

ETHIOPIA | ISSUE NO. 77 | JUN - SEP 2023

DON BOSCO

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM AET

BULLETIN

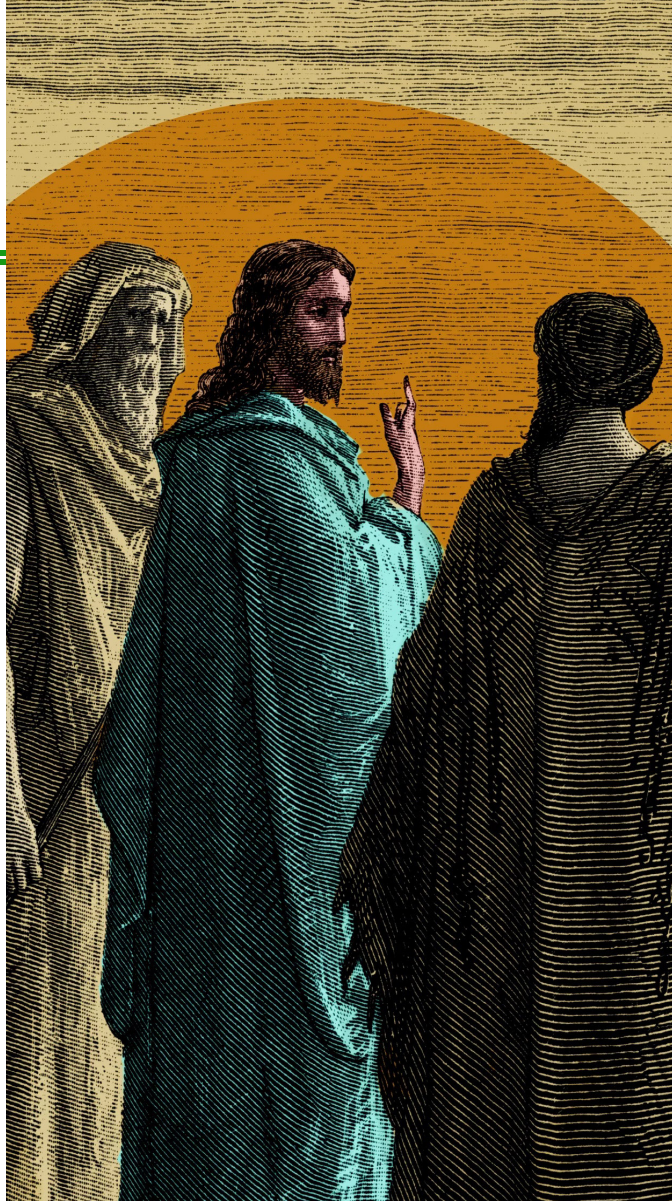
YOU ARE
WITNESSES  OF
THESE THINGS

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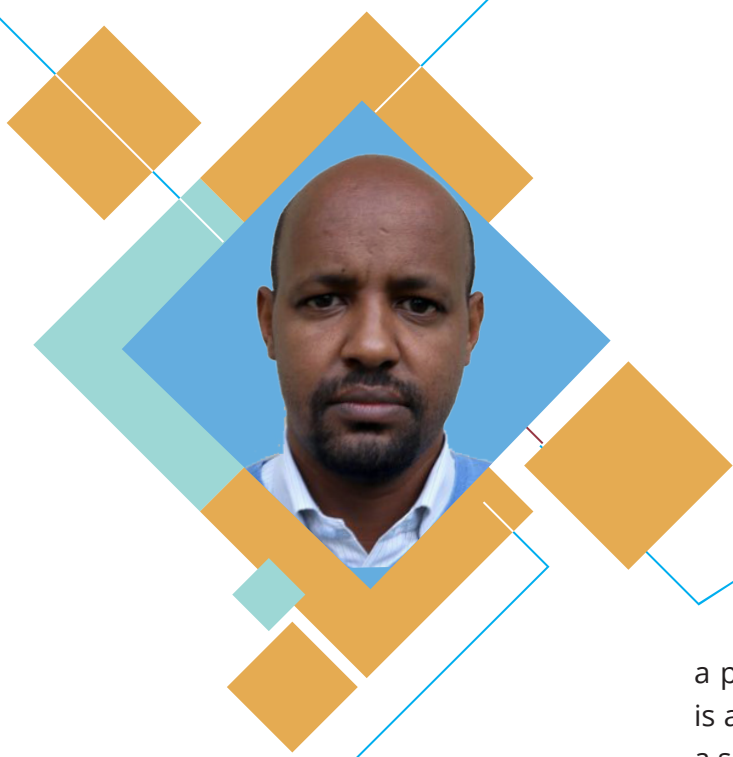
CORRECTION: The preceding issue of our bulletin, numbered 75, should have been 76. With that updated, the current issue is Issue No. 77.

The Salesian Bulletin is an official publication of the Salesians of Don Bosco, founded by Don Bosco himself in 1877.

As of 2018 the Bulletin was published in 63 different editions and 30 languages for 135 countries.

Please Note

Letters to the editor and articles on Spirituality, Self-help, Bible, Social Concern or even news items from various houses are most welcome. All material may be edited for the sake of space or clarity. Please keep a copy of whatever you send to the bulletin for publication. We regret we cannot return unsolicited articles and photographs.



editorial

FR. TESHAYE MATEOS, SDB

Be a Living Testimony

Our theme of the current bulletin is an invitation to “witness” drawn from the great commission of Jesus to his disciples. Witnessing is sharing our personal experience of God with others. Jesus’ Great Commission had some specific instructions that described the scenario in detail: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Jesus’ meant in his instruction which was rather a prophecy that

a person who testifies for the truth is a “witness”. Offering testimony is a significant Christian responsibility, and vocation. Our life should be a living testimony to the true nature of God, through His ever presence although we do not necessarily have to do this by making statements.

Jesus has a remarkable conversation with a Pharisee named Nicodemus. After sharing their discussion, John interprets the conversation for us: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him (John 3:16-17).

You are the salt. But for salt to work, it needs to come into direct contact with a person or a substance. Like



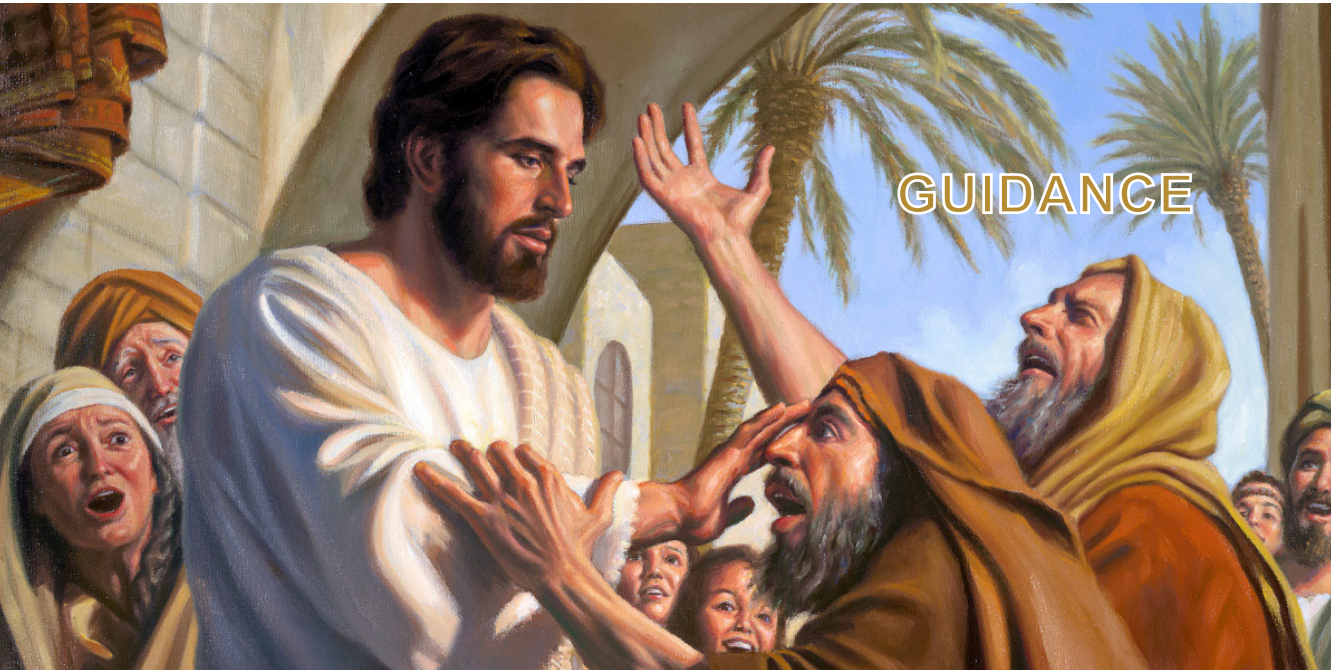
salt, we are to positively impact the people and things that we come into contact with. Unlike salt, a lamp does its job from far away. It's not trying to draw attention to itself, but it's illuminating the world around it. And so, we are to positively influence without being limited by anything even distance. Infact the time we live has enabled us to come in contact with a huge number of humanity. Our testimony should begin from home, however, should go out to the "ends of the Earth" meaning without limit.

