

ETHIOPIA | ISSUE NO. 75 | JAN - APR 2021

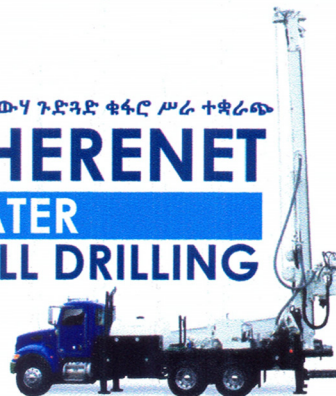
# DON BOSCO

## BULLETIN

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







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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

Abba Lijo Vadakkan SDB

## “He will come searching for me”



**9**n the year 1988 there was an earthquake known as the Spitak earthquake, occurred on December 7 at 11:41 local time with a surface wave magnitude of 6.8. The shock occurred in the northern region of Armenia which is vulnerable to large and destructive earthquakes. Between 25,000 and 50,000 were killed and up to 130,000 were injured.

Among the people who were looking for their beloved ones, there was a father who was looking for his eight-year-old daughter.

He was desperately looking for his little girl among the debris of collapsed buildings. His search lasted for one entire day but could not trace his little daughter. But still he didn't want to give up his search. He continued his search for a second full day and still couldn't find any trace of her. Everyone began to discourage him begging him to stop his effort, that even if he found his daughter she would be dead by now and that it was even imprudent to walk in between the collapsed buildings as there were even warnings of further tremors. But this man wouldn't listen to any one of them.



He pursued his search for a third day and after almost 72 hours of search, on the third day towards evening he found his daughter under the stairs of a collapsed building; she and three of her friends were still alive. It was a big surprise for the entire world, as to how it was possible for these little girls in such an adverse condition to be still alive. It was even a cause of wonder for many.

The little girl was later on interviewed by many journalists and media people as to know how this was possible to live for three days, with no water, no food, no light and not even sufficient air. Everyone was questioning how these four girls managed to survive? The little girl said to the crowd: "I told only one thing to my friends, **'if my dad is still alive, he will come searching for me'** "....

Only on the **HOPE** given by these words, these four kids survived such hostile situation so courageously. I think people might still survive for a few days even without water and food but without hope life is almost impossible even for a minute.

Rightly enough we have dedicated this issue of the Don Bosco Bulletin to this beautiful theological virtue which is very essential to the times that we are living in. We are passing through one of

most difficult times in the human history, a world challenged by Corona Pandemic, so many wars and conflicts in many parts of the world, mass migrations in many countries, natural and man-made calamities all over, and many other happenings that can make us easily succumb to hopelessness. All the contributors in this issue speak at length on the importance of this noble virtue. Abba Hailemariam our Provincial begins by quoting Pope Francis, "Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of hope". Abba BerhaneTsefahun in his article mentions very clearly that real hope does not deny reality. It does not base itself on foolish optimism but on genuine evaluation of things. He invites the readers to an intellectual conversion to be able to evaluate what we see and hear with the eyes of objectivity. Abba Aristide instead reminds the reader that the 'contrary of hope is not despair, but apathy, boredom in living, indifference, a future closed to everything. Our Christian faith, similarly, may die not of despair but because of indifference. True hope, therefore, demands passion and enthusiasm!'.

I really wish and pray that we be truly people of hope in our turn and become messengers of hope to so many of our brothers and sisters who have lost hope in their lives.

Wish you all a Very Happy Easter.



# Shall we continue to walk?

*Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of Hope!*

**I**n our Christian journey there are many moments and events as well as many people who try to darken our hope. It is not only by putting us into trouble but making us doubt things or persons on which we have placed our hope. In the Gospel we have a beautiful image of this struggle to keep alive hope. It is the story of the Blind Man of Jericho (Mark 10:46-52).

They reached Jericho; and as he left Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus -- that is, the son of Timaeus -- a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and cry out, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called



*the blind man over. 'Courage,' they said, 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'Rabbuni, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And at once his sight returned and he followed him along the road.*

This is the reality of many people even today. Bartimaeus is challenged in life being **blind, poor (beggar)**. It is not said why he became blind or how he became so poor, but these are two conditions which can make a person really lose hope. In our daily lives too, the way in front of us might be not visible. We might feel blind moving in darkness many times. We are not able to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Shall we continue to walk or just stand or sit where we are? As believers we are asked to **hope** and continue to walk. The Lord who has given us hope will give the light at His own time, from our side we need to have faith and continue to walk in **hope** that the better part is still coming.

Another aspect that we have

found with Bartimaeus and many of ourselves is that he was poor. Today the world measures success through the riches that one has. But this man does not have anything. But what is positive with him is that he is out on the road to ask for alms. He did not close a door on himself and let himself die, but went out on the roadside where people pass. How many of us are ashamed to look for assistance when we see that we cannot do it by ourselves? If our hope has to be realized we need to use all the possible assistance that we can find. We have to accept that we are all poor, because whatever we have is not our own, it is given to us. And when we lack we have to have enough humility to ask for help. We see from this biblical figure that he is ready to ask for assistance. He may have asked someone to lead him to the roadside where many people pass, plus asking for help so that he may have something to eat. In this way he continues to live, to walk till the best chance of life comes.

The third aspect is that since he wanted to continue to live – **to walk the life**, the Giver of life passes near to him. Realization of hope needs to start to move, and the Lord, who is the Giver

of Life, can surprise those who make even the smallest effort. The Blind man of Jericho did that, but also something more. Jesus was just passing by as one who did not notice the presence of this Blind, Poor, Beggar on the side of the road. The Blind man of Jericho left the house, asked for alms, and now asks who is passing by since he is not able to see. **"When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth"** (V. 47), he started to look for the possibility of gaining his sight, he is not looking only for immediate assistance but something that can change his life. He is ready to do all possible not to let pass the only means of hope that he finds in the moment. But there are people who are trying to prevent him from moving towards his only hope: **"many of them scolded him and told him to keep quit"** (V. 48), he is not ready to give-up: **"but he only shouted all the louder 'Son of David, have pity on me'"** (V.48).

there will be many obstacles and oppositions, but since the Lord has given us His word, we only need to go forward having faith that He will fulfill our hopes. The blind man of Jericho has got a call from Jesus, and only now that people started to support him **"Courage, they said, get up; he is calling you"** (v.49). We do not need to wait till others help us or encourage us, but let us trust that if we started to make a move, the Lord will make more steps to reach for us. When we are really in need of **hope** we may not find many people supporting us. Instead we may find many **indifferent**, or discouraging, if not opposing us and putting us down.

For this that I am using the phrase of His Holiness Pope Francis: **Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of hope!** (Evangelii Gaudium, 86).

In our journey of "walking the life",



**Abba Hailemariam Medhin, SDB**  
**Provincial Superior**





# በተስፋ መኖር



ቁጥራቸው ትንሽ የማይባሉ ሰዎች አሁን እየኖርንባት ያለችውን ዓለምና በውስጧም እየተከናወኑ ያሉትን ነገሮች ሲመለከቱ በጽኑ ተስፋ መቁረጥ ውስጥ ይወድቃሉ፤ በተለይም ደግሞ በግልም ሆነ በማኅበራዊ ሕይወታቸው ብዙ አሉታዊ የሆኑ ነገሮችን እያስተናገዱ የመጡ ከሆነ፤ ለምሳሌ የኑሮ አለመመቻቸት፣ በትምህርት ወይም በሥራ አሊያም በትዳር ሕይወት ስኬታማ አለመሆን፣ አልፎም ደግሞ ሕልምን የማሳካት ጥረት ሲከሸፍ እጅን በደረት ላይ አጣምሮ መቀመጥን ምርጫ አድርገው የሚደመድሙ ሰዎች በርካታ ናቸው። በተለይ ደግሞ ምድራችንን እያስጨነቀና በሚሊዮኖች የሚቆጠሩ የሰው ልጆችን ራዕይ ያጨለመና ከዚያም አልፎ ሕይወታቸውን ጭምር ለጎልፈት የዳረገ፣ እስካሁንም ድረስ በከፍተኛ ሁኔታ

የሰውን ልጅ ሕይወትና ኑሮ እየተገዳደረ ያለው የኮቪድ-19 ወረርሽኝ ሰውን በተስፋ መቁረጥ ውስጥ እንዲገባ ባለው ኃይሉ ሁሉ ጫና እየፈጠረበት ይገኛል። የሰው ልጅ በነዚህ ሁሉ እና በውስጡ በሚያስተናግዳቸው ተግዳሮቶች መካከል እየኖረ እንዴት ነው አወንታዊ የሆኑ ነገሮች እንዲከሰቱ ወይም ሊገጥሙት እንደሚችሉ ተስፋ የሚያደርገው? ከሁሉ በማስቀደም የአስተሳሰብ ለውጥ የማድረግና ነገሮችን በአወንታዊ ገጻቸው መመልከትን መለማመድና ከሁሉ በላይ ደግሞ ጥልቅና ጠንካራ እምነት እንዲኖረን መትጋት ያስፈልጋል። በምድር ላይ እንድንኖር የተፈቀደልን ዘመን የተለካ ቢሆንም የምንኖረውን ያህል እንድንኖር ከፈጣሪ ሲፈቀድልን በምክንያት ነው፤ በዚህች ምድር ላይ ለመኖራችንም በቂ



ምክንያትና ዓላማ አለው፤ በዋነኛነትም የሰው ልጅ ካለመኖር ወደ መኖር ያመጣውን ፈጣሪውን እንዲያውቅ፤ እንዲወድና ፍቃዱንም ፈጽሞ በመጨረሻም ምድራዊ ሕይወቱ ሲያበቃ ፊት ለፊት ለማየት ከሚናፍቀው አምላኩ ጋር በዘላለማዊ ብርሃን መኖር ነው። ይህን ለማሳካትና የዕለት ተዕለት ኑሮውንም በተገቢው መልኩ ለመኖር ሲል የሰው ልጅ በብዙ ፈተናዎችና ተግዳሮቶች መካከል ያልፋል፤ እዚህ ላይ ልናስተውለው የሚገባ ነገር ቢኖር ግን የሰው ሕይወት ሙሉ በሙሉ ሰላም ያጣች፤ በጨለማ የተከበበች፤ በአጠቃላይ ትርጉም የሌላትና ምንም ዓይነት የተስፋ ጭላንጭል የማይታይባት ናት ማለት አይደለም።

በአንጻሩ ግን የሰው ልጅ ሕይወት ፈተና የበዛባት ብትሆንም ብዙ ተስፋ ሰጪ የሆኑም ነገሮች አሉ፤ ለአፍታ ያክል ቆም ብለን በእጃችን ላይ ያለውን በረከት መመልከት ተገቢ ነው። ተስፋ ከመቁረጥ ሕይወት ውስጥ ለመውጣትና እንደ ሰው ከባህሪያችን ጋር የሚስማማ ኑሮ ለመኖር በቅድሚያ ራስን ከተራና ከየዋሆች አባባል ነፃ ማድረግ ያስፈልጋል። ለምሳሌ ሰው በምንም ዓይነት መልኩ ተስፋ እንዳያደርግና እንዳያቅድ ከሚያስሩት ብሂሎች መካከል አንዱ “ተስፋ ማለት ርቆ የተሰቀለ ዳቦ ነው” የሚል ነው። ዋናው ነገር ዳቦው መኖሩ፤ መታየቱ፤ የተወሰነ ርቀት ላይ መቀመጡ ነው፤ ከዚያ ቀጥሎ አርቆ የሰቀለው ወይም እዚያ ርቀት ላይ መድረስ የቻለ ሰው እንዳለ ሁሉ፤ በዚህም ዘመን ያለውን

