

ETHIOPIA | ISSUE NO. 74 | SEP - DEC 2020

# DON BOSCO

## BULLETIN

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



**COPING WITH THE  
COVID WORLD**



# HAPPY CHRISTMAS



**ORATORY**



**SOCIAL SERVICE**



**EVANGELIZATION**



**EDUCATION**

**“We have 365 days of Christmas in Lare  
Because everytime we receive a  
child in His name, it is Christmas.”**

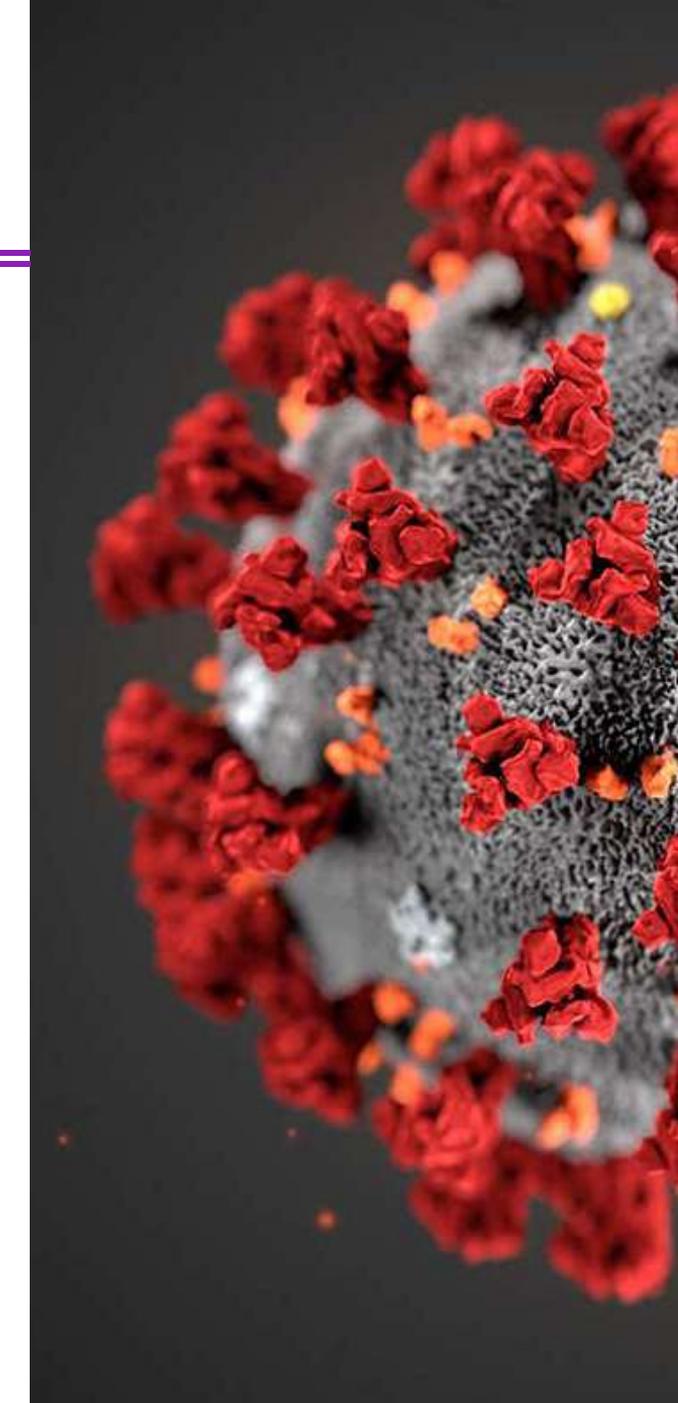


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As of 2018 the Bulletin was published in 63 different editions and 30 languages for 135 countries.

#### 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.



## A Remarkable Year...

Abba Lijo Vadakkan SDB

It is exactly after one year that we are publishing again the Don Bosco Bulletin. During this one year, I did receive more than a couple of phone calls and messages asking why the Don Bosco Bulletin was not in circulation any more. Well, I told them that the Covid lockdown was affecting also the publication of the Bulletin. As the schools and parishes remained closed, it was not really convenient to print the Bulletin even though the digital version could have been thought of. Now that the Covid-19 has almost become part and parcel of our life, we have realized that we

need to learn ways and means to live with it rather than to be scared and frustrated about it.

Having said this, we have entitled this new issue of the Bulletin as "Coping with the Covid World". All the articles that have arrived for this issue of the Bulletin speak at length about the impending issue of COVID-19. While Mr. Tium and Mr. Abebabayu speak all about the resilience during this COVID times, there is a beautiful letter written by Abba Isidoro Apostoli, the Director at Don Bosco Mekanissa, expressing our concerns and nostalgia during this COVID period, especially having missed all the fun and noise of more than 2500 kids in the Don Bosco compound. Abba Ignacio in his article highlights the three new types of pandemic (other than corona) and the vaccinations that need to be taken against it.

As I said, this is the first Bulletin of the year 2021. The historic year 2020 is just over and the passing year has been undoubtedly marked

by many as a year of bad fortune. But I think we should not forget that the year 2020 was also a remarkable one in several ways:

- It was the year that we spent a lot of time with our family,
- It was the year that many who had forgotten the habit of reading, took back to reading and paid attention to one's hobbies,
- It was the year that we also realized that we don't need to run to hospitals for every silly things,
- It was the year that many of us learned new possibilities of the internet world,
- It was the year that we learned to cut short on feasts and festivities,
- It was the year that we realized that worshipping God was not just a show off but something of the heart,
- It was the year that we learned to conduct marriages and other functions without extravagance,
- It was the year that we learned to be more and more hygiene conscious.

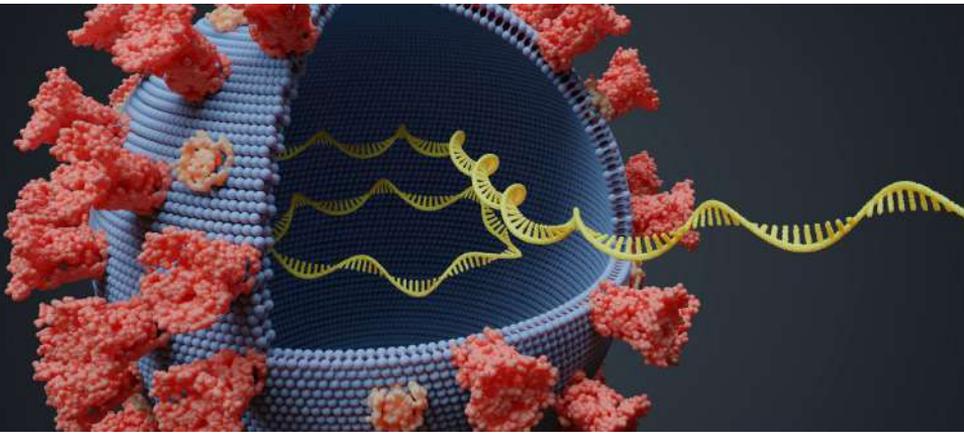
A year that has taught so many of these beautiful lessons, how can it be a year of misfortune? Well 2020 is a year that we will never forget. But to hate it and wish it away would also mean that we are letting go off some of the most crucial lessons that 2020 has taught us. Most of us have learnt values like patience, empathy, minimalism, collaboration, generosity and things alike. We have survived challenges,

and have adapted like never before and some of us have even healed from personal tragedies. These are the great lessons and teachers.

