Makina with the help of the parishioners and most especially Fr Alex Kim has finally moved in to the new building. From now on the Sunday masses will be celebrated in this new church.



#### Kazembe – Mwanzabombwe (ZAMBIA)

07/12/2013. Graduation Ceremony. The management of Don Bosco Carpentry School – Kazembe held the annual graduation ceremony to close the Academic Year 2013 and award the second year students with the Craft in Carpentry. The ceremony was presided by the Rector and School Principal Fr Piotr Malec SDB. Mr Gabriel Chibwaya (D.E.S.O) of Mwanzabombwe District was the

Guest of Honour. Teaching and Administrative Staff were proud of the achievements made by the 2013 Batch.



#### Kasisi – Lusaka (ZAMBIA)

07/12/2013. First Anniversary of the death of Br Clement Mutamba SDB. A significant number of Salesians from ZMB Province, FMA and other members of the Salesian Family gathered together in Bauleni to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Br Clement Mutamba. Fr Leszek Aksamit, the vice-provincial of ZMB, presided over the Eucharistic celebration. During the thanksgiving, each person received the Obituary Letter of late Br Clement, composed by Fr Tresphord Chisanga SDB. After the Eucharistic celebration, all participants moved to the cemetery in Kasisi laid flowers and bless the tombstone.

#### Makeni – Lusaka (ZAMBIA)

20/10/2014. The Polish Order to "Polonia Restituta"-. Four Polish Salesian Missionaries from ZMB Vice-Province (Fr Leszek Aksamit, Fr Czeslaw Lenczuk, Fr Krzysztof Rychcik and Fr Andrzej Dzieborski) have been honoured by the Polish Government for their valuable contribution in delivering Humanitarian Aid and promoting Education among the Zambian population. The Polish Prime Minister was present during the rewards ceremony. The late Fr Zygmunt Labun was also mentioned during the awards.







# Youth

## Volunteer for Christ

Hwange (Zimbabwe) 26-30/12/2013. HUNDREDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE GATHERED AT DON BOSCO'S TECHNICAL COLLEGE TO CELEBRATE THE ANNUAL ZONE YOUTH FESTIVAL UNDER THE THEME: YOUTH VOLUNTEER FOR CHRIST

The theme for the year 2013 was "Youth Volunteer for Christ", following the invitation from Pope Francis to all young people "to go out and evangelise." Young people from Hwange, Harare, Bulawayo and Kabwe came together to the Salesian community of Hwange to spend a few days of prayer, reflection, interaction and fun.

The youth festival was organised by the Salesian Community of Hwange, represented by Bro Christopher Kole sdb, in collaboration with the Salesian community of Harare and many other collaborators from St Theresa's Parish (Hwange). The festival began on Thursday 26 December in the evening. The first delegation to arrive was Kabwe, led by Mrs. Margaret Banda (youth matron of the oratory). The last to arrive was the delegation from Harare led by Fr Chota who stopped in Bulawayo for a moment of prayer and the Eucharistic celebration that was part of the youth pilgrimage to Hwange.

The programme consisted of talks given by various facilitators, among them Fr Antonio

Barrientos, the ZMB Youth Delegate, Fr Philani Nkuve, a diocesan priest, Fr Tresford Chota sdb, rector of Harare Community, Mr Michael Nguluve, Chief Catechist from Harare Archdiocese. The various talks were followed by group discussion and questions to the speakers. In the evenings, the various delegations had the chance to present their traditional dances, dramas and songs, prepared for the occasion. Each day began with the morning prayer, organised by each of the delegations present in the event. Breakfast and chores followed the daily morning prayers. The Eucharistic celebration had the central place of the festival and it was celebrated at 11:30 am. The various delegations were organised to conduct the music, and help with the readings of the liturgy. In the afternoons, the whole group enjoyed the indoor and outdoor games organised by the delegation from Harare led by Mr Emmanuel Makuyana.

This year's festival witnessed a strong presence of Salesian Cooperators from Harare Nucleus. Their presence and

participation in the various activities helped the young feel more at home and truly a member of the Salesian Family.

The main topic was "Youth Volunteer for Christ" was delivered by Fr Antonio. He emphasized on the idea that it is Christ who invites people and sends people to evangelise. The mission to announce the Gospel is part of our Christian mission; we have all received it in Baptism, therefore it is now time to witness with our own lives and our actions. He reminded the young people that like St Paul we should think of the responsibility of announcing the Gospel, to the extent of saying with St Paul, "Woe to me, if I don't preach the Gospel".

The Programme included a visit to the mighty Victoria Falls. The last day of the youth festival was dedicated to the Pilgrimage to the Grotto of Mary Help of Christians at St Theresa's Parish and from there the group moved to the Cathedral where the Eucharistic celebration of last day took place. From the Cathedral all the youth went to Victoria Falls (100 km from Hwange, on the border with Zambia).

To conclude the annual youth festival, all the participants took part in the dinner dance in which youngsters exchanged gifts with their 'secret friends'. This is a practice that helps youngsters to pray and broaden their friendship among their members, by means of picking up the name of a youth from the group with the commitment of praying for him/her and on the last day to reveal his/her name and offer him/her a gift. ☺





# Educators with the Heart of God



By Fr Jorge Ormeño sdb  
Salesians Makeni

**T**he members of the Salesian Family are educators by vocation because they follow Don Bosco. Don Bosco understood himself as a priest who is always an educator. Don Bosco is an educator sharing God's heart and concern for his people. Here we are to present first the way Don Bosco understood himself as an educator and an educator with the heart of God because sharing God's activity; and, then, present God's activity as an educator of his people.



Volunteer Benia Jamroz - Hwange

Don Bosco constantly reminded his collaborators his motto: "Education is a matter of the heart".

For Don Bosco engaging in the task of educating the young was not a career but a vocation.

## Don Bosco Educator

Don Bosco was not a saint that distinguished himself for doing some educative work. Don Bosco is a saint who became so because of his educative commitment. He is not a saint and educator. He is a saint



Volunteer Piotr - Hwange

because he was an educator. It is interesting to know that he tagged himself as an educator. In all his trips Don Bosco filled in the forms, writing as his profession "a primary school teacher."

People may argue, then, whether he felt his vocation as an educator more than that of a priest. Don Bosco lived intensely his being a priest. This permeated all his life some much so that it was the distinctive feature of his personal profile. However, there is not such as thing to have it put as opposing vocations. To be a priest is to be an educator of God's people and that is exactly what Don Bosco did with his life. Don Bosco because of his being a priest of God was the educator of God's own.

Now, the Salesians (that is, all the members of the Salesian Family) live this call in their own specific vocations: committing themselves to evangelize, they commit themselves to educate in the style of Don Bosco. Thus, being educators is also for them all a distinctive feature of their being children of God.

## God as the educator per excellence

The History of Salvation is presented as a pedagogical enterprise. God is the educator of his people. God interacts with his people: he speaks and proposes some experiences to them. He not only speaks to them. He also speaks with them. He speaks to



their hearts. Sometimes he proposes them to undergo some experiences. In other occasions people choose to undergo some experiences on their own. However, in any case, God always respects their freedom and draws not only a lesson, but also some good out of any of their experiences. Thus, we can say that the whole history of salvation is but a testimony of God's educative experience with his people.