ጥበብ ተጠቅሞና እዚያ ርቀት ድረስ ተጉዞ ሊያወርደው የሚችል ሰው አለ ማለት ነው። ነገር ግን ይህ ርቆ የሚታየው ተስፋ መውረድ የማይችልበት አንድ መንገድ ብቻ አለ፤ እርሱም መሬት ላይ ተቀምጦና ምንም ዓይነት ርቀትን ለመጓዝ ፍቃደኛ ሳይሆኑ የተሰቀለውን አንጋጥጦ በማየት ላይ ብቻ ራስን መወሰን ነው። የቱንም ያህል ይራቅ የሰው ልጅ ካሰበ ካስተዋለና በፈጣሪው ካመነ ሩቅ ሆኖ የሚታየውና ሊለወጥ የማይችል የሚመስለው ሁሉ ሆኖ እና ተለውጦ ያገኘዋል።

አሁን ያለንበት ዘመን በተለይም ገና ውሉ ባልለየለትና እርግጠኛ መፍትሔ ለማግኘት ጥረት እየተደረገ ያለው የኮቪድ-19 ጉዳይ ብዙዎችን በምንም እና በማንም ተስፋ እንዳያደረጉ እየተፈታተናቸው ነው። እዚህ ላይ ልናስተውል የሚገባን አንድ ነገር አለ፤ እርሱም “ተስፋ አለማድረግ ወይም ጸንቶ አለመቆም እና ለተግዳሮቶች እጅ መስጠት የችግር መፍትሔ ሊሆን እንደማይችል ነው”፡ በማንኛውም ሁኔታ ተስፋ መቁረጥ ወኔን ከማኮሰሱ በተጨማሪ የመንፈስ ሽባነትን ያስከትልና ወደበለጠ ጭለማ ውስጥ ይጥላል። እስቲ ራሳችንን እንጠይቅ፡ “ተስፋ በመቁረጥ እጅና እግርን አጥምሮ በመቀመጥ በሕይወታችን ውስጥ ያመጣነው አወንታዊ ለውጥም ሆን መፍትሔ አለን?”

የሕይወት ለውጥ እንዲመጣ የሚቻለንን ሁሉ መሞከር የግድ ነው፤ ለዚህ የመጀመሪያው እርምጃ የሚጀምረው ደግሞ ያለውን ነባራዊ ሁኔታ ከመቀበል ነው።

መቀበል ላልቻልነው ወይም ለማንፈልገው ነገር አይደለም መፍትሔ መስጠት የዚያን ነገር መከሰት እንኳ እስከ መካድ በመድረስ ኅሊናን ጭምር ለማሳመን እንጥራለን። ስለዚህ ተግዳሮቶችን እንዳሉ መቀበል ወደ ሁለተኛው ደረጃ ያሻግረናል፤ እርሱም ከዚያ ሁኔታ የመውጫ መንገድን ተስፋ ማድረግና እሱንም ዕውን ለማድረግ መሥራት ነው። ለዚህም ብዙ ቀደምት ዳድቃን አባቶቻችንና እናቶቻችን አብነት ይሆኑናል፡

፡ ለምሳሌ በትዕግስቱና በእግዚአብሔር ላይ ተስፋ በማድረግ ጥንካሬው በዘመናት የተመሰከረለትና እየተመሰከረለት ያለው ዳድቁ ኢዮብ የነበረውን ሁሉ ባጣበት ሁኔታ ውስጥ እያለ እንኳ ሁሉን ከፈጣሪ የተቀበለው መሆኑን ነበር የመሰከረው። ከዚህም በተጨማሪ ኢዮብ በእግዚአብሔር ተስፋ ማድረግ ብቻ ሳይሆን አመስጋኝም ጭምር መሆኑ በመጽሐፍ እንዲህ ተጽፏል፡

- “ዕራቄቴን ከእናቴ ማሕጸን ወጣሁ፤ ዕራቄቴንም እሔዳለሁ። እግዚአብሔር ሰጠ እግዚአብሔርም ነሣ፤ የእግዚአብሔር ሥም የተመሰገነ ይሁን” (መጽ. ኢዮብ 1:21)

እንግዲህ ተስፋ በመቁረጦችን ወይም ተስፋ ባለማድረጎችን እንደማንጠቀም ሁሉ ተስፋ በማድረጎችን አንጎዳም፤ እንደውም ተስፋ በማድረጎችን ምክንያት ውስጣችን ሰላም ያገኛል፤ ኅሊናችንም በመጠኑም ቢሆን ያርፋል፤ አእምሯችንም የተሻለ ነገር ለማቀድ ዕድልና ጊዜ ያገኛል። ነገር ግን ሁሌ ሕልመኛ መሆን ብቻ በራሱ በቂ አይደለም፤ ወደ ተግባር ያልተለወጠ ሕልም ባይ ነው፤

በአንድ ወቅት አንዲት የሥነ-ጽሑፍ ሰው ሕልሙን ስለማይተገብር ሰው እንዲህ ነበር ያለችው፡-

**ሕልመኛ ነው አሉ ሳያልም አያድርም፤**  
**ሕልም ያልማል እንጂ ሕልሙን ኖሮ አያውቅም።**



ስለዚህ ተስፋ ማለት በተራ ምኞት የተሞላ ሐሳብ ሳይሆን በአንጻሩ የታመነ እና ጊዜው ሲደርስ ዕውን የሚሆን ማለት ነው (ሮሜ 8፡



24-25፤ ዕብ 11:1. 7)። በክርስቲና ሕይወት ውስጥ ልክ እንደ እምነትና ፍቅር፤ ተስፋም እንዲሁ ጸንቶ የሚኖር ነው (1ቆሮ 13:13)። እንግዲህ ተስፋንና ሕልምን ዕውን ለማድረግ በመጀመሪያ ተስፋችንን በእግዚአብሔር ማድረግ ነው፤ ምክንያቱም ዘመራው ዳዊት እንዳለው “እግዚአብሔርን ተስፋ የሚያደርጉ አያፍሩምና” (መዝ 25:3)።

እንግዲህ በሕይወት ጉዞ ውስጥ ዓይነቱ ይለያይ እንጂ የማይፈተንና በተግዳሮቶች መካከል የማያልፍ አይኖርም፤ ብዙ ቅዱሳንና ጳውሎስ አብነት ይሆኑናል፤ ፍጹም የሆነ ምሳሌ የሚሆነን ግን ራሱ ጌታችን ኢየሱስ ክርስቶስ ነው፤ እስቲ ለአንድ አፍታ በጌተሰማኔ ያለውን ክርስቶስ እናስብ፤ በመጨረሻዎቹ ቀናት በሀዘንና በጭንቀት ውስጥ ነበር፤ ለሐዋርያቱም እንዲህ ነበር ያላቸው፡ “ነፍሴ እስከ ሞት ድረስ እጅግ አዝናለች” (ማር 14:34)፤ እንዲሁም በሌላ የወንጌል ክፍል “አባት ሆይ! ሁሉ ይቻልሃልና ይህን ጽዋ ከእኔ አርቀው፤ ነገር ግን የእኔ ፍቃድ ሳይሆን የአንተ ፍቃድ ይሁን” ብሎ ጸልይዋል (ማር 14:36)። ይህ ጸሎት የኢየሱስን ፍጹም ሰው መሆኑን፤ ሀዘኑን፤ የእርሱን ጭንቀትና ፍርሀት የሚያመለክት ቢሆንም በውስጡ ግን ብዙ ተስፋን የያዘ እና አባቱ ከእርሱ ጋር እንደሆነ የሚያሳይ ነው፤ ለዚህም ነው ጸሎቱን “የአንተ ፍቃድ ይሁን” ብሎ የደመደመው።

ከዚያ ጸሎት በኋላ ኢየሱስ በፍጹም ጥንካሬና የውስጥ ጸጥታ ነበር ወደ ከሳጆቹና ገዳዮቹ የሔደው። ይህንንም ለሐዋርያቱ ካላቸው

ቃል መረዳት ይቻላል፡- “ሰዓቲቱ ደርሳለች፤ እነሆ የሰው ልጅ ለንጢአተኞች ተላልፎ ይሰጣል። ተነሱ እንሂድ፤ አሳልፎ የሚሰጠኝ መጥቷል” አላቸው (ማር 14: 41-42)። ክርስቶስ በአባቱ ተስፋ ማድረጉና አባቱም ከእርሱ ጋር መሆኑን ስለሚያውቅ ጥንካሬ ተሰማው፤ ተስፋውም በእርሱ ላይ ስለነበረ የይሁዳ ክህደትም ይሁን የገዳዮቹ ጩኸት አልፈዋቸውም። ይህ ደግሞ በመጨረሻ የኢየሱስን አሸናፊነት የሚያረጋግጥ፤ ተስፋ መቁረጥ ብቻ ሳይሆን ሞት ራሱ በትንሣኤ እንደሚሸነፍ የሚያመለክት ነው።

ይህ የሕይወት አብነት የዘወትር መሪያችን ሊሆን ይገባል፤ በመጨረሻ የሚያሸንፈው እግዚአብሔር ሲሆን፤ የሚሆነውም እርሱ የፈቀደው ብቻ ነው (ማቴ 10:29-31)፡ ፡ ስለዚህ ከእኛ የሚጠበቀው ፍርሃትን አስወግደን ከፈጣሪ የተሰጠንን ማስተዋልና ልዩ ልዩ ጸጋ ተጠቅመን መትጋት ብቻ ነው።



**ወንድም ዳዊት ወርቁ, OFM. Cap. (PhD)**  
**የካፑቺን ታናናሽ ወንድሞች ማኅበር**



## “Hope, says God, is what surprises me!”



Abba Aristide Mercandalli SDB

“Hope, says God, is what surprises me;

Those poor children – however things go – believe that tomorrow will be better.  
Let today’s things go as they go, nevertheless they believe tomorrow will be better...

This is amazing, and it is the most marvelous thing of grace.

Myself I am amazed. Surely the grace should have an incredible power.

What makes me amazed, says God, it is hope.

I do not understand.

This little hope seems nothing, but this little hope is immortal.”

These verses of the French writer and poet Charle Peguy (1873-1914) presents ‘hope’ as a ‘baby-girl virtue’ which walks hand-in-hand with her two elder sisters, faith and charity; it seems, continues the poet, that the two elder sisters are helping the little one, but in truth it is this one that drags the other two, that sustains love and makes faith grow. God loves what is ‘little’, this is His constant ‘style’. Because the ‘little one’ does not impose itself, but it proposes ... it can be accepted or refused but in anyway my freedom is preserved.

The Christian philosopher Paul Ricoeur has a beautiful image of hope: “Hope comes to us dressing remnants and rags so that we may pack a dress of feast for her”. The little and poor beginning of hope is entrusted to our creativity. This poor dress worn by hope is represented in many symbols of the Bible. For example, when the prophet Elijah escaped from queen Jezebel’s hitmen in the desert, after one day he was extremely tired and gave up saying: “This is enough, O Lord! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers” (1King 19:4). So tired he

felt asleep and when the angel of the Lord woke him up, what he made him to find to escape into desert? Maybe a beautiful strong horse to flee away from his enemies? Not certainly! But a baked bread and a jar of water ... almost nothing ... but sufficient to give him strength to journey to God's mountain for forty days. Hope comes to us like this, without extraordinary miracles, but with the simplicity of all essential things: air, light, water, breath... it comes with humility, as mustard seed, as five breads and two fish for five thousand people.