Now we are in the new year and life will not suddenly change just because a new year has begun. Our problems and tragedies will not go away just because the date and the month has changed. Life changes only when our mindset changes and the quickest way to change our mindset is to stop saying "I hate 2020" and replace it with "hey, I learnt so many wonderful lessons in this year and I have truly grown in 2020". Because if we keep hating 2020, we will not actually allow our brain to process and accumulate all these crucial life lessons. As great Buddha said: "If you truly want to grow, and if you want to truly evolve then you must befriend pain and you must befriend challenges".

So as we enter the new year let us look back at 2020 with utmost respect, honor and if you breath still, let us look back at it with immense gratitude because gratitude tricks the brain and puts us in a place of abundance and helps us to focus on things that we have, rather than what we don't have. And the truth is that we have all grown and evolved and matured at another level within just a year. So with this attitude let us salute 2020 and enter into the new year 2021.

Happy New Year to everyone.



# Using the Challenge of Corona Pandemic as An Opportunity

**“Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth”  
(1John 3:18)**

Starting December 2019 the Pandemic of Corona virus has affected the entire world. There is neither part of the world, nor part of society, nor rich or poor, developed or under-developed, without any “discrimination” it has affected

us. The so called our unshakable resources – modernity, money, arms - were not able to support us. The famous people who used to get red carpets or big audiences were not in the frontier to fight the pandemic. Who were and still are the heroes of this time of fight against the Pandemic? The medical personnel, the parents who have to take risk of the infection in order to find bread

for their families at the same time to take care of their children who has to spend most of the time at home because of closure of schools for face-to-face learning, there are the villagers who organized themselves in order to assist those who have lost job and not able to have daily bread because of the pandemic, and many more who do not make much noise and never receive many applauses or red carpet welcome. Our way of relating has changed, our social life has been affected and we have to find new ways of living our normal life with “new normality”. The Pandemic has given us a big challenge, but challenge has to become an opportunity for growing. Challenges push us to find new ways of journeying or discovering the ways that we may have forgotten them but very valuable aspects of our life. What opportunities do the Corona Pandemic come with or which values did it help us to re-discover?

- Life and health are great gifts that we have but sometimes we may have forgotten their value till the day

we lack them.

- Family life is a great value which we were not giving much attention but this time has shown us how life is almost impossible without a family. The parents have made a lot of sacrifice to keep the family safe from the virus but at the same time to find the daily bread at the table for the whole family – in addition to assisting their children in their studies.

- The value of medical personnel (doctors, nurses . . .), while we admire actors, stars of sports, “prophets” but at critical moments of this pandemic the medical personnel where the ones who sacrificed their life for the sake of others.

- Neighborhood – most of the time we are ‘minding our business’ and running our way but when there was crises because of Corona Pandemic it was the neighbors who organized themselves and reaching for those who were in difficulty.

- It was not ‘modernity’ or ‘money’ that helped us to continue to walk but care and being neighbors



to each other.

The Lord God may not have caused this pandemic but still uses different occasions to give us life giving messages. He is calling on us that life is the greatest gift to be taken care, and this is not possible alone but united together. Each one of us is a “keeper of our brother” (cf. Gen. 4:9). Starting from a family we move to neighborhood, to the surrounding and to the bigger figure, we are all interdependent. Our Holy Father Pope Francis has reminded us in his two encyclicals “Laudato Si” (Care for our Common Home) and “All Brothers” (Fratelli Tutti), that we are all brothers and sisters because we have one Father who is caring and loving – God. We are called to respond to His Love through love of our neighbors. We are called to respond to the Love of God not by words but by our deeds,

because we are going to be judged at the end of our earthly life on our deeds: “Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me . . . Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers [and sisters] of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:33-40). As African Proverb says “I am because you are”, my existence depends on your existence and I have the obligation to take care of you. Let us take care of each other and make our life beautiful, attractive, joyful, and free from COVID.



**Abba Hailemariam Medhin, SDB  
Provincial Superior**



### **“When going gets tough, the tough get going...”**

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of most individuals living in the world to some degree. This may be on mental, emotional, social, business-related and/or financial levels; it may be acknowledged or not, shedding light on what is not working too well with our world.

Even though our having or not

succumb in the coming days and weeks. The world has more than ever before seen the need of responsible leadership at national and international levels to prevent, control and mitigate these kinds of pandemics and other natural and man-made calamities. With the wealthy world that we have created in which trillions of dollars are spent



having resources will impact how the stressor will be felt, this pandemic has also shown us that we are one human family whose fate is closely interconnected with an imperative of thinking and working together. By the time I am writing this article, more than 1.9 million out of the 90 million infected people have succumbed due to this pandemic and many more are expected to

for destructive armaments, it is more than sad that in nearly a year since the pandemic struck, we could not avail resources enough for scientists to make research and produce vaccines with due speed and now the uncertainty still existing if poor nations can access it. It is to be seen if the saying: “pain is the megaphone of deaf world” works i.e. if pain has taught us the fundamentals of

solidarity.

Even though the full impact of the pandemic needs to be seen in due time through systematic scientific researches, the health, education, economic and consequent political issues are becoming shockingly pressing. It is pushing hundreds of millions of people below poverty line and many other millions at risk of



losing their job security paralyzing the employing capacities of almost all industries. While the death toll from the pandemic seems higher among elderly, it is becoming increasingly clear that children and young people are particularly affected psychologically due to new protocols and disruptions. A notable proportion of children and younger individuals in the world attend some form of elementary, secondary and post-secondary education, including university, which is considered challenging even in the best of times. Now, with an ongoing pandemic and its associated physical distancing

measures and sudden pivot change to online learning adds another challenge to developed world while adding desperation to the developing world who cannot afford the tools needed.