Jesus is presented as the 'Master'. If we could label Jesus' profession, the tag would have to say "teacher!" Jesus' main occupation was the Father and his Kingdom. He came to this world to make real God's love for us and his commitment to our salvation. In order to do that, Jesus had to dismantle the previous conceptions and to convey a completely new understanding of God. Jesus had to help people in the task of unlearning their village, narrow and limited way of thinking and to be open to the whole world. Jesus contested the old ideas of the people of his time regarding God (who God is and how he acts), regarding the world, regarding salvation; and helped them see a God that is beyond the best of their expectations.

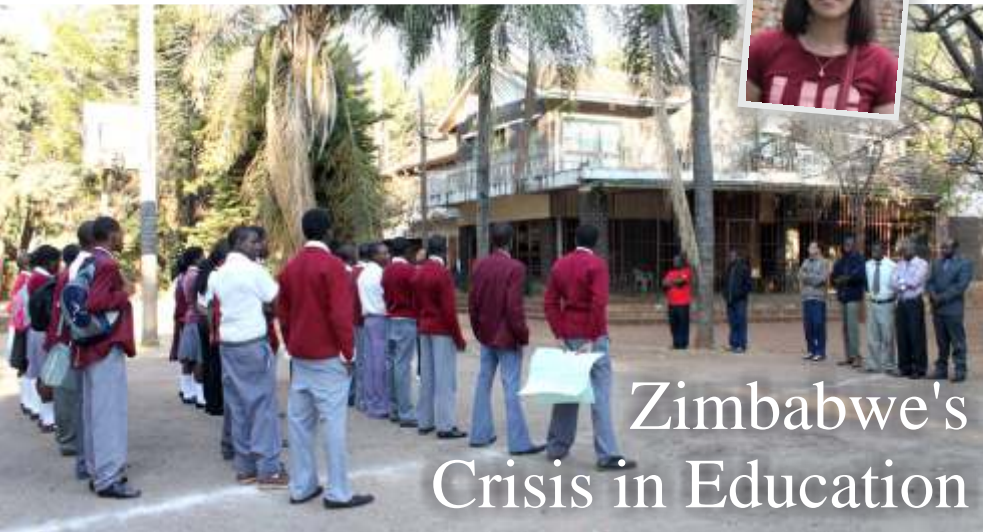
Saint Paul, interpreting the way God works in the human history, portrayed God as an educator. God, in Paul's point of view, gave the Law to his people; then, he sent his Son to reveal himself to us; and, finally, he sent the Holy Spirit to unwrap the treasures of his love bestowed in us by Jesus. The Church has pick up this task and commits herself to the task to educate her children, those that God gives her now and again. She educates them in the wonderful mysteries of being human and also being divine. In educating, the Salesian Family shares the heart of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Salesian Family participates in God's work that creates the human person; Christ's action that reveals our being children of God and makes it possible to live as such; and the Spirit's mission that inspires in us our growth in freedom and the natural manifestations of our being God's children. ☺



## 2013 Christmas Play City of Hope

Lusaka (ZAMBIA) 08/12/2013.

Christmas Play organised by the FMA Community of City of Hope. The girls from the hostel of the Salesian Sisters of City of Hope in Lusaka had put up Christmas play in preparation for celebration of Christmas 2013. The play began at 4:30 pm local time. Sr Ryszarda Piejko FMA welcomed all the invited guests, among them benefactors and friends of City of Hope. The girls of City of Hope were organised in two choirs while the main characters of the Christmas story, Mary, Jesus, Joseph, the Magi and the shepherds were making their way to the stage at various times amidst the Christmas carols prepared by the girls of City of Hope with the help of the Franciscan Friars. After the Christmas play all participants were invited to share some snacks outside the main hall. To everyone's surprise, while enjoying the refreshments prepared by the community, Father Christmas appeared surrounded by little girls dressed up as angels distributing gifts and wishing everyone "Merry Christmas!" The Christmas play is an annual event put up by the girls of City of Hope to highlight the importance of Christmas that is central and very important in the life of every believer, and also to show their gratitude to the various friends and donors who make possible their education. ☺



## Zimbabwe's Crisis in Education

Private Schools tries to ease the situation; yet their efforts can only cater for those who can afford their school fees.

*By Pearl Chanjack*

To understand education in the schools of Zimbabwe, one must go back in time to independence in 1980 when it was made free in the Government run schools and the disparities remaining from the colonial system were lessened.

Education was declared a basic human right in Zimbabwe and a non-racial, multicultural system introduced.

Since 1988 though, the government has gradually increased the costs attached to school enrolment until they now considerably exceed what is affordable to the general population.

All children in Zimbabwe have the right to education as noted above but both development levies and tuition fees must be paid.

Tuition fees traditionally have been low, though development levies have been hurdles for parents and or guardians to overcome.

The Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture of Zimbabwe maintains and operates the government schools.

The more affluent portion of the population send their children to independent or private schools, while the government-run schools are attended by the poorer

members of the population. The fees charged by independent schools are regulated by the Cabinet of Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe had achieved primary education for all and secondary education for the majority.

Zimbabwe's education system was once among the best in Africa but is now suffering from a decline in public funding as well from the consequences of the period of hyperinflation and political unrest.

In 2009 with the government of national unity coming into being, UNICEF released information showing that 94 per cent of schools in rural Zimbabwe were closed and called for the government to make education a priority.

This is what they had to say: "The education situation is a national disaster. It is imperative that the unity government focuses on this. Children in rural areas already live on the margins, many are orphaned, a huge number depend on food aid, they struggle on numerous fronts." said Roeland Monasch, UNICEF Representative in Zimbabwe. "Now these children are being denied the only basic right that can better their prospects. It is unacceptable."

Data from routine evaluative visits across Zimbabwe revealed that 66

of 70 schools were abandoned.

The education crisis which started in 1998 saw an evident depletion of teachers in schools due to very poor wages which plunged school attendance rates down from over 80 per cent to 20 per cent.

In 2009, schools opened two weeks late, exam results had not been released and learning and teaching only resumed in some urban areas for the few who could afford to subsidize teachers' salaries and pay very expensive school fees in US dollars. (The result of hyperinflation of the Zimbabwe dollar which is no longer in use in Zimbabwe as a currency.)

Since then, nothing much has changed for the better.

"Hot-seating" or "double seating" is another common occurrence that attempts to deal with the shortage of schools in the country as one group of students come in the morning and then another new group in the afternoon or evening.

Another challenge of equal importance is that Zimbabwe now has a lower proportion of female students, though The Education Act provides for equal access. As a result of inadequate funds, parents often choose to send the boy to school rather than the girl.

Many teachers also demand extra payment from parents to teach their children as a means of supplementing their poor income.

In short and to conclude a weighty and lengthy topic, the weight of salaries, learning material such as stationary, text books and the like as well as school maintenance now fall on parents and many struggle just to be able to put food on the table in Zimbabwe. As a result of this, many children will lose out on this vital right.

The rural schools demonstrate this.

What is needed here to revitalise the schools is financing for classroom construction, school fees assistance, textbooks, learning materials, boreholes, toilets in rural schools, food supplementation schemes and a way to pay teachers enough so that they want to come back and teach.

Perhaps then a culture of learning can be revived. 🌐





### Two Salesians murdered and chapel desecrated (ANS - Valencia) - 17/2/2014 - Venezuela

At midnight on Saturday 15 February, two Salesians of the Don Bosco High School in Valencia were killed. In a press release, the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Salesian Family expressed deep sorrow and concern about the acts of violence that occurred in the Don Bosco High School.