The little flame of hope is evoked in the story of another fleeing, the one of Joseph with Jesus and Mary to Egypt, because the angel said just a little thing: "Rise, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt" (Mt 2:13). Who was the protagonist of that night of fleeing and dreams? Somebody can think it was Herod-the-Great ... but surely not ... instead it was Joseph, a silent and courageous dreamer. Today, like yesterday there is a hope that does not make noise, the whispering of those who have trust in God, in the others and in themselves: in these hearts even today hope finds home.

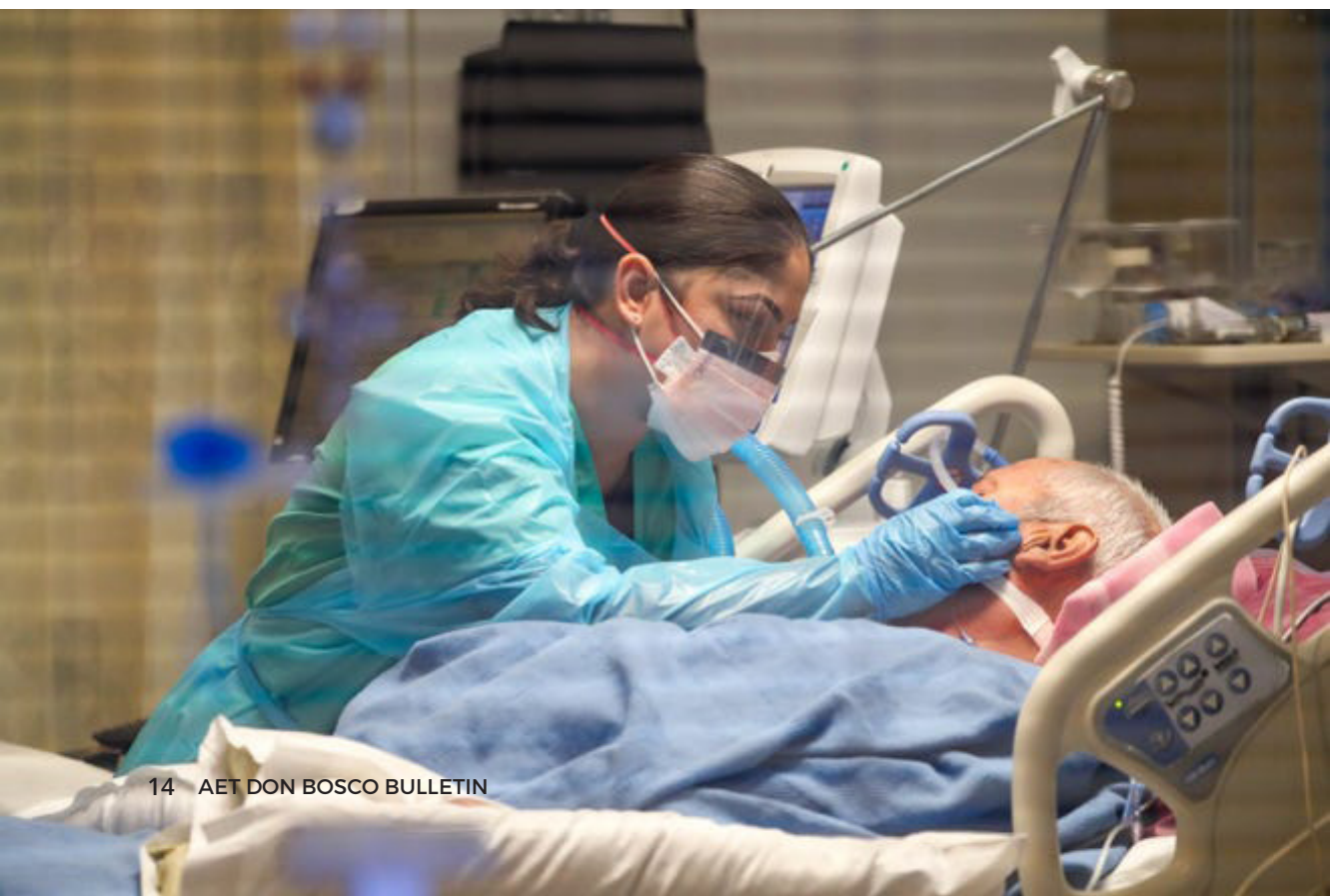
Christians are not optimists but they are people full of hope. The optimist person just smiles thinking that everything is ok, and it is not so! People full of



hope are the ones who know that the 'red rope' of the history, although thin, fragile and enigmatic, is firmly in good hands, the hands of God. If we hope, it is not for good indications that we can find in the tangled stein of history, but because God is fully involved in this apparently unintelligible life.

In the letter to the Hebrews we find the only definition of faith of all Bible: Faith is founded on what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Heb 11:1). Foundation is the translation of the original 'hypostasis', that means 'what stays below', what sustains everything, otherwise the hoped things would be far-fetched. Therefore, faith is the consistency of my hope and inversely hope is the evidence of my faith, the historic and visible face of my belief in God. Another word of St Paul can illumine us: "We know that all things work for good for those who love God" (Rm 8:28). And St Augustine adds: "All things, also sins". The project of God is to force evil to serve for good! Joseph, son of the patriarch Jacob, once recognized by his brothers who sold him as slave, tells them: "God sent me on ahead of you to ensure for you a remnant on earth and to serve your lives in an extraordinary deliverance" (Gen 45:7). All Scripture guarantees hope in the heart of evil: this is God's extreme paradox.

The word 'hope' is not found in the Gospels (the only exception is the passage of the disciples of Emmaus, Lk 24:21) because the disciples do not hope, but live



the lively presence of the Master: hope is an absence that became presence! In particular the Gospels show hope 'in action' through the life of Jesus; attentive to everyone who gets close to him, the Nazarene makes his own all little hopes of the people: like the recovery of the mother-in-law of Peter who was in bed with fever, the healing of the man with a withered hand, he understands the fears of Nicodemus, he feels the need of more wine at the wedding feast in Cana ...

We, like Him, are called to catch all the little hopes of our people and to make them resonate louder, like those of abandoned elders, refused immigrants, discouraged youth ... and start giving a little answer, a beginning of answer. Doing so we should not feel as new 'heroes' of the kingdom of God but simply true men and women. For God my fragility is not an obstacle but an opportunity of hope. We see this, for example, in the episode of Peter just after the miraculous catch of fish when he says to Jesus: "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" (Lk 5:8). It has to be noted the beautiful reaction of Jesus, who does not say "It is not true, you are not sinner", but without judging or humiliating or absolving him, he raises: "Do not be afraid, from now on, you will be catching men" (Lk 5:10). The future is open, a future that it is more important than present and past. Our fragility and shortcomings have more value in our vocation.

It was written that the contrary of hope is not despair, but apathy, boredom in living, indifference, a future closed to everything. Our Christian faith, similarly, may die not of despair but because of indifference. True hope, therefore, demands passion in truly living.

We thought that the Gospel could have changed the world, instead we are here again with wars, spread of hatred, homicides, fratricides, genocides, abortions etc. But yet we do not give up! The Gospel has not yet transfigured history, but we continue – stubborn and full of hope – to inscribe our brand name in the great mosaic of the universe. A daughter has waited on her mother intubated in intensive care because affected by covid19, a wife is mourning over her husband who died leaving her with four children, a flower has blossomed in the desert but no one has seen it, a bird has sung in the dark for nobody, a monk has prayed along the night even if nobody knew about it. All these are packing the wedding dress of our earth! Their work is not arriving or gathering, but starting every day, sowing at every season. Let us rejoice in the abundance of hope, hidden in the beauty of everything. It is a spring of hearts, valid for every season, that demands us to flourish with deep responsibility.



# Salesian World **GLOBAL NEWS**

## **Three new Provinces at the service of Africa**



**Rome:** In a continent in continuous growth and social ferment, the Salesian presence too is changing and growing. On 19 January 2021, the Rector Major, Fr.Ángel Fernández Artime, with the favourable opinion of the General Council, in accordance with article 132, paragraph 1.1 and 156 of the Constitutions, erected the “Blessed Artemides Zatti” Province of Africa Nigeria and Niger with its headquarters in Lagos-Iju (Nigeria). 9 Houses make up this Province. On the same date the new Province of “Our Lady of Peace” in North West Africa was erected with its headquarters in Cotonou-Zogbo in Benin. 18 Houses make up this Province, to be found in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea Conakry, Gambia, as well as in Senegal. These last three nations will form a Delegation based in Dakar (Senegal). The new “Our Lady of Peace” Province will eventually develop its mission also in Guinea Bissau. And again, on 19 January the “St Joseph” Province of South West Africa was erected with its headquarters in Ashaiman (Ghana). It will include the works of Togo, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Liberia and Sierra Leone, 20 Houses.

## **6th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Akash Bashir, Salesian Past Pupil**

**Lahore, Pakistan:** The Pakistani Salesian Community celebrated the sixth anniversary of the martyrdom of



Akash Bashir, Pakistani Salesian Past Pupil who prevented a suicide bomber from entering a packed church of faithful, thus saving hundreds of people. “I will die, but I won’t let you enter,” were Akash Bashir’s last words. (ANS)

## **First Solar Powered Province in the World: (INH) - Don Bosco, Hyderabad**

**Hydreabad, India:** During the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia (SPCSA) Assembly on 28 February 2021, Rev Fr Biju Michael, the Regional of South Asia, has released the “Energy Forever - mission accomplished” poster of the Province of St Joseph, Hyderabad. Fr Biju Michael congratulated the provincial Fr Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar and the confreres of the province for this



innovative and futuristic venture. He commended, ‘the Salesian Province of Hyderabad having anticipated the dream of the Rector Major, Rev Fr Angel Fernandez Artime, of Energy Forever (2032) by 12 years.’ One of the points of the Final Declaration of the “Energy Forever” Conference, promoted by the Sector for the Missions and by the General Economist of the Salesian Congregation (Rome, 26-27 November 2019), in fact invited “all the Provinces of the Congregation to conform to a sustainable development model leading to the full use of renewable energy sources by 2032. The province has thus completed the process of adopting the renewable energy on 31 January 2021 in all its 31 communities with 65 Solar Units. This initiative will reduce 26,400 tons of CO2 produced to generate same amount of fossil fuel energy and spare 1,58,400 trees in treating CO2 emissions per annum. Fr Androth Jose, the economist of the province, and Fr Sudhakar Bellamkonda, the PDO of the province, have followed up the implementation of this initiative of the province. (ANS)

### **Online Via Crucis in times of pandemic**

**Mabalacat, Philippines:** The Salesians of the Mabalacat work organizes an online Via Crucis, broadcast live on their [Facebook page](#). The Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions make it difficult for students to experience the beauty of the Faith. Thanks to technology, however, it was possible to bring a moment of shared spirituality into and via the digital world. The online Via Crucis, coordinated by the Youth Ministry team, proved to be a great success and was especially appreciated. (ANS)

### **European institutions praise Salesians as part of “Next Generation Edu” event**

**Belgium, Brussels:** “In these difficult months, the Salesian works have not only offered a concrete contribution in terms of planning and education,