In line with the mandatory physical distancing protocols of the COVID-19 schools, colleges and universities across the nations have closed their campuses and dormitories, forcing students to leave their campus community, friends, classes, and familiar routines. While many students may be happy to reconnect with family again, some have returned to abusive households whose stress has even more increased due to the anxieties related to the pandemic, others to an empty fridge, and others to no home at all. Many students have lost their local jobs, and likewise, the job search for graduated youths has been severely disrupted.

The cumulative toll of these stressors is likely to have a significant impact on the health and well-being of the society in general and young people in formation in particular. Even though many countries have been trying to reopen schools many uncertainties prevail because of the upward spiraling trend of COVID-19 worldwide.

### **Resilient mechanisms in harder times**

The first thing we can do about a situation is to distinguish the things that are under our control from those that are not and do all what we can in

order to make a positive contribution in improving the situation. Regarding the things, we cannot control we have fundamental psychological attitudes that we can take among which: positive thinking, delaying gratification and the wisdom of obeying to all the protocols that the WHO and relevant governmental bodies are telling us to observe until we have access to the vaccines that scientists are announcing



to have produced.

**Positive thinking** boosts our immune system and resilient attitude by making us see light through a long tunnel where others see only darkness. This is important because nothing can affect us negatively until our mind gives them permission to do so. Consequently, our resilience is highly connected to our positive or negative thinking habit. What we perceive as true and visualize is, what will happen to us. Our subconscious mind works 24/day to make things happen the way we see and believe. Thus, the importance of developing positive thinking and visualizing what we want even in the

worst of situations.

**Delaying gratification** is another attitude that helps us in making important efforts and sacrifices having the success of tomorrow in sight. Even though children and young people by their nature tend to more immediate gratifications rather than futuristic attitudes, the COVID-19 pandemic makes this change of attitude imperative for our survival and success.

**The wisdom of obedience:** In our era, obedience is not a word that has received its right place because it is perceived in its negative connotation. In reality however, obedience is part and parcel of the freedom that we want to cherish so much. In order to get freedom in its real sense, we need to be obedient to real values and rightsourcesof information.

### **Some Positive coping up strategies to follow:**

**1.** Positive or proactive external expressions: This can manifest itself in reaching out to provide help, comfort and support to family, friends, neighbors or strangers in different ways. Others have found more time to spend outdoors or in nature, to learn a language or read the books they always wanted, or have found pleasure in home activities like playing games, cooking, baking and engaging in creative hobbies.

**2.** Positive or proactive internal expressions: Some people have responded to the crisis by contemplating their personal lives and the state of the world, their true values and what changes they could

make to live more in-line with them, and how they can contribute to the changes they would like to see in the world. Other examples involve practicing mindfulness and meditation techniques; trying to be more present in their everyday life and to accept the present moment as it is, and becoming more appreciative of the things they took for granted in their lives.

**3. Finding meaning in helping others:**



Some people feel that their own issues are diminishing and becoming less significant in comparison to the evolving global challenges. Stronger community bonding and feelings of togetherness have led many of them to seek ways to support and feel useful to others. This is helping them to create meaning and structure within the chaos and uncertainty. This has shown its efficacy in more devastating situations like the concentration camp in the Nazi Germany and can change the effects of any stressful situation.

**4. Know that it is okay to feel how you are feeling:** It is normal during this crazy time to experience feelings of

sadness, anger, frustration, anxiety, or all of the above. You are allowed to feel this way and to communicate with others how you are feeling. It is also okay to sit with these emotions. If these feelings worsen to the extent that you are no longer able to function like your normal self, reach out to someone for additional support.

**5. Maintain a routine:** Start your day at about the same time each day. Set a goal for coursework to be completed for each morning and afternoon.

Maintain adequate nutrition by eating three healthy meals per day; Try to get in at least one physical activity each day. It is very good for your mental health to get some fresh air and go on a walk, run, or bike ride.

**6. Practice good sleep.** Maintain a consistent sleep schedule. The goal should be 7-9 hours per night. Limit screen time in the evening, and avoid caffeine starting in the afternoon.

**7. Connect with others:** It is easy to quickly feel lonely and secluded from others during this stay-at-home period. Make an effort to stay socially connected by engaging in regular video or phone calls with friends and family.

**8. Take a break:** Take time for yourself each day. Step away from the news and from your coursework to do something you enjoy and that you find relaxing or rejuvenating.

**9. Use cognitive-behavioral skills:** Remember, how you think affects how you feel and how you behave. If you are having a negative thought (e.g., "I might get the COVID-19 virus and get really sick."), change it to a positive

(e.g., "I will stay healthy by taking good self-care and practicing good infection control practices."). Repeat these positive thinking statements several times a day.

**10. Stay active:** Physical activity can help relieve stress. Even short walks can help.

**11. Talk to someone:** Tell a family member or friend how you are feeling. If fears and anxiety begin to interfere



with your functioning, it is ok to contact a counselor.

**12. Practice good infection control practices:** Wash your hands thoroughly for 20 seconds, cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough with your elbow or with a tissue that you immediately throw away, eliminate hand-shaking and practice social distancing – at least six feet of space between other people. If you are experiencing a fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, muscle aches and fatigue, call your healthcare provider.

### **Some Negative coping up strategies to avoid:**

1. Negative or destructive internal

expressions: This style of response is characterized by negative thinking. People worry about themselves or someone close to them getting sick, and form negative expectations about the future regarding their work, life in general, or the state of the world after the pandemic. Some seem to think that they are better prepared if they expect or prepare for worst-case scenarios, but this strategy is likely to create a spiral of negative thinking, avoidance, apathy and self-isolation, which can lead to increased feelings of anxiety, depression, hopelessness and loneliness.

**2. Negative or destructive external expressions:** This can involve constantly watching the news, reading about and disseminating information about negative developments, looking for hidden agendas and engaging in conspiracy theories. Furthermore, destructive outward tendencies can lead to people denying or ignoring the facts of the situation and consequentially taking risks, personal and collective, by not adhering to physical distancing or other preventative measures.



**Ato Tium Debesay**

“Without you Don  
Bosco is crying here”



Abba Isidoro Apostoli SDB

Dearest students,

No voices, no noise, no smiling greetings, no music, no sport, no Frisbees or lids in the air like...ufos;

No opening day with good morning talks vivid with reports and sketches and jokes and poems and prayer and National anthem, and advices (upon advices) and communication, No late students to block and mildly reproach, librettos lazy at the bottom of your bags or just trying to breathe from the pocket they were left in,

Pens and pencils lazy, too, and asking for training to tickle and prickle some exercise books or flying sheets...