When Paul says that the fruit of the Spirit is

**"love, joy, peace,
forbearance, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, and self-
control" (Galatians 5:22-23).**

he is referring to visible characteristics. And we demonstrate the life-changing truth of the Christian faith to the extent that we walk in the Spirit. Our witnessing is about telling others what God has for us with an emphasis on our personal experience.

So, welcome to this issue of our bulletin, which provides a wealth of information about our testifying. As you enjoy the contributions of several authors in their writing, remember to express your gratitude by sharing the delight of what you got. We bear witness through telling, writing, and, most importantly in our case - reading.



GUIDANCE



Abba Hailemariam Medhin, SDB
Provincial Superior

"We are witnesses to this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him" (Acts 5:32)

Dear all, through the grace of

baptism, all of us are called to be witnesses of the Good News that Jesus preached to us through his words and his life. This Good News is nothing other than God's love for each one of us - **"God loved the world: he gave his only Son"** (John 3:16).

In the Gospel of Luke, the Risen Lord appeared to the fearful, confused disciples and clarified for them because they have to be witnesses: **"Then he told them, 'this is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses, in the Prophets and the Psalms, was destined to be fulfilled.' He then, opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and**

he said to them, 'So it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third rise from the dead, and that, in his name repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this'" (Luke 28:44-48).

The Good News is that God loves us, He has sent His only Son to reveal this Love to us and to show us how to share in this love as free and dignified persons. God wanted all human beings to live in harmony with themselves, with nature, and with Him. God communicated to us this life from the beginning – the time of creation. According to the author of the Letter to the Hebrews **"At many moments in the past and by many means, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets, but in our time, the final days, he has spoken to us in the person of his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things and through whom he made all ages"** (Hebrews 1:1-2). Jesus became the witness of this love of God – he is the perfect witness.

Jesus through his words and life taught us how to be human beings and how to live in relation to God, in relation to each other, and in relation to ourselves. The key to this journey is LOVE. Love is ready to sacrifice itself for the good of the others. Jesus fulfilled what he said by his words: **"No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends"** (John 15:13-14). This he has done by dying on the cross for our sake: **"Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures"** (1 Corinthians 15:3).

He also called on us to do the same – to give up our life for the sake of others – for the sake of his Kingdom – for the sake of love: **"Anyone who wants to save his life will lose it, but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it"** (Matthew 16:25).

He called his disciples and sent them to continue to be witnesses of God's love for humanity. Reading the Acts of the Apostles we see how much they have dedicated their life – after the meeting of the Risen Lord and after the receiving of the

Holy Spirit – for the preaching of this Good News. They did not only speak but also lived lives of testimony as far as giving their lives for it. They were martyrs – witnesses.

Today, we are the apostles and we are called to continue the work of proclaiming the Joy of the Gospel – as the Holy Father Pope Francis calls it – which was started with Christ and passed to us by the apostles. We are the children of St. John Bosco – the joyful saint who calls on all of us to be joyful witnesses of the Good News. In today's society – more than ever – there is a need for witnesses than preachers. Our being witnesses demands that our lifestyle be compatible with our being – human, Christians, religious, and Salesians. We have to show it in our daily life.





Guest Review

THE FIRST ANYUAK CATHOLIC PRIEST

Rev. Fr. Abala Anthony Okello

"The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness." Pope Benedict XVI

The Apostolic Vicariate of Gambella & Illubabor (AVGI) is celebrating Anyuak community's first known Catholic Priest. Rev. Fr. Abala Anthony Okello, who was ordained in Gambella on Saturday April 29 2023, is the first Anyuak man to be ordained a Catholic priest. He was ordained by Bishop Roberto Bergamaschi, SDB, Vicar Apostolic of Gambella.

Committed to his dream of being a Catholic priest, Rev. Fr. Abala Anthony Okello overcame cultural barriers in his community to become a priest ministering to the people of Gambella. As a seminarian, he not only had to be aware of the social and cultural barriers within his community, but actively strive to overcome them; he listened to God's divine calling in his life and followed it. In this way, he is commissioned to

live differently, which has motivated and inspired young Catholics to follow his example. This is how God calls each one of us to serve Him in the World.

Rev. Fr. Abala Anthony Okello was born and brought up in Western part of Gambella called Itang. It is located on the Openo River where St. Don Bosco Parish is situated. After finishing his secondary school, he was admitted to St. Joseph Minor Seminary at the Cathedral, where he had two years of pastoral experiences with local priests. Then, in 2014, he was sent to St. Bakhita Major Seminary in Addis Ababa. He did three years of philosophy and four years of theology, at Capuchin Franciscan Institute of Philosophy and Theology, respectively. He was ordained Deacon on 16th of May, 2022.

Indigenous seminarians are now the future of the Catholic Church in Gambella. Given that the primary mission of the Church is to evangelize, the vision of the Apostolic Vicariate of Gambella & Illubabor is to promote Gospel Values by recognizing the dignity of all people, the importance of the family, and Christian value advocacy. God is calling for a generation of men and women to lead others to Jesus Christ and His Church.

The Ethiopian Catholic Church began its work in Gambella in 1990s, when it was still under the Apostolic Prefecture of Jimma-Bonga, the only other one in Ethiopia observing the Roman rite. On 16 November 2000, Pope John Paul II announced the creation of the new Apostolic Prefecture of Gambella in Ethiopia. On 5 December 2009, Pope Benedict XVI elevated Apostolic Prefecture of Gambella to Apostolic Vicariate. On 31 January 2010 Rev. Msgr. Angelo Moreschi, SDB was ordained Bishop and assumed his vicar appointment as the Vicar Apostolic and first Bishop of Gambella Vicariate. On 29 January 2020 and 31 October 2020 Bishop Roberto Bergamaschi, SDB, was appointed and installed as Vicar Apostolic of Gambella, respectively. We would like to thank members of Missionaries of Charity Sisters, Salesians of Don Bosco, Maryknoll Missionaries, The Xaverian Missionaries of Yarumal and Daughters of St. Anne, who lived and worked in AVGI. We thank you for your service to God's holy people and for your fidelity to Christ our Lord. May God bless you all with long life!

(Fr. Dr. Yoseph Mulugeta Baba)

AN INTERVIEW WITH ABBA ALFRED ROCCA, sjb



THE FIRST PROVINCIAL OF THE AET VICE-PROVINCE

Family and childhood:

I was born in 1933 in a small village called Pajaja, 15 kilometers away from Barcelona. My parents were very good Catholic Christians. They had four children; I am the second one, and in the village, there were no facilities for education. They brought my elder brother and me to the Salesian school in Saria. I was only eleven by then. There, how the Salesians were treating us in the playground and other moments,

especially a figure of a Salesian who afterward went as a missionary to America, made me decide to ask entering to the aspirantate. I studied there for only two years. From the third year onwards, I frequented the Aspirantantate.

Educational background:

I made novitiate in the year 1949, followed by post-novitiate, where I did my philosophy. After practical training, the Provincial sent me to England to study theology. Besides,

I got a degree in teaching English. I was ordained a priest in Barcelona in 1959. After my ordination, I studied philosophy and got a license degree in philosophy.

Salesian religious vocation:

I was educated in a Salesian house, thus, the idea of becoming a Salesian. The main reason was the pedagogical way of working of the Salesians. They loved us. We had passed through the Spanish war and that affected us a lot. Despite that, they were treating us very gently. Practically that is the beginning that brought me to ask for going to the Aspirantate.



Life as a Salesian:

First, as a practical trainee, they sent me with the aspirants to a place called Jilola. Then the provincial sent me to England. As a priest after my studies in philosophy, I was with the philosophy students for ten years. For the last three years, I was the rector of the philosophate. After that, the provincial sent me to the

technical school as a rector, and I was also a rector in the theologate. After I was nominated provincial of Barcelona from 1976-1982; that time I was asked to open two houses in Ivory Coast for the Project of Africa. That was also the beginning of my desire to go to the missions. After a few years of staying in Spain, I was asked to come to Ethiopia, and from that moment on, I have been here in Ethiopia. I served with post-novices first, as provincial, then as Master of Novices in Debrezeit. Again, at the age of 75, though I asked to have no more responsibilities, and I went to Adigrat I remained in the same field of service as always in the formation.

