

ETHIOPIA | ISSUE NO. 73 | SEP - DEC 2019

DON BOSCO

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM AET
UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF ETHIOPIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

BULLETIN



FOR OUR COMMON
HOME

FACING CLIMATE CHANGE TOGETHER

STRONG - DURABLE - DEPENDABLE

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Publishers : Don Bosco Printing Press, Mekanissa
 Addis Abeba - Ethiopia
Cover Photo : Afomiya Samson & Adonay Samson,
 Don Bosco Catholic School, Mekanissa



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.



Being Eco-friendly...

Abba Lijo Vadakkan SDB

It was upon the suggestion of our Provincial Fr. Hailemariam that we decided to dedicate this issue of the Salesian Bulletin to this impending and pressing topic of Climate Change and the exigent and urgent need to confront the issue together. But as the Bulletin is already in the process of designing and printing the topic becomes all the more relevant with the current bushfire crisis in Australia which has really shaken

the human hearts in the past few days.

By the end of the first week of January, 25 people had been killed and many more had been injured. An estimated one billion animals have perished, and over six million hectares of land—around 24,000 square miles—have been devastated by the fires, which have been burning since September. Entire towns have been evacuated, and thousands of homes have been lost. Although it is believed that some of the bushfires that affected the country may be the work of arsonists, this was a natural disaster in the sense that it was triggered by a dreadful combination of climatic conditions such as a very dry season, thick and dry native forest in the country and strong winds and an unprecedented heat of up to 48C.

As these harsh climate conditions with its disastrous consequences become more frequent, we are now quick to name climate change as a contributing factor. In view of a future increasingly exposed to a harsher climate, we are invited to be more and more 'greener', 'cleaner' and 'freer' in our approach towards our mother nature; to adapt an eco-friendly approach in everything. All the article arrived for this bulletin are speaking at length on this issue. But certainly, it wouldn't be proper to end this editorial just exposing the problem alone, but I think some concrete proposals should be thought of. I just would like to propose **3 Eco-friendly resolutions for the New Year 2020.**

1. Plant some trees

Trees offer a substantial benefit to the environment as well as to humans. Trees are one of the primary oxygen producers in our ecosystems. Trees are also a great help in preventing ground erosion, as their roots hold the ground together. So, let us plant atleast one tree this year and leave a legacy for our children to enjoy.

2. Use less water

Simple choices in our daily routine can help save a lot of water - more than we think we know!

Some bathroom water-saving tips include:

- Taking shorter showers - the average showerhead uses 9 liters (2.4 gallons) of water per minute. Simply cutting the usual ten-minute shower in half can save over 45 liters (12 gallons) of water!
- Turning off the tap when brushing the teeth
- Switching to a low-flow shower head
- Testing the toilet for leaks, at least once a year.

3. Go plastic-free

Every year, 300 million tonnes of plastic are produced. Over 8 million tonnes enter our oceans. We even end up ingesting approximately 5 grams of micro plastics a week

- Let us ditch single-use plastic bottles, bags, straws, and cutlery and instead switch to reusable bottles, utensils, and cloth bags!

Wish you all a Very Happy Feast of Don Bosco, our Father, Teacher and Friend.

“Yahweh God took the man and settled him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and take care of it”

(Genesis 2:15)

Dear beloved readers of our Salesian Bulletin. I am happy that our Social Communication team has taken in this edition the theme of caring for “Our Common Home”, and I am happy to give introductory message about the same theme.

As the book of Genesis clearly puts it, for us believers, God is the author of all that exists. God created the whole reality, nature both the earth, animals, human beings through His Word. With assurance we can say that we come

from the common Father. It is not only that but the creation story expresses in a clear terms that we are dependent on each other. “God also said, ‘Look, to you I gave all the seed-bearing plants everywhere on the surface of the earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this will be your food. And to all the wild animals, all the birds of heaven and all the living creatures that creep along the ground, I give all the foliage of the plants as their food’ (Genesis 1:29-30). It is the reality of life that

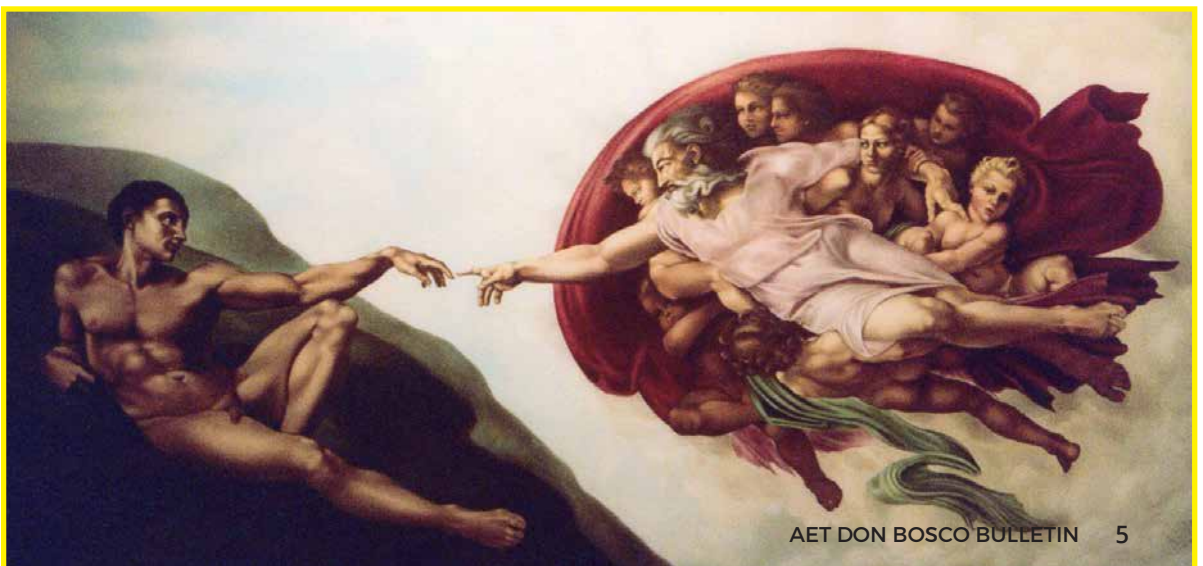
each of created reality is dependent on the other for its existence. Abuse of one aspect of creation has a drastic consequence, and in the second account of creation tells man that He puts in the Garden of Eden, to cultivate and to take care of it (cf. Gen 2:15). Each created thing uses the other one for its survival but abuse of it creates confusion and problems.

As human beings we are created in the image and likeness of God (Cf. Genesis 1:26-27) and we are given the spirit of the Lord: "Yahweh God shaped man from the soil of the ground and blew the breath of life into his nostrils, and man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7), and this calls for special responsibility in caring and keeping the Mother Earth in proper order. We are conscious beings and history of humanity is demonstrating for us that our

actions have consequence. There are no independent actions, we have been created as interdependent and our actions have that effect.

In our daily life we make many decisions, they might be big or small.

These decisions or actions have an effect on the nature: on the earth, on animal world, on other human beings and on ourselves. There is no action that has not any consequence as it affects our relationship. As far as we affect our relationship with the Earth, Animals, human beings, we are affecting our relationship with our Creator, since He is the source of all. We are related together because God created us to support each other. Now the question is that whatever actions I take as individual or as a group, strengthens or weakens/



hurts our relationship and our existence. Before we take any action we need to have the consciousness of interdependence in our mind.

Pope Francis in his encyclical letter *Laudato Sii*, clearly explains that the abuse about the earth is sin against God. If we are not able to respect the nature we will not be able to respect human beings, and we are not able to respect human beings we are not respecting God.

What can we do each one of us?

As leaders we can make people aware about our responsibility regarding the nature; as schools we can organize green and clean atmosphere around the school together with our students; as individuals we avoid throwing things everywhere and we use proper place for the disposal of unwanted things; we can start planting flowers, trees, . . . around our houses. It is small daily actions that can contribute for the betterment and preservation of the beauty of our mother earth. Let us not neglect smallest duty towards the mother earth. It is said that God forgives always, man forgives sometimes but nature never forgives, therefore we start before it is too late.



Abba Hailemariam Medhin, sdb
Provincial Superior





ጌታ ሆይ ውዳሴ ላንተ ይሁን!