Our famous free plastic campaign has turned into a free student red zone, the silent grounds seem to ask “what’s happening?”

The dogs are roaming and find no one to bark at.

The guards are getting... older: eyes at rest, sticks invisible, chairs as the only companions.

The cleaners come in turn, so they can easily respect the social distance and avoid the risk to catch from the air this slipping treacherous virus, their masks is not anymore for protection from dust in cleaning your classrooms... the enemy is a dangerous oily one now, you know some of them have even chosen to take days of annual leave.

And the teachers?

Obedient at home like you coming sometimes with gloomy faces, deprived abruptly of the reason of their life, some wearing masks, and now after trying to invent and find new channels of communication and possible teachings- busy at work on line, with you.

Your parents have blessed this nice intelligent step. You have time; organize it profit of it and slacken the bridle of your fantasy; read more, study, create, invent, sing, share reflections and your affection in the family. Don't lose your hope of coming back, sooner or later. Be ready for that consider the challenges you are facing as opportunities.

It happened in the history that, after big horrible plagues, humanity expressed great people and geniuses and saints, social life was renewed, science stepped forward and culture produced masterpieces.

Let us be in this wave of beautiful changes and renewal.

"you will have to suffer only for a little while the God of all grace who called you to external glory in Christ will see that all is well again, He will confirm, strengthen and support you, His power lasts forever and ever" (1pet 5:10-11)

Lenten time has been special this year. You will not forget it easily. Keep it jealousy in your memory. It is a treasure you will uncover to your children and... children's children.

Participate on line in some religious celebrations or read attentively the life of Jesus in the gospels. His example in giving life to the other, is for all of us the inspiration for growth in life. Be our solidarity and attention to the needy, the hungry, the poor, the suffering, the lonely, the elders... the sign that we really have understood His life.

The tears we will pour again looking at Him on the Good Friday and the dark long with bated breath wait for the Holy Saturday be the push for the leap into the Resurrection, His Resurrection, pledge to ours.

Don Bosco is longing to having you back soon.

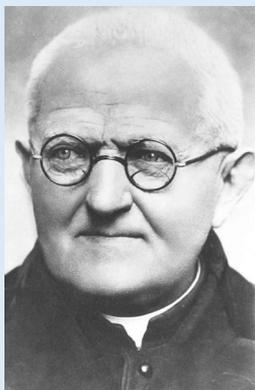
Don't rush neither jostle to be in the list of those who want to share poems or jokes or artistic works or reports... during the coming Good Morning talks. All will have their chance.

Take care following the indications of the authorities to whom we are grateful for their concern on our behalf. Resist a little bit more.... all will be well again"

Happy Easter!  
With nostalgic love for you all  
Don Bosco  
April 16/2020



## Vatican - Fr Ignazio Stuchlý is Venerable



### Vatican City:

Born in Bolesław, in the former Prussian Silesia, into a large family of peasants, Ignatius had a first intense experience of faith at school, where the teacher Jan

Kolibaj, much in love with Our Lady, urges him about the priestly vocation. His rather precarious health conditions suddenly improve when a “folk healer” changes his diet: the latter also prophesies his priesthood. This dream could only be fulfilled many years later, not without some difficulties due to external and independent circumstances. Many spoke to him about Don Bosco and, after various vicissitudes, in 1894, he was welcomed in Turin and accompanied on his vocational journey by Fr Michele Rua. The aspirantate begins in Valsalice. There he meets the Venerable Fr Andrea Beltrami who will mark his journey of faith and his mission. In 1895 the novitiate begins in Ivrea. On the eve of his vows, he experiences a moment of vocational crisis, which he overcomes thanks to the paternal help of Fr Rua who urges him to immediately make his perpetual profession, which he did on 29 September 1896. Forty days

before the fateful “Night of the Barbarians”, in March 1950, he was struck by apoplexy: he then spent the last three years of his life, first in the retirement home in Zlín, then in Lukov, always guarded by the regime and isolated from his brothers. Thus his prophecy that he would die alone is fulfilled; but around his bed, peace and joy flourish, which he radiates in abundance. The very high esteem that he had always aroused in superiors, and his great ability to love and be loved, then flourish more than ever in the reputation of holiness. He died peacefully on the evening of January 17, 1953. Economist, prefect, vice-director, director, provincial, the Servant of God had held positions of responsibility for a large part of his life. A bit like Blessed Fr Rua, taken by him as an example, was considered a “living rule”, an effective witness to the spirit of Don Bosco and capable of passing it on to subsequent generations, in very different contexts from nineteenth-century Turin. ANS

## United States - The commitment of “Salesian Missions” in favor of migrants



**New Rochelle:** On the occasion of the World Day of Migrants, celebrated all over the world last December 18, “Salesian Missions”, the Salesian Mission Office of New Rochelle, highlighted its commitment in favor of migrants. According to the International Migrant Stock 2019, the number of international migrants reached 272 million in 2019, continuing an upward trend in all regions of the world. This is an increase of 51 million migrants since 2010. The UN also reports that in 2019 Europe hosted the largest number of international migrants (82 million), followed by North America (59 million), North Africa and Western Asia (49 million). Very often it is the younger ones who leave their homeland in search of a better job, education and lifestyle. Many of them choose to leave, but many others are forced to migrate to escape poverty, violence or conflict; others are displaced by the effects of war or climate change. The UN notes that many young people leave their country for humanitarian reasons, as refugees and asylum seekers. All over the world, Salesian missionaries look after these young people and provide them with educational services. Young migrants, on their journey in search of a new lifestyle, often face rejection, homelessness, exploitation and delinquency. They also risk becoming victims of trafficking in human beings. “Salesian programs help young migrants to adapt to the new environment through language training and thanks to workforce development programs,” said Fr Gus Baek, Head of Salesian Missions. ANS

## **Peru, In times of pandemic, Salesians treat and save 720 patients**

**Lima:** The Salesians of Peru, through the “Fundación Don Bosco” and thanks



to the collaboration of the Salesian Mission Offices and the coordination of the “Don Bosco Solidarity vs Covid-19” project, have been helping the population who for months now have been put to the test, thanks to the pandemic and its consequences. With the practical spirit proper to the Sons of Don Bosco, they deal with needs one at a time, ready for one intervention after the other, with the sole objective of bearing witness to God’s love to brothers in need. At the beginning of the Covid-19 emergency, the project envisaged by the foundation was aimed at buying food for those who were left without an income due to anti-contagion restrictions. But when the health crisis exploded in the country, authorization was requested to redirect humanitarian aid to health care. Thus, during the hardest months of the pandemic in Peru, while there was a lack of medical care for the sick and oxygen cylinders in hospitals, the Salesians managed to treat and save 720 patients by providing them with a drug kit

developed according to the indications of medical experts. Also, the Sons of Don Bosco purchased and distributed 20 pulse oximeters, very valuable tools for observing the evolution of the disease in patients and providing the most appropriate treatments. ANS