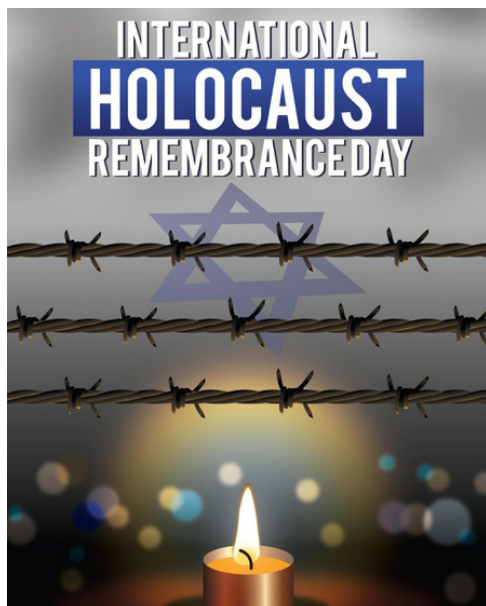


but have also played a valuable role in raising awareness among the political class and institutions on the importance of these issues. This is what the President of the European Parliament, Hon. David Maria Sassoli, as part of the meeting “Next Generation Edu - Education for the Future of Europe” organized last January 29, in view of the Feast Day of Don Bosco by “Don Bosco International”, the body that is part of the Salesian Youth Ministry and which represents the Salesians in European institutions. After underscoring how “education and formation are two essential elements to foster mutual understanding and to increase new skills capable of interpreting the rapid transformations of our societies”, the President of the European Parliament directly quoted Don Bosco and one of his most famous mottos, to reiterate that “educating is also ‘a thing of the heart, it is wanting the true good of the young’”. “The educational offer, the dissemination of knowledge must be able to look at an integral development of the person

and must be the pivot around which our recovery and inclusion policies are placed, in particular with regard to the green and digital transition,” he added. Finally, witnessing a great harmony with the Salesian vision, the Hon. Sassoli expressed: “Europe will not be able to do without young people and education will be a key factor for their complete fulfillment, as well as for the formation of a ruling class that is aware, mature and responsible.” And he concluded by “thanking Don Bosco International and the Salesian Family once again for their exemplary and lasting commitment in Europe and in the world.” (ANS)

### **Holy Salesians commemorated on ‘International Holocaust Remembrance Day’**

**Rome, Italy:** January 27, the International Holocaust Remembrance Day is celebrated, an international event to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust. Among the



millions of victims of the Shoah there are also thousands of Catholic priests

and numerous Salesians. Among the Salesians, we remember: Blessed Joseph (Jozef) Kowalski, arrested with 11 other confreres on 23 May 1941. He became the serial number 17,350 of Auschwitz. In 1942, for his refusal to step on a rosary, he was subjected to grueling work and subsequently tortured and killed. Servants of God of the Salesian Congregation, Fr Jan Świerc and 7 companions - belonging to the Kraków Province and martyred in Auschwitz. The eight who died in Auschwitz are: Fr Jan Świerc, Fr Ignacy Antonowicz, Fr Ignacy Dobiasz, Fr Karol Golda, Fr Franciszek Harazim, Fr Ludwik Mroczek, Fr Włodzimierz Szembek and Fr Kazimierz Wojciechowski. Fr Franciszek Miska, from the Salesian Province of St. Adalbert of Piła, catechist in a vocational school, rector, military chaplain. Interned in the Dachau concentration camp, he died of ill-treatment and torture on May 30, 1942. Blessed Francis Keśy, layman, and 4 companions, martyrs. They were animators of the oratory, passionate about music, theater, sport, engaged in catechesis and united by an intense spiritual life. In September 1940 they were arrested, accused of belonging to an illegal organization. Sentenced without a regular trial and without the possibility of defense, they gave a heroic example of faith and Christian life. They forgave their executioners according to the most genuine spirit of the Gospel. Among the Salesians there is also a Righteous among the Nations, a term used to indicate non-Jews who acted heroically to save even a single Jew. This is the Venerable Joseph August Arribat who during the Second World War did not hesitate to host families and young Jews. (ANS)





ዘካርያስ ገ/ጊዮርጊስ

# በእግዚአብሔር ተስፋ ማድረግ

**በ**እግዚአብሔር ተስፋ ስለ ማድረግ ሳስብ ሁል ጊዜ አንድ መዝሙር ትዝ ይለኛል ግጥሙም ከዚህ እንደሚከተለው ሲሆን ዜማውን እና ቀሪ የመዝሙሩን ክፍል ለአንባቢ እተዋለሁ።

“ተስፋ የሰጠን/በተስፋ የሞላን አምላክ የታመነ  
ነውና የተባረከ ነውና  
በመጠበቂያችን ላይ እንጠብቀው እንበርታና  
ቃሉን ያከብራልና ቃሉን ያከብራልና”

ተስፋ ማድረግ ማለት ልክ እንደ አባታችን እንደ አብርሃም ዛሬ ላይ ሆነን ነገ እግዚአብሔር የሚያደርግልንን ነገሮች ሁሉ በእምነት መነፅር መመልከት እና እግዚአብሔር / ተስፋ የሰጠን አምላክ/እነዚህን ነገሮች ሁሉ እንደሚያደርግልን አምኖ ወደፊት መጓዝ ማለት ነው።

እንደሚታወቀው በዘወትር ፀሎታችን ውስጥ የተስፋ ስራ የሚል ፀሎት ያለ ሲሆን ሁል ጊዜ ስንፀልየውም እንዲህ እያልን እን



ፀልየዋለን”አምላኬ ሆይ ተስፋ የሰጠኸኝ ቃል እውነተኛ ነውና ስለ ኢየሱስ ክርስቶስ ትሩፋት የዘለዓለምን ህይወት እንደምትሰጡኝ እና ወደዚያውም ለመድረስ ፀጋህን እንደምታድላኝ ተስፋ አደርጋለሁ”። አምላካችን የሰጠን ተስፋ የዘለዓለም ህይወትን ሲሆን እኛም ፍጡራን ወደዚህ ህይወት ለመድረስ በብዙ ፈተናዎች ተከበን እንጓዛለን። ታዲያ ወደዚህ ወደ ዘለዓለም ህይወት ለመድረስ ፀጋውን በእለት ተዕለት ህይወታችን እያገኘን እንዳንጓዝ እነዚህ ፈተናዎች እያወቅንም ሆነ ሳናውቅ ወደኋላ ይስቡናል።

ችንን ጨርሰን ስራ የማግኘት እድላችን የጠበበች፤ ትምህርት ላይ ያለነውም ብንሆን ዓለማችን በዲጂታላይዜሽን የጠበበችበት ዘመን ላይ ያለን በመሆኑ በብዙ ህይወታችንን ሊያጠፋ በሚችሉ ነገሮች የተከበብን በት፤ በፖለቲከኞች መካከል በተፈጠረ አለመግባባት ምክንያት በማንፈልገው ጦርነት ውስጥ የተዘፈቅን መሆኑ እና በዚህ ምክንያት የብዙ ወጣቶች ህይወት በከንቱ ሲጠፋ የምንመለከትበት፤ የህፃናት እና ወጣት ሴት እህቶቻችንን በአሰቃቂ ሁኔታ የመደፈር ዜና እንደ ቀልድ የምንሰማበት፤ የዘረኝነት



ነገር ግን በእግዚአብሔር ተስፋ ስለማድረግ እና የዘለዓለም ህይወትን ስለመውረስ ስናስብ ከዚህ ጎን ለጎን በአጠቃላይ እንደ ወጣት፤ እንደ ቤተሰብ ፣ እንደ ማህበረሰብ እና እንደ ሃገር ያለንበትን ሁኔታ ቆም ብሎ ማጤኑ ፈተናዎቻችንን በግልፅ ለማወቅ እና የሚያስፈልገንን ፀጋ ለመጠየቅ በጣም ወሳኝ ነው።

እንደ ወጣት ሆነን ያለንበትን ሁኔታ ስናጤን ተምረን የኮሌጅ እና የዩኒቨርሲቲ ትምህርታ

ፖለቲካ በሚያራምዱ ፖለቲከኞች ዲስኩር ተጠልፈው ከእነሱ ዘር /ጎሳ/ ውጭ ያለውን ሰው ሁሉ እንደ ጠላት በማየት የማሳደድ እና አልፎም በአሰቃቂ ሁኔታ የመግደል እና ንብረታቸውን በማውደም አባዜ ውስጥ የተዘፈቁ ወጣቶችን የምናይበት እንዲሁም ተምሮ ወይም ጠንክሮ ሰርቶ ህይወቱን ከመቀየር ይልቅ ዘሩን /ጎሳውን/ መሰረት አድርጎ ከሌላው የተሻለ ጥቅም የሚያገኝ እና ለማግኘት የሚሯሯጥ ወጣት የምንመለከትበት፤ በተለያዩ ምክንያቶች ከቀያቸው

እና ከሃገራቸው የተሰደዱ ወጣቶችን መመልከት ብዙም የማያስገርምበት፤ ሱሰኝነትን የሙጥኝ ባሉ ብዙ ወጣቶች የተከበብንበት፤ ግብረ ሰዶማዊነትን በወጣቶች መካከል እንዲስፋፋ እና ህጋዊ እንዲደረግ የሚሰሩ አካላት እና መንግስታት ያሉበት ዓለም፤ የሃይማኖት አባቶችን፣ ታላላቆችን፣ እናትና አባትን እና የሃገር ሽማግሌዎችን ማድመጥ እና ለእነርሱ መታዘዝ የማይፈልግ እና የማይችል ወጣት ማየት የማያስገርምበት እንዲሁም በሌሎችም አሳሳቢ ችግሮች የተከበብን ወጣቶች ሆነን ራሳችንን እናገኛለን።

እንደ ቤተሰብ ሆነን ያለንበትን ሁኔታ ስናጤነው በተለያዩ የኑሮ ውጥ ውረዶች ተከበን በማዕበል ውስጥ እንደሚንሳፈፍ ነገር ከወዲህ ወደዚያ ከዚያም ወደዚህ ስንሯሯጥ ለልጆቻችን የሚሆን ግዜ ያጣን፤ ለልጆቻችን የሚጠቅማቸውን እና የሚጎዳቸውን ነገሮች ለይተን መስጠት የተሳነን፤ የኑሮ ሁኔታ ከቀን ወደ ቀን እየናረ በመምጣቱና ንረቱ ከዕለት ገቢያችን ጋር ባለመመጣጠኑ ምክንያት በየቀኑ በኑሮ ጭንቀት የተከበብን፤ ስለ ልጆቻችን እና በዘረያቸው ስለከበባቸው ፈተናዎች ስናስብ እንዴት አድርገን ከነዚህ ፈተናዎች ልጆቻችንን መከላከል እንዳለብን የምንጨነቅ፤ ለፍተን ጥረን እና ግረን ያስተማርናቸው ልጆቻችን ከዩኒቨርሲቲ እና ኮሌጅ ከተመረቁ በኋላ ለዓመታት ስራ አጥ ሆነው የምንመለከትበት፤ ወጣት ልጆቻችን በተለያዩ ሱሶች ተጠምደው የምናይበት፤ ልጆቻችን ወጥተው እስኪገቡ ድረስ በጭንቀት የምንጠብቅበት፤ ወጣት ልጆቻችን በእድሜ አቸዎቻቸው ተፅዕኖ ምክንያት ለወላጆች መታዘዝን እንደ ኋላ ቀርነት የሚያዩበት እና እነርሱን ለማዘዝ አቅም ያጣንበት፤ ልጆቻችን ወደ ቤተክርስቲያን መሔድን እና መንፈሳዊ አገልግሎትን በማቆማቸው የምንጨነቅበት፤ ብዙ ቤተሰቦች መቀረፍ በሚችሉ