ዕሰ ሊቃነ ጳጳሳት ፍራንሲስኮስ ካቶሊካዊት ቤተክርስቲያንን የመምራት ኃላፊነትን ከተረከቡበት ጊዜ ጀምሮ በተከታታይ እግዚአብሔር ልንኖርባትና ልንንከባከባት የሰጠንን ምድር መጠበቅና መንከባከብ እንዳለብን ሲያስተምሩ የሰው ልጅ ምድርን ከማቆሻሻና ተፈጥሮን ከማዛባት ይልቅ ተፈጥሮን መንከባከብ ከእግዚአብሔር የተቀበለው ተቀዳሚ ኃላፊነት እንደሆነ በተለይ “ውዳሴ ላንተ ይሁን” በሚለው ሐዋርያዊ መልእክታቸው ገልጸዋል።

ይህ ሐዋርያዊ መልእክታቸው መንፈሳዊ ነገሮችን ብቻ ሳይሆን ተፈጥሮአዊ እውነታዎችን ተመርኩዘው ለመላው የዓለም ሕዝብ የጋራ ቤታችን የሆነችውን ምድርን እንድንከባከብ ያስተላለፉት ጥሪ ነው።

ካቶሊካዊት ቤተክርስቲያን ይህን የቅዱስ አባታችንን ጥሪ ተቀብላ ምድርን (ተፈጥሮን) የመንከባከቡን ሥራ በተቀናጀ መልክ እየተገበረች ይገኛል። በየአካባቢው ዛፍ ተክሎ ደንን በማብዛት አፈር እንደይሸረሸር በመከላከል፣ አካባቢን በንጽሕና በመጠበቅ፣ በተለይ ደግሞ የአስተሳሰብ ለውጥ በማምጣት ግለሰቦችና ማኅበረሰቦች ተፈጥሮን መንከባከብ ሞራላዊ፣ መንፈሳዊና ተፈጥሮአዊ ግዴታቸው መሆኑን እንዲገነዘቡ በማድረግ የበኩሏን አስተዋጽኦ እያደረገች ሲሆን በፖሊሲ አውጪዎች ላይ ተጽእኖ በመፍጠር ተፈጥሮን በመንከባከብ ላይ ያተኮሩ ሕጎች እንዲወጡና ውሳኔዎች እንዲሰጡ ጥረት እያደረገች ነው።

በሀገራችን በኢትዮጵያም የኢትዮጵያ ካቶሊካዊት ቤተክርስቲያን የሰው ልጅ ለራሱ ጥቅም ከእግዚአብሔር የተሰጠውን ተፈጥሮን መንከባከብ እንዲችል ጥረት የማድረጉን ሥራ በገዳሞች፣ በቁምስናዎች፣ በትምህርት ቤቶች፣ በጤና ተቋሞችና በማኅበረሰብ አቀፍ የልማት ሥፍራዎች በሚገባ እያከናወነች ትገኛለች።

ካቶሊካውያን ምእመናን እና ማኅበረሰቡ የአካባቢ ንጽሕናን መጠበቅ፣ የአፈርና የውኃ ጥበቃ ሥራዎችን መሥራት፣ ዛፎችን መትከልና ደንን መንከባከብ እንዲችሉ በማስተማር፣ በማነቃቃት እና ሙያዊ ድጋፍ እንዲያገኙ በማድረግ ቤተክርስቲያን የተቀናጀ ተፈጥሮን የመንከባከብ እንቅስቃሴ ውስጥ ገብታለች።

የሀገራችን መንግሥትም ተፈጥሮን የመንከባከብ ሥራን ቅድሚያ ስለሰጠው ሰፋፊ ሥራዎች እየተሠሩ ይገኛሉ። ከዚህም ጋር ተያይዞ ባለፈው ሐምሌ ወር ጠቅላይ ሚኒስትር ዶክተር ዐቢይ አሕመድ በመሩት እንቅስቃሴ ከሦስት መቶ ሚሊዮን በላይ ዛፎችን በአንድ ቀን ውስጥ በመትከል በዓለም ደረጃ ክብረ ወሰን ለማስመዝገብ ተችሏል። መላው የሀገራችን ሕዝብም በዚህ የአረንጓዴ ቀን ላይ በንቃት ተሳትፎአል፤ አሁንም የተተከሉ ዛፎች እንዲጸድቁ እየተከታተለ ይገኛል።

ይህ ሁሉ እንቅስቃሴ የሚደረገው በተፈጥሮ አደጋዎች እየተመታች ያለችውን ተፈጥሮን ለመታደግ ነው። የሰው ልጅ ከእግዚአብሔር የተሰጠውን ተፈጥሮን የመንከባከብ ኃላፊነቱን ችላ ብሎ ለጊዜያዊ ጥቅሙና ለዕለት ጉርሱ መሟላት ሲል

ተፈጥሮን በመበዝበዝ ምክንያት የአየር መዛባት ባስከተለችው ድርቅ፣ የጎርፍ አደጋ፣ የመሬት መንሸራተት፣ የደን መራቆት፣ ወዘተ. እየተሰቃየ ትልቅ ዋጋ እየከፈለ ነው። ካቶሊካውያን ምእመናን የእግዚአብሔርን ትእዛዛት በመጠበቅ ሳናቋርጥ ተፈጥሮን መንከባከብና የአካባቢን ንጽሕና መጠበቅን የዘወትር ተግባርና የመንፈሳዊ ሕይወታችን አካል አድርገን መያዝ ይኖርብናል።

በተለይም አካባቢን በማጽዳት፣ መኖሪያ ቤታችንና ዙሪያው ንጹሕ እንዲሆን በመትጋት እንዲሁም ቁምስናዎቻችንና ገዳሞቻችን ሁሉ የንጽሕና ተምሳሌቶች እንዲሆኑ ጥሩ አብነት መስጠት ይጠበቅብናል። ገዳሞቻችን የአበበች እና የዛፎች መገኛ መሆናቸው ከጥንት አባቶቻችን የተቀመጠልን መልካም ባሕል ነው። እኛም የዛሬው ትውልድ ይህን የገዳሞችና የቁምስናዎች መገለጫ የሆነውን ሀገር በቀል ዛፎችን ተክሎና አሳድጎ ለቀጣዩ ትውልድ የማስተላለፍ ውርስ ማስቀጠል ትልቁ ኃላፊነታችን ነው።

እንደ ግለሰብ ደግሞ ቆሻሻን የምንጠየቁ፣ ከተጠቀምን በኋላ የምግብ መጠቅለያዎችንና የመጠጥ መያዣዎችን በመንገድ ላይ የማንጥል፣ የሰበሰብ- ነውንም ቆሻሻ በአግባቡ የምናስወግድ ሆነን ንጽሕና መገለጫችን እንዲሆን ክርስትናችን ያስገድደናል፡ ፡ ስለ አካባቢ ንጽሕና የማይጨነቅና ችልተኛ የሆነ ክርስቲያን ይህን አካሄድ ከሕይወቱ ውስጥ ሊያርመው ይገባል።

ቅዱስ አባታችን “ውዳሴ ላንተ ይሁን” ብለው



የጋራ ቤታችን የሆነችውን ምድርን እንንከባከብ ሲሉን እያንዳንዱ ካቶሊክ ምድርን ከምዝበራ እንዲጠብቃት በኃላፊነት እና በእግዚአብሔር ያስጠይቀኛል በሚል ስሜት እንዲንከባከባት ነው። ስለተፈጥሮ ይገድደናል፤ ደኖች ኃላፊነት በጎለደው ሁኔታ ሊጨፈጨፉ አይገባቸውም፤ ቆሻሻ የትም ሊጣል አይገባውም።

እርስ በርሳችን በንቃት የምንማመር እና ኋላ ቀር አስተሳሰቦችን በጋራ አስወግደን የቤተክርስቲያንም ይሁን የሀገርን ጥሪ ተቀብለን ምድራችንን መንከባከብ ከቻልን ከምድራችን የምንጠብቀው የተስተካከለ የአየር ንብረት የሚያጎናጽፈንን ጸጋ ተቋዳሾች እንሆናለን። የዕለት እንጀራችንን ከመጥገብ አልፈን ተፈጥሮ በፍጥረት ላይ እንዳያምጽ ማድረግና የተፈጥሮ አደጋዎች መከሰትን መቀነስ እንችላለን።

እያንዳንዳችን በመጥፎ ተግባራችን ለአየር መዛባት አስተዋጽኦ እንደምናደርገው ሁሉ ለአየር ንብረት መስተካከልና ለጋራ ቤታችን እንክብካቤ አሻራችንን ማስቀመጥ እንችላለን። ባሕርያችንን አስተካክለን ከፈጣሪና ከተፈጥሮ ጋር ያለንን ሕብረትና መስተጋብር እናጠናክር።

እግዚአብሔር ምድርንና በውስጧ የሚኖሩትን ሁሉ ይጠብቅ፤ ይባርክም። አሜን።



አባ ተሾመ ፍቅሬ፣ ዶ/ር

የኢትዮጵያ ካቶሊካዊት ቤተክርስቲያን፣ የጳጳሳት ጉባኤ ዋና ጽሕፈት ቤት ዋና ጸሐፊ

This analogy is fabulous!