### **Italy – Casa Don Bosco House Museum remains open online as virtual museum**

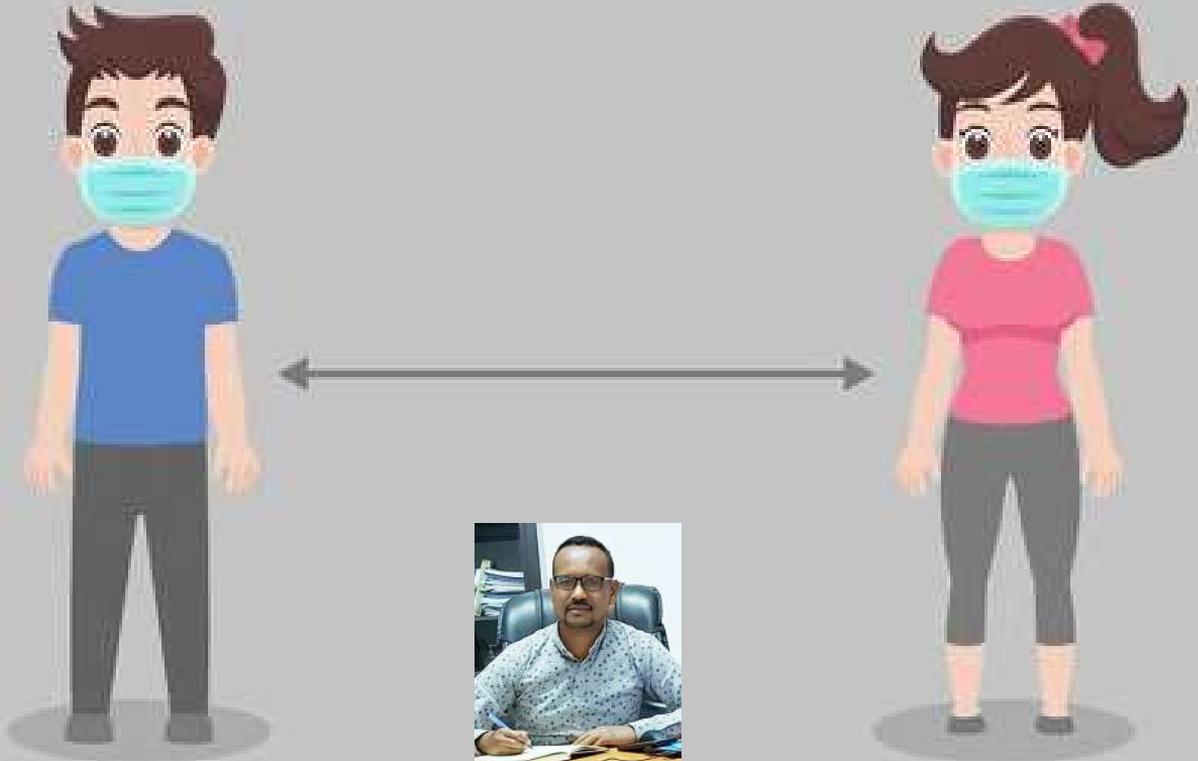


**Turin:** Inaugurated at the beginning of October, the Don Bosco House Museum, the new museum exhibition of the places of the origins of Don Bosco’s educational and spiritual adventure, remains open online, in compliance with the rules imposed to counter Covid-19. Visitors from all over the world can visit it through the virtual museum. The virtual museum, which has already started, but which will be developed further over time, intends to be a digital presentation of the 4,000 square meters and 27 physical exhibition spaces of “Casa Don Bosco”. The enterprise is not easy, because the Don Bosco House Museum is first and foremost a place to live and experience: it is there that you can breathe the miracle of the life of a saint

who changed the lives of thousands of young people of his time and, thanks to his successors, of millions of young people since then. But in this moment in which, due to the pandemic, all the museums in Italy are closed, on the website [www.museocasadonbosco.it](http://www.museocasadonbosco.it) you can embark upon a virtual visit: enter the room where Don Bosco slept and work, observe the architectural development di Valdocco, admire the representations that the artists gave of Don Bosco and his work with young people over the ages. ANS

### **D.R. Congo - 1,300 young people participate in launch of youth ministry activities**

**Lubumbashi, D.R. Congo:** On 18 October, on the occasion of World Mission Sunday, the Youth Ministry of the Central Africa Province (AFC) began its activities with a meeting at the “Tuendelee” high school. The event brought together 1,300 young people and was held on the theme “Animated by hope, young man, prepare to meet your God”, presented by deacon Serge Ahadi. The whole event was experienced under the protection of Blessed Carlo Acutis, model of holiness presented to young people during the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr Albert Kabuge, AFC Provincial. The day ended with a concert by the “Santa Teresa” choir of Tabacongo, to celebrate the mission month. ANS



## የኮቪድ-19 ወረርሽኝ ቀውስና እውነታዎች ፩ የኮቪድ-19 ወረርሽኝ በማህበረሰብ አቀፍ እይታ

**በ**ሰው ልጆች ታሪክ እጅግ ከባድና አስቸጋሪ ሊባሉ የሚችሉ ተፈጥሮአዊና ሰው ሰራሽ የተለያዩ ችግሮች በመከሰት የታሪኩ አካል ሆነው ማለፋቸው የታሪክ መዛግብት ምስክሮች ናቸው። ይህ የታሪክ ምስክርነት ያለፈ እውነታ ብቻ ሳይሆን በያዝነው በ21ኛው ክፍለ ዘመንም አስከፊና ጥቁር ጠባሳ ትተው ያለፉ አስቃዊ ክስተቶች ጭምር ቀምሮ የያዘ ነው። ፡ ያለፉትን የታሪክ ክስተቶችን ለጊዜው እንተው እና በአሁኑ ጊዜ በዓለም አቀፍ ደረጃ የሰው-ልጅን ህልውና ከመፈታተን አልፎ ከ70 ሚልዮን በላይ ሰዎችን ስላጠቃው፣ ከ1.7 ሚልዮን በላይ ሰዎችን ለህልፈት የዳረገው እንዲሁም የዓለማችን ህዝቦች ለሰብአዊ፣ ስነ-