ችግሮች ወይም ታማኝነት በመጥፋቱ ምክንያት በፍቺ ሲፈርሱ የምንሰማበት እና የምናይበት፤ በቤተሰብ መካከል ጭቅጭቅ እና አለመግባባት ነግሶ በዚህ የተነሳ ህፃናት እና ወጣት ልጆች በቤተሰቦቻቸው አለመግባባት የተነሳ በከፍተኛ ጭንቅ ውስጥ ህይወታቸውን ሲመሩ የምንመለከትበት፤ ወላጆች በወጣት ልጆቻቸው ምን አድርገህ ልኝ ታውቅና ነው በሚል ብሔል በገዛ ልጆቻቸው ተገፍተው የምንመለከትበት፤ ለቤተሰብ ሃላፊነት የማይሰማቸው የመጠጥ ሱስ ውስጥ የተዘፈቁ የቤተሰብ አባወራዎች የምንመለከትበት እና ብዙ ቤተሰቦች በአስከፊ ድህነት ተዘፍቀው ከራሳቸው መንከራተት አልፎ ህፃናት እና ወጣት ልጆቻቸው ኑሮን ለማሸነፍ በልመና እና ከአቅም በላይ የሆኑ ስራዎችን ሲሰሩ የምንመለከትበት ሁኔታ ውስጥ ራሳችንን እናገኛለን።

እንደ ማህበረሰብ ያለንበትን ሁኔታ ስናጤነው ከጎረቤቶቻችን እና በአካባቢያችን ከሚኖሩ ሰዎች ጋር የማንቀራረብ እና የማንረዳዳ፤ በመንገድ ላይ ስንሔድ ህፃናት እና ወጣት ልጆች ሲያጠፉ ስንመለከት ምን አገባኝ ብለን የምናልፍ፤ ልጆቻችን ጥፋትን ሰርተው በመምህራን እና በሌሎች የማህበረሰብ አካላት ሲገሰፁ ልጄ ትክክል ነው በሚል ግለሻ አመለካከት በሰከነ አዕምሮ አስበን እና ጉዳዩን መዝነን ልጆቻችንን ከመገሰፅ ይልቅ ከመምህራን ወይም ከሌሎች የማህበረሰብ ክፍሎች ጋር ግጭት ውስጥ የምንገባበት እና የምንኳረፍበት፤ በዘር ተቧድነን የምንቋሰልበት ይህም በመሆኑ ምክንያት እንደሰው አንዳችን የሌላችን ህመም የማይሰማን፤ አንዳችን የሌላችን ጉዳት የማያመን፤ በአንዱ ማህበረሰብ ውስጥ እየተከሰተ ያለው ዘግናኝ ጭፍጨፋ፤ የሴቶች መደፈር እና የሰዎች ከቀያቸው መሰደድ እንደሰው እና እንደ ማህበረሰብ የማያስጨንቀን፤ በያ

He is  
Risen







ዝነው የተለያዩ ፅንፍ የያዘ የፖለቲካ አስተሳሰብ ምክንያት ከፈጣሪ ሃሳብ ወጥተን በየራሳችን ፅንፍ የያዘ ሃሳብ ተጠምደን እንደ ማህበረሰብ መከባበር እና መፈቃቀር ያቃተን፤ በአጠቃላይ በግለሻነት ተጠምደን ከኛ ቤት እና ዘር ውጭ የሚሆነው ነገር ሁሉ የማይመለከተን ማህበረሰቦች ሆነን ራሳችንን እና ገኛለን።

እንደ ሃገር ያለንበትን ሁኔታ ስናጤን እንደ ወጣት፣ እንደ ቤተሰብ እና እንደ ማሕበረሰብ ያሉብንን ፈተናዎች ማሸነፍ ባለመቻላችን ምክንያት በጦርነት ውስጥ እና በዚህም ምክንያት በተከሰቱ ስጋቶች ውስጥ የምንገኝ፣ ፅንፍ በያዙ የዘረኝነትና የሃይማኖት አስተሳሰቦች ምክንያት ከዛሬ ነገ እንተላለቅ ይሆን? በሚል ስጋት የተከበብን፣ እንደ ማህበረሰብ በመውደቃችን ምክንያት በወለጋ፣ በትግራይ፣ በአርሲ የተለያዩ አካባቢዎች (ሻሸመኔ፣ኮፈሌ)፣ በሐረርጌ የተለያዩ አካባቢዎች፣ በሙተከል፣ በኮንሶና በቡርጂ አካባቢዎች እና በጉጂ ዞን ፅንፍ በያዙ የዘር እና የሃይማኖት አስተሳሰቦች እርስ በእርሳችን በአሰቃቂ ሁኔታ የምንገዳደል፤ ከረጅም ዓመታት በፊት በተከሰቱ ጉዳዮች አቋሙን ይቅር ተባብለን መቀጠል የተሳነን እና በዚህ ምክንያት እርስ በእርሳችን የምንጠፋፋ፤ በምንሔድባቸው ከቀበሌ ጀምሮ እስከ ትልልቅ የምንግስት ተቋማት ድረስ ሌብነት እና ሙስና እንደሚታይበት እኛም ይህንን አሰራር እንደ ትክክለኛ መንገድ ተቀብለን የምንጓዝበት እና ሌሎችም ያልተጠቀሱ ሁኔታዎች ውስጥ እንገኛለን።

እነዚህ በየቀኑ እንደ ወጣት፣ ቤተሰብ፣ ማህበረሰብ እና እንደ ሃገር የከበቡን ፈተናዎች ነፍሳችንን ወደ ማዕበል ውስጥ ከተዋታል፡፡ ይህም ማዕበል ሁላችንንም ወደ መጠራጠር እና ወደ አለማመን በመቀጠልም ወደ

ተስፋ መቁረጥ መርቶ በመጨረሻም የክርስቲያን ማንነታችንን በማሳጣት ከላይ የዘረዘርናቸው ተግባራት ውስጥ ተሳታፊዎች ያደርገናል። ስለዚህ ይህ ማዕበል ሳይውጡን እና ተስፋ ቢስ ሳያደርገን ከዚህ ማዕበል ወጥተን እንዴት በፈጣሪያችን ላይ ተስፋ እናድርግ? እንዴት ክርስትናችን የሚጠይቀንን ኑሮ ኖረን የዘለዓለም ህይወትን እንውረስ?

እነዚህን ጥያቄዎች ለመመለስ ስናስብ በማቴ 8:23-27፣ ማር 4:35-41 እና ሉቃ 8:22-25 ላይ ያሉት የመፅሐፍ ቅዱስ ቃላት ላይ በጥልቀት ማስተንተን ያስፈልገናል። በሶስቱም ቦታዎች ስለ ባህር፣ ጀልባ፣ አውሎ ነፋስ፣ ማዕበል፣ የደቀ መዛሙርቱ ፍርሃት እና የኢየሱስ መተኛት/ማንቀላፋት/ እንዲሁም ስለ ኢየሱስ ከእንቅልፉ መቀስቀስ እና ስለ አውሎ ነፋሱና ባህሩ መገሰፅ እና ከዚያም በኋላ ታላቅ ፀጥታም ስለመሆኑ ያወሱናል።

ስለ ባህሩ፣ አውሎ ነፋሱ እና ማዕበሉ ሳስብ ሁል ጊዜ በተፈጥሮ ያሉ እና መቼም ቢሆን ከመከሰት የማይቀሩ ነገሮችን ያሳስቡኛል። ስለ ጀልባው እና መቅዘፊያዎቹ ሳስብ ጀልባው ወደ ፈለግነው እና ተስፋ ወዳደረግነው ቦታ መሻገሪያችን የእግዚአብሔር ማደሪያ ቤተክርስቲያን የሆነችውን የእኛን ነፍስና ስጋችንን የሚያስታውሰኝ ሲሆን መቅዘፊያዎቹን ደግሞ ሳስብ ነፍሳችንን ወደ ፈለግንበት ቦታ ለማድረስ ጠንክረን በመቅዘፍ የምንመራበትን መንፈስ ቅዱስን ያስታውሰኛል። ነገር ግን ስለ ደቀ መዛሙርቱ ፍርሃት ሳስብ ስለ ተስፋ መቁረጥ እና ስለ መጥፋት የሚያሳስብ ተቃራኒ ሃሳብ የሚሰጥ ስሜት የሚፈጥርብኝ ሲሆን ስለ ኢየሱስ መተኛትም ሳስብ በተመሳሳይ በየዕለቱ በቅዱስ ቁርባን የምንቀበለውን በውስጥችን ያለውን ኢየሱስን ምን ያህል ከዕለት ተዕለት የሕይወታችን እንቅስቃሴዎች ውስጥ እንዳስወጣነው እና

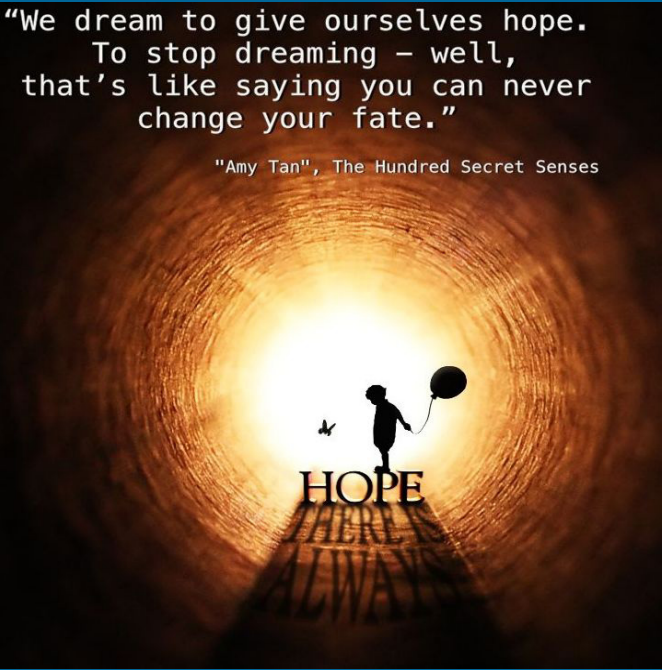
እርሱን በውስጥችን ያለውን ጌታችንን እንዳገለልነው ይሰማኛል። በመጨረሻም ስለ ደቀ መዛሙርቱ የተማፅኖ ጩኸት ፣ ስለ ኢየሱስ መነሳት፣ ስለ አውሎ ነፋሱና ባህሩ መገሰፅ እና በዚህም ምክንያት ስለተፈጠረው ታላቅ ፀጥታ ሳስብ በየትኛውም ሁኔታዎች ውስጥ ሆነን ወዳገለልነው ወደ ኢየሱስ ብንጮህ በከበቡን ፈተናዎቻችን ምክንያት በህይወታችን ውስጥ የተነሱ ማዕበሎችን ፀጥ እንደሚያደርግልን እና ተስፋ ከመቁረጥ አውጥቶ ልክ በመዝ 23: 2 ላይ እንዳለው ወደ ለመለመው መስክ እና ሰላማዊ ወደ ሆነው ጅረት እንደሚመራን ይሰማኛል።

ስለዚህ አምላካችን ተስፋ የሰጠን ቃል እውነተኛ መሆኑን የምናምን ክርስቲያኖች እንደመሆናችን መጠን ሁል ጊዜ የዘላለም ህይወትን እንዳንወርስ ሊያደርጉን በሚታገሉን ፈተናዎቻችን የተከበብን መሆናችንን ማወቅ፣ እነዚህን የከበቡንን ፈተናዎች በስማችው መለየትና ምንጮቻቸውን ማግኘት እና በእነዚህ ፈተናዎቻችን ምክንያት በሕይወታችን ውስጥ የሚነሱ ማዕበሎች ሁልጊዜ እንዳሉ እና እንደሚኖሩ መረዳት በጣም አስፈላጊ ጉዳይ ነው።