Unifying the Salesians of Ethiopia into one Vice-Province:

I was very happy that the provincial sent me to Ethiopia. Certainly, it was very good to begin real work for the whole of Ethiopia, which was separated into parts even if some of us were coming from Italy and some from other places. The vice province emerged from the Middle East and Milan provinces. In the beginning, there was only one house, which was in Mekele depending on the Middle East. Because the Middle East had no power to develop the mission, the

Superiors entrusted it to the Milan Province which had more personnel and better financial possibilities. Then, another house in Dilla was opened. Having two delegations, one in the north and another in the south, at a certain moment made no sense. There was Abba Franco, the delegate of Milan Province in the South, and myself, the delegate in the North. But at the end of the war, in 1991, it was much easier to be together. I think it was a good decision today not to have in two senses: Tigray in part and Nations nationalities plus Addis Ababa in another part. It was not my merit but the merit of all the people. That was done not only by me but by all. Everybody was happy that we were working together. There were Salesians who belonged to the Middle East province and came from everywhere: Abune Angelo Moreschi came from Tanzania, Bro Cesare from Vietnam, and myself from Spain. On the other hand, in the South, all of them were from the Milan province.

Challenges in your Salesian priestly ministry:

Perhaps the worst things can be put first: the deaths of some young Salesians when I was rector of the philosophate in Spain. One young confrere died and that infuses in you

a very bad sensation. In the field of pastoral care and education, the fact that we don't give Eritrea and Ethiopia as one unique community means that we could not go to Eritrea and they could not come here. The war in Tigray these last few years has caused the suffering of the people which also affected the development of Salesian presence. The best thing that I have been experiencing in my life, the first one, was when the project of Africa began, and the Rector Major asked every province in Spain to open some houses in some places in Africa. During the three years I was visiting Ivory Coast, we opened two communities, and I had to prepare personnel for that work. I went there three times a year to visit them, and it remains one of the most memorable events of my life and one that I will undoubtedly remember always. The other was when, after being a Provincial, I offered myself for the project Africa and the Rector Major told me that I was coming to Ethiopia. The whole of my existence has been characterized by the fact that I have lived here for 36 years. Without these incidents, I would have been a different person.

Feeling about the 50th anniversary of the Salesian's presence in Ethiopia:

I am very happy that it happened. Maybe the development with circumstances has been better in fact because of the possibility of Ethiopia and Eritrea being together at the opening of the house. I think that is one of the great graces of the Lord. In these 50 years, Ethiopia has been good in receiving Salesians who have done a lot. In my situation, I think in the years when I was Provincial, we had the great thing of deciding on three main elements. The great efforts in the formation of the confreres, the opening of a community for street children, and the mission for the new evangelization, in Gambella. The mother church also entrusted to us the Vicariate of Gambella something adding to our mission.

Message to the young Salesians of our Vice-Province:

One thing that has worried me sometimes is the fact that perseverance may not be that good, though that happens all over the world. It is very nice to have so many young people in this place. Basil Hum, in his book, writes about monasticism. I have read that without centering the life in Jesus Christ. Pillars of vocation

are union with God, prayer, silence, fidelity to the community, and at the same time avoiding things that the world always comes to evade this land of our own. I think that is something that may make us flourish. A great apostolate and slant to give ourselves to other people is not enough, but if we have nothing inside, we will not give anything.

The next thing you would like to do:

I think that is not something of doing but **being**. At my age, the effort has to be making myself a complete Salesian in such a way that I can say '**I am, I am.**' I am what I have to be. I've promised to be a Salesian. I am a Salesian. My idea is to be if the Lord grants me to finish my days here in Ethiopia, living my religious life, and doing good to the people around us.

Advice to the young people in our settings:

Be open to the Gospel values that the Salesians are trying to give you because the values are good for your entire life. Try to concentrate on spiritual aspects in this materialized world.

God bless you abundantly!



የክፍል ጥያቄ ዱካክ

ቤተክብሩ ዳይሬክቶር

እያውሩ አለማውራት፤ እየጮሁ አለመጮህ፤ እያነቡ አለማንባት፤ እየሳቁም አለመሳቅ። ህያው ነፍስ ሊዘሩ፤ እንደገና ሊቆሙ አጥንቶች ተሰበሰቡና እንደነበሩት እንደነበሩት ሆነው፤ እንደሚያውቁት ቦታ ቦታን ይዘው ተሰደሩ። እንደመቃብሩ መልክኛ በዘመናቸው እንደነበሩት አርበኛ እና ደፋር ሰው ከተባታተኑበት ተሰባስበው፤ ከመቃብሩ የብስ ቦታች በአፈሩ ተሰፍነው፤ አንጣሪያውንም ከመንገዳቸው ገፈታትረው፤ እንደ

ሥጋ አልባ ሰው ተንጎማለው ተኙ። አስከትለውም ጀማትን፤ በጀማት ላይ የውስጥ አካላትን፤ በአካላትም ላይ ውጫዊ ሥጋን ደረቡ። ህያው ነፍስ እንዳለው የ100 አመት እንቅልፋም፤ በአዳም ጥልቅ እንቅልፍ እንደተነደፈ ሰው አካልን ሸክፈው ተጋደሙ።

ዕረፍቱ ሳያበቃ በእንቅልፍ እኩሌታ ህልምን አለሙ። ሀገር ስትፀንስ። አንዲት ሰው መሰል ፍጥረት ባንዲራዎች ፀነሰች። በመጸነሷ ደስተኛ መሆኗ ከፊቷ ያለው የደስታ ፍካት ያስታውቃል። ለድርጊቶቿ የምትሠጠው ጥንቃቄ የፀነሰቻቸው ባንዲራዎች እርስ በእርስ እንዳይጋጩ ይመስላል። እንደራበው እና ምግብ እንደሚፈልግ ሰው አንዴ ወደ ግራ አንዴ ደግሞ ወደቀኝ ስታማትር ፤ ፍሬው ያማረ አንድ ተክል ተመለከተች። በአይኗ ወደ ተመለከተችው ፍሬ በዝግታ አመራች። ከጀርባዋ በርቀት የሚታዩ ነጭ ጥብቆች አቅጣጫቸውን አስተካክለው ወደ እርስዋ በዝግታ መምጣት ጀመሩ። ህያውን ነፍስ ከመሬት ቦታች ያበቀሉት አጥንቶች ተናገሩ። እያውሩ አለማውራት!

ጉዞዋን ወደ ፍሬው ያደረገችው እናት ፍጥነቷን ጨምራ መጓዟን ቀጠለች። ፍጥነት መጨመሯን የተረዱት ነጭጭ ተኩሎች ድምጻቸውን እያሰሙና እየጮሁ ተከተሏት። የፈራና የደነገጠ ፊት የያዘችው እናት አንዴ ዘራ ስታይ አንዴ ደግሞ ፍጥነት ጨምራ ስትሮጥ፤ በሆድዋ የተሸከመቻቸው ባንዲራዎች መናወጥ ጀመሩ። አንደኛው ቦታውን ለቆ ሌላኛው ላይ፣ ሌላውም ቦታ ለቆ የቀረው ላይ ሲደራረብ መልኩ የጠፋና የተዛባ ድጉስ ይመስላል። አፈር ለብሰው የተኙት የዘመነ ሕዝቅኤል ስሪቶች ድምጻቸው ላይሰማ ጮሁ። እየጮሁ አለመጮህ!

የጽንሱ ከብደት፣ የተኩሎች ድምጽ እና የማያበቃው ሩጫ ያሰለቻት ይች እናት በጣም ትደክምና ተስፋ እንደቆረጠ ሰው አዝና ትቆማለች። አያሌ ተኩሎች መጥተው ከበቧት። ራሱን መከላከል እንደማይችል ጎዳ መሬት ላይ ወደቀች፤ ፊቷንም አቀርቅራ አነባች። የተኩሎቹ ጩኸት እና የጸነሰቻቸው ባንዲራዎች ግፊያ ያደከማት እናት ግራ በተጋባፊት ከወደቀችበት ቀና ብላ ተመለከተች። አጥንቶች አለቀሱ። እያለቀሱ አለማልቀስ!

ቀን መሽቶ ሲነጋ፣ ነግቶም ለመምሸት ሲያኮበኩብ፣ ሰዓታት እንደሚያደርስ የምድርን ገጽታ እንባዋ ሲያረሰር፣ ተፈጥሮን አፈንጋጮች ሃሳቡን ቀይረው ለልምላሜ ይመስል እንባዋን አቅልለው ጩኸታቸውን ቀጠሉ። የጡት ነካሽ ይመስል በልቶ እንዳልበላ የሚራገጡት ጽንሰ ባንዲራዎች፣ ርህራሄ በጎደለው ምግባር ድምጻቸውን እያሰሙ የሚጮሁት ተኩሎች እንደዛለ የሚያስታውቅ ፊቷን እያዩ አላባራ ብለዋል። ቅጽበት በተሞላው ከስተት በዙሪያዋ የነበሩት ተኩሎች ከየት መጣ በሚያስብል ደራሽ ውሃ ተጠራርገው ሄዱ። ለሚያይና ለተመልካች ከአርያም የተላከውን፣ የኖህ ዘመን ዝና፣ የጠፈር ድብቅ ባህር በሮች ክፍተትን ይመስላል። የህይወት ውሃ አይሉት ተኩሎቹን ወሳጅ ነው። የሞት ውሃ አይሉት እናትን አትራፊ፣ እንደሰሙም ደራሽ፣ ተፈጥሮን አከባሪ የህይወት ውሃ ነው። የአርበኛው አጥንቶች ጅማት ደራቢዎች፣ የውስጥ አካልን ሸካፊ፣ የውጪ ስጋ ለባሾች፣ አፋቸውን ከፍተው ጥርሳቸው እየታየ፣ ሳቃቸው ላይሰማ በደስታ ገጽታ ፊታቸውን አበሩ። አጥንቶች ሳቁ ... እየሳቁ አለመሳቅ!