ልቦናዊ፣ ማህበራዊ፣ ኢኮኖሚያዊ፣ ፖለቲካዊና ለተለያዩ ችግሮችን ስለዳረገው የኮቪድ-19 ወረርሽኝ ላይ ትኩረት እናድርግ።

ወረርሽኙ በልጆች፣ በጎልማሶች እና በሁሉም ቤተሰቦቻቸው ላይ ከፍተኛ ተጽእኖ አድርጏል። ከቤት እንዳይ ወጡ በተከለከሉበት ጊዜ (During Lockdown) በዋናነት በልጆች የአእምሮ ጤንነት ላይ ከፍተኛ ጫና ማድረሱ ግልጽ ነው። እንዲሁም ቁጥራቸው ቀላል የማይባል ልጆች ለተለያዩ ጥቃቶች፣ ትንኮሳዎች እና ሌሎች ተያያዥ ጉዳዮች ተጋላጭ ሆነዋል። በተጨማሪም ከቤት የመውጣት ክልከላው ምክንያት ወረርሽኙ በቤተሰቦቻቸው በቀጥታ ከሚያስከተለው የጤና ችግር በተጓዳኝ የስነ-ልቦና፣ ማህበራዊ፣ ኢኮኖሚያዊና ሌሎች መሰረታዊ ጉዳዮች ላይ የሚፈጥረው እክል ከፍተኛ በመሆኑ ልጆች ላይ ልያደርስ የሚችለው ጉዳት ቀላል የማይባል ነው። ወረርሽኙን በልጆች በዋናነት የ1ኛ እና 2ኛ ደረጃ ተማሪዎች ላይ የፈጠረውን አሉታዊ ተፅዕኖ እና እንዴት መከላከል፣ መቋቋምና ጫናውን መቀነስ እንደምንችል ከዚህ ቀጥሎ ባለው ርዕስ እና ያለን።

ሁላችንም ከባድ የሚባል ወቅት እያሳለፍን ነው። ነገ ምን እንደ ሚፈጠር አናቀም፤ መጪው ጊዜ መተንበይ አዳጋች ሆኖብናል። ወረርሽኙ መቼና እንዴት መጥፋት እንደሚችል መገመት ይከብዳል። የእኛና የምንወዳቸው ሰዎች መጪው የህይወት እጣ-ፈንታ ምን እንደሆነ ስናስብ ማወቅ ባለመቻላችን በፍርሃት እንዋጣለን። ስለጤናችን፣ ስለኑሮና ስለማህበራዊ መስተጋብሮቻችን (Social Fabric) እጅግ እንጨናቀለን።

ያለንበት እውነታ በዋናነት ወረርሽኙ ያስከተለብን ተግዳሮት አስቀደምን ያወቅነው ወይም የተነበይ ነው አይደለም። በቃ የዚህች ዓለም ሃቅ ሲገለጥ ይህ ነው። በመልካም ነገሮች እንደ ተሸምነሞነች ከዚህ ባልተናነሰ መልኩ በፈተና፣ በጭንቅና መከራ የተሞላች ነች። በዚህ ላይ በፈጣሪ ሁሉ ዓለም የእንደራሴነት ኃላፊነት የተሰጠውና እራሱንና ዓለምን ወደ ፍጽምና እንዲመራ የተጠራው የሰው ልጅ ከፈጣሪው መልካም አላማ ወጥቶ በሃጥያት መንገድ ሲጓዝ፣ ምድሪቷ የበለጠ ወደ ገሃነምነት የተቀየረች እስክትመስል ድረስ ትጨልማለች። መከራና ሰቆቃ በዝቶ በውስጧ ያቀፈቻቸው ፍጥረት ሁሉ በጭንቀት ማእበል ይናወጣሉ። ሰዎች ቀን ይጨልምባቸዋል፣ እንቅልፍ ያጣሉ፤ ተስፋቆርጠው በሀሳብ ይዋጣሉ። ፈጣሪያቸው ፊቱን ያዘረባቸው ያህል አምርረው ወደ እርሱ ይጮኻሉ፤ ይማጸኑታልም። በቃ አሁን የሰው ልጅ ያለበት ሁኔታ ይህ ነው የሚመስለው። ግን እስከ መቼ!!!

ይህ ሁሉ የሚፈታ የማይመስል እንቅስቃሴ፤ ቅዠት የሚመስል እውነታ፤ የሚያልፍ የማይመስል አስቸጋሪ ጊዜ እንዴት ነው የምንቀበለው በእምነቱም ሆነ በሳይንሱ አለም የየራሳቸው ትንታኔዎችና መላምቶችን ያስቀምጣሉ። በዚህም መሰረት ሰዎች እንደየራሳቸው እምነትና ያሉበት የህይወት እውነታ የየራሳቸውን ጎራ ይይዛሉ በተለያዩ ርእዮተ አለም ይከፋፈላሉ። ለችግሮች፣ ለመፍትሄዎች እንዲሁም ለህይወት ሁኔታዎች በተለያዩ ትሩጓሜና መንገድ ይጓዛሉ። ይሆኑኛ ልብለው በሚቀበልዋቸው የመፍትሄ አማራጮች ለችግሮቻቸው መላ ለማግኘት ይጥራሉ።

ነገር ግን ይህ ሁሉ ሲሆን አንድ መዘንጋት የሌለብን ትልቅ ጉዳይ አለ። ይህም አሁን እየተፈታ ተነንያለው ችግርም ሆን ሌሎች መሰል ችግሮችን ለመሸገር ሁላችንም ለንቀበላቸውና ልንተገብራ

ቸው የሚገቡ ሁለት የማህበራዊ ህይወት አንኳር ጉዳዮችን ማንሳት ይገባል።

1. ሰው እንደሚሆኑትን መጠን የህይወት ስርዓትን ወይም ስነ-ምግባር (Order/Discipline) መጠበቅ። ወረርሽኙን ለመከላከል የግልና የአካባቢን ጽህፈት መጠበቅ፤ አካላዊ እና ማህበራዊ ርቀትን መጠበቅ እንዲሁም አስፈላጊውን ቅድመ ጥንቃቄ ማድረግ ይጠይቃል። ስለዚህ እንደግለ-ሰብ እና እንደ ማህበረሰብ የጋራ ስርዓትና ስነ-ምግባር ማክበር ይጠበቅብናል (Maintaining individual and social order/discipline)።