*y*ou are holding a cup of coffee and when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere.

Why did you spill the coffee?

"Because someone bumped into me!!!"

Wrong answer.

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup.

Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea.

Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.

Therefore, when life comes along

and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

So we have to ask ourselves... "what's in my cup?" When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratefulness, peace and humility? Or Anger, bitterness, harsh words and reactions?

Life provides the cup, YOU choose how to fill it.

So let's work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation; and kindness, gentleness and love for others.

(Shared from a friend whose cup is full of goodness and inspiration.)

Whatsapp Post

Our Common Home

AN AFRICAN UNDERSTANDING



Our environmental problems or the environmental crisis is now of greatest concern. Responding requires a critical exploration of environmental ethics. Given that such a concern is a global one, the African perspective on environmental ethics must be taken into consideration seriously. To do so, one has to have a clear idea about or concept of African people's indigenous understanding of the environment.

The entire ecosystem of which man is but a small part is called our

environment African indigenous ethics clearly prescribes the moral basis of environmental responsibility. This moral basis affirms that there is no drastic distinction between man and nature. This means that African understanding of human nature is always conceived of in terms of the relationship man has with cosmic nature and with his fellow man. Hence, every man and woman has a moral duty to respect not only other people, but also other beings. Africans view themselves as part and parcel of the environment. The human being is not viewed as being isolated from nature.

Accordingly, in the past, in contrast to what we see in this contemporary time, Africans not only loved nature but regarded it with respect and awe, this being so it was presumed to be the duty of every individual person to live in harmony and to balance his life with his/her cosmic order. Without a consensus on this moral base of environmental responsibility, there can be no peace, no existence, and no life. In African indigenous philosophy, the ethical laws of nature are nothing other than the way in which one has to seek to co-exist peacefully with humanity and with nature and care for it. This is what African philosopher Ogungbemi calls the “ethics of nature relatedness.” “Ethics of nature-relatedness asserts that our natural resources do not need man for their existence and functions....The ethics of nature relatedness can be succinctly stated as an ethics that leads human beings to seek to co-exist peacefully with nature and treat it with some reasonable concern for its worth, survival and sustainability.”

What this shows is that we are totally reliant upon the natural world for our own very existence. Africans always believe that there is no pure diacotomy between matter and spirit, i.e. there is always an

interaction between not only man and man but also between man and nature or between man and God. The measure we need to take to maintain the peace and harmony in natural world depend on the way people relate to them.

Therefore, in African ontology or concerning the African world-view, it would be absurd to disconnect oneself from the natural world. Africans celebrate the natural world as their Great-Mother and view themselves as her children.

African ontology widely encourages a regard to the sacredness of the universe as well as for all created beings. As such, everything deserves respect. All created beings (plants, animals, and even non-living-beings) are considered sacred simply because they are valuable gifts of God and blessings of God for human existence.

The truth is that such an attitude held by indigenous peoples toward the environment has meant a respect for nature and has preserved our natural ecology. It also helped Africans to maintain a good relationship with their environment. Nature is meant to be revered and

honoured. As Ojomo P.A. rightly observed, "The absence of the dichotomy between plants, animals and inanimate things, between the sacred and the profane, matter and spirit, the communal and the individual in the African metaphysical worldview informed the traditional African disposition and attitude of 'live and let live'. Such metaphysics is not one of domination instigated by greed nor is it consumerist in nature. The belief is that there is reason for whatever is, although man may not know immediately why a thing is created, but they all serve a purpose. Being is therefore conceived as the whole range of existent things."

Today, the impact of technology and industry has distanced us superficially from nature. In contradistinction to indigenous African ontology, we have disconnected ourselves from the natural world, yet our very existence is inextricably connected to the natural world, simply because everything we need for survival (water, food, medicine, material for shelter, etc) is provided by the natural world around us.

Hence, as Noah was commanded by God to save every species, today, we are also being pointedly asked by the same God, our Heavenly Father,

to understand the importance of nature to the existence of all humanity to grasp that nature is the underpinning of both our economy and our society. As rational being, one has a big responsibility to teach others not to overexploit nature. S/he needs to look at the value of nature in our existence. All beings can live in peaceful and harmonious connection, if and only if we pay attention to our environment and always strive to save every species. Good acts are what preserve harmony or peace in our nature. Otherwise, unthinking or evil deeds damage nature and bring about such calamities as famine, drought, floods and complete disorder in the daily life of the people. Last, but not least, everyone ought to strive to be in harmony with other people and to take care of the environment. We must be keepers of nature and see that everything lives undisturbed.



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Salesian World **GLOBAL NEWS**

Pakistan – With a grateful heart for 20 years of Don Bosco presence



Lahore: During the past 20 years, the Salesian Mission in Pakistan has been accompanied by four Extraordinary Visitations: 2001, 2007, 2013 and 2019 and the 11 confreres of the Delegation with their Provincial, Fr Godofredo Atienza, have also received the follow-up letter of the Rector Major as a Christmas Gift. After 20 years of Don Bosco's presence in this country it is possible to recognize the hand of God:

- For the blessing of a constant vocations growth in Pakistan, the enthusiastic first generation of Pakistani Salesians, formed in the Philippines.
- For the wonderful fruits of holiness, Bosconian Martyr, Akash Bashir (1994-2015) as the priceless 'asset' of the Pakistan delegation as well as the hundreds of other young

people, both Christians and Muslims, who have received education in Don Bosco's Way over the past 20 years.

- For the Salesian pioneers, Fr Hans Dopheide (+2011), Fr Pietro Zago (+2017) and other 17 Salesian missionaries who were sent to Pakistan. A special thanks for all Salesian Brothers who are making our Salesian apostolic consecration really complete and more visible.

- For many mission partners, both Christians and Muslims, who contribute to our mission.
- For the Don Bosco Alumni Association of Pakistan, launched last November in Lahore.

Of course, there are also challenges of a different nature, as is the case for every part of the Salesian world, and the few confreres in the Pakistan delegation are sailing the seas with the protection and guidance of Mary, Help of Christians: communication from the centre, accompaniment of the Delegation in this foundation stage, qualified vocation discernment and formation accompaniment, quality of Salesian educative-pastoral mission and fostering of a sustainable mission (economy). **ANS**

The Salesians in the world on the threshold of the 28th General Chapter

(Rome, 8 January 2020): In view of the 28th General Chapter of the Congregation, the Salesians of Don Bosco convene a Press Conference to illustrate the different realities in which they operate throughout the world and what the strengths and challenges, new opportunities and risks for the Congregation in today's social and ecclesial context are. The invitation to journalists and media is for Thursday 23 January, 11:00 am, at the "SacroCuore" in Rome at Via Marsala 42, (near Termini Station).



Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, SDB, Superior General of the Salesian Congregation, will speak at length about what missionaries do in various parts of the world and in different religious, social and cultural contexts. He will also be joined by Salesian cardinal Cristóbal López Romero, archbishop of Rabat (Morocco), who shall offer his views and specific knowledge on the work of the sons of Don Bosco in the Muslim context,

as well as in Latin America, where he has served as a missionary, and in Spain, his country of origin. On this same occasion, the objectives and expectations of the 28th General Chapter of the Congregation, scheduled in Turin from 16 February to 4 April 2020, will also be illustrated, its theme: "Which Salesians for today's young people?". Fr Stefano Vanoli, the Salesian coordinating the work of the Chapter, will be present. **ANS**

Launch of Cause of Beatification and Canonization of Vera Grita, Salesian Cooperator

(ANS - Savona): On Sunday 22 December, the 50th anniversary of Vera Grita's birth in heaven (1923-1969), the Supplexlibellus, for the opening of the diocesan Inquiry on the life, virtues, fame of holiness and signs of Vera Grita, Laywoman, Salesian Cooperator, was officially presented by the Postulator General of the Causes of Saints of the Salesian Family,



Fr Pierluigi Cameroni, to the bishop of Savona-Noli, Msgr. Calogero Marino.