በሕዝቅኤል ራዕይ ተውቦ፣ እንደ እስራኤል ትንሳኤ ተኩሎና ደምቆ አሸብርቆ የቀረበው የአጥንቶች ዱካክ፤ አንዳች መልዕክትን እንደቋጠረ እንስራ በሰመመን አርምሞ ሲያመላልስ ወደ መገባደጃው ቀረበ። ልግም በገላ አልብሶ፣ የቧጋችን ዘመን ታሪክን ቀይሮ፣ መናጀውን ትውልድ ተስፋን አሰንቆ እንደገና ሊቀርጽ ህልም ታልሞ ሊጠናቀቅ ሆነ። በአርበኛው አጥንቶች ውስጥ ያለፈው ተአምር ሊገባደድ ቀረበ። በህልም ባለቤት ታዞ በሎሌ አስፈጻሚነት አንድን ጭብጥ ሊሸዎን በህልም እንዝርት ውስጥ ሲያሾር የቆየው ይህ ትንግርት ሲያበቃ፤ የሕዝቅኤል ራዕይ ስሪት የአርበኛው አጥንቶች ዳግም ላይነሱ በጥልቅ የእንቅልፍ ባህር ውስጥ አሸለቡ።

WANT TO BE HAPPY?

Be Grateful



(ABBA LIJO VADAKKAN SDB)



It was exactly three weeks ago that Abba Tesfaye sent me an email asking me if I could contribute an article for this issue of the Don Bosco Bulletin on the topic of Gratitude. As soon as I read the word 'Gratitude', it rang a bell and reminded me of a talk that I came across on TED a few years ago on the same topic. Fortunately, I was able to trace back that talk and a good part of this writing has its source in that TED talk. Well, let me start this article with a basic premise that all of us will agree about ourselves. This is nothing but the idea that all of us want to be ultimately happy. How we imagine our happiness differs from one to another. But it is already a lot that we have something in common that all of us want to be happy.

Now my topic for this article is gratefulness and one might ask simply "but how are these two topics connected Happiness and Gratefulness?" Many people might say, oh that's very easy. When you are happy, you are grateful.

But think again. Is it that happy people are always grateful people? We all know quite several people who have everything in life that it would take them to be

happy and yet they are not happy because they want something else and something more. As someone rightly noted: 'Always what satisfies man is a little more....' And we also know of people who have lots of misfortunes, misfortunes that we would not want to have, and yet we find them deeply happy. They radiate happiness and we are really surprised at them. Why? Because they are grateful for what they have... So it is not happiness that makes us grateful but on the contrary, it is gratefulness that makes us happy. Now we can ask ourselves: 'What do we mean by gratefulness and how does it work?' Let us appeal to our own experience. We experience something valuable to us and we see that it is freely given to us. Something so valuable and at the same time it is gratuitously given. We haven't bought it; we haven't worked for it, but simply given to us. When these two things come together, - something so precious but freely given to us - then gratefulness and happiness spontaneously rise in our hearts. The key for all these is, that it is not something we need to experience just once, being grateful once in a while but we need to be people who live gratefully. Living gratefully and thus living happily; that's what is needed.

We may ask ourselves yet another question, 'how can we live gratefully?'

This is possible by experiencing or becoming aware that the precious and the gratuitous gift is nothing but the given moment. Every given moment is a precious gift. No wonder it is called a present, **(meaning gift)**. We have not bought it; we have not worked for it. We have no way of assuring that there will be another moment given to us. And yet that is the most valuable gift that is given to us. This very moment, with all its opportunity, that it contains! If we didn't have this present moment, we wouldn't have any opportunity to do anything or experience anything more. Now the gift within this gift is the opportunity. What we are grateful for, is the opportunity. We have the possibility either to avail ourselves of this opportunity or to miss it.

The key to happiness is to avail ourselves of this opportunity, moment by moment. Thus, we hold the master key to our happiness in our own hands.

Does it mean that we can be grateful for everything? Certainly not! We cannot be grateful for violence, war, oppression, injustice. On a personal level, we can't be grateful for the loss of a dear friend, the unfaithfulness of a life partner, a failure in an exam, or bereavement. So the point is not being grateful for everything but being

grateful in every given moment for the given opportunity. In every given moment, there is a given opportunity. Most of the time the opportunity that is given to us is to enjoy moments and we only miss them because we are rushing through life. Sometimes something bad or difficult might occur to us and our challenge is to rise to that opportunity. We can rise to it

es for the better.

Now how can we find a method for living gratefully? It is not just enough to be grateful once in a while but we need to live gratefully every moment of our life. How could we do that? Very simple method!

This is actually what we were told

Be Grateful

by learning something from it. Maybe, it presents to us an occasion to stand up for our opinion, to stand up for our conviction, to speak up the truth even when it is difficult or things like that... All these are opportunities that are given to us and those who avail themselves of these opportunities, are the ones who will excel and will make something out of these chances

when we were children to cross the street. **STOP, LOOK, GO.** That's all. So the first thing is to stop. Here we can ask ourselves, 'How often do we stop?' The risk is that very often we do not stop but rush through life and we miss lots of opportunities. Maybe what is needed is to create some stop signs in our lives. For the past two years I am in Gambella and every

weekend I go to the Jewy refugee camp to celebrate the Mass. After being there for the weekend and when I get back to my community, I realize how precious water is, for instance. Every time I open the tap I am overwhelmed; every time I switch on the light I am so happy. Because these are two commodities so rare to find in the refugee camp. But we often forget. Every time those of us fortunate enough to live in towns flush the toilet, we waste around 3-4 litres of water, which is the daily ration for a family of five in the camp. We can think of so many things like these. After stopping, the next step is to look. We need to open our eyes, our ears, and our senses for this wonderful richness that is given to us. We can also open our hearts to the opportunity even to help others because the way to become happy is to make others happy. When we open our hearts to the opportunities, the opportunities invite us to do something and that is the third thing. **Stop, Look, and Go.** Go and do something and what we can do is whatever life offers to us in the present moment. If we take this opportunity, go with it and be creative to do something concrete. And so, that little Stop, Look, Go is such an important step that it can revolutionize our world. This can bring about a change of consciousness and today more

than ever we hear the word gratefulness, gratitude so many times and in so many places. People are becoming more and more aware of how it is important to be grateful because this can change our world immensely. Even I have found toilet paper in an airline with the brand name **Thank You**. When we are grateful, we act out of a sense of enough, not out of a sense of scarcity and we are willing to share. A grateful world is a world of joyful people. Grateful people are joyful people and joyful people are grateful people and more and more joyful people, we will have a joyful world.

How can I finish this article without mentioning a word about the most grateful man that I have come across in my own life who is none other than my dad? He died a year ago, at the ripe old age of 90, and even when he was bedridden for the last 7 seven months before he died, we never heard a complaint from his mouth. He was always happy and serene. He was always grateful and therefore was always happy. He was never worried about anything. He always repeated: "I don't have words sufficient to thank the Lord for being so good to me". He lived so long as 90 and in him, we saw what it means to be growing old gratefully and gracefully.



ከናቴ

ሳቅሽ ምን ምትሀት አለው ስቃይን ከልብ

የሚሰውር፤

የአይኖችሽ ጉልበት ምንድነው እኔን በሀሴት

የሚያሰክር።

እንዴት አድረጎ ፈጥሮሽ ይሆን ያለመቅረዝ

እንደሻማ፤

ልታኖሪኝ የቀለጥሽው እልፍ መአልት በጨለማ።

ማን ደፋር ነው የሰየመሽ በሶስት ፊደል?