"The Catholic Church in Venezuela has suffered irreparable loss with the death of two Religious of the Salesian Family who had spent so much effort serving needy young

peoples in the vast field of education in the country. With deep sorrow in our heart we are passing on tragic and painful news: around midnight on 15 February, two armed young people entered Don Bosco High School in Valencia and in a violent robbery attempt, brutally murdered Fr Jesús Plaza, 80 years of age, and Bro. Luis Sánchez, 84 years of age. In the struggle to defend his confreres, the Rector of the community, Fr David Marín, was seriously injured, and was admitted to emergency to be operated on. He is now out of danger.

Other than this violent abuse of community space, the delinquents also went into the chapel where they profaned the Blessed Sacrament and stole sacred vessels and other items.

Fr Jesús Erasmo Plaza Salessi was born 2 June 1934, in La Mesa de Ejido in Mérida State. He made his

first profession as a Salesian on 8 September 1952 and was ordained priest on 15 August 1962, in Guatemala City, where he had studied theology. He exercised his priestly ministry in all simplicity, fraternally and with particular apostolic dedication, almost always working in a parish.

Brother Luis Edilberto Sánchez Morantes came from Boavita (Boyacá, Colombia), where he was born on 23 October 1929. His first profession as a Salesian was 16 August 1956, in Los Teques. He studied technical education, business studies, and spent a long and well-qualified career as a Salesian teacher amongst the young in colleges in Sarría, Puerto La Cruz and Don Bosco Valencia.

With sorrow at the loss of these elderly Salesians we also feel deep regret for the two young assailants,

obviously disturbed, who committed this terrible act and cut off the lives of two men who dedicated their life to poor and needy youth. As a Salesian family we reject any act of violence by and against any person and we demand that the competent authorities clarify these events and follow the path of social justice and peace which has been sorely lacking over recent years.

We ask everyone to pray for the eternal repose of Fr Plaza and Bro. Sánchez; at the same time we ask people to be active and vigilant in continuing to build a Venezuelan society in shared peace and safety. May the death of these two religious who have been unconditionally dedicated to the education of the poor, not go unpunished; may the memory of their virtues urge us on to continue struggling for a country which is free and peaceful". ☺



**ANS - RMG 24/01/2014. New Provincial for South Korea.** The Rector Major, Fr Pascual Chavez has appointed Fr Stephen Yang Sung Kook sdb, new provincial of South Korea. Fr Stephen was born on 8 Sept. 1959. ☺



**ANS - Central African Republic. 18/02/2014. Reconciliation and Forgiveness are difficult words.** Fr Jose M. Sabe, reported that there are over 1,000 refugees and food supply is very scarce at the Salesian parish of Galabdjia, Bangui. ☺



**ANS - PERU 07/02/2014. One year after the death of Fr Bolla.** The Salesian Mission among the Ashuar continues and the church among Ashuar keeps growing. Fr Diego Clavijo is the successor of the great missionary Fr Bolla.

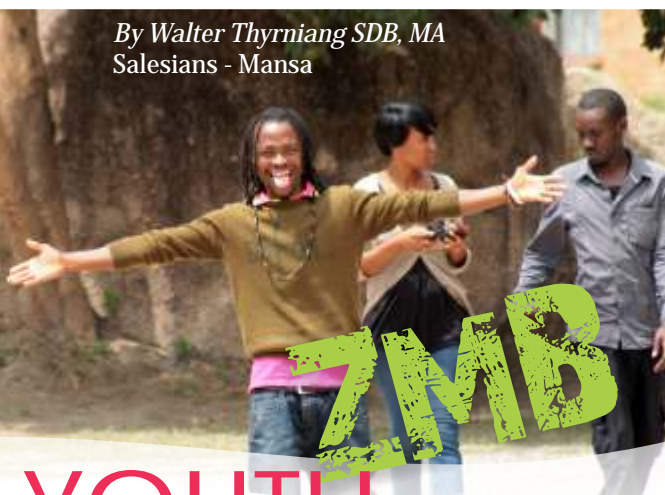


**ANS - SOUTH SUDAN 09/01/2014. Peace March on the Anniversary of the Referendum.** The Catholic Church organised a peaceful march asking God for the gift of peace in the newest African country. The response was massive. ☺



## THINKING POINT

By Walter Thyрниang SDB, MA  
Salesians - Mansa



# YOUTH MINISTRY

**H**ello Thinking People,

The title has changed, from 'thinking point' to 'taking point' this is because I want to move from the things we think about to the issues we talk about in our Vice Province.

During the Rector's meeting the topic of youth ministry came up again. There were no details in the report so I am not informed what new insights the leaders of our community had. Surprisingly, this same subject matter was discussed at length during the last provincial chapter and some even got very emotional and personal about it. The Provincial Youth Delegate was put on the lamplight - I remember - though he was calm in front of what was being said against him and his work but he did not speak. For those interested, the new provincial directory highlights the good and not so good aspects of our being servants of the Young in ZMB; (pages 40 to 41).

If we are unhappy about our Youth Ministry then what and where is the problem? Is it with the PYD or the Vice-Province or our community or the youth? Could it be that it is our personal problem? Maybe each one of us has to find a way of being the servant to the young rather than talking and complaining about the apostolate that we are all suppose to be experts and promised to be professionals.

The Directory interprets clearly the problems at personal, community and provincial level. I looked at the two pages and they project a negative scenario in the province in this regard. But no answers are given. May be we are still seeking for inspiration and looking for examples. What I believe is that the solutions are in our hearts and we know, only we don't talk about them otherwise we have to start to put them into practice. No doubt youth ministry is a collective action but it requires the effort and focus of each one of us. Complaining about structures, systems and other people will not do any good. This seems to be the tendency in ZMB, we are concerned about structures, things, money but not people. Look at the minutes of our community, house council, school boards and parish meetings, what do we talk about? Projects, cars, building, money, community luxuries, management etc. Maybe we need to shift our attention to young people.

I end with the first paragraph of the directory which explains clearly our individual responsibility. "Salesian Youth Ministry lies at the heart of our charism and therefore it is the task and obligation of each and every Salesian to offer his time, talent, potential and whole being completely for the benefit of the young people God entrusts to our care".

It is simple and clear. What do you say? 🗣️

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The new year 2014 has kicked off with the Annual Meeting of Rectors and Local Superiors of ZMB. 11 of the 13 Rectors/Local Superiors of ZMB have attended the meeting that was chaired by the Provincial Superior of ZMB, Fr George Chalissery. Two Rectors could not participate due to some immigration issues. The meeting started on Monday 13 January at 9:00am. Fr George Chalissery, Provincial Superior of ZMB, welcomed all confreres who came from the four countries of ZMB. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and after making some serious grammatical corrections they were approved by the house.

The agenda of the meeting was presented to the participants who did not make any addition or amendment. Among the main topics that were discussed featured: the signing and implementation of the Code of Conduct, preparations for the Bicentenary celebrations of the birth of Don Bosco, Youth Ministry within ZMB and other dioceses, forthcoming General Chapter 27 and the future developments of ZMB. To the last topic, presented by the PDO Director, each rector commented on the projects and plans they have in mind for the development of the Salesian presence in each country.

On the second day, Fr Patrick Mutale, SJ, was the invited guest to facilitate on a comprehensive reflection on "Discernment". Fr Patrick began by showing ways in which leadership is learned and exercised here in the African continent. He argued that the model of African leadership affects the way authority is exercised in the religious communities and the Church in Africa. He showed good and not very-good practices of leadership in the African continent, beginning from Mandela in South Africa to Taylor in Liberia. In the afternoon of the same day, the Provincial invited all rectors and local superiors to read and share on the Papal Apostolic Letter: "The Joy of the Gospel".