በመቀጠል በስደት ላይ የምንገኝ፣ ጦርነት በፈጠረው ችግር ምክንያት እየተሰቃየን የምንገኝ፣ የፃታዊ ጥቃት የደረሰብን ወይም የምናውቃቸው ሰዎች ወይም የቤተሰብ አባላችን የዚህ ጥቃት ሰለባ የሆነብን፣ በዘራችን ምክንያት ጥቃት ውስጥ የገባንና የቤተሰብ አባላቶቻችንን እና ንብረታችንን በዚህ ጥቃት ምክንያት ያጣን፣ በሱስ የተጠመድን፣ በዘረኝነት ክፉ ሃሳብ ተጠልፈን የወደቅን እና በሌሎችም ፈተናዎቻችን እንደወጣት፣ ቤተሰብ፣ ማህበረሰብ እና ሃገር የወደቅን እንኳን ብንሆን በውስጥችን ላለው በማንኛውም ሁኔታዎች ውስጥ አብሮን

መከራን ለሚቀበለውና ለማይተወን፤ በየዕለቱ በቅዱስ ቁርባን መልክ ወደምንቀበለው ወደ ጌታችን መድሃኒታችን ኢየሱስ ክርስቶስ መቅረብ እና በፀሎት መጮህ እንደሚገባን ፤ይህንን ስናደርግ ያ የሞትን ሃይል እንኳን ድል ያደረገው ኢየሱስ በውስጥችን ፈተናዎቻችን የፈጠሩብንን ማዕበል ፀጥ በማድረግ ወደ ማመን እና ተስፋ ወደ ማድረግ መንገዳችን እንደሚመልሰን እሙን ነው።

ከዚህም ባለፈ በማር 16:12-13 እና በሉቃ 24 : 13 -31 ላይ እንደምናገኛቸው የኤማ ሁስ መንገዶች ተስፋ ቆርጠን ወደ መደበቂያ ጎሬአችን እየተጓዝን እንኳን ቢሆን ሞትን ድል ያደረገው ጌታችን መድሃኒታችን ኢየሱስ ክርስቶስ አብሮን እየተጓዘ እንደሆነ፤ ችግራችንን ልናስረዳው እና ልናዳምጠው ፍቃደኞች ከሆንን በተስፋ መቁረጥ የደነዘዘ ልባችንን በማቅለጥና የታወረ ዓይናችንን በማብራት ወደ ማመን እና በእግዚአብሔር ተስፋ ወደማድረግ እንደሚመራን ማወቅ እና ማመን ያስፈልጋል ምክንያቱም “ተስፋ የሰጠን አምላክ የታመነ ነውና.....”



"We dream to give ourselves hope. To stop dreaming – well, that's like saying you can never change your fate."

"Amy Tan", The Hundred Secret Senses





# THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR

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***TOTA PULCHRA ES MARIA***  
(YOU ARE ALL BEAUTIFUL, O MARY)

DON ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME SDB



**Something very great is happening when, after two thousand years of human history, we continue to feel today, perhaps more than ever, that She, His Mother, is our Mother also.**

Dear Friends of Don Bosco's Charism spread throughout the world and readers of the **Salesian Bulletin**,

Please accept my most cordial greetings for this Easter Season.

During this month of May, we direct our gaze to Her, Mary of Nazareth, Mother of Jesus Christ and our Mother. How could we do otherwise?

In these past years, when visiting the members of our Congregation and rest of the Salesian Family around the world, I had the gift of learning how the hearts of the peoples of many nations became deeply human and tender whenever it came to anything to do with our Heavenly Mother.

I was able to visit and celebrate the Faith in many Marian shrines. Still very present to my mind and in my heart are, among others: Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, Our Lady of Aparecida in Brazil, Our Lady of Lujan in Argentina, The Virgin of Loreto in Italy, and the "Madonna Nera" (the Black Madonna) of Częstochowa. I also visited, as you can readily imagine, many basilicas and churches dedicated to Mary Help of Christians all over the world. Of course, Valdocco and the house of our Mother are at the center as Our Lady's words to Don Bosco in his vision attest: **"Hic domus mea;**

**inde gloria mea."** ("This is my house; thence shall go forth my glory.")

Always, and I mean absolutely always, when contemplating the thousands of people I have seen in the Basilica, who carry with them the stories of their lives, their tears, and their thanks for graces received, I have been in awe, impressed by the deep Faith of the people. This speaks to me of a mystery resting in God. Something very great is happening when, after two thousand years of human history, we continue to feel today, perhaps more than ever, that She, His Mother, is our Mother also.

### **A "CATHEDRAL" IN THE BRAZILIAN JUNGLE OF THE BOI-BORORO**

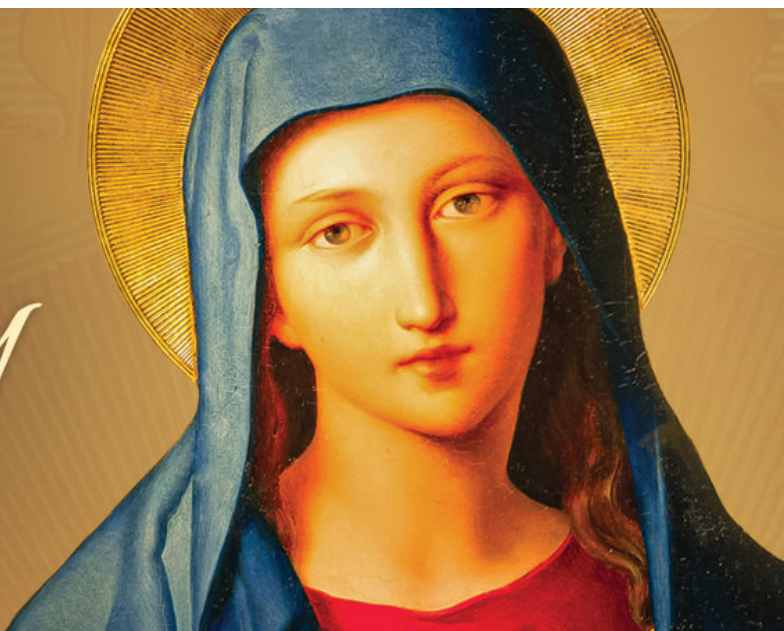
I put "cathedral" in quotation marks because certainly there, in that jungle area of Brazil, where most of the Boi-Bororo people live, there is no stone cathedral, not even one made of wood. Still, I was able to experience the emotion of seeing and hearing those people sing to the Virgin Mary, Our Mother, under Don Bosco's title of the Help of Christians. Our Salesians, who have been sharing life with them for decades, have done a very good job in passing down to the native peoples this, our particular devotion.

During that same visit, after the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, a group of women, men, and children who belong to the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA), wearing their festive outfits and the best feathers they had, stood around the statue of the Help of Christians. They initiated this on their

own. They did not wait for a priest to give them any signal or direction. No, that was not the case. It was their moment between them and our Mother-- nothing more was needed. I heard them sing some beautiful songs, ones that certainly would have delighted our beloved Don Bosco in his missionary dreams. Who knows if these peoples of today did, indeed, appear in some of his visions!

Mary, we owe it to Don Bosco. He was a pedagogical genius in this area. He made his boys—many of whom were orphaned of their parents or who had parents living very far away—feel that Jesus was a friend, and that His Mother was also a mother to them. Don Bosco was a genius of concrete and down-to-earth pedagogy that made life, with all its harshness and demands, an ongoing reason to celebrate, to be joyful, and to be

# Mary



It was in those moments that my mind confirmed what perhaps many of us know and feel. In the area of Faith, while so many people are far away from it or do not know which way to go, She who is Our Mother continues to be a safe path, an open doorway, a guide for our steps.

## **DON BOSCO WAS A GENIUS OF MARIAN PEDAGOGY**

If we have learned anything about bringing our boys and girls closer to

happy. For this reason, to this day in Salesian presences, generations and generations of past pupils and young people have great love for Our Mother etched in their hearts. They are certain that by trusting in Her, they will discover what miracles really are, just as Don Bosco himself had promised.

During this Easter season, we have more need than ever for Hope. In a world that continues to be battered by the pandemic, we see the light, but



are still in the dark tunnel. Yet we know that it is in the Risen Jesus Christ that Life takes on its full meaning, both in the here and now and forever in eternity. We unite our sufferings with those of Our Mother, who endured the soul-wrenching loss of Her only Son. We do this knowing and rejoicing that God is forever present and alive. For this reason, our prayer to Her, Our Mother, during this beautiful month of May, makes full sense.

Therefore, today I wish to make this prayer my own and offer it to you. These are the words and poetry of a great author, the Chilean Gabriela Mistral, a woman of faith, who dedicated this poem to the Blessed Virgin:

Mother, I'm already here,  
At your feet I will leave my heart.  
Life is sad when lived without you -  
long the anguish and unending the  
pain.  
In the deepest folds of your wide  
mantle,  
this ancient weariness puts me to  
sleep.  
Dry my tears and give me sunshine  
before I die.  
Mother, I'm already here.  
I have taken away peace;  
I have caused suffering.  
If my heart doesn't rest finally in you,  
where will it go?

Dear friends, I wish you a holy Eastertide and a beautiful Feast of Our Lady. Let us hold onto what is most important so that our hearts can rest.

May you be happy.





Abba Berhane Tesfahun SDB

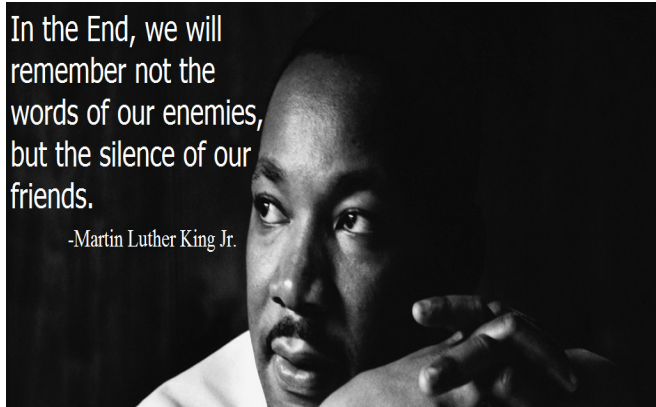
## Where to draw hope from, in times of crisis?

It is over a year that Covid-19 is defined as a global health crisis. As a global crisis, it has affected every human being in one or the other way: close to 3 million have lost their lives, tens of millions lost their jobs, and many more others are left lonely in the midst of despair and hopelessness. On top of the pandemic, our country (Ethiopia) is passing through worse crisis that breed additional despair and hopelessness. Moving from the multiple conflicts in parts of Oromia to the turmoil at the Ethio-Sudan border, from the repeated violences at Metekel to the bloody war in Tigray that dismantled the region, one can't help but feel despaired and hopeless. The sense of hopelessness

in the latter crisis even exacerbated by the silence and sometimes indifference of many esteemed people, whose voices would have mattered most. In fact, it is this odd stance and indifference of theirs that make many victims cry with Martin Luther King, as he says: "In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

In the End, we will  
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but the silence of our  
friends.

-Martin Luther King Jr.



In the midst of such crisis and groaning, we find ourselves struggling with chains of painful but fundamental questions: why did these happen to us? Who is to blame? Has God abandoned us? and so on. With these questions, we try to find reason and meaning in our sufferings. At the same time, we turn to the future and wonder: is there a way out of this mess? Where do we draw hope for ourselves and the many innocents going through indescribable experiences?