ለኔ የሆንሽው እንደ ስምሽ መቼ ሊቀል።

“እ” - ናት ሲሉ በአንድ ሆኖ አሳንሰው፤

ከ “ሀ” እስከ “ፕ” ፊደሎቹ አንቺ እንደሆንሽ መቼ

አውቀው።

ያልተረዱ ያላወቁሽ ማናት ብለው ቢጠይቁኝ፤

ከአንደበቴ ቃል ሳይወጣ በዓይኖችሽ ተናከርኩኝ፤

ላሳለፍነው ላሳለፍሽው አጎንብሼ አነባሁኝ።

ይመስክሩ እንባዎቼ በሚሰሰሽ ተደብቄ፤

ፈሪነቴን ከማያውቅ ጀግንነቴን ከሚያደንቅ

ከዚህ ሁሉ አለም ርቄ።

ስንቱ አለፈ ስንቱ መጣ በክንዶችሽ ተንተርሼ፤

በእናትነት አድማስሽ ውስጥ ስንቱ ነጋ ስንቱ መሸ።

ይመስክር ጠይም ፊትሽ በማድያት የጠቆረ፤

ለሚያበራው ወጣት መልኬ ልጅነቴን የገበረ።

የስጋ እህል ያበደሩ በሜዳ ላይ ሲለፍፋ፤

ሲልግሱ በጥሩንባ ባለጠጎች በአጅብ ሲያልፉ፤

የኔ መሪ የቀኝ አዝማች በእርምሞ በዝምታሽ፤

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World Refugee Day and Salesian Initiatives

Salesian Missions, has highlighted initiatives aimed at supporting refugees



and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across the globe, including Africa. In a Tuesday, June 20 report, the interim Director of Salesian Missions, Fr. Timothy Ploch, is quoted as saying, “Salesian missionaries live among the communities they work in and are on the front lines of the refugee crisis.”

“They provide support and services for refugees and internally displaced persons whose lives have been affected by war, persecution, famine, and natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and earthquakes,” Fr. Ploch says. He adds, “Salesian programs provide much-needed education and technical skills training, workforce development, health care and nutrition.”

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the June 20 Salesian Missions report indicates, “While the province

of North Kivu faces ongoing clashes that have been displacing thousands of people, Salesian missionaries continue with their work.”

“The medical center at Don Bosco Ngangi in Goma just delivered triplets for Dorcas Ndibungu, who had a boy and two girls,” SDB officials report, and add, “The medical center has been transformed into an emergency hospital for thousands who have been displaced.” They continue, “The medical team includes a doctor, a laboratory technician, a physiotherapist, a clinical psychologist, two hygienists and five nurses. The team is providing both preventive and medical care for those who have been injured and have emergencies.”

In Egypt, Don Bosco Zeitoun, located in the country’s capital city, Cairo, provides education and support to Sudanese refugees in the North African nation. “Work with refugees began in 2000 when several arrived at the Salesian organization hoping to celebrate Catholic Mass,” SDB officials say in the June 20 report. They say the Salesian Oratory in Cairo organizes activities for “refugees three days a week” due to limited space with an average of “250 children attending the oratory, and mothers have their own meetings.”
(aciafrica)

Appointment of the new Superior of the Province of Eastern Africa



On 19 June 2023, the Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco with the consent of his Council, appointed Father George Tharaniyil as Provincial of the Saint John Bosco (AFE) Province for the 2023-2029 six year period.

Fr George Tharaniyil (TJ) was born on 15 August 1966 in Padimaruth, Kerala, India. He joined the Salesian aspirantate in Mannuthy, Kerala in 1978. He made his novitiate in Kotagiri, India and made his first profession on 24 May 1984. His perpetual profession was on 4 June 1991. He did his theological studies in Tangaza University College, Nairobi and was ordained a priest on 23 April 1996 at Padimaruth, India.

Fr TJ (as he is known) came to Mafinga, Tanzania, as a missionary in 1986 to start his practical training. Later he returned to India to do his diploma and

Teacher Training certificate in Motor Vehicle Mechanics. He later came back to Nairobi to complete his theological studies. He also holds an MBA (Masters in Business Administration) from Strathmore University Business School, Nairobi, Kenya.

After his ordination, he was posted to Don Bosco Youth Training Centre, Iringa Tanzania, as the principal of the technical training centre from 1996 to 2005. In the last year of his stay in Iringa, he also served as the Rector of the institution. In August 2005 he was appointed the Provincial Economist of the Salesian Province of Eastern Africa (AFE), a service he rendered for 9 years, until 2014. In July 2014, he was appointed as the director of the newly constituted Salesian TVET network body in Africa and Madagascar – Don Bosco Tech Africa (DBTA), a post he has held to date.

The AFE Province, in addition to having a new Provincial whose installation will take place next August, will comprise three nations (Kenya, Sudan and Southern Sudan), given the separation of Tanzania (new Province), from 8 September 2023. **(ANS – Rome)**





THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR

**EDUCATION'S
HEART OF GOLD**

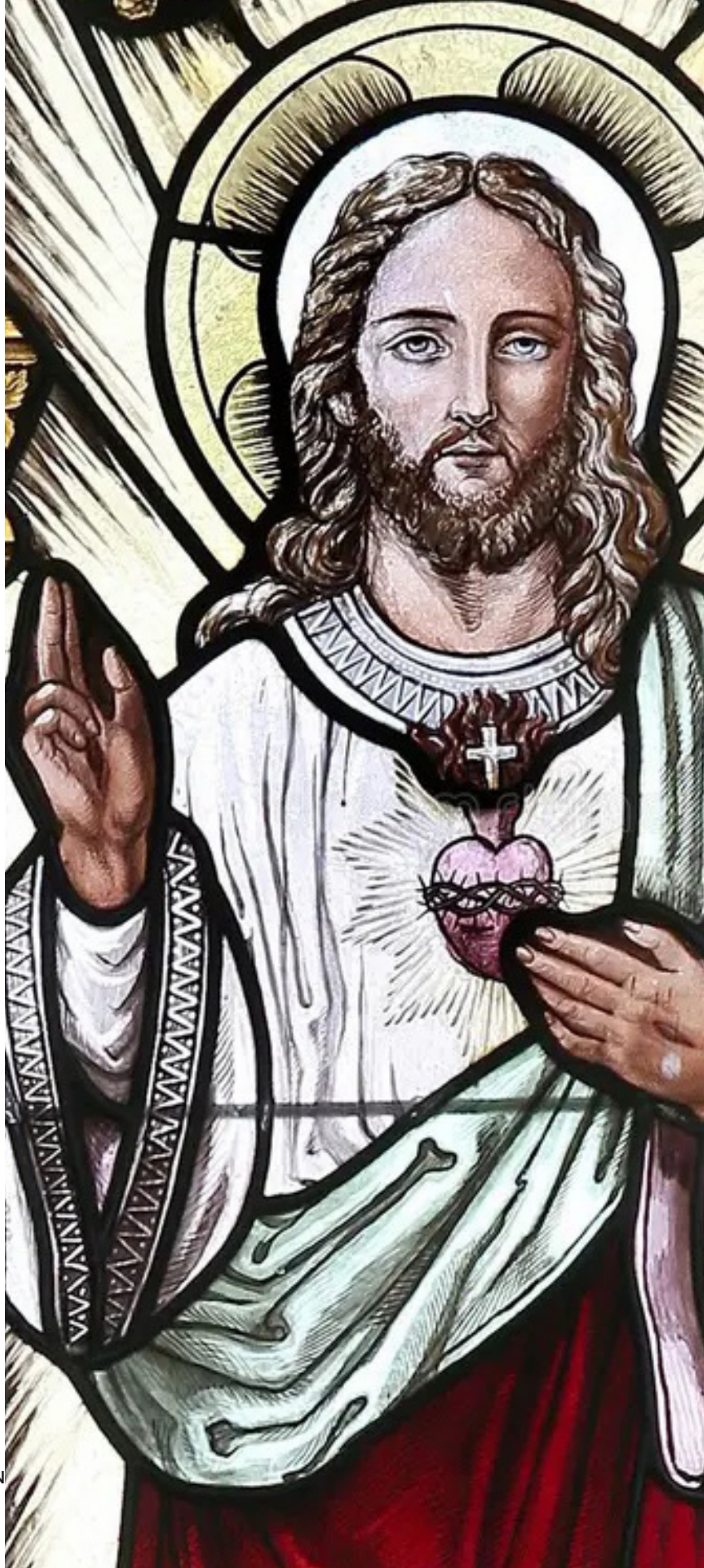
DON ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME SDB



*Why devotion to the
Sacred Heart of Jesus
is in the DNA of the
Salesian Congregation*

This June I wish to present to you the reality of the meaning of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome (Sacro Cuore). It is a church with a very great history – one that has its roots in Don Bosco himself – for at the Pope's request he spent the last years of his life, as well as his last energies and strength, on the construction of this beloved church.

The Sacred Heart, and every church and devotion in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, speaks of the Love of that Divine Heart, the Heart of the Son of God, for each one of His sons and daughters in the entire human race. It also speaks of suffering and of the Love we receive from





God, which is not always reciprocated.