This request was made at the end of the Eucharist celebrated in the church of Mary Help of Christians in Savona, presided by Msgr. Marino, and concelebrated - among others - by the bishop emeritus, Msgr. Vittorio Lupi, by Fr Francesco Cereda, Vicar of the Rector Major, who officially read the letter of the Rector Major with which the Congregation constitutes itself as Actor of the Cause; and by Fr Stefano Aspicati, Provincial of the Central Italy Circumscription, in the presence of numerous members of the groups of the Opera dei Tabernacoli Viventi. Vera Grita, second of four sisters, lived and studied in Savona where she obtained her teaching degree. At the age of 21, during an air raid on the city (1944), she was overwhelmed and trampled by the fleeing crowd, suffering serious consequences for her physique which remained marked forever. She lived quietly, largely unnoticed in her short earthly life, teaching in the schools of the Ligurian hinterland, where she earned everyone's esteem and affection for her good and mild character. In Savona, in the Salesian parish of Mary Help of Christians, she attended Mass and was assiduous in the sacrament of Penance. Salesian Cooperator since 1967, she fulfilled her call in the total gift of herself to the Lord, who extraordinarily gave Himself to her, in the depths of her heart, with the "Voice", with the "Word", to communicate to her the Work of Living Tabernacles. She submitted all her writings to the spiritual director, Salesian Fr Gabriello Zucconi, and kept the secret of that call in the silence of her heart. Vera Grita responded to the gift of God by bearing

witness in her life, marked by the fatigue of her illness, the encounter with the Risen One and dedicating herself with heroic generosity to the teaching and education of students, helping the needs of the families and bearing witness to a life of evangelical poverty, a Christian existence made of patience and constancy in and for the Good. She died on December 22, 1969, at 46, in a hospital room where she had spent the last six months of her life in a crescendo of sufferings accepted and lived in union with Jesus Crucified. **ANS**

Spain - Two Salesian schools obtain European Mark of Excellence

Madrid, Spain: November 2019 - Two Salesian schools have succeeded in having the improvement of their quality level certified. The Madrid center "San Juan Bautista - Salesianos Estrecho" received the European Excellence Mark EFQM 500+, while the Salesian institute "Hermano Gárate" of Ciudad Real obtained the European Excellence Mark EFQM 400+. Both certificates were granted by the "Club Excelencia en Gestión" and "Bureau Veritas". **ANS**





ዕርቆ ሐላጾ ካተፊኖር ገር

የፍጥረት ትርጉም

ለመሆኑ “ፈጠረ” የሚል ቃል በቅዱስ መጽሐፍ ውስጥ አንድ ፍች ነው ያለው ወይንስ ብዙ? “ፈጠረ” የሚለው ቃል በዕብራይስጥ ቋንቋ ብዙ መገለጫዎች አሉት። ከእነሱ ምዓሳ - (ዕሴት) ሲሆን በቅዱስ መጽሐፍ ውስጥ እጅግ ከሚጠቀሱ ቃላት አንዱ ነው። ትርጉሙ አደረገ ገበረ (ዘፍ 1:7፤ 31 2:4፤ ኢሳ 43:7) ቀኖ-(ቆነነ) የሚገዛ (ዘፍ 14:19,22) ያጸር-አበጀ (ዘፍ 2:7 8 19 ኤር 1:5) ከነዚህ ቃላት በበለጠ ስለፈጥረት የሚያብራራ -ፈጠረ ከኢምንት በቃሉ ፍጥረትን ሁሉ እንደፈጠረ የሚያሳይ

ነው።(ዘፍ 1:1 ዘኁ 16:30 መዝ 51:12 ኢሳ 41:10 ኤር 31:22 ዘጽ 34:10 ዘኁ 16:30)።

ይህ እግዚአብሔር ዓለምን እንደፈጠረና ባለቤቱ እንደሆነ ለማሳየት ይመስላል። ለዚህ ጽሑፍ መነሻ የሚሆኑ ምክንያቶች ምድርና ሞላዋ የጌታ የእግዚአብሔር መሆናቸው ነው። ወደ ቃሉ ፍች ስንመጣ ፍጥረቶች ሁሉ የእግዚአብሔር ናቸው የሚሉ ናቸው።እግዚአብሔር ከሃሊ ሁሉ መሆኑ ኢሳ 40:12 መዝ 104:26 ኢዮብ 9:5-7 እግዚአብሔር ፈጣሪ ነው (ዘፍ1:14)። የፍጥረት ውዳሴም ስለዚህ

ያወራል (መዝ 19፤1-2 መዝ 145:10 መዝ 104:27)። የፍጥረት መተሳሰር ከሰው ልጅም (ሚል 2:10 ምሳ 14:31 ኢዮ 10: 8-9) ያሳየናል።

ሰማይና ምድር ባሕርና ሌሎች ም ፍጥረታት የሚኖሩት ለሰው ከሆነ ሰው ይህን አውቆ ፍጥረትን መንከባከብ ሀ ላፍነቱ ነው።

ቅዱስ መጽሐፍ በሰማይና ምድር መፈጠር ይጀመራል። ምክንያቱም ፍጥረት የእግዚአብሔር ሥራዎች ሁሉ መጀመሪያና መሠረት ነውና። ሕላዌው በፈጣሪ አምላክ ላይ ያልተመሠረተ ከቶ ምንም ነገር አይኖርም። ዓለም የተጀመረው የእግዚአብሔር ቃል ከምንም ነገር (ካለመኖር ወደ መኖር) ሲያመጣው ነው። ሕልውና ያላቸው ፍጥረታት ሁሉ ተፈጥሮ በሙሉና መላው የሰው ልጅ ታሪክ የተመሠረቱት የዓለም መገኛና የጊዜ መጀመሪያ ከሆነው ከዚህ ጥንተ ሁኔታ ነው። እግዚአብሔር በጥበብና በፍቅር ዓለምን ፈጠረ (ጥበብ 9:9)

ህልው የሆኑትን ሁሉ ትወድዳለህ፤ ከሰራሃቸው ነገሮች አንዳቸውንም ስንኳ አትጠላም። አንተ ብትጠላው ያን ነገር አትፈጥርም ነበርና አንተ ባትፈቅደውማ የቱስ ነገር ቢሆን በፊትህ እንዴት በጸና ነበር? አንተስ ያልወደድኸው ነገር እንደምን ሊዘልቅ ይቻለዋል? ሕያዋንን የምትወድ ጌታ ሆይ! ያንተ ስለሆኑ ሁሉንም ነገሮች ትጠብቃቸዋለህ (ጥበብ 11:24-16)

የዓለም ውበት:-

የዓለም ሥርዓትና ውሑድነት በፍጥረታት መካከል ያሉ ልዩነቶችና ዝምድናዎች ውጤት ነው። ሰው እነዚህን እንደ ተፈጥሮ ሕግ ደረጃ በደረጃ ይገነዘባቸዋል።

ተመራማሪዎች አድናቆታቸውን ይቅራቸዋል። የፍጥረት ውበት ወሰን የሌለውን የፈጣሪን ውበት ያንጸባርቃልና የሰው ልጅን ፈቃድና አእምሮ ገዝቶ

ከበሬታን ማትረፍ ይኖርበታል። እግዚአብሔር ድንቢጥ እንኳ ሳትቀር እያንዳንዱን ፍጥረት ይንከባከባል።ይሁን እንጂ ሰው የፈጣሪ ሥራ ጉልላት ነው።

ሁሉም አንድ ፈጣሪ ያላቸውና ሁሉም የክብሩ ተገዢ ከመሆናቸው ሓቅ የተነሳ በሁሉም ፍጥረታት መካከል መተሳሰር ወይም ጎብረት አለ፤

ጌታ ሆይ፤ በፍጥረታት ሁሉ፡ በተለይም ለቀን ብርሃን በሰጠኸን በእርሱ፤ በወንድም ፀሐይ የተመሰገንህ ሁን፡ ታላቅ ድንቅን የሚያንጸባርቅና የፍጥረታት ሁሉ ልዑል የሆነከውን የአንተን ምልክት የሚሰጠን ውብ ነገር ነውና።