After the reflection on the apostolic letter of Pope

## rectors and local superiors meeting



Franci

s, the provincial economist, presented the financial report of the year 2013. He thanked all confreres for making possible for the province to reduce most of the unnecessary expenses which led the finances close the year with a surplus. He also helped the reflection on the future developments of the province, which included the acquisition of new land in various locations around Lusaka.

During the meeting the Rectors pointed out the growing concern on the issues of Youth Ministry at the Provincial level. Rectors' observed that the Youth Ministry in ZMB seemed to be no longer part of ZMB's priorities. There was an appeal to the Provincial and his council to look into the matter.

The meeting ended with the A.O.B and the final remarks of Fr George Chalissery. ☺

## In Memoriam



Leocadia Maricho,  
SALESIAN  
COOPERATOR

Leocadia was born on October 14, 1967 in Gutu, Masvingo. Born to a family of 7 kids: 6 girls and 1 boy. She did primary and secondary school at Mukaro Catholic mission. From home she received a very deep Catholic education. After

completing her secondary education, Leocadia went to Musiso to undergo training as a nurse; she trained as a general nurse. After a few years she went to further training to Mogerster hospital.

In 1988 Leocadia married Mr. Elisha Maricho and had 3 children with him: Tafara, Tatenda and Tariro. Leocadia worked in Chiredzu at the General Hospital. In 1992 she moved to Harare and worked at Harare Hospital and later on joined the Harare City Council until her

death.

Leocadia was a very sociable, cheerful and good communicator. She was a counsellor as well. Being a very passionate community member and very dedicated to the parish, she joined the first group of Cooperators in 2012, on occasion of the visit of the Relics of Don Bosco. She had great devotion to St John Bosco and she was a very active member of the Association. It is a great loss both in the family and in the community. ☺

# SYMPOSIUM ON THE PREVENTIVE SYSTEM

:: Salesians Chingola ::

■ Chingola community is the first community in ZMB Vice-Province to hold the Symposium on the Preventive System of Don Bosco at the local level. The community has involved those who took part in the meeting in Lusaka. Fr Eustace Siame SDB was the main speaker.



Symposium - Group Work

Chingola (ZAMBIA) 29/11/2013. The Salesian Community of Chingola held a Symposium on the Preventive System for the Salesian Family, Students of the Technical School and Young people of the Youth Centre. The Rector of the Community St Calisto Caravario – Chingola, Fr Leszek Aksamit sdb, has concluded the 2013 Symposium on the Preventive System of St John Bosco organised by the community under the leadership of Fr Eustace Siame sdb. The symposium in Chingola is the first of its kind after the first symposium organised at the provincial level in Lusaka (City of Hope) for all SDB and FMA communities of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Namibia.

The participation of the members of the Salesian Family was quite impressive despite the time and place. Young people from the Technical School and Youth Centre came in good numbers and they were very eager to learn more about Don

Bosco and his famous "Preventive System".

The first talk of the day was given by Mr Asher Mwanza, a student of the IT Department, who spoke brilliantly on the historical



Symposium - Fr Siame's Talk

background of St John Bosco. In his presentation, Mr Asher highlighted the presence of mama Margaret in the life of Don Bosco as one of the pillars of his experience, which later on came to be known as the "Preventive System". The first talk ended with spontaneous questions to the speaker and the guest of honour Father Antonio Barrientos, ZMB Provincial Youth Delegate.

After the coffee break, the



Symposium - Fr Aksamit's Speech

assembly gathered once again in the main hall of the Youth Centre. This time, the facilitator was Fr Eustace Siame sdb. Fr Eustace guided the reflection from the semantic point of view, clarifying the words contained in the whole event, starting by explaining the work "Symposium". During this presentation, Fr Eustace highlighted nature of the Preventive System as an attitude of the educator that prevents any wrong thing from happening by the mere fact of his presence among the young. As a conclusion of the second talk, the facilitator organised the assembly in groups to have the group work and discussion before concluding the morning sessions.

In the afternoon, the whole assembly gathered in the chapel of Don Bosco Youth Centre to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. The rector of the community, Fr Leszek Aksamit, presided over the sacrament and he also had the opportunity to baptise one young person from the school who underwent the R.C.I.A and was ready to receive the sacraments. ☺



# Catholic Bookshop

By Fr Wojciech Kozłowicz sdb

A few days ago I was asked by Fr Antonio to write an article on the History of our ZMB Vice-Province, especially to what regards to my missionary experience. He said, "there are a few Polish missionaries who still can tell some of the stories otherwise unknown to most of the confreres. It would be nice to have some of those stories told by the protagonists."

I want to start by saying that when we do something normal or ordinary, like our missionary work, nobody will see it as something special. When you do something normal on daily bases nobody will see or recognize it, but when you do something not particularly nice or extremely bad you will be on the front page of newspapers with big headlines or as breaking news on TV. I want to say that my missionary life is very simple except that I can tell you what I did in the name of our Congregation for the benefit of the Catholic Church in Zambia.



Catholic Bookshop - Lusaka

Let me start from the beginning. I came to Zambia in October 1985 together with Fr Kazimierz Kulczycki and 4 seminarians. My first appointment was Nsaka (Mwense) where I worked with Fr Pawel Dziatkiewicz (now in the USA). I spend wonderful time there with the people from Mwense. They were very welcoming and quickly I learn how to say mass in ciBemba. From Mwense, Fr Kazimierz Cichecki (the superior of the delegation, by then ZMB was not yet a Vice-Province) asked me to prepare myself to work in the 'future Catholic Bookshop.' I was wondering what 'future Catholic Bookshop' would mean; but slowly "I understood" what he meant.



**Official Opening of the Catholic Bookshop.**  
Card. Joseph Tomko blessed the bookshop on May 5, 1990 in Lusaka - Zambia

I started to build the Catholic Bookshop from the scratch. To begin this enterprise I received USD 20,000 from the Zambia Bishops' Conference; it wasn't really much, but that's all they could afford. The preparation took more than one year and in May 1990 we are able to open the Catholic Bookshop in Lusaka, for the occasion we had the visit of Cardinal Tomko (from Rome) and the whole Zambian Episcopal Conference. Running the Catholic Bookshop in Zambia was not easy. We knew that Zambian people were not very rich at that time and sometimes to buy a good book they would think twice, and most likely they will not buy it. Knowing this fact, I started writing to some organizations like Church in Need (Kirche in Not) and Missio in Germany. I also wrote to some bishops and Cardinals in various countries asking them for some financial help to run and even "subsidise" the books. I must say that I received tremendous support and it was very encouraging. With this help, I managed to acquire books from the Catholic Bookshop in Nairobi and sell them cheaper than Nairobi. From St Paul's Publications - Boston I received one container of books (almost free of charge).

To continue running the Bookshop and keeping the prices low and helping in creating a reading culture, I needed to travel a lot to New York, London, New Delhi, Bombay and Germany, visiting some of the most famous Catholic Publishing houses. I was travelling also to sell our books in Harare (Zimbabwe) somewhere near the Cathedral, Bulawayo, Plumtree etc. I need to acknowledge that once at the border with Botswana I got very good help from a SVD brother; he facilitated the clearance through customs. In Botswana, I went mainly to Gaborone and sold books at the Catholic Cathedral. In Malawi, I visited Lilongwe, and I arranged some bookselling at Likuni Press and at the Monfort Fathers' (Balaka). The Handmaid Sisters were working with me for some years, also brother Thomas Skolasinski and some lay people.