Today I wish to add one more aspect: I think it also speaks of the pain that Jesus our Lord feels in the face of the suffering of many people: rejection, immigration without a place to go, loneliness, and the violence done to many. I think it can be said that He speaks of all this, too, and without a doubt at the same time blesses everything that is done on behalf of those less fortunate, just as Jesus Himself did when traveling the roads of Judea and Galilee.

Very many silver hearts

One joyful reality that undoubtedly makes the very Heart of God rejoice is what I myself saw being carried out in the Don Bosco Salesian Foundation on the islands of Tenerife and Grand Canary. I was there in these past weeks. Among the many things experienced, I was able to witness the work of 140 educators who carry forward the various projects of the Foundation, including the reception of those in need and their housing, work training, and subsequent placement in the working world.

I also had an encounter with another group of a hundred adolescents and young adults who have been blessed to have received this service that Don Bosco gives to the least. At the end of our precious meeting, they gave me a gift. In a small, heart-shaped cardboard box, they had placed more than a hundred hearts, bearing the names of Nain, Rocío, Armiche, Mustapha, Xousef, Ainoha, Desirée, Abdjalil, Beatriz and Ibrahim, Yone, and Mohamed, and a hundred others, each with a message written on it. These messages expressed something simple, and in a simple way, but still something which sprang from the heart. These are some examples of the precious statements:

Thank you for making all this possible

Thank you for the second chance you have given me in my life

I'm still fighting. It's easier to do so with your help

Thank you because you have restored my joy

Thank you for helping me believe that I can do everything I

set out to do

Thank you for the food and a home
Thank you from the bottom of my heart

Thank you for having helped me
Thank you for this opportunity to grow

Thank you for believing in us young people despite the situation in which we live

There were a hundred others, just like these, addressed to Don Bosco and to the educators who are at their side every day in Don Bosco's name.

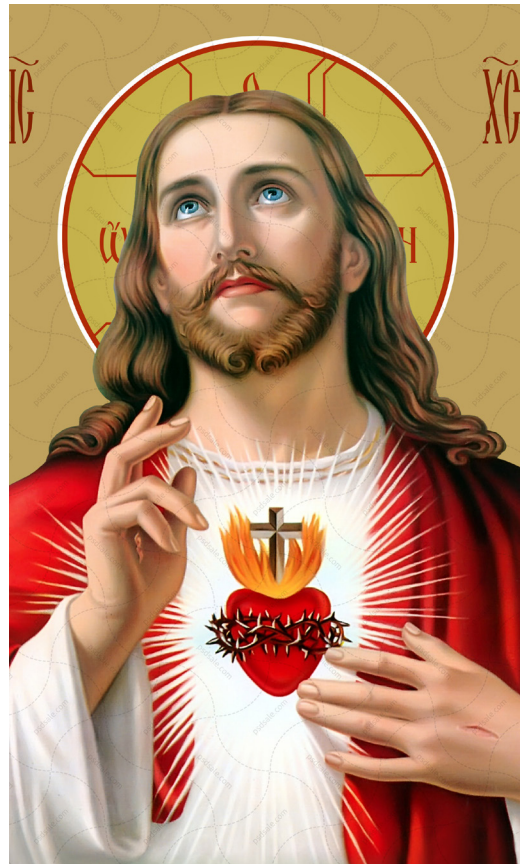
I listened to all they shared with me. I heard some of their stories – many of them filled with pain; I saw the look in their eyes and their smiles. I was very proud to be a Salesian and to belong to a family of such splendid brothers, educators, and young people.

I thought, yet again, that Don Bosco is as timely as ever – and more necessary than ever. I also thought how great is the educational delicacy with which we accompany these young people along their path, taking each one where he or she is and not where we would like them to be.

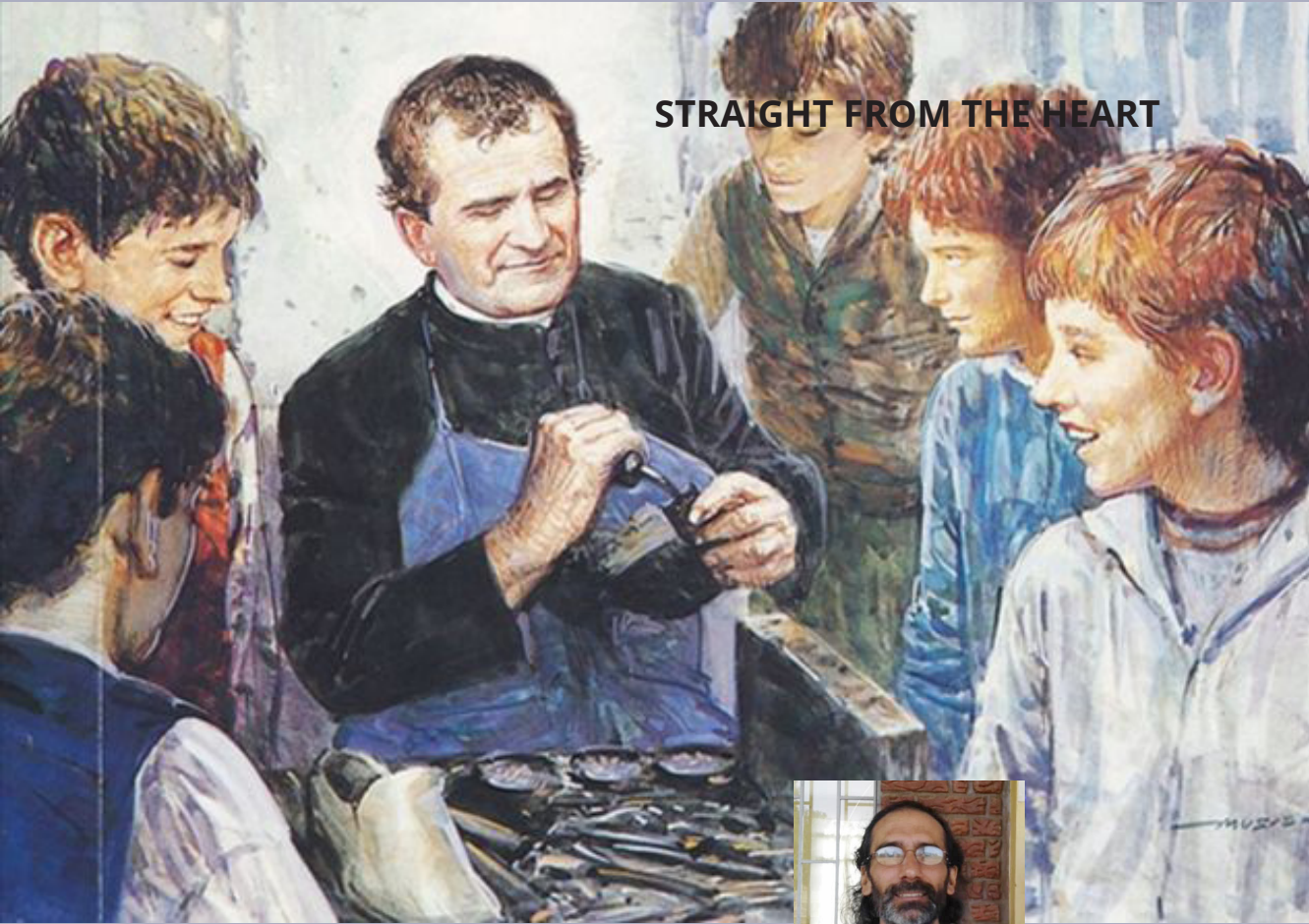
Together we said a prayer addressed to the God who loves us all, to the God who blesses His sons and daughters, using words that made Christians, Muslims, and Hindus feel comfortable. No doubt, the Spirit of God assisted us all.

I was happy because just as Don Bosco himself welcomed his first boys to Valdocco, the same thing is experienced today in so many “Valdoccos” around the world.

I have no doubt that the Sacred Heart of Jesus is full of the Love that manifests itself in the many wounds healed in each one of these boys and girls because, we well know, Love heals and cures.



Blessed Solemnity of the Sacred Heart,



SALESIAN SPIRIT AND MISSION

Some of the words that we have often proclaimed in the readings of the Eucharist either from Jesus or the disciples' lips were **"You are my witnesses" or "We are witnesses of this"**. One of the possible meanings of the word witness, according to the Oxford Dictionary, is "to show that something is true, to provide evidence of the truth of something". In our case, we are not speaking of



Fr. Ignatio Laventure

providing or showing evidence of the truth of something but of Someone, Jesus the crucified risen Lord. At the same time, we have a concrete way of showing this evidence. We are real witnesses of the Risen Lord living the Salesian Spirit in the Mission. This is our great evidence of Jesus' presence in our lives.