ጌታዬ ሆይ በጣም ጠቃሚና ትሑት ክቡርና ድንግል ስለሆነችው ስለ እኅት ውኃ የተመሰገንህ ሁን።

ጌታዬ ሆይ በወለደችንና በምትመግበን ልዩ ልዩ ፍራፍሬዎችንና ያሽበረቁ አበባዎችንና ሣሮችን ስለምታበቅለው ስለ እኅታችን መሬት የተመሰገንህ ሁን።

ጌታዬን አመሰግኑት ባርኩት እያመሰገናችሁትም በታላቅ ትሕትና አገልግሎት። የቅዱስ ፍራንቸስኮስ ዘአሲዚ ዝማሬ የሚያስታውሰን የሁላችን ቤት የሆነችው እኅታችን ከስዋ የምንጋራው ሕይወትና ድንቅ (የተዋበች) እናታችንና እኅታችን ምድር እኛን ለማቀፍ እጆቻቸውን ትዘረጋለች።

እንደ ተክሎችና እንደ ግዑዝ ነገሮች ሁሉ እንሳሳትም በተፈጥሮአቸው ላለፈው ለወቅታዊውና ለወደፊቱ የሰው ዘር የጋራ ጥቅም የተሰጡ ናቸው። በመላው ዓለም የሚገኙ ማዕድናት አትክልቶችና ብእንስሳት ሃብቶች መጠቀም ከሥነምግባራዊ ግዴታዎች ተነጥሎ መታየት አይችልም፡ ፈጣሪ ሕይወት በሌላቸው ነገሮችና በሌሎች ነገሮች ላይ ለሰው የሰጠው

የገዢነት ሥልጣን ፍጹም አይደለም። ለባልንጀራቸው ሕይወት የተሻለ መሆን እንዲሁም ለመጪዎቹ ትውልዶች ጭምር በማሰብ የተወሰነ ነው። የፍጥረት ምላት እንደ ተጠበቀ እንዲዘልቅ ሃይማኖታዊ አክብሮትም ይጠይቃል። እግዚአብሔር በአምሳሉ ለፈጠራቸው ሰዎች እንስሳትን ይጠብቁአቸው ዘንድ አደራ ሰጣቸው (ዘፍ 2:19-20) ፍጥረት ለሰው ዘር እንደ ስጦታ

ሌላኛውን በማገልገል ብቻ ነው።

ምድርና ሞላዋ የጌታ ናቸው።

ዓለምና በእርስዎም የሚኖሩ ሁሉ የእግዚአብሔርን ፈጣሪነት የሚያሳዩ ናቸው። እነሆ ሰማየ ሰማያትም ምድርም በእርስዎም ያለው ሁሉ የአምላክህ የእግዚአብሔር ነው (ዘዳ 10:14)



እንዲቀርብ ውርሱ እንዲሆንና በአደራ እንዲጠብቀው እግዚአብሔር ፈቃዱ ሆኗልና።

እግዚአብሔር የፍጥረታትን የእርስ በርስ መደገፍ ይፈልጋል። ፀሐይና ጨረቃ የጥድ ዛፍና ትንሽዋ አበባን ስርና ድንቢጥ ስፍር ቁጥር የሌለው ልዩነታቸውና አለመመጣጠናቸው ማንም ፍጥረት ራሱን በራሱ እንደማይችል ያሳያል። ፍጡራን ሊኖሩ የሚችሉት እርስ በእርስ በመደገፍ ምሉእ ለማድረግ አንዱ

በአሁኑ ዘመን የምኖርባት ምድር የሁላችን ቤት የሆነችው ለጎጂ ጨረቆች በቴክኖሎጂ ውጤት ቆሻሻዎች አሲድ (ዝቃጭ) ባለው ዝናብ በቆሻሻ አየር ተበክላለች። ለዚህም ዋናው መንሥኤ በራስ ወዳድነትና በመስገብገብ የሚነዳ የሰው ልጅ ሥራ እንደሆነ ይታመናል። እንዲያውም የአንዳንድ ኃያላን አገሮች ተግባር ሁሉንም የምድር ነዋሪዎች ጣጣ ውስጥ የሚያስገባ መዘዝ እንዳመጣ ይነገራል። ለዚህም መጠን የለሽ የጥቅም

ረሃብ የተመሠረተ አሰተሳሰብ ነው። ለሌሎች እንስሳትም ሆነ ፅዕዋት እንዲሁም ግዑዝ ለሆነው ፍጥረት ምንም ቦታ የማይሰጥ አመለካከት ነው። እንዲያውም በጥቂት ኃያላን -ሰብብ ብዙ ፍጡራን እንደሚሰቃዩ የጋራ መኖርያ የሆነችው ምድር እንደምትበደል መገንዘብ ይቻላል። ታዲያ ሰው ምድር የራሱ ብቻ እንዳልሆነች ሌሎችም ነዋሪዎች እንዳሉባት ቆም ብሎ መገንዘብ ይችል ይሆን? እንዲያውም የሌሎች ጤና ለሰው ልጅና ለትውልድም ጤና እንደሆነስ ማመን ይችል ይሆን? የሰው ልጅ የምድርና የሞላዋ ዋናው ባለቤት እኔ አይደለሁም የፈለግሁትንም ማድረግ አልችልም። በጥንቃቄና በኃላፊነት መንፈስ መኖር አለብኝ ቢል ሁኔታዎች ይቀየሩ ይሆን?

ዛሬም የሰው ልጅ ከተፈጥሮ ጋር ያለውን ግንኙነት እንዲቃኝ ይጋብዘዋል ማለት ይቻላል። ሰው ብቸኛ ኃላፊ ነው ወይንስ ባለ አደራ? ሌላ ባለቤትም አለ ማለቱ ሳይረዳውና ሳይስተምረው ይቀር ይሆን? ተፈጥሮ በሙሉ የእግዚአብሔር ከሆነ ሰው እኩል ባለቤት ነኝ ማለት ይችላልን? ሰው የራሱ ያልሆነውን ወይንም በአደራ የተቀበለውን መጠበቅ ይገባው ይሆን?

ለብዙ ዘመናት የነበረን ግንዛቤ ዓለምና በውስጥ ያለው ፍጥረት ሁሉ የተፈጠረው ለሰው አገልግሎት እንዲውል ነው የሚል ነበር። የተፈጥሮ መውደምና መመረዝ ያልተጠበቀ ድርቅ ወይም በጎርፍ መጥለቅለቅን ያልታሰቡ በሽታዎችን ሓሩርን ወይም ቁር የመሰሉ የአየር ጠባይ መቀየርን እያስከተለ ነው።ከተፈጥሮ ጋር ዕርቅ ሰላም ለማውረድ የሚከተሉትን ያጠቃልላል፡-

- 1.ተፈጥሮን መንከባከብ፤
2. ተፈጥሮን በስግብ ግብነታችን እንዳይይመራ፤ እንዳይነዳ ጥረት ማድረግ፤
3. ከተፈጥሮ የወሰድነው መተካት፤
4. ተፈጥሮ የተሰጠውን ተግባር ሳናጣምም

ሳናዛንፍና ሳንቆነጽል ተግባሩን እንዲፈጽም ማድረግና መርዳት፤
5.ይህች ምድር ከወላጆቻችን እንደወረሰናት ለሚቀጥለው ትውልድ ማውረስ።

ከመቼውም ጊዜ በበለጠ በአየር ንብረት ለውጥና ብክለት ምክንያት ምድራችን አደጋ ላይ በወደቀችበት ዘመን ላይ እንገኛለን። ያለንበት ዐውድ የሰው ልጅ በስግብ ግብነትና በማትረፍ ምቹት ተጠምዶ የአሁኑን ወገኑንና የወደፊቱን ትውልድ የዘነጋበት ነው። ታዲያ የምድር ዋናው ባለቤት ሰው ሳይሆን ፈጣሪ መሆኑን በፈጣሪም መልክ አምሳያ መፈጠር ማለት ፍጥረታችን ማክበርና መጠበቅ መሆኑን መተሳሰብና ለወገንም ማካፈል ወይም ማጋራትን ለሚመጣውም ትውልድ ማሰብ ተገቢ መሆኑን ከሕይወት ትዝብታችን መማር እንችል የለምን? ምድር ለእኔ ናትና እናንተም ከእኔ ጋር እንግዶችና መጻተኞች ናችሁና ምድርም ለዘላለም አትሸጡ (ዘሌ 25:23) ።

ምንጮች

1. ቅዱስ መጽሐፍ
2. ምድርና ሞላዋ አባ ዳኒኤል አሰፋ
3. የሰላምና ዕርቅ ትርጉምና መንገዶች ፕሮፌሰር ሕዝቅዖስ አሰፋ 2018
4. Catechism of the Catholic Church.
5. Encyclical letter *Laudato Si* of the Holy Father Francis on care of our common home 24, May 2015.