When the Catholic Bookshop was working quite well, the Vice-Province gave the administration of the bookshop to the Daughters of St Paul. At first the Catholic Bookshop was operating along Freedom Way. At present it is located near the main Post Office.

I believe life shows us ways in which our talents and capacities are put to work. I'm grateful to Fr Cichecki for entrusting this work to me and for believing in my capacities to make it happen.



By Natasha Mhone ,  
Don Bosco-  
Technical College,  
Lilongwe-Malawi  
[tashamhone@gmail.com](mailto:tashamhone@gmail.com)

## A GOOD DEED IS NEVER LOST.

I would like to begin with this question: Why is it that the world still remembers people like Nelson Mandela, Dalai Lama, St. Dominic Savio, St. Francis De sales, John Paul II, St. Benedict, St. Charles Lwanga, St Francis Xavier and St. Marry Mazzarello? I think that it's because a good deed is never lost.

All the schools run by the Salesians that are dedicated to the service of youth all over the world exist because of his vision of serving young people. Don Bosco, the father and the teacher of the youth, worked with the most heroic sacrifice. He gave comfort to the aimless youths. As students of Don Bosco Technical College, this is the right time for us to ponder for a while and appreciate all the good things which the Lord has done for us through Don Bosco.

I believe that Don Bosco believed that we the youths are even as a branch that is fresh and green, that we will grow up in whatever way we are trained. It follows that the schools must be places of discipline and order, that instructions must be thorough, and

# THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

## a liberating experience

God created a world which was full of breathtaking beauty and that flooded with bliss and harmony. All that exists is what He wanted for the world (and it still is what he wants) which was of course before the coming of sin. Sin was a result of man's inability to accept God. Through sin came pain, hatred, jealousy, war, sickness, and the many despicable things scattered all over the planet.

I remember a few weeks ago a close friend told me how it is possible to forgive for whatever that has been done but at the same time how difficult it is to get rid of the particular incident or experience that has brought forth that hurt and anger within oneself. Each time that you look at those that are responsible for that hurt all you get to see is that moment when they turned everything dark. Once I heard I gave it a long thought and I totally agreed with him.

In our daily lives we meet and go through a lot of tough situations which makes us either weaker or stronger that goes hand in hand with forgiveness. We may wonder and ask ourselves: but how? There is power in forgiveness, for you get to vanquish those that have hurt you but if you choose to hold on to that anger and hurt by staying with bitterness then they take power over you, by draining every ounce of happiness that you have. You become their prisoner! I once heard that weak person revenges but a strong person forgives. Nelson Mandela was one of the world's greatest men (still is) because he was able to forgive all those that made his life a living hell that through him today in South Africa the black and white race is able to live and tolerate one another, also do not forget the Son of God who neatly displayed such a

role (1 Peter 2:21-23). I know that forgetting is not easy let alone forgiving and I do believe that you would agree with me on that, on our own as human beings it is very difficult to be able to do so, it is only through God that we can be able to forgive. He heals our hearts and takes away that pain. As children of God we have to forgive, for un forgiveness snatches our blessings, blocks our prayers, and do we expect God to forgive us if we fail to do so unto others ? (Mark 11:25,26) as his children we have to stand out and do as the Lord teaches us (Ephesians 4:31, 32) how many times we fall and rise back up again does not really matter but how we rise up is what matters (Romans 12:17-19). The road of forgiveness can be rough and challenging but the beauty that lies within it is astounding. 🌟

provision must be made for the rectification and refinement of characters; so that from our earliest years, the divine foundation should be laid and the structures of holiness be raised up.

"Training a youth in morals and encouraging to observe a good conduct is far more important than book learning". Yes, because it is extremely difficult to teach the youth and refine his/her character once his youthful days have passed. By then, even if every effort be exerted to modify some tendency of his/hers, it all will avail for nothing. He/she may, perhaps, improve somewhat today; but let a few years pass and the change will be less likely, and also turned back to his/her habitual condition and accustomed ways. How can we return all these favours to Don Bosco? It's only when we decide ourselves to gird up the loins of our endeavour in showing the virtues he taught us - "honest and duty", just to mention a few. We need carry forward the ever -advancing civilization of love which he taught us. 🌟

By: M' mpumulo-wa-mumtima Massa.  
Lilongwe, Malawi: IT 3



By Fr Jozef Czerwinski SDB



# PARISH UNDER SIEGE.

## 1. Geographical set up.

St. Paul's Parish is at the centre of Nkhotakota District, one of the nine districts in the central region of the Republic of Malawi. It is located on the West coast of the magnificent Lake Malawi (famous for delicious Chambo fish), the third largest lake in Africa. The city is located 200 kilometers North-West of Lilongwe, the capital city of Malawi. It also shares an international boundary with the Republic of Mozambique to the East. Nkhotakota is famous because of its important historical events. It was precisely here, in 1856 that Dr. D. Livingston signed the treaty with Jumbo and other Chewa Chiefs to stop the slave trade in this part of Africa. The famous treaty site and 'The Livingstone Tree' still stands today near St Ann's Anglican hospital. In

1905 the Anglican Cathedral of All Saints had been completed near the 'Livingstone Tree'. The cathedral is famous for its original design and gives Nkhotakota the status of The City (This is according to British Imperial Law of Henry VIII from 1570... )

Therefore, dear reader, if you have a bit of time do not hesitate to visit this important and historical place. After all it was here in Nkhotakota, that the big change of mentality took place and the commercial trade slowly began to develop in place of the cruel and merciless human trafficking that existed and flourished in this part of Central - East Africa for many centuries.

## 2. Brief history of the parish

The Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers), based in Ntchisi district being courageous and dedicated missionaries, saw the need for the catholic parish in that fast grown city of Nkhotakota as well as among the large population along the lake shore. The first attempt to initiate the Catholic Parish was done in 1948. In this year the outstation post of the Nchisi Parish was created outside the boundary of the existing city. (At that time the British colonial regulation prohibited the catholic missionaries to establish the payer house in the city boundaries)

However, they were not able to visit this outstation too often because of the distance and the dangerous Nkhotakota game reserve that was situated between the Nchisi and NKK itself. In the year between 1968 and 1969, Father Polieli, together with Brother John constructed the first Church here (which still stands to this day) and a house for Priests.

The missionaries travelling from Nchisi to NKK were facing serious problems such as: vicious wild animals, tse-tse flies, muddy roads during the rainy season and several other complex factors. In spite of their best efforts they could not sustain their visits on the regular

basis, hence they handed over the Church to Salima Parish which was now in a better position of helping the NKK.

Eventually the parish was reallocated from NKK to Liwaladzi, NKK being still one of the outstations. As the population in NKK grew in 1978 the parish was relocated back to NKK. This time the parish was renamed as St Paul's Parish and the permanent religious community was erected. In the eighties, as the number of Catholics grew steadily the new, spacious church was constructed by Fr Palais and the house for the priests was enlarged and renovated.

In 1997, the White Fathers moved away from Nkhotakota parish and handed it over to the Salesians of Don Bosco who still manage it to this day.

As the time passed the Parish has grown to have 5 big centers (which could be, very easily, separate parishes) and 38 big outstations, distantly apart. In 2011 it had about 18,000 Christians and 1,000 Catechumens.