2. ሌላኛውና በጣም ወሳኝ ነገር፡ እኔ ከሚለው ስሜት ወጥተን እኛ የሚለውን ስሜት በማምጣት በአብሮነት ስሜት፣ በመተሳሰብና መደጋገፍ (Solidarity) መንፈስ በጋራ የመኖር ልምድ ማዳበር ነው። ሰው በመሆኑ ብቻ እንደ ማህበረሰብ (Social Being) የመኖር ተፈጥሮአዊ ግዴታ አለብን። ሰው የመሆን ሚስጢርም (ከሌሎች ፍጥረታት የሚለየን) ይህ ነው። በመሆኑም በመልካም እሴቶቻችንና ማህበራዊ መስተጋብር ስርዓቶቻችን ብቻ ሳንወሰን በሚ ያጋጥሙን ችግሮች ሁሉን አብሮነት የመጋፈጥ፣ የመተጋገዝ፣ አብሮ የመሻገር ግዴታ አለብን። አንዳችን ያለ አንዳችን መኖር አስከማን ችልን ለየተሰረዘን መሆናችንን መዘንጋት የለብንም። ከላይ የተጠቀሱት ሁለት ወሳኝ ነገሮች ላይ ትኩረት በማድረግና በአግባቡ በመተግበር የጋራ ችግሮቻችን ድል አድርገን አሁን ከተከሰተው ቀውስና መሰል ችግሮች መውጣት እንችላለን።

**፪ የኮቪድ-19 ወረርሽኝ ተጽእኖ በትምህርት ቤቶች**

የኮቪድ-19 ወረርሽኝ በሀገራችን ኢትዮጵያ ከተከሰተበት ጊዜ አንስቶ ሁሉም ትምህርት ቤቶች ዝግ እንዲሆኑ በመወሰኑ ምክንያት ተማሪዎች ለዘጠኝ ወራቶች ያህል ከቤት እንዳይወጡ ሆኖዋል። እቤት በቆይባቸው ጊዜያት ከትምህርት ገበታቸው በመራቃቸው ልያገኙት የሚችሉ እውቀት እና ማህበራዊ መስተጋብር አጥቷል። እቤት ውስጥም በቆይባት ጊዜ ከቤተሰቦቻቸው፣ ከጎረቤቶቻቸው፣ ከዘመድ አዝማድና ከጋደጆቻቸው ጋር እንደ ልብ መገናኘት አልቻሉም። ፡ ለነዚህ ህፃናትም ሆኑ ወጣቶች በዚያ በለጋ እድሜያቸው እነዚህን ሁሉ ማጣት ከባድ ከመሆኑም ባሻገር ለብዙ ተጓዥ ችግሮችን ዳርጓቸዋል። በዋናነት በስነ-ልቦና ረገድ ከምንገምተውም በላይ ሆኖባቸዋል።

ልጆች ሁለንተናዊ እድገታቸውን (Holistic Growth) ጠብቀው እንዲያድጉ የቤተሰብ፣ የጓደኞቻቸው፣ የመምህራኖቻቸው እንዲሁም በዙርያቸው ያሉ ሰዎች ሁሉ ፍቅርና እንክብካቤ በበቂ ሁኔታ ማግኘት አለባቸው። ታዲያ ይህ አስከሬ ውወረርሽኝ ውድ ጊዜያቸውን ከመንጠቁ ባሻገር ያሳጣቸው ይህ ሁሉ ነው። ወላጆቻቸው የዕለት ተዕለት ስራቸውን ከውነው ወደ ቤት ሲመለሱ እንደ ወትሮው ዘለው ጉያቸው ውስጥ ሊታቀፉ አይችሉም፤ ፍቅራቸውን እና ናፈቆታቸውን በመሳም መግለጽ እርም ሆኖባቸው ስንብቷል።

በየሚድያውና በተለያዩ መንገዶች ስለወረርሽኝም ሆነ ተያያዥ አስደንጋጭ ዜናዎች በእጅጉ ተደናግጧል፤ በፍርሀት ተሸብረዋል፤ መቋቋም በማይችሉበት ደረጃ ተጨንቀዋል። ከእንደዚህ አይነት ሰቆቋና አስከሬ እውነታ በኋላ ለተማሪዎች ወደ ት/ቤት መመለስ ከባድ ነው። በዚህ ላይ ለቀውሱ ምንም አይነት መፍትሄ ባለመገኘቱ በብዙ የቅድመ ጥንቃቄ ሁኔታዎች፣ ስጋቶችና ፈተናዎች ውስጥ ሆነው ወደ ትምህርት ገበታ መመለሳቸው ለእነርሱ እጅግ ከባድ ለትምህርት ቤት አባላት እጅግ ፈታኝ ነው።

ስለዚህ የኮቪድ-19 ወረርሽኝ በማህበረሰቡና በተማሪዎች ሊያደርሰው የሚችለው ችግር ከባድ መሆኑን ከተገነዘብን ችግሮቹን እንዴት መከላከል እንደሚቻል እና ሙሉ በሙሉ መከላከል በማይቻልበት ሁኔታ ደግሞ የችግሩን መጠን እንዲቀንስ ለማስቻል መደረግ ያለባቸው የቅድመ ጥንቃቄ ስራዎች ሊሰሩ ይገባል።

-ወረርሽኙን ለመከላከል በዓለም የጤና ድርጅትና በኢትዮጵያ በጤና ሚኒስቴር የሚወጡ መመሪያዎችን በተገቢ ሆኔታ መተግበር። በዋናነት የግል፣ የቤትና የአካባቢን ጽህፈት መጠበቅ፣ አካላዊና ማህበራዊ ርቀትን መጠበቅ፣ የፊትጭምብ ልማድረግ፣ መታጠብ በማይቻልበት ሁኔታ የእጅ ሳኒታይዘር መጠቀም እና የመሳሰሉ የቅድመ ጥንቃቄ ስራዎች ማከናወን።

-ወረርሽኙ የተማሪዎች ወደ ትምህርት ቤት መምጣት ላይ ከሚፈጠረው ተጽእኖ በተጨማሪ ትምህርት የመቀበል አቅማቸው በከፍተኛ ሁኔታ እንዲቀንስ ማድረግ ግልጽነው። ስለሆነም መምህራኖችና አጠቃላይ የትምህርት ቤቱ ማህበረሰብ ተማሪዎቹን በማገዝ እና በመከላከል ከፍተኛሚና መጫወት ይኖርባቸዋል።

-ልጆች በትምህርት ቤቶቻቸው አስፈላጊውን የስነ-ልቦና ምክርና ክትትል (Counseling and Guidance) ሊያገኙ ይገባል። ተማሪዎች ከረዥም ከቤት ያለመውጣት ክልከላበኋላ ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ ሊሄዱ የሚችሉት ሁለተኛቤታቸው ወደሆነው ወደ ትምህርት ቤታቸው ነው። ስለሆነም መምህራኖቻቸውና የአስተዳደር አካላት በጥሩ መንፈስ ከመቀበላቸው በተጨማሪ እቤት ሰለቆዩባቸው ሁኔታዎች፣ ስለደረሱባቸው ችግሮችና ጫናዎች እንዲሁም ስለሚገኙበት የጤና ሁኔታ ቀርበው ሊረዱዋቸውና ሊደግፉዋቸው ይገባል።