Abba Fissehatsion Andemariam SDB

BE RECONCILED WITH NATURE





FOUR BOYS AND A DREAM



THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR

**A TINY PIECE OF PAPER
WRITTEN ON BY A 17-YEAR-OLD
BOY, AND THE MOST MOVING
AND PRECIOUS MOMENT OF
OUR HISTORY**

DON ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME SDB





Dear friends of Don Bosco's charism and readers of the Salesian Bulletin– the Salesian instrument of communication so dear to Don Bosco himself, its Founder.

Shortly before I began writing these lines, I had celebrated Holy Mass,

together with the General Council of the Salesian Congregation (Salesians of Don Bosco), in the “camerette” in Sacred Heart Basilica. The “camerette” are the room and the chapel, which is adorned with a typical altar of the time, where Don Bosco celebrated his last Mass in Rome, on May 17, 1887. He would die in Turin a few months later, on January 31, 1888. My thoughts flew for a few moments, not so much to that last Mass celebrated

by Don Bosco in that room as to the simple, improbable, and unexpected beginnings – with apparently no greater future – of what is today the Salesian Congregation throughout the world. That beginning took place in another little room – in Valdocco – on January 26, 1854.

I wish to speak of and share with you in this “month of Don Bosco” this “miraculous” fruit of the Holy Spirit. I have in my hands a historical document – a piece of paper that is a mere four inches by two inches – written by a young boy from the Valdocco Oratory, young Michael Rua. On this tiny piece of paper he wrote the following:

On the evening of January 26, 1854, we gathered in Don Bosco’s room: Don Bosco himself, Rocchietti, Artiglia, Cagliero, and Rua; and it was proposed that we engage, with the help of God and of St. Francis de Sales, in an experiment in the practical exercise of charity toward neighbor, to eventually make a promise, and then if it will be deemed possible and opportune, to make a vow of it to the Lord. From that evening the name Salesians was given to those who chose and would in the future choose to engage in such an exercise.

Of the four, three (Rocchietti, Cagliero, and Rua) became Salesians. From a miniscule seed it is amazing that these short minutes have reached us. But the truly amazing and prodigious things are the intuition and vision of this great and holy man, Don Bosco, who had a heart full of educational and evangelizing passion for his boys. The Holy Spirit made that first encounter with four of his boys bear so much fruit that the Salesian Family and Congregation today extend to 136 nations of the world, taking care of the boys, girls, teenagers, and young adults – all of them our main concern.

From out of nothing, a beautiful tree has grown: A tree that today has thousands of friends and benefactors, thanks to whom we can do so much good; a tree that has thousands and thousands of laity who share the charism of Don Bosco and who work every day in the houses of the whole Salesian Family throughout the world.

Without any triumphalism and always with the invitation to be conscious of our responsibility, I very often remind my brothers and sisters around the world that we are custodians of a great treasure that does not belong to us, for it is a gift of



the Holy Spirit to the Church for the sake of children and young adults. But we must guard it and make it fruitful, as in the parable of the talents in the Gospel. This is our great responsibility, since imagining a Church and a world today without the sons and daughters of Don Bosco present among young people would be difficult, or at least would lack that predilection given to them by the “Father and Teacher of Youth,” as Saint John Paul II named him.

Dear readers and friends, I wanted to share with you this small detail of the beginning of this great reality: that Don Bosco had the

“genius” to found his Congregation from his own boys – four boys from among the many who were already in the Valdocco Oratory in that year.

I take the opportunity in the brief lines on this page, which will appear in the Salesian newsletters of the world in many languages, to say to all of you, “Thank you,” in the name of Don Bosco! “Thank you” for your love of Don Bosco’s charism, of his Dream, and of all that was his reason for living: Jesus Christ the Lord, and the young.

May our Holy Founder bless you!
With great affection,



The sense of belonging to our common home is an intelligent attitude. We can enjoy the beauty and the richness of our world as far as we – personally, as individuals, and together – cultivate it and keep it alive and lasting.



Abba Isidoro Apostoli SDB

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART



G

reta Thunberg, here you are! Shall we be among your supporters or among your denigrators? Yes, we can thank you for your courage and for the attention you are getting to the big issue your struggle is for, but we know also that some scientists say that we have not enough knowledge and data to judge - black and white mode - on global warming. We are under bombardment and fake news is triumphantly making victims. So, forgive us our irresolution or hesitation”.

Let this personalized introduction, right or wrong, bring us deeply into the matter we want to talk about: the climate change is a fact to be faced, even if the causes are not so well identified. Our involvement is to be there in any case, because we can influence the decisions that will, sooner or later, seriously or superficially, be taken at a high political and economical level.

The issue has moral implications and an impact on our conscience, as well. Christians consider the Universe, and so their mother Earth, a great gift from the Creator. To love it and keep it in a ‘good shape’ - even for our successors on whose shoulders we cannot lay our problems - is not an optional matter.

Have you heard about the will to introduce in the catechism of the Catholic Church the concept of the sin against ecology? It's really a sin that expresses our lack of sense of belonging, lack of appreciation of the common home entrusted to us by the Creator and offered as a real great gift to enjoy, not to use like a simple toy which babies destroy so easily and thus depriving themselves of a greater joy and longer entertainment.

The sense of belonging to our common home is an intelligent attitude. We can enjoy the beauty and the richness of our world as far as we – personally, as individuals, and together - cultivate it and keep it alive and lasting. Francis of Assisi has proved his teaching victorious along the centuries and is attractive the more now, in our time. Going back to him puts us on the right path. Another Francis has been given to us. I think he deserves our listening not less, sure, than that famous Greta. Our Pope Francis, who not by chance has chosen his name, has at his disposal the Pontifical Academy of Science, and doesn't teach relying on his own.

The last Synod of Amazon has given us sound reflections. The abuse perpetrated on Amazon



rainforest with its tremendous consequences can be taken as a warning to all of us. "The loss of biodiversity among plants and animals, as well the loss of the cultural diversity of indigenous people, is an immediate consequence of deforestation. Among the insects, there is a drastic reduction of species of around 40%. Their absence breaks the natural chain and can lead to overpopulation of other types of animals in uncontrollable numbers" (Martin Lasarte and Damasio Medeiros: **Salesian Amazonia – The Synod challenges us**, p. 176). Pope Francis, in a letter to a summit at ONU, has denounced that "the awareness is weak... our answers are

inadequate... our commitments are far from the necessity".

We are really in the middle of a challenge of civilization in favour of the common good. "Everywhere we see contamination and waste – a culture of waste. We are losing bio-diversity. The deterioration of the quality of life and social inequality are on the increase. Climate change brings us more and more catastrophes. Violence and the risk of a world war are rising. There are large forced migrations. Dominant economic models are exclusive.

We are aware that the crisis has human roots, it is the result of precise political and economic decisions. Therefore, we need to change our lifestyle. We need to be less consumerist, more essentialist and austere. We need to create an alliance between human beings and the environment to promote an authentic ecological conversion. We need to learn love and respect for nature (land, plants, animals, water and air) from the natives" (ibidem).

A scientific treaty is not for this bulletin, but statistics which can frighten are easily found here and there. Just to get an example among the many we can find in websites: the hundreds of thousands of square km of waste materials, especially plastic, in the oceans, are a horrifying visible fact which depends on our politics and style of living... Greta Thunberg can play this role. We would like to inspire optimism, but the key for it is in our good will of conversion. Together we can surely succeed in something. Up! Up! with people of good will.





Cardinal Tagle named head of Vatican Evangelization Office

Vatican City: Pope Francis has appointed Cardinal Luis Antonio G. Tagle, archbishop of Manila, Philippines, to lead the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.