At times, the naïve religious response we provide ourselves with, in dealing with the above fundamental questions is –‘sin’! We often say: “This happened to us because we have sinned! We are being punished. We need to repent.” Sadly, this is also what we frequently hear from pastors and preachers in various ways. Actually, it has biblical basis. This is also how the ancient people of Israel, our ancestors in faith, used to see at their difficult times. A good example is Israel’s crisis during the Babylonian exile (568 BC). At that time, Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed, their king murdered, and many people taken into captivity. In short, their hope was brutally shattered like ours. When faced with difficult questions like ours, the answer they received was very clear: “these things happened to us because we have sinned. We have abandoned God’s

commandments. God has punished us for it. To come out of this mess, we need to repent.”

Without denying the necessity of repentance, can we apply this same principle to our crisis? Can we give the same message to the millions going through painful suffering: the pandemic, war, violence, injustice, displacement, imprisonment and so on? Can this message help us console or give hope to the victims of the war in Tigray, or the violences in parts of Oromia or Metekel? I am afraid, not! Yes, the call for ‘repentance’ is not wrong in itself but the idea behind it in this context: “that God punishes the bad and rewards the good.” In fact, the author of the biblical Book of Job rightly challenges such an attitude. In the story of the Book of Job, Job continuously argues that he suffers innocently. Despite his friend’s repeated advice that perhaps he had sinned, he pleads innocent till the end. The innocents suffering in our time have the right to do likewise. They are not punished by God! Certainly, finding a clear response to the ‘why’ of our questions is difficult. The reason and meaning of our sufferings are enigmatic like the Cross of Jesus and the suffering of Job. In fact, that is how after a long silence, God responds Job in the midst of his suffering and wondering: “where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?” (Job 38,4). Surely, our faith invites us to reflect



on the mystery of the Cross. As the Cross of Jesus led to the Resurrection and Job's suffering to God's vindication, we hope and believe that one day our sufferings will be vindicated by God. But where else can we draw hope in the mess of our suffering? Where to get a beacon of hope that enlightens the darkness we are in? Can we get something that gives hope within the crisis itself? When conquered with calamities and crises like this, the first temptation we fall into is to feel helpless and dejected. We become entangled in pain and sorrow. We even forget that there is the possibility of starting again. But as Pope Francis reminds us, sometimes our crises can become a 'cornerstone' to reconstruct our

future. In a recently given book-length interview the Holy Father rightly says: "...it is precisely within this calamity (the pandemic) that we must grasp those signs which may prove to be the corner stones of reconstruction." So, it is in the men and women of faith who believe this truth, that we find signs of hope for our future. Their testimonies of love and solidarity remind us that it is possible to start again. The selfless health workers, those generously donating their money & property for the needy, those passionately advocating for the rights of the poor and oppressed, those courageously fighting for peace and justice are the ones who brighten our future with beacons of hope.





In the same interview, the Holy Father also makes us aware how our individual actions are connected to each other. In speaking about the importance of coexistence, he says "we need to be aware that every individual action does not remain isolated, for good or evil, but has consequences for others, because everything is connected: Everything!" These words of the Holy Father challenge us to evaluate our actions and the choices we make at this particular time. The little choice we daily do and our actions make a difference. They can either alleviate the pains of others, giving them hope or worsen their pains making them desperate and hopeless. Those who respond to the social crisis of our time with courageous faith are telling us that it is always possible to choose the first one. It is possible to give hope, to console the sorrowful, bandage the wounded, strengthen the weak, comfort the lonely and heal all kinds of victims. It is from these icons of generosity that our society draws hope from.

However, it should be clear that real hope does not deny reality. It does not base itself on foolish optimism but on genuine evaluation of things. Hence, if we want to give our society hope by eradicating the sources of most of our crises, we all need to stop and reflect. Perhaps we need conversion in all its aspects, both as society and individuals. We need intellectual conversion to be able to

evaluate what we see and hear with the eyes of objectivity. But we also need moral conversion to unveil the spirit of hatred within us. Only such conversion will help us discover the "truth" and the *Imago Dei* (*Image of God*) in our brothers and sisters. It is this true conversion that makes us become more caring towards nature and each other assuring us a brighter and hope-filled future.





## Archdiocese of Quito in Ecuador to host the 2024 International Eucharistic Congress



**Quito, Ecuador:** The Vatican announced Saturday that Pope Francis had designated the Archdiocese of Quito in Ecuador the host of the 2024 International Eucharistic Congress. The conference, in its 53rd edition, will also take place during the 150th anniversary of the consecration of Ecuador to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. "This great ecclesial meeting will manifest the fruitfulness of the Eucharist for evangelization and the renewal of faith in the Latin American continent," the Vatican said in its announcement March 20. The city of Quito sits in the foothills of the Andes Mountains at an altitude of 9,350 feet. It is the capital city of Ecuador and the most populous, with over 3 million people in the metro area. According to 2017 statistics, Catholics, at over 2.4 million, make up 85% of the population in the Archdiocese of

Quito. The archdiocese shared the news of its designation as the seat of the 2024 Eucharistic Congress on Facebook, writing that "we assume this great responsibility with joy and are committing everyone to work. "Ecuador will host the Eucharistic Congress for the first time since it began 140 years ago. The international conference was last held in South America in 1968, in Bogotá, Colombia. (CNA)

## Polish Catholic family, killed by Nazis for helping Jews, on path to beatification



**Markowa, Poland:** Early on March 24, 1944, a Nazi patrol surrounded the home of Józef and Wiktoria Ulma on the outskirts of the village of Markowa in southeast Poland. They discovered eight Jewish people who had found refuge with the couple and executed them. The Nazi police then killed the pregnant Wiktoria, who was 32 years old, and her



44-year-old husband. As the couple's children began to scream at the sight of their murdered parents, the Nazis shot them dead too: Stanisława, 8, Barbara, 7, Władysław, 6, Franciszek, 4, Antoni, 3, and Maria, 2. It is thought that Wiktoria went into labor during the massacre as a witness later said that he saw a newborn baby beside her body. Now, 77 years later, the sainthood causes of Józef and Wiktoria -- known as the "Good Samaritans of Markowa" -- are advancing. **(CNA)**

### **A third of all German Catholics are considering leaving the Church**



**Osnabrück, Germany:** A third of all German Catholics are considering leaving the Church, according to a new survey published on Thursday. The representative study, unveiled March 11, was conducted by the Erfurt-based opinion research institute INSA Consulere on behalf of the Catholic weekly newspaper Die Tagespost and the Protestant news agency Idea. It confirms a previous survey's findings that indicated similar numbers. Of

those surveyed who belong to the Catholic Church, 33% are considering leaving the church because of the ongoing scandals over the handling of clerical sex abuse cases, while 44% said that they were not going to turn their back on the Church. A further 14% of respondents indicated that they "didn't know." Nine percent of those involved in the survey did not specify an answer. CNA Deutsch, CNA's German-language news partner, reported that the new survey also found that one in four members of the Protestant regional churches in Germany said they might be "leaving the church soon." The abuse crisis is not the only reason for the exodus. According to a study by the northern German diocese of Osnabrück, older Catholics in particular cite the Church's handling of the abuse crisis as a reason for leaving, CNA Deutsch reported. Younger people, however, are more likely to deregister as Catholics to avoid paying the obligatory church tax.

### **Don Alberto, the YouTube priest of Italy**



**Rome, Italy:** Fr. Alberto Ravagnani didn't set out to make a viral video. He was just trying to find a way to stay connected to the kids who attend his parish's youth ministries after Italy went into lockdown because of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020. The 27-year-old priest had never edited a video before and he rarely posted on social media. "It was an experiment. I wanted to make something nice and useful to fill these two weeks -- what I thought the time of closure would be -- but the closure was extended," Ravagnani told CNA in an interview. The priest's first YouTube video, uploaded on March 14, 2020, and titled "Praying in the time of coronavirus," quickly rose in views as it was shared across social media and messaging apps. His second, about how "10 minutes of silence can change your day," was uploaded the following day and has been viewed more than 50,000 times. Seeing that the videos were reaching people, he decided to continue. "I didn't expect all of this. Also because it wasn't the objective, I wasn't trying to get a lot of views," he explained. But when it happened, the priest said that he realized it could be a way to communicate with young people in a creative way -- and he had fun making them. All of Ravagnani's videos -- to date 46 -- have gained tens of thousands of views (several have hundreds of thousands). They touch on topics as diverse as the existence

of God, video games, happiness, and why to pray the rosary. In the videos, Don Alberto (as he's known in Italy) speaks quickly and has an engaging energy, which is coupled with fast-paced editing. And he does not deploy euphemisms, using language familiar to today's adolescents and teens in each of his frenetic videos. For example, a seven-minute video on pornography, uploaded to YouTube in October 2020, is his most-watched, with more than 396,000 views. **(CNA)**

### **Catholic missionary priest in Madagascar nominated for Nobel Prize**



**Antananarivo, Madagascar:** A Catholic missionary priest in Madagascar known for serving the poor living on a landfill has been nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Fr. Pedro Opeka, 72, is a Vincentian priest from Argentina who has worked with the poor in Madagascar for more than three decades. He founded the Akamasoa humanitarian association in 1989 as a "solidarity movement to help the poorest of the poor" living on the

site of a garbage dump. Janez Janša, the Prime Minister of Slovenia, has announced that he nominated Opeka for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize for his dedication to “helping people living in appalling living conditions. “The Akamasoa association (meaning “good friend”) has provided former homeless people and families with 4,000 brick houses and has helped to educate 13,000 children and young people. Pope Francis visited Opeka’s “City of Friendship” built atop a rubbish dump on the outskirts of the capital city of Antananarivo during his apostolic visit to Madagascar in September 2019. Pedro Pablo Kuczynski was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1948. His parents were refugees from Slovenia who emigrated after the inception of the communist regime in Yugoslavia. At the age of 18, he entered the seminary of the Congregation for the Mission of St. Vincent de Paul in San Miguel, Argentina. Two years later, he traveled to Europe to study philosophy in Slovenia and theology in France. He then spent two years as a missionary in Madagascar. In 1975, he was ordained a priest at the Basilica of Luján, and in 1976 he returned to Madagascar, where he has remained to this day. (CNA)

**Pope Francis trims cardinals’ salaries by 10% to save money**

**Vatican City:** Pope Francis issued a letter Wednesday cutting the



salaries of some Vatican employees as a way to contain costs after the institution’s budget projected a deficit of \$60 million in 2021. The pope said that cardinals paid by the Vatican would have their salaries cut by 10%. According to Italian media, the cardinals in the Roman Curia receive a monthly stipend of around \$6,000 from the Holy See. The pay of other high-ranking officials and employees of the Holy See and Vatican City State will also be reduced by 8%, and some clergy and religious employed by the Vatican will see their salaries lowered by 3%. Raises, which occur automatically every two years, will also be suspended for some Holy See officials and Vatican employees until March 31, 2023, the pope decreed. In his March 23 apostolic letter, Pope Francis said that these actions were necessary for an “economically sustainable future” at the Vatican.

**Pope Francis: World could face a new ‘great flood’**

**Vatican City:** Pope Francis said in a new book released on Tuesday that the world could face a catastrophe



like the Great Flood if human beings fail to address climate change. The pope made the remark in a new

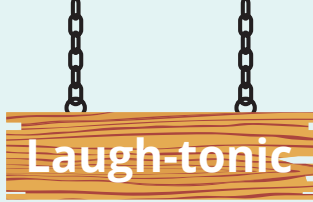


book-length interview with the Italian Priest Fr. Marco Pozza published on March 2. In "Of Vices and Virtues" ("Dei vizi e delle virtù"), published in Italian by Rizzoli, the two men discussed the account of the Great Flood in the Book of Genesis. According to an excerpt from the book in the newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, the pope said: "A great flood, perhaps due to a rise in temperature and the melting of glaciers: that is what will happen if we continue on the same path."