As the parish became very big indeed the plans and attempts were made to divide it in order to facilitate better the evangelizing work. It was not that easy however, due to the lack of priests in the diocese. This dream came true in 2013 thanks to the hard work of Fr L. Malama sdb and the former Archbp. of Lilongwe the Most Rev. R. St. Marie. All the ground work was done and at the beginning of 2013 the parish has been divided and new missionaries – the Missionaries of St Paul came and established themselves in Benga. The new parish took the 3 centers from the St Paul's Parish and one center from Salima Parish.

Presently after the division and according to the latest census conducted at the beginning of 2013 St Paul's parish has about 10,000 Christians and 200 Catechumens in 3 big centers: Nkhotkota (NKK), Liwaladzi and Matiki.

Last year the Secondary School -

Don Bosco High School was opened on the Parish premises and hopefully this will assist the Catholic Church in general and the Salesians in particular to have more vocations to the priestly and religious life. There are many possibilities as older parish families retire and move away, new families with young children join the parish. There is an abundance of parish children who are participating in various ministries and they are the recipients of new and vibrant programs.

### 3. No title deeds

The land issue is becoming increasingly important in the whole of Africa. There are serious problems to be resolved and some countries are doing well regarding this dilemma eg.: Botswana, South Africa, Ghana just to name a few, others are still struggling, Malawi



Outstations in the rural area are constantly under attack

being in between. In general, in rural areas in Malawi, people do not own the land on which they live. They are just using it without any formal title. The land is simply part of the field their family had cultivated for generations. In the country set up, it is the chief – mfumu that owns the land and has the absolute power over it. If there is a dispute about boundaries the village mfumu adjudicates. If the individual or the family offends gravely against the rules of the village the mfumu can take their land away and give it to someone else expelling the 'culprit'. In effect, the mfumu holds all the land in trust for the tribe, as the king did in feudal Europe.

The system worked well many years ago, when people were living in

villages and there was plenty of land to go around. As the population increased considerably and society modernized itself, the system possesses a serious challenge to the government and people alike. In my opinion this is the main problem that Africa is facing now. It is connected strongly to social justice and the economy.

Firstly, the land and houses are the most important assets that people have. However, without a formal and official ownership of land (legal papers or documents) these assets can be taken away and given to somebody else. This is a terrible injustice and is causing a lot of problems, confusion and suffering among the people. These assets (land or houses) could be sold or given to somebody else (mostly to the relatives of the mafumu) without any proper consultation, agreement

or compensation to the first owner. This is precisely what happened to our parish outstations. People in Nkhunga (one of our outstation) had been evicted of their land two years ago, because mafumu came to agreement with commercial

companies to allocate the land to the new agro-industrial venture. They try to resist but all in vain. They were too poor and powerless against the existing structures. Eventually the compensation was offered but it was too less for the too many. Up to now some families have not been compensated yet. These cases are quite common and as I said earlier they bring a lot of suffering, confusion and social injustice among the countryside communities.

Secondly, if we look from the economical point of view, these assets cannot be used to obtain the loan and expand business and they are simply worthless. Those 'fixed assets' cannot be converted into 'liquid assets' and no bank will

accept the contract signed by the mfumu and the neighbor because it is not enforceable in the court of law. So the land and houses are 'dead capital'. Many people own them but they cannot make its value work for them to expand their businesses.

### 4. Stealing the land

St Paul's Parish in NKK is no exception as such. As the parish expanded in the seventies and eighties, it acquired land in various places and set up the outstations for weekly religious services. However, up to now, we do not have the legal title deeds on them. Some of the outstations are situated along the main road Salima - Nkhata Bay and the value of the land is quite considerable. As the price of land increases every year and people do need the land to live and set up the businesses chiefs - mafumu - very often try to 'resell' the land. In this way our outstations of Nkhunga, Kalimanjira, Lozi and part of the land in Chiya were re-sold to the other people.

The most difficult situation is now in Kalimanjira. This outstation, named after teenage Italian saint Maria Goretti has been sold completely together with the existing church building.

In 1972 the parish acquired a piece of land for the worship from the local mfumu Kalusa. Some years later, sometime between 1976-80 the church was build and Christians have been praying there ever since. Now, we do have a problem because the new mfumu, 'has forgotten' that this land was given to the parish over 40 years ago and he decided unilaterally, without any consultation whatsoever, to give this land to somebody else. So the transaction was done and Mr B.M. Kaise who is a local businessman and close relative to the mfumu, bought the land and commenced the process of obtaining the title deeds. The Christians were suspicious about it but for some time nothing serious happened. This year however, the peaceful coexistence escalated almost towards violence as we were denied the access to the church on



Saturday, 12th of October 2013. As there was no way to resolve the conflict and the situation was getting tense, because many Muslims came and were becoming hostile towards us, the police had to be brought in to solve this crisis. When the armed police unit came the local Muslim crowd supporting Mr Kaise ran away instantly. All of them, not even a single person remained!!! I was really surprised at that. I thought that they would have had more courage and determination ... After this 'intervention' we were and are able to pray without any problems in Kalimanjira.

However, this is not the end to the struggle. The legal battle continues, this time the whole issue is in the court of law in Lilongwe. We do

hope and pray that the court ruling will be in our favor. It means that the judge will declare that this land is ours and Mr Kaise has obtained it illegally.

As I have said before, this trend continues and as the parish does not have any legal documents for its outstations we are having problems in different places.

In this struggle, (it is a real struggle, indeed) the parish group of Justice and Peace (CCJP) is helping greatly. It is well organized, properly structured and hopefully together we will be able to defend the land of the parish, so that Christians could pray in the churches without any interference. All parishioners and I, hope and pray that justice prevails and that the Parish will get back its

land together with the churches.

So dear reader, please in your free time keep in your prayers St Paul's Parish in NKK. Let us implore our Lord as well as St Paul and our powerful patroness Mary Help of Christians, to intercede and help us in this struggle. With theirs and your help I am sure that justice will prevail and we get the land back. More importantly we will be able to pray and worship without any disturbance. 🙏



By Jose Luis Barrientos Maravi.

## ALINA TREVOR PINO (Painter)

I want to tell you the story of an extraordinary lady and the experience I lived when I met her. I'll send you some data compiled from magazines and the internet on her profile. Her name: Alina Trevor Pino.

Hi there,

I am Jose Luis Barrientos Maravi. I'm Fr. Antonio's youngest brother, my experience with this special artist was so amazing and I want to

share it with you. Before I begin I want to dedicate it to all those people who think that life is difficult. I want to say, "life is amazing"! but is necessary to give it meaning with love for people, being thankful to God for our health and for the gift of family.

This story starts in the north of Mexico. I work for a Vegetables Company in Sonora, Caborca. I work with 20 people who

process asparagus for export, and there I met a nice guy, his name: Rubén Garibay Trevor. He is the one in charge of the export of asparagus to the U.S.A, Australia, etc. From Mexico, he takes care of all the logistics; he makes the documentation and all about it. One day we while in town for sales and he told me about his aunt Alina. He told me that she's famous because she can paint without using her arms, she can do it by using her mouth only. I remember being impressed by what he said; perhaps it is because "I love painting!" People who might remember my time in Zambia in 2009, may also remember my paintings in Bauleni. I was commissioned to paint the walls of Bauleni oratory and I also helped Fr Antonio with some drawings for the Easter Camp. Well, since I love drawing and painting, so I was interested in meeting her.