Tagle 62, follows Cardinal Fernando Filoni as prefect, usually referred to by its historic name of Propaganda Fide. Charged with the Church's missionary works and territories, Propaganda Fide is one of the largest curial departments, with a size and scope exceeding almost any other. The beneficiary of centuries of dedicated legacies and bequests, Propaganda Fide is also the most financially autonomous curial department. Praedicateevangelium, the new curial constitution, not yet promulgated, is expected to place an even further emphasis on evangelization as the structural priority of the Church's

mission, with the possible merger of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization into a single larger department. As the head of a curial department, Tagle will no longer be the archbishop of Manila, a post he has held since December 2011. He was made a cardinal by Benedict XVI in 2012. Since 2015, he has been president of Caritas Internationalis. Tagle was also very much involved in the October 2018 youth synod. **CNA**

Catholic persecution worse after Vatican-China deal, Congress finds

Washington D.C.: A new U.S. government report says that human rights abuse in China has worsened in the last year, and specifically highlighted the escalating persecution of Chinese Catholics in the wake of



the Vatican-China agreement of 2018. "During its 2019 reporting year, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China found that the human rights situation has worsened and the rule of law continued to deteriorate, as the Chinese government and Party increasingly used regulations and laws to assert social and political control," stated the commission's annual report, released in December. The report said that "After the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed an agreement with the Holy See in September 2018 paving the way for unifying the state-sanctioned and underground Catholic communities, local Chinese authorities subjected Catholic believers in China to increasing persecution by demolishing churches, removing crosses, and continuing to detain underground clergy."

Canonization cause opens for Australian woman who was a 'champion' of human dignity

Sydney, Australia: Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP of Sydney announced the opening of the cause of canonization for Eileen O'Connor, a young Australian woman who founded the order Our Lady's Nurses of the Poor, also known as Brown Nurses. As someone who cared for the poor and the sick, and who suffered greatly



because of her own physical ailments, "Eileen becomes for us a symbol of hope in our time when so many issues where the life and dignity of the human person are under question," Bishop Anthony Randazzo of Broken Bay told the Catholic Weekly. Randazzo said he became familiar with the work of the Brown Nurses, so called because of their brown habits, while he was a priest in Brisbane in the 1990s. Born in Melbourne in 1892, Eileen suffered an injury at the age of three that would leave her paralyzed for some years and then confined to a wheelchair and in pain for the rest of her life. Doctors now believe Eileen suffered from undiagnosed Pott's Disease (tuberculous osteomyelitis).

Polish bishops call for John Paul II to be named a doctor of the Church

Poznan, Poland: The Polish Bishops' Conference has asked Pope Francis to name St. John Paul II a patron of Europe and doctor of the Church. Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki of Poznan, president of the Polish Bishops Conference,

sent the request to the pope on Oct. 22 - the feast day of John Paul II. "The pontificate of the Pope from Poland was filled with groundbreaking decisions and significant events that changed the face of the papacy and



influenced the course of European and world history," he said, according to Zenit. Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, former archbishop of Krakow and a close friend of John Paul II, supported the request during a conference held by the "Europa Christi" movement, which took place at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw from Oct. 19-23. "Pope Wojtyla's legacy is a rich, versatile and creative synthesis of multiple paths of human thinking. There is no doubt that it still remains, and will for a long time remain, an important and comprehensive cultural renewal project on a global scale," Dziwisz said, according to Zenit. Gadecki said the pontificate of John Paul II was heavily influenced by his rich personality, which possessed a strong love for poetics, philosophy, theology, and mysticism.

There were over 800 extremist attacks in West Africa in 2019

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso:

Extremist attacks have risen dramatically in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, from 180 incidents in 2017 to more than 800 violent attacks in 2019, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The rise in violence by the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara and the al-Qaeda affiliate Jama'at Nasr al-Islam walMuslimin led the U.S. Secretary of State to declare in November that the Sahel will be a "preferred area of focus" outside of the Middle East for the Defeat ISIS coalition. Christians have been the target of number of such attacks in the Sahel this year. On December 1 gunmen attacked a Protestant service in Burkina Faso, killing 14 people, including several



children. "There is an ongoing persecution of Christians. For months, we bishops have been denouncing what is happening in Burkina Faso, but nobody is listening to us," Bishop

Justin Kientega of Ouahigouya told Aid to the Church in Need following the December attack. More than 60 Christians have been killed in Burkina Faso alone in 2019, according to ACN.

Four seminarians abducted in Nigeria

Kaduna, Nigeria: Four seminarians, between the ages of 18 and 23, were abducted from their seminary in Kaduna, in northwestern Nigeria. Pius Kanwai, 19; Peter Umenukor, 23; Stephen Amos, 23; and Michael Nnadi, 18, were taken from Good Shepherd Seminary in Kaduna, around 10:30 pm on Jan. 8 by gunmen. Police are searching for the four young men. Nearly 270 seminarians live at Good Shepherd. "The security situation in Nigeria is appalling", Thomas Heine-Geldern, executive president of ACN International, said Jan. 13. "Criminal gangs are further exploiting the chaotic situation and making matters still worse." He compared the situation in Nigeria to that of Iraq prior to the Islamic State's invasion: "Already at that stage, Christians were being abducted, robbed and murdered because there was no protection by the state. This must not be allowed to happen to the Christians of Nigeria. The government must act now, before it is too late." The gunmen, disguised in military camouflage, broke through the fence surrounding the seminarians'

living quarters and began shooting sporadically. They stole laptops and phones before kidnapping the four young men. **CNA**

Benedict XVI, Cardinal Sarah pen book on priesthood, celibacy, crisis

Vatican City: Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, have co-authored a book on the crisis in the Church and on priestly ministry. The work "is not just about priestly celibacy, important as that is in itself," Fr. Joseph Fessio, founder and editor of Ignatius Press, said. "It is about, as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



describes it in his first paragraph: 'the lasting crisis that the priesthood has been going through for many years.' But it is about more than that; it is about the nature of the Church and of Christian discipleship." According to Ignatius Press, Benedict and Cardinal Sarah "honestly address the spiritual challenges faced by priests today,

including struggles of celibacy,” and “point to deeper conversion to Jesus Christ as the key to faithful and fruitful priestly ministry and church reform.” Benedict and Cardinal Sarah write that “the priesthood is going through a dark time. Wounded by the revelation of so many scandals, disconcerted by the constant questioning of their consecrated celibacy, many priests are tempted by the thought of giving up and abandoning everything.” The book is meant to be a message of hope, and an explanation of the biblical and spiritual importance of priestly celibacy, which they call more than “a mere precept of ecclesiastical law.” The publisher added that the book is in part a response “to calls for refashioning the priesthood, including proposals from the Amazonian Synod.”

Missionary priest rescues children from slavery in the DRC mines

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Fr. Willy Milayi is a Missionary of the Immaculate Conception who lives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He



works rescuing children who have fled the coltan mines and offering them a place to live and learn a trade. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one the world’s top producers of coltan, a rare mineral used in the manufacture of many electronic devices, such as cell phones. Working conditions in the DRC’s coltan mines are dangerous and the workers, including young children, are often exploited. “The exploitation of these mines is in the hands of the guerrillas,” explained Fr. Malayi in an interview with the Diocese of Málaga in Spain. “Our cell phones are stained with the blood of the ‘walking dead children.’” Malayi works with children who have escaped forced labor in the mines. Many of them are living on the streets when he finds them. Some 20,000 children live on the streets of Kinshasa alone. The Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception have started an educational center in the city. He described the center as “a home where they can learn a trade that ensures them a future away from the mines and to never return to the streets.” “We can’t solve all the problems, but we thank God for every one of the children we can rescue. It’s a true miracle that is made possible thanks to people of goodwill,” Malayi said. **ZENIT**

Laugh- tonic

Physics Teacher: "Isaac Newton was sitting under a tree when an apple fell on his head and he discovered gravity. Isn't that wonderful?"

Student: "Yes sir, if he had been sitting in class looking at books like us, he wouldn't have discovered anything."



A little girl came home from school and said to her mother, "Mommy, today in school I was punished for something that I didn't do."

The mother exclaimed, "But that's terrible! I'm going to have a talk with your teacher about this ... by the way, what was it that you didn't do?"

The little girl replied, "My homework."



Teacher: "Why are you late, Joseph?"

Joseph: "Because of a sign board down the road."

Teacher: "What does a sign board have to do with you being late?"

Joseph: "The sign board read, 'School Ahead, Go Slow!'"



The teacher of the earth science class was lecturing on map reading.

After explaining about latitude, longitude, degrees and minutes the teacher asked, "Suppose I asked you to meet me for lunch at 23 degrees, 4

minutes' north latitude and 45 degrees, 15 minutes' east longitude...?"

After a confused silence, a voice volunteered, "I guess you'd be eating alone."