Perhaps now, we can ask ourselves, what kind of evidence the Salesian Spirit is. First of all, the Salesian Spirit is not a simple list of attitudes, behaviors, or virtues; it is a living experience. It is something that we

absorb, assimilate, and cultivate in the Mission, that means among the young people. I remember reading a beautiful expression that goes: "If you want to know what the Benedictine spirituality is, you need to go to a monastery, if you want to know what the Salesian Spirit is, you must go to the playground". It is there, in living and experiencing this "informal" sharing among and with the young people that the Salesian Spirit grows and is assimilated.

However, this sharing, being present among the young, is not a simple human experience. It is based on being "witnesses", a call, on being sent to and given a "Mission". What is this "Mission"? To be signs and bearers of God's love to the young especially those who are poor and needy. The call to be witnesses, to live and assimilate the Salesian Spirit, be sent for a mission are interconnected, one cannot stand without the others. Our way of being Christians (witnesses) is through the charism of Don Bosco (Salesian Spirit) among the poor, abandoned, and needy youngsters (Mission).

The Rector Major Fr. Angel Artime Fernandez has summarized, what I am trying to reflect upon, in a beautiful expression in his post-chapter reflections: "The Salesian Sacrament of Presence". A sacrament, like a witness, brings us to another dimension. A sacrament is a sign of a deep reality, for example in the celebration of the Eucharist the signs of bread and wine after the consecration becomes a deep reality, that is the real presence of Jesus. In

the same way, the Salesian is called to be a witness, a sacrament, a living reminder of a presence: the presence of the Risen Lord. This, for each one of us members of the Salesian Family, is a call to recover and rekindle the first love of our vocation, the love that we experienced when we felt that the Lord was calling us to be a joyful and free presence among the young. The sacrament in itself, is only a sign and will never be the reality in itself. The same happens with us, we are always "reminders", and will never be at the center or being the deep reality. We are always witnesses who point out the real center, the deep reality: Jesus our savior. As John the Baptist told his followers: "He must increase; I must decrease".

At the same time, this sacrament of presence is not generic, it is a Salesian sacrament of presence. Here is when the Salesian Spirit and the Mission enter the field again and become key players. We are approaching the celebration of 140 years of the famous Letter of Rome written or dictated by Don Bosco in 1884. It can be said that this letter is the "Carta Magna" of the Salesian Spirit who lived in the mission. Don Bosco is asking us today, and when I say us, I am not referring only to the Salesian of Don Bosco but, first of all, to all the members of the Salesian Family and even to every person working in our presence or attracted by Don Bosco spirituality, as he did in 1884 to cultivate the capacity to encounter, the readiness to familiarity, the courage for taking the first step. We are invited to cultivate the art of creating an atmosphere, in each of our houses, rich in humanity

where young people feel free and can express and be themselves.

We are living in a very difficult time, I always ask myself if there was any time in human history that it was not difficult, but this is our time and we must face it with faith and hope. It is a time where mistrust, fragmentation, division, and fear of the one who is different or does not think like us, are our daily bread. However, at the same time, I am convinced that the Salesian Spirit has great potential to help us to overcome all these temptations, and difficulties that threaten us. The Salesian Spirit which moves the Salesian movement, embraces a vast group of people from different backgrounds, countries, ethnic groups, color, languages, and even different faith or Christian denominations, although is a small seed, has the power to become a big tree. A tree was able to produce fruits of unity, solidarity, love, friendship, justice, peace, and so on.

Let's rekindle in each one of us the passion of being the "sacrament of presence", of living deeply the Salesian Spirit among the young people of today.



SALESIAN WORLD

LOCAL NEWS

Addis Abeba Mekanissa - Towards Self-Sustainability

(Bro. Gona Akirso)

Since 1975, the Salesians of Don Bosco have been working in Ethiopia to alleviate several youth problems while also protecting their basic needs and human development. The



Salesian mission has long advocated for disadvantaged children and youth. For more than two decades now, the Salesians of the Don Bosco Community of Mekanissa have been playing an important role in the education and wellbeing of the youth especially the poor.

The realization of various educational activities especially of the youth center has been through the collaboration mostly of international donors and funding agencies. The academic school progressively grew to a semi-self-sustainable stage through also

the school fees and projects. Don Bosco Mekanissa today is a center with over 210 employees, and 3000 students. Though the benevolence



of benefactors sustains the feeding center and the oratorio youth centers, the technical and vocational college remains highly dependent on projects. The academic schools that carry the highest number of students involve more than a thousand families that support its growth and development.

In the past few years, donors' interests have declined due to global market inflation, the COVID-19 pandemic, environmental changes, and currently the great wars in Europe. As a result, the Institution and overall educational activities have been facing critical challenges, mainly due to financial instability, which is a huge factor that triggers the need for self-

sustainability options. Understanding the pressure that the economic and cultural contexts of the low-income communities we serve and the sustainability challenges we face is necessary to maximize strategies to ultimately improve our educational services for communities.

For the need for sustainability, the Salesians of Don Bosco, in collaboration with the Salesians' Project Development Office (PDO) and international donors, started to implement sustainability projects to ensure continuity and the provision of quality education and youth services. The initiative includes a completed one-story building with 18 rental shops, the G+3 Soft Skill Training College Building, and the creation of a football grass field open for use with a fee. These are some of the initiatives that have been completed or are about to be completed. Other future sustainability initiatives that have not been commenced due to financial limitations include the construction of a multi-purpose hall and the extension of property rental shops.

The purpose is to fully sustain and stabilize the Salesians of Don Bosco Mekanissa and other Salesian Communities' ongoing youth and educational operations. Equitable

and locally-led development will only happen with the maximum utilization of multiple resources including personnel, and funding with a priority that is our charismatic principle.

YOUTH PASTORAL ANIMATION IN THE NORTH COMMUNITIES

(Abba Samuel Abraha sdb, Youth Ministry Delegate)

The youth pastoral animation has been done in four communities, of the North. It was animation that helped to understand the realities of the youth that are coming to our centers and were working with us. Trying to understand the need of the youth in our centers, where there is no school and full animation is yet to start according to the needs and the Salesian way of animating like other communities of the province.

We have had animation with youth in our oratorios by listening to them and aiming to help to cope with the trauma of the war. We organized sessions on peace education and building resilience against all the factors that affected them in the last few years. The Salesian animation is possible only with the collaboration of the young people themselves who are strong in spirit and generous in reaching out to others who are in

the same difficult situation as they are. After seeing the reality on the ground and the need of the youth in our centers, we are to learn how to address the trauma and accompany



our young people toward normal life.

The four communities in the north will organize the SYM leaders who are offering free services for internally displaced people. Acknowledging the services they offered and the commitments they made as animators and youth leaders in oratorios, IDP centers, and with children offering nonformal classes deserves gratitude. The Salesians present among the people in unexplainable situations with hopeful and uplifting animation is a blessing of our time. We have witnessed in our various visits and meeting of young people lacking words of gratitude pausing with only a few words "God bless the Salesians".

The youth pastoral office of the Eparchy of Adigrat facilitated multiple psychological support in our centers to local churches,

religious communities, and leaders. The availability and support of the communities in the reception of the animator made the plan to support the youth even more successful. The needs on the ground are many and our presence and animation do what is possible. The little animation that we offered on peace education and psychosocial support, according to the availability and possibilities with the consistent dedication of Salesians and their collaborators.

Bosco Children – Attracts School children as an Educational Trip Centre

(Bro. Endalkachew Bayu)

On May 2023, the 8th graders of Don Bosco Mekanissa with their teachers had a school trip to Bosco Children Center intending to visit all the activities mainly in the Technical School that has various departments including a small farm with animals and a vegetable garden; the charity works the mission has for the youth at risk that includes the Street Children, boys from Juvenile delinquency, internally displaced young people and youth from the low socio-economic status of Jemo1 area.

The objectives of the trip can be summarized as to get to know the Salesians' Mission at Bosco Children

Center in more detail in terms of its beneficiaries and of educational activities in the Technical vocational area, to make them aware of the problem of the Street children that has remarkably increased in the latest two to three years, especially in Addis Ababa, to create awareness of the effects of the socio-economical situation, broken families, various conflicts, COVID 19, HIV/AIDS and peer pressure as the most plausible causes of this phenomenon. To create an understanding of the value of helping others especially those in need in our surroundings. The students were guided throughout the 8 departments of the Technical School by Fr. Yohannes M. and Br. Endalkachew B., assisted by their teachers initiated the visit. During the tour around the workshop, the students got the chance to meet the students of technical students



and what they were doing in their respective workshops and asked them questions about their education, life, and plans after their graduation.

The question and answers session between the students and the host helped the students of Makanissa and Bosco to create a good friendship among themselves.

This was a good opportunity to create a deeper understanding of the value of charitable works, voluntary service, value to human dignity, and the problem of street children in our country and across the world, and develop an attitude of unity with those in such situations. The feedback of the students who visited us commonly is a surprise and wonder-filled face as they would not expect the hardworking youth from the streets, working to normalize their spiritual, intellectual, moral, and social growth and be ready to be re-integrated into their families and society.