We were in Ruben's car and he continued talking to me about her aunt. She had an accident when she was young, and she remained paralysed. Up to now her mother helps her with her daily life, and is a real example of achievement and determination. Ruben drove me to Alina's house, and he warned me about her condition and that sometimes she is not very comfortable to receiving visitors. I was particularly excited to meet her but I knew that it could also be a difficult encounter. When Ruben greeted her and talked to her about me, she said, "it's ok", and I got into the house. I saw thousand, perhaps even millions of paintings, beautiful, delicate, and expressive paintings. I saw them and I asked Ruben if I could take some pictures with the phone, and he said, "It is ok!", but the real moment was when I finally met Alina. She was really very a warm and nice person.

Hearing her words I could sense that she is a person full of love. She was also very interested in my life, in my work and my family. I told her everything about me, I spoke until I felt so moved that unconsciously I let some tears drop down from my eyes. She was so moved by what I said that she also told me her history, but I prefer that she tells it directly to you.

#### Alina's Life

My life is Nilda Alina Trevor



Alina Trevor and I

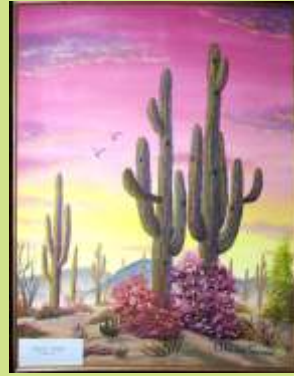
Pino. I'm the first born in the family. I have two brothers and four sister, Sonia, Rubidia, Jorge, Cecilia, Rogelio and Maria del Carmen. My parents are Jorge and Adelina. I was born in Caborca, State of Sonora in Mexico on April 3, 1964. When I was 7, I went to Francis Xavier School, where I learned drawing. I learned various styles, it was useful. While still a child, the school teacher asked what I wanted to become when I grew up, I said, I would like to be a painter.

In March 1981, a few days before I turned 17, on my

way to school a vehicle lost control and run me over, causing severe damage in my spine and my lower limbs. I was flown to Hermosillo General Hospital where I remained 11 days. From there I was flown to Tucson, Arizona where I remained for the next six months. The time there was exhausting and frustrating; however, I managed to pull through with the love of my mother, family and friends who surrounded me. Although I had lost mobility of all my body, I still was able to be a source of inspiration to many other patients and people of the medical care. In fact, I was offered a job as a Motivational Speaker. Speaking of my trauma and the way I found peace in accepting my new condition, helped me become calm and serene. I also discovered I could help others in letting go off anger and frustration.

As part of the rehabilitation process, I began to do what I always loved: painting! So, with the help of a special instrument attached to my mouth I'm able to hold the brushes and thus paint using my mouth. In September, I returned home and in November 1982 I painted my first masterpiece: Sunset. From that moment until now I've painted over 850 major works, now displayed worldwide.

The inspirational source of most of my painting is my imagination. However, I've also painted based on



book covers, photos, magazines, etc, the idea behind was to make sure the paintings are a close to the original as possible. I do not consider myself a professional or commercial painter. Usually I keep all my paintings, because each of them has a special emotional value attached to it. I've given out some of them to family and friends, visitors and people who ever came to interview me. From 1994 I belong to the International Association of Mouth and Foot Painters. This has helped me make my paintings known far and wide. My paintings are now in post cards, calendars and posters.

Family and friends always surround me with love; however, one of the most significant people in my life is my mother. From the time of my accident she has been always by my side to help me in every possible way. When I'm painting she is by my side, moving the frames when I cannot reach them with the brushes; she seats me to paint and in a word she helps me with every detail.

Finally, I want to say that I love the desert where I live. I feel that my personality and character have been influenced by it, because I've also stolen its colours in my paintings. The desert is violent, aggressive, hard, but also mild, beautiful and extremely colourful to an extent that we cannot imagine.

Love you all.

Alina

My experience with Mrs. Alina Trevor, also changed my life, and I hope she could read this extract from my life when we met; I want to make homage to her, for her work, her love for people, her passion for art. You are an angel in the world. Don't give up and may God bless you and your beautiful family. By the way Ruben, thanks for introducing me to your wonderful family!

Finally I want to tell you guys that although life may be full of obstacles, still we can make the difference with our attitude. Don't give up, don't be disturbed by drugs, it's not the way, love your family, your real friends all those always make us feel better with their company, and all those fight with us when we are wrong. Life is short to be angry.

Thanks Fr. Antonio Barrientos, for this space in the magazine, God bless you. 🌿

**6 things**

a child needs to hear

(from Girls and Boys Town, SA)

I love you

Great-job, well done!

You are very special

You're one in a million

I believe in you

You make me proud





## Mary our Model in communicating

By Fr Anthony Geoghegan S.J

### Continuation...

In the account of the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth as recorded in Luke's Gospel 1:39-45 we have a wonderful example of Mary communicating with others. Mary was a Lady who cared for others. We are not surprised to find her at the Wedding Feast of Cana helping people, because she had already travelled, when she herself was with Child into the hill-country of Judea to visit her cousin Elizabeth. She wanted to visit Elizabeth, she wanted to listen to Elizabeth's story, and she wanted in turn to communicate her deepest thoughts and feelings to her.

In our traditional culture greetings are valued highly. There is so much wisdom in the traditional Bemba proverb: "Wapoleni Wakulule Umushi" – "Greetings build the village". Greetings are the beginning of human communication. When we greet someone, we recognize his/her presence. And if our greeting is sincere, and coming from the heart, it is a sign of our deep respect for others. To refuse to greet another in the community is a sin against charity. It could be

interpreted as a sign of hatred. As a Christian, when I greet another, it is an expression of my faith that his person is made in God's image, that this person is my brother/sister in the Lord. When I greet my brother/sister, I am greeting Christ the Lord. When I greet my brother/sister I'm greeting Christ himself and preparing myself to "greet Him when He comes again" as the phrase in the 3rd Eucharistic Prayer puts it.

**"Wapoleni Wakulule Umushi" –  
"Greetings build the village". Greetings are  
the beginning of human communication**

We do not become good communicators overnight. It is a life-long process. How can we grow to be good communicators? Perhaps the following guidelines may help. I think, first and foremost we must become more aware of the presence of others. We can sometimes be so wrapped up in ourselves, that we fail even to recognize the presence of others. It is very useful, spiritually, to ask ourselves, in our daily Examination of Conscience, the question: "Did I really think of anyone else, apart from myself today? Or were all my thoughts, all my thinking centred on

myself? How aware was I to-day of the presence of the others who live with me, or whom I meet in my day-to-day activities?

Secondly, we should ask for the grace of a growing faith-vision to see others, not as means to my own self-advancement; not as people to be used by me for my own selfish ends; not as people to be manipulated or dominated, but as my precious brothers and sisters whom Christ loves. Christian communication

is basically an expression of our love for others. How can we say we love others if we are not willing to communicate with them.

Communicating with others involves listening. To listen to another requires a certain humility; the humility to forget ourselves for a moment, the humility to be ready to learn from others. And we can learn from everyone. So we should ask for the grace of a humble, listening spirit.

Communicating with others involves speaking the truth in charity (Eph 4:15) "speaking the truth is love ... we are to grow up in every way into Christ."

Note that Paul does not say "speaking the truth", but speaking the truth "in love". The contents of our communication must always be true, and the motivation for our communicating must always be Christian love. Lying is a sin, an offence against God, a moral evil because it destroys basic trust between human beings, and so it destroys real communication between human beings. Also making promises which we do not intend of keep, and breaking promises which we have made to others i.e. not keeping our word, breaks down trust between human beings and so destroys communication.