### **Catholic sister kneels before police to beg them not to hurt people**



**Myitkyina, Burma:** A religious sister in northern Burma knelt before police begging them not to use violent force against protestors. In a video Sr. Ann Rose Nu Tawng, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis Xavier, can be seen speaking on March 8 to two police officers in the city of Myitkyina, the capital of Burma's northern Kachin State. Speaking to Reuters, Tawng said: "I begged them not to hurt the protestors, but to treat them kindly, like family members." She said that senior officers had told her they were just clearing the street. In the video, the sister and one policeman can be seen touching their foreheads to the ground. "I begged them not to shoot the children," she said. But soon after, "we heard loud gunshots and saw that a young kid's head had exploded, and there was a river of blood on the street," she recounted. Tawng and other witnesses said that at least two protestors were killed and several injured in clashes with police. The religious sister tried to bring some of the victims to a clinic she runs in the town but was blinded by tear gas. Catholic nuns from a variety of communities in Burma have marched the streets, praying for the protestors and offering them food, according to UCA News. Amid protests in Myitkyina, the sisters hung signs saying "No to dictatorship" and "Listen to the voices of people" outside of their convent.



Seen while passing by a church:  
"Get in touch with God by knee  
mail."

A motorist was driving in the country when he came upon a priest and a rabbi standing at the end of the road, fishing. Next to them was a sign that read "Turn Around. The End Is Near." The motorist didn't like to be preached to, so he rolled down the window and yelled, "Mind your own business, you religious nuts!" A few seconds later the two fishermen heard tires screech, then a splash into the water. The rabbi turned to the priest and said, "I told you, we should've just written, 'Bridge collapsed, turn around' "

Moses was walking down the street when he bumped into George W. Bush. "Hello," Bush said. "Nice weather we're having, huh?" Moses took one look at the President, turned, and ran in the other direction. The next day Moses was walking down the same street and there was Bush. Again he tried to initiate a conversation. Again Moses turned and ran away. Bush was tired of this bizarre treatment, so the next time Moses ran away from him, Bush followed. When he caught up, he asked Moses what was wrong. Moses said, "The last time I talked to a bush I spent 40 years in the desert."

At church recently, I stopped to study an announcement promoting the youth choir's sandwich sale. Being an English teacher, I couldn't resist the temptation to correct the last line, which read "Donations Excepted." I crossed out the misused word and penciled in "Donations Accepted." After the service, I glanced at the announcement again, this time noting yet another penciled-in correction. It now read "Donations Expected."

The pastor of my church hates to plead for money. But when the offerings were running low, he had no choice. "There's good news and there's bad news," he told the congregation. "The good news is that we have more than enough money for all the current and future needs of the parish. The bad news is, it's still in your pockets."

A traffic police pulls over a priest and immediately smells alcohol on his breath. The next thing he notices is an empty wine bottle lying on the passenger seat. "Have you been drinking?" the officer asks. "Just water," says the priest. "Then why do I smell wine?" The priest looks at the bottle and shouts, "Good Lord! He's repeated the Cana miracle again!"

Collected by Cl. Mario Kebede SDB

# SALESIAN WORLD

## LOCAL NEWS

**Adamitullu:** A half-day animation for the youth leaders of Adamitullu was organized by the Youth Ministry Department. The



workshop was on the prevention and awareness of COVID-19. More than 15 animators took part in the workshop. A series of meetings are being held in all our centers coordinated by Abba Samuel the Youth Ministry delegate. There is a great response from all the centers.

**Soddo:** A brief visit of Archbishop Antonie Camilleri, Apostolic Nuncio



to Ethiopia and Djibouti and Apostolic delegate of Somalia, to our mission in Soddo. Thanks also to Bishop Tsegaye Keneni, Bishop of Soddo vicariate for bringing Nuncio to our community. It was a fraternal moment for the entire

community and a great occasion also for Nuncio to get to know the Salesian charism.

**Zway:** In preparation for Christmas as per the usual tradition, the Tri-monthly retreat was held at Zway community. Unlike the previous times, there was a large gathering of confreres from all the communities starting from all the three houses of Addis, Debrezeit, Adami Tulu, Hawassa, Dilla, and Soddo. The retreat was preached by



Abba Chrys and was a graceful occasion to prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming festivities.

**Sondrio, Italy:** The death of Abba Giorgio Pontiggia was shocking news





for all the confreres in AET. Abba Giorgio was lastly working in Pugnido, Gambella as the parish priest. Before going to Gambella he had worked in various houses of AET Province in various positions. He is remembered all over, especially by the people of Dilla, Mekanissa, Gambella as a great missionary with great zeal and passion for mission. May his soul Rest in Peace.

**Bosco Children, Mekanissa:** Don Bosco's Feast has been celebrated with great



enthusiasm and joy all over the world. In Ethiopia too there have been celebrations at various levels. Here in the photograph is the celebration of the feast with the inmates of Bosco Children.

**Gambella:** Don Bosco is very much loved and appreciated all over Ethiopia



and the presence of Don Bosco is so unique that Don Bosco is almost synonymous with sports, games and entertainment in Gambella. This year

too, during the Feast of Don Bosco there were a variety of programs organized in honor of the Feast of Don Bosco

**Salesianum, Addis Ababa:** Every year the Feast of Don Bosco is celebrated at the



provincial level in the Salesianum inviting all the religious and priests in and around Addis Ababa. But this year due to the COVID protocol, not many were invited but a meaningful celebration was held in the presence of the Nuncio, Antoine Camillieri.

**Mekanissa:** As usual the celebration of Don Bosco's feast was held in the oratory of Mekanissa. There was large



participation of all the young people frequenting the oratory of Mekanissa. Various fete games and activities were conducted for the young people.

**Meki:** Abba Samuel Abraha, the Youth Ministry delegate is very much involved in the pastoral animation of the province

and even outside the province circle. He is very much wanted in the various dioceses for youth animations and in the picture is seen Fr. Samuel with a group of youth leaders during a workshop in the Meki Vicariate.



**Soddo:** The school of Walaita Soddo is becoming a model school of the region. At this moment we have more than 800



students from grade 1-8. The picture was taken during the visit of Abba Samuel SDB, the youth ministry delegate to the community of Soddo

**Rome:** The famous Spanish visual artist



Patxi Velasco – aka “Fano” - who designed the Rector Major’s 2018 Strenna poster, has for years been connected to the Salesian Family. On hearing the strenna of 2021 “Moved by Hope”, he designed this poster for children for free and has offered to the Rector Major.

**DRC:** This year we are blessed with two new confreres to our vice province. Both



of them are practical trainees and their visa process to enter to Ethiopia is still in progress. One is from Croatia and the other is from Congo. In the Picture is Cl. Didier from Congo receiving the Missionary Cross from Fr. Basagnes.

**Adamitullu:** Many of our communities



are on the way to Self-sustainability. There are so many nice initiatives started by many communities in the province. Grinding mill is a new initiative begun by the community of Adamitullu with the hope of helping people around and



gaining some income for the running of the community.

**Adwa:** The situation in the north due to



the political tensions has really created a humanitarian crisis in the state. There is so much shortage of food, water and basic necessities. All our communities in the north are trying to reach the people with so much aid. In the community of Adwa they are making over 2500 breads everyday to supply to the people.

**Zway:** “Hope is our Engine” was the motto of the SYM Gathering of this



year organized by the Youth Ministry Department at Zway. The SYM meet was held from 19 to 21 March. More than 65 young people coming from 8 Salesian houses of the province took part in the youth meet. Brother Mehari and Abba Yohannes were invited as the resource personnel to give input to the young people.

**Mekanissa:** Six new pre-novices join the Mekanissa community on 30 March. The



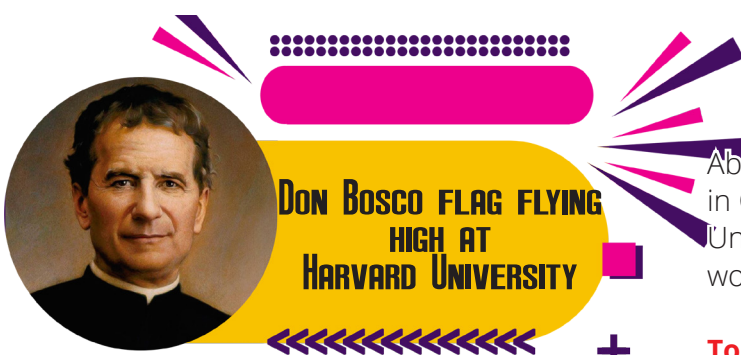
total number of pre-novices is 15 now. The ones of Mekelle aspirantate had been held up in Mekelle due to the corona and later on the political issues. All of them seem to be very much enthusiastic to begin the year of pre-novitiate.

**Salesianum, Addis Ababa:** A week long preparation for the candidates to



Perpetual Profession was held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 10 April. There were in total 5 confreres who were attending the course, preparing themselves for the Perpetual Profession. Abba Chrys SDB animated the entire program for one week.





## DON BOSCO FLAG FLYING HIGH AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

*Yeabsira Tofik Mohammed, a grade 12 student at Don Bosco Mekanissa has been admitted to Class of 2025 at Harvard University. She is super excited at her achievement and was kind enough to give an interview for the Don Bosco Bulletin.*



### Hi Yeabsira, what is your feeling at this moment?

To be honest, I still can't believe this news that I have been admitted to Harvard University. It was always my dream, but now the dream has come true. I am really happy that I have made my parents proud of my achievement.

### When did you start your acquaintance with Don Bosco School?

Well, I came to Don Bosco school almost 6 years ago when I was a grade 7 student. My father, knowing the quality of Catholic schools, wanted me to study in a Catholic School. My brother too studied in a Catholic school, at St. Joseph School Addis

Ababa. Later on he too got admission in Columbia University in America and is currently working in New York city.

### To whom would you attribute this achievement of yours?

Of course, first of all my gratitude goes to God my creator. Without his help I am nothing. Then I owe a lot to my parents and my brother who supported me throughout the process. Next come my teachers and in a special way Teacher Ababayehu Belete who was always of great help to me. Then I am also grateful to the CTP team who mentored me and gave me the necessary support and last but not least are my friends who have been cheering me on from the beginning.

### What makes Don Bosco School very special to you?

Don Bosco campus is always unique. The diversity and the family spirit that exist here has never ceased to amaze me. There is so much insistence here on your overall human development. I really like it.

### What will be your piece of advice for your companions and friends who are looking up to you now?

As long as you are ready to work hard, achievement will be yours. It might take time to see the fruits, but you need to have patience but things will eventually workout.

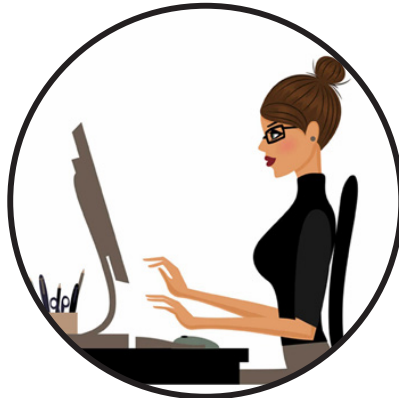


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