We appreciated the goodwill of some students who are looking forward to giving voluntary service to an institution like Bosco Children running humanitarian programs for various people in need of support in society. At the end of the educational trip, Mr. Alebachew, the main organizer of the visit noted that the visit was successful and the objective was fully achieved. The students received many more new and helpful insights related to the subject matters they deal with in the classroom. We

received many other school children also from other neighboring schools as we are open to contributing to the education of children for their integral development.

Dilla - Collaboration between Don Bosco and CAMARA on Technology-Integrated Education

(Bro. Efren Umandal)

Camara Education, an award-winning worldwide charitable organisation started in 2005 in Dublin, Ireland, has provided computers for Don Bosco Dilla's three computer laboratories in recent years. Camara has once again constructed another E-learning lab in the high school department with a fully internet-connected network



this year. This is an extra component to our school's strong and quality education, where self-learning for both teachers and students provides them with 21st-century abilities.

Don Bosco Secondary School, which has a strong relationship with Camara and a good ICT curriculum,

hosted a conference for primary school teachers from June 5-9, 2023. The workshop was attended by 40 teachers from several schools in the southern region, all of which had acquired computers from Camara Education.

The participants were taught how to use the e-learning facility they were given and how to train others in their schools. These e-learning machines cover the Ministry of Education's curriculum. Don Bosco Dilla has been working with Camara to empower young people via creative education that is reinforced with technology.

Wolayta Sodo - The Salesians of Don Bosco at the Outskirts of a Green Hilly Town

(Fr. Girmay Berhane)

"Go to the south" (Acts 8:26) is the word spoken by the angel to the apostle Philip, and as if to follow the order of the angel, about twelve years ago the Salesians of Don Bosco yet again headed to the south to serve the young people of Wolayta. And the Wolaytas as they are very religious and welcoming people and having had a good experience with the presence of the Catholic church they were never hesitant to accept and to give warm welcome to the

Salesians.

Thus the Salesians, to advance God's work manifested in the "give me souls and take away the rest" **charism** of Don Bosco, established a community in the outskirts of a green and hilly



place of Sodo, in view of starting diversified activities that will incarnate the Salesian educative method of preventing system for the good of the young people.

At the very beginning the Salesian community with few of its members started an elementary school and an oratory with handful of boys and girls. Overtime the school structure grew to provide a **high quality education** in an efficient manner and now the elementary school comprising from grade 1 up to grade 8 has become one of the best schools that offers excellent education in Wolaita Sodo accommodating more than 900 students.

Being happy of the quality education that the Salesian school offers to students, the people of Sodo insisted

that the community opens a high school. And as such the Salesian community helped by an organization called "Fondazione Nouvo Fiore in Africa" constructed a magnificent high school. The "foundation" also helped the community to furnish the school and equip it with up to date computers. The community has already started grade nine and ten last September and it has accepted 167 students. In two years time the community will have started grade 11 and 12, by then the number of students will have doubled. The community has already created a better learning environment for those who are attending the school.

The other center of learning and formation that community offers to the youth of Sodo is the oratory. It is open from 3: 30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. every day. The community gives the young people of Sodo the opportunity to play together to grow together and to pray together in order to be God fearing and upright citizens.

The Salesians of Sodo consists of one lay brother, two priests, three practical training and two aspirants; all participate whole heartedly in all the activities of the community to realize the dream of Don Bosco for the young people which is **"to see poor young people happy here on earth and in eternity"**.

Noah Ageze



I am Noah Ageze I was born and grew up near the Don Bosco community. When I joined primary school I started to think about the world and things that made the world bright and this made me change my dream in half. I started to look for another good thing to overcome society's problems then I wanted to be an innovator against the usual encouragements of the school principal and teachers to be doctors, engineers, pilots, and so on. The one quote I read "Never force anything, just let it be, Di if it is meant to be, it will be" influenced me to think differently. Then I desired to study software engineering because the world is overtaken by technology. Yet another quote from a movie scene maybe is a strong push (teen wolf) "Imagination is more important than knowledge". My dreams keep me happy and make me work hard in my studies. Every dream might not come true, however, I won't look back but will form a mindset, refine my attitude, and develop skills to achieve all my dream.

Robel Habtamu



I am Robel Habtamu from Dilla Don Bosco Catholic Highschool, I grew up in Don Bosco. Learning in Catholic school gave me a lot of opportunities and I made them experiences. For me, the most significant aspect of Don Bosco Catholic School is the emphasis on community and service. Another significant component of attending this institution is the emphasis on faith and spirituality. This enabled me to create a strong sense of purpose and significance in my life, as well as deepen my relationship with God. In addition to the aspect of spirituality and service academic benefits are also many. I am grateful to my teachers who are knowledgeable about their subjects and passionate about their commitments and enthusiastic about helping students to succeed in life. I am grateful for the opportunities that I have had in this school, and I know that I will be a good citizen who gives back the good that I received in return to society.

Filagot Bekele



The Fruit of Struggle. As human beings we have a lot in common and thus, the need for one another; otherwise you wouldn't read this piece of writing. I was born in Galcha, a village that is suitable for farming. Because education was a luxury for our community. I was sent to school where I started to wonder about what I am capable of unconsciously. Education makes us bring out our best selves. After finishing primary school, I came to Dilla and joined Don Bosco Catholic secondary school in 2014E.C. Until then I was not sure of what I would want to be. When I started the class, the teaching method, the school approach, the way students are treated, and the competition among the students triggered the passion within my heart and inspired me a lot. Now, I want to be a pilot and I know nothing will hold me back from making it. I have that kind friend who told me "Struggle is not your enemy but it is your way to success!" I am on my journey to become a pilot with hard work, and passion in my heart! Thank you!

Selome Tadesse



My name is Selome Tadesse. I am now 18 years old and a grade 12 social science student in Dilla Don-Bosco. I spent all my school life here. All my schooling has been at Don-Bosco school. Don-Bosco has worked to take out of me what is best. I always had the best teachers and directors. It is indeed a good place to learn, to enjoy, and to grow as a well-integrated person. My primary education has given me good basics, which I believe is a solid foundation even for what is to come. I believe that education is a matter of heart as St. John Bosco teaches. Education must go on with personality and a good heart. That's why I was, I am and I will always remember my school and that makes me persistent.

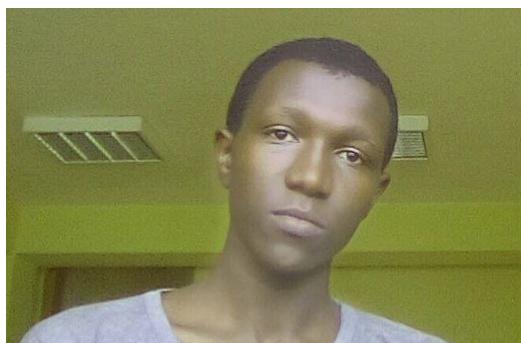
Yihun Abebe



Born To Win._They say if you woke up without a goal then go back to sleep, and I woke up just to add “+1” to what is already. My name is Yihun Abebe and I am a grade 12 student at Dilla Don Bosco Catholic Highschool. I learned a lot from my school and am grateful to the school which helped me grow in all aspects. The more I grow up, I see find

myself craving for a better tomorrow. I have boxes of plans that got big dreams so that what I desire does not remain wishful thinking.

Robsen Merga



I am filled with past experiences, present actions, and future aspirations. The past has shaped me to be the person I am today and every action that I take today is influenced by whom I want to be in the future. I was born on June 16th, 2004 in Dilla town. When I was in grade six I lost my Dad after three years of suffering. It was a very hard experi-

ence to recover from. At some point I came to my senses and started reasoning, that this was something I could change, it was what my father wanted for me; my father will be proud of me when I am successful in my studies and life. I am young, and there is yet plenty to learn in life. “What you sow at a young age is what you reap when you grow up,” my mother constantly says. It is the time for me to start taking risks on my own, to attempt to be independent, to work hard, and to pursue my passions. I don’t want to get lured into activities that will have no future worth because I don’t want to be the type of person who wishes they could go back in time and do things they regret not doing.



Our Congregation was founded in the Maltese Islands, Gozo in 1880. Fr Joseph Diacono and M.Margherita De Brincat are the founders of our congregation.

Our Charism is to place at the centre of our life an ardent love for the Heart of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Our congregation follows the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi; sincere humility, joyful simplicity, evangelical poverty, cordial fraternity, apostolic zeal and service to our brothers and sisters.

We are present in Malta, Italy, London, Jerusalem, Greec Gorfu, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Australia, Brazil, Philippines and Mozambique.



Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus

Our Apostolate in Ethiopia:

- At Kidane Mehret Addis Ababa we have a home where orphaned children receive love and care.
- We provide a well-founded academic and moral education to the society. In Ethiopia we are in Harar, Addis Ababa, Debrezeit and in Jimma.

For more information you may contact us,

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