Finally, communicating with others in a Christian way requires the wisdom to know when to speak and when to be silent; prudence, the wisdom to know what to say and when and where and how and to whom to say it. The spirit of prudence, the spirit of right judgement, of discernment enables me to distinguish between confidential and non-confidential information. Christians are morally bound to keep secrets; because revealing confidential information destroys trust between individuals and so destroys communication. ☺

## youth commission & youth delegates' meeting



Lusaka (Zambia) 4-6/02/2014  
By Fr. Javier A. Barrientos SDB

At the beginning of February and following the ZMB Provincial Calendar for 2014, the members of the Youth Commission and all the Community Youth Delegates have gathered together at the provincial house in Chawama to hold the annual meeting for Youth Animation. Fr. J. Antonio Barrientos, the

Provincial Youth Delegate, animated the three-day meeting of youth delegates. The meeting began with the reports from the communities and the sharing of the various experiences of youth work in the various settings of the Salesian Missions of ZMB.

Part of the agenda was to revise the duties of each youth delegate as laid down by the Provincial Organic Plan and the Strategic Plan of ZMB. A full session was dedicated to the understanding of the EPC and SEPP. The participants expressed their concerns in getting people on board, and most especially, they expressed their doubts when it comes to the animating nucleus [the Salesian community]. They said, "When things are not clear at the community level or when the responsible of the community does not cultivate the leadership qualities that are expected of him, it will not work."

After the first two sessions, the delegates had the time to interact with each other and raise some questions to clarify the concepts discussed in the morning sessions. On the second day, the theme of the Salesian Youth Movement was the main topic of the sessions that followed. The nature of the meeting was described, along with its goals, strategies and lines of action. The SYM meeting will take place in Chingola in the month of July.

Printed materials for leadership programmes and for the formation of Lay Collaborators were also made available to the delegates. The meeting ended with the revision of the forthcoming activities planned for the Pastoral Year 2014, such as the Meeting of Volunteers, Easter Camp, SYM Congress and the Zone CampoBosco. [📄](#)



BAULENI, LUSAKA(ZAMBIA).  
18/01/2014.

FORMATION MEETING  
FOR THE PATRONS AND  
MATRONS OF THE YOUTH  
GROUP.

'Each youth is like a child born in the night who sees the sun rise and thinks that yesterday never existed.' These words of W. Somerset Maugham gives affirmation and great hopes on the vigour and the nature of youthfulness. In this present era, young people's own basic life-choices

will definitely affect the future of society and of the Church (Const. 26). The Salesian Parish of Bauleni, Zambia has 20 Small Christian Communities (SCC). It is advised and expected that each SCC should animate their own youngsters and prepare them to contribute to the growth of the Parish. In the past only a hand full of SCCs achieved the goal. This year more activities are planned to bring vibrancy in the youth ministry. The first among them was an Youth Promotion Programme on 18th January 2014 for the patrons and matrons of youth groups in the Small Christian Communities. Fr. Javier Antonio sdb, the in charge of the youth ministry – ZMB, was the resource person of the day. This able hand made them realise the importance of youth work and their own role in recreating and refreshing the youth ministry in their own small Christian communities. After lunch,

they shared in the forum, their success stories and difficulties. This sharing helped each other to grow and learn from others. The attendance was remarkable, although a few missed it out. Those who did not participate on that day were called and motivated to involve themselves in such youth-oriented programmes. They accepted to gather on 26th January and get the benefits of youth promotion. In Bauleni, though the appearance, freshness and existence of the young is still a ever green fact, in reality it needs rejuvenation. That revamping is being carried out now. Bro. Gabriel sdb is the one who is spearheading the work of bringing back the youth ministry alive in Bauleni. The vigour and the spirit of youth is coming back to 'summer morn' and 'summer brave' (from the poem The Passionate Pilgrim, William Shakespeare). [📄](#)





# Archdiocesan WYD Celebrations

**Y**oung people from 35 parishes of Lusaka Archdiocese gathered at the Cathedral of Child Jesus to celebrate the Youth Day 2014. The theme of the day was: "Go Make Disciples of All nations" – sharing the Brasil experience. The whole day began with Holy Eucharist presided by Fr. Antonio Barrientos SDB. Other priests con-celebrating came from different countries like: Poland, Italy, Kenya, Peru and Zambia. It was a sign that the celebration was indeed an International Youth



Fr Rupen with a group of WYD Rio 2013



Young People at during the Eucharist celebration at the Cathedral

LUSAKA (ZAMBIA) 01/02/2014  
OVER ONE THOUSAND YOUNG PEOPLE GATHERED AT POPE'S SQUARE TO CELEBRATE THE ARCHDIOCESAN WORLD YOUTH DAY.



Day. In the homily Fr. Andrew emphasized that young should not forget God in their lives, in daily situations. We are called to proclaim the message of Christ and do it without fear. Like Jesus, we should be there to serve each other. It is easy to fall in the trap of power, possessions and pleasures of life without God in it. This causes that things happen to us, not always good things, but if we put God first in our lives then we will make things happen, we will be the winners. In words of Pope Francis we say: "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". It is your duty as young catholic to go and reach out to peers, bring the Gospel to them which has the power to remove and break down evil and violence, to destroy and conquer the barriers of selfishness, intolerance and hatred. Let us again remember the Church needs you, your creativity and enthusiasm to build new and better world. After the Mass activities continued in the Youth Hall where performance from the group of young people that participated in WYD in Rio last year was the main focus. Congratulations to all who participated in preparations for the Youth Day as well as all those who actively participated in the actual day. It was a wonderful experience. Now we can look forward to our next year Youth Day celebration in August 2015. The next International World Youth Day will take place in POLAND in 2016. The hosting city will be KRAKOW. ☺

To our contributors: next issue is due at the end of May. Forward your articles to [communication@salesianszmb.org](mailto:communication@salesianszmb.org)





- 1- **Rome (ITALY):** A child playing with Pope Francis in joy and simplicity.
2. **Lusaka (ZAMBIA):** Fr Andrew Reut and priests that were present for the Archdiocesan WYD celebrations.
3. **Kabwe (ZAMBIA):** Fr Mariusz Skowron after the first mass celebrated in ciBemba. The new church is already in use although still under construction.
4. **Kabwe (ZAMBIA):** A group of Stella Girls posing with their new dresses, donation from Kindermissionswerk.
5. **Bauleni (ZAMBIA):** Br Joseph Anh directing the children from the oratory in a choir practice.
6. **Nkhotakota (MALAWI):** Parishioners of St Paul's parish after the Sunday Mass.
7. **Hwange (ZIMBABWE):** Br Christopher Kole with a group of youngsters during the Youth Festival: "Youth Volunteer for Christ".
8. **Hwange (ZIMBABWE):** Delegation from Kabwe after visiting Holy Family Parish formerly under the Salesian Community.
9. **Hwange (ZIMBABWE):** Fr Tresford Chota sdb, walking among the young during the youth festival.
10. **Lilongwe (MALAWI):** Students of Don Bosco Technical College during the morning assembly.
11. **Chingola (ZAMBIA):** Fr Leszek Aksamit sdb, working hand in hand the with the pre-novices, re-structuring the farm and poultry of the community.
12. **Lusaka (ZAMBIA):** Fr Jorge Ormeño posing with two girls from City of Hope after the Christmas Play at the end of 2013.
13. **Lilongwe (MALAWI):** Fr Alex Kim on the day of the official opening of the New Classrooms of the Tsabango Primary School, donation from the South Korea.