Teacher: "Here is a math problem. If your dad earned \$300 dollars a week and he gave your mother half, what should he have?"

Student: "A heart attack."



Teacher: "If you had one dollar and you asked your father for another, how many dollars would you have?"

Vincent: "Still one dollar."

Teacher: "You don't know your arithmetic."

Vincent: "You don't know my father!."



Mother: "Why did you get such a low mark on that test?"

Junior: "Because of absence."

Mother: "You mean you were absent on the day of the test?"

Junior: "No, but the kid who sits next to me was."



Teacher: "George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?"

Louie: "Because George still had the axe in his hand."

SALESIAN WORLD

LOCAL NEWS

Vicar of the Rector Major, concludes his visit in Ethiopia



Addis Ababa: From November 5 - 9, Fr. Francesco Cereda, the Vicar of the Rector Major visited AET province Ethiopia. The main purpose of the visit was to animate the province after the extra-ordinary visitation which was carried out by the Regional for Africa Fr. Chaquisse Americo in the months from March - May. The animation was based on the letter of the Rector Major to the Province which focused mainly on four points: 1) Taking care of the Salesian Consecrated Life, 2) The re-shaping of the Salesian presences in the vice-province, 3) Vocation and formation 4) Government and animation of the vice province. In the first two days of his visit to the vice-province Fr. Cereda visited all the three houses in the capital, Addis Ababa and then moved on to the novitiate

house in Debrezeit and to Zway where we have a Salesian parish and an academic school with more than 1000 students studying from 1 -12 grade. On the second last day of the visit was dedicated to the animation program for the Rectors of the various houses and on the last day he met with all the provincial councillors.

Catechists of Salesian parishes gather for workshop at Salesianum



Addis Ababa: A group of twelve catechists gathered from the various salesian parishes of Ethiopia for a two-day workshop on the theme of the Missionary month, "Baptized and Sent". The workshop was organized under the leadership of Abba Aristide SDB who takes care of the Salesian parishes in Ethiopia. The Salesian

parishes are six in number in Ethiopia and this is the first time an initiative of this kind is being organized for the catechists. There were several invited resources personnel who participated in the workshop like Abba Isidoro Apostoli SDB, Abba Samuel Abreha SDB the Youth Ministry Delegate for AET, Abba Gebremeskel Shikur, a Consolata priest. However, great enthusiasm and interest was seen from the part of the catechists who were attending the workshop. The initiative is thought to bring about a great change in the pastoral initiatives of the salesian parishes in Ethiopia.

kaizen awards Bosco Children Mekanissa



Bosco Children, Addis Ababa:

Another golden feather has been added in the list of achievements for Bosco Children Catholic TVET Institute, as it has been ranked the second best in kaizen implementation at the national level. In a colorful ceremony that was held at Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa the certificates and awards

were distributed and Abba Yohannes the director of Bosco Children and Brother Endalkachew the dean of Donbosco TVET college were present. The Kaizen authorities were extremely happy to distribute the award as the institute had taken the implementation of Kaizen program seriously and of course the staff, students and employees of Bosco Children also expressed their gratitude and great satisfaction in having made this achievement. BoscoChildren TVET Institute while catering primarily to the street children, has been also engaged in short term training in several departments like hairdressing, food preparation, woodwork Leather works metal Manufacturing and many other skills.

"Sports for Unity" held at Don Bosco Gambella



Gambella: On December 20th was held at Gambella Don Bosco Campus, "Sports for Unity" an initiative to bring together the different schools of various ethnic

groups in the Gambella region. The event was organized in Don Bosco school premises which saw the active participation of several schools of the region. The ceremony also witnessed the reading of a legacy by the students which implies respect and welcome of everyone, promoted through sports. The initiative was highly appreciated by the local authorities and is sustained by VIS (Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo).

New Salesian Cooperators for AET Province



Mekanissa, Addis Ababa: In a simple but meaningful ceremony which was held on 9th December, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (this year the feast from 8th December had been postponed to 9th as it coincided here in Ethiopia with the Feast of Christ the King), 7 Salesian Cooperators renewed their promise and there were 7 new Salesian Cooperators who took their promise on this auspicious day.

The Aspirant cooperators had been trained by Abba Isidoro Apostoli who is in charge of the Salesian Family in the province of AET. The promise was received by Abba Ignacio Lavature who is the Vicar of AET.

Salesian sisters mourn the death of Sr. Celine FMA



Addis Ababa: Sr. Celine FMA, a member of the Salesian Family, Indian by origin, missionary in Ethiopia for several years passed away in Nairobi on 01 December 2019. She had been responsible for the Nursery school in Dilla from 2014 to 2016. From 2016 to 2018 she attended the two year course on Salesian Spirituality in Rome. In June 2018 she joined the community of Gumbo in South Sudan and was given the responsibility in the primary school. On Thursday 28th November 2019 Sr. Celine fell ill and was rushed from Juba - Sudan to Nairobi Hospital and was admitted. The first treatments helped her to feel

better. However, within a few hours, a fulminant Leukemia ended her life on earth on 1st December 2019. We convey our deepest condolences to the Salesian Sisters in Ethiopia.

Don Bosco College Adwa caters to the needs of young people



Adwa: The Technical College of Don Bosco Adwa is fast moving with several courses being offered for the young people in and around the city of Adwa. The college now provides Technical and Vocational Training for regular and evening programs of TVET course Level by Level from Level I to IV in Diploma Program.

Mainly there are three fields of training:

1. Under the Construction Sector: On-Site Building Construction Management from Level – I to IV
2. Under the Manufacturing Sector: Metal Engineering Production Management from Level – I to IV

3. Under Electro-technology Sector Electrical/Electronic Servicing Management from Level – I to IV

The college is really proud that up to this moment it has already graduated a total number of 2474 students. From recent past the college also has started offering courses in Solar energy. The courses which were begun in 2016 have already graduated 692 students in this new field of study. The prepared lesson plan and didactic materials for Basic Solar Photovoltaic Course is used for this purpose. Mr. Asmelash Selamawi has already prepared Curriculum and TTLM for the Solar PV Course and with a survey on Job Opportunity by the Solar Team is presented to the TVET Regional Bureau and the Accreditation has been awarded. Moreover, funded by VIS and with the collaboration of Don Bosco Mekanissa in printing, two training manual books are already published and distributed to the trainers. Moreover, the college provides short courses for the young in Basic Apparel Making for three months. Currently there are 60 trainees in two shifts for the Project of Stop Human Trafficking.

MY LIFE, I OWE IT TO DON BOSCO

Werkeneh Alemu is a boy whose life would have him end up on the street, like many other street kids on the streets of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; but today he is overjoyed at his extraordinary achievement. He has scored Straight A's, which means he has scored 100% in the National Exam that was held last June for grade 10 students. He attributes his great achievement to the unending support of the Salesians at Bosco Children, Mekanissa, where he has been a resident for the past 6 years.

- When did you come to Bosco Children?

It was almost 6 years ago that I came to know about Bosco Children through the Salesian fathers and brothers who used to visit us on the street. After a brief period of my contact with them on the street, they invited me to come and be a resident at Bosco Children.

- How were your first days in Bosco Children?

At first it was not easy for me to adjust to the environment of Bosco. I felt almost like a fish out of water. But the loving approach and constant presence of the Salesians made me slowly feel at home in that environment.

- When you entered Bosco Children, how old were you and which class were you attending?

When I came to Bosco, I must have been around 11 years old and I had completed only up to 2nd grade in my village. Then I had dropped out of school and I had run away from home to be in the streets in Addis Ababa.

- What is your feeling right now? How do you see this achievement?

Yes, I have no words. I feel extremely happy. I'm not a very expressive boy, but in the heart of my heart, I feel really happy. My life, I owe it to Don Bosco. If not for Don Bosco, I can't imagine what I would be now. All that I am is because of Don Bosco.

- Your future plans?

I want to be useful to the society. I have received a lot in my life, all free. Now I want to give back to the society what I have received. My dream is to be a doctor.

- What would be your last words for your friends?

Time is precious. Use every moment usefully. Don't waste time.





MALE

Hello in Nuer Language

Lare, the Central Village of the Nuer
on the border with South Sudan.

Catholic Parish of St. Daniel Comboni

Now we have the Salesian Presence in Lare too
in the person of Abba Filippo Perin SDB




DO YOU DREAM TO BE A **SALESIAN** ONE DAY??

PLEASE DO CONTACT US!

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