-ወደ ትምህርት ቤት መመለሳቸው ለተለያዩ ጫናዎችና ጥቃቶች ሊጋለጡ ይችላሉ። ይህም እቤት ከነበሩበት ጊዜ የከፋሊሆንና ወዳልተፈለገ ጭንቀትና ተስፋ መቁረጥ ሊዳርጋቸው ስለሚችል ሁሉም ባለድርሻ አካላት ተቀናጅተው ሊያግዟቸው፣ ሊንከባከቧቸው ያስፈልጋል።

-ከነዚህ ሁሉ ባልተናነሰ ልጆች በህይወታቸው አወንታዊ አስተሳሰብ እንዲያጎለቱ ማድረግ ያስፈልጋል። ዛሬ የገጠማቸውን ችግር በጽናት ተሻግረው በጨለማ የተዋጠ የሚመስለውን ነገ እንደ ሻማ ብራሃን በርተው የተሻለ አለም መፍጠር እንደሚችሉ ማሳየት። በእምነትና በተስፋ፣ በራስመተማመን፣ በምክንያትነት፣ በአብሮነትና በመልካምነት ጸንተው ከባድ የሚመስለውን ቀውስ አልፈው የነገን ብርሀን ማየት እንደሚችሉ ማሳየትና በዚህ መንገድ እንድንመራቸው ያስፈልጋል።

የማህበራዊ ተቋማቶቻችን በተለይም ደግሞ የቤተሰብ እና የት/ቤት ተቋማት በነዚህ ጉዳዮች አበክረው የሚሰሩ ከሆነ ችግሮችን መሻገር የሚችሉ፣ የመፍትሄ አካል የሆኑ፣ ለቀጣይ ትውልድ የተሻለች ምድር ትተው ማለፍ የሚችሉና የራሳቸውና የማህበረሰባቸው ዋልታ መሆን የሚችሉ ልጆችን ማፍራት እንችላለን።

የሰው ልጅ በታሪኩ አስከፊ መከራዎችን ተሻግሯል፣ አሁንም ይሻገራል፣ ለወደፊቱም መሻገሩን ይቀጥላል!





# THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR

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## DON BOSCO – THE GENIUS WHO KNEW HOW TO MAKE HIS BOYS HAPPY

DON ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME SDB



Dear readers and friends of the *Salesian Bulletin*, once again we meet in this magazine that Don Bosco loved so much, having founded it in 1877, 144 years ago. Today it's present in more than 100 nations and in many different languages. This January issue coincides with the great worldwide celebration of Don Bosco's feast on January 31.

And there is something else: In 2021 we'll commemorate the centennial of the death of his second successor, Fr. Paul Albera, whom Don Bosco called Paolino. In fact, Fr. Albera himself, after becoming a Salesian, recounted in reference to the famous photograph in which Don Bosco

"posed" as if hearing the confession of one of his boys, with many others around, how "Don Bosco had to select one of them to take a place on the kneeler as if confessing his sins. He looked around and, smiling, called: 'Paolino, come here. Kneel down and put your forehead on mine, so that we won't move!'"

This is our Don Bosco, able to make all his boys, and each one in particular, feel that they were loved, that they were really special and that he had wonderful plans for each of them, because they were God's plans.

In fact, I'll express my strong conviction that Don Bosco **had the**



**great capacity to make his boys *experience life as a feast and faith as happiness.***

It seems to me that this is the great gift or one of Don Bosco's great gifts. So many times, trying to penetrate as deeply as I could into his heart, I've thought about this, because this conveys everything: he had the ability to make ordinary daily life with its burdens and weariness, and often enough its hunger and thirst, into a reason to live joyfully. And that's how Don Bosco was, helping his boys feel very happy to love God and be loved by Him. Tell me whether this isn't something typical of someone who's truly a pedagogical genius.

Many years ago, when I saw the film *Life Is Beautiful*, I was deeply moved by that father's love and also the genius he had for making his little boy experience the horror of the concentration camp as an adventure, at times as a game, as a reason to be

surprised. Someone might say that the only thing father did in the film was deceive his son. No, that's not so. This father had the genius, out of love, of making his little boy live reality, the only reality that was there, in such a way that the horror of every day wouldn't crush him, in a way that allowed his smile and the light of his face never to disappear.

Don Bosco was a master at this. He was a genius in knowing how to find happiness and reasons for hope in little things, in the signs of attention that he devoted to everyone, in the simple gestures that seem to be lost in the ordinariness of every day but that have great importance and very great value.

This is a precious heritage that Don Bosco left to his Salesians and Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, to his entire Salesian Family: that of being men and women who every day seek the gift of sympathy for meeting

boys and girls, with a very concrete and real sense of encounter with each person—also with the shyest, with those whom they perceive to have fewer aptitudes and gifts; of being women and men who are always able to take the first step when it comes to reaching out to young people, who seek to approach everyone with respect, with the desire to understand and help, with happiness at being present among them, in particular those most in need. This is Salesian *amorevolezza*: a true affection as educators in whom there's both human warmth and spiritual delicacy.

For this and much more, every boy in Don Bosco's Oratory felt he was the one whom Don Bosco loved best, as if he were the only boy. This is a beautiful reason for you to celebrate Don Bosco's feast spectacularly in this new year, as we come out of a year made difficult by Covid-19 and its consequences, trusting that we'll be able



to beat it in a few months. Let's make every educational space, every Salesian house, every personal encounter, a reason to feel that life is beautiful, it's worth living as what it is, it's God's gift, and so is to be lived *as a feast even on gloomy days*, lived full of the light that comes from abandoning oneself and trusting in the *God of life*.

I wish you a most happy 2021 filled with God's blessings and the maternal presence of Mary, our MOTHER, the Help of Christians.



Abba Ignacio Laventure SDB

# “We did not know them and they did not know us...”

Dear readers of the Salesian Bulletin, at the end of this very particular year, I would like to share with you a short reflection regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. It was one year ago that the first cases of this virus appeared and little by little this virus began to expand all over the world. At this moment, at the end of December, there are around 75.2 million cases and 1.67 million people have died and these numbers are increasing day by day. It is without any doubt that we are in a very difficult and problematic situation.

However, this pandemic, it is not the most critical thing that we are facing. This pandemic has brought

to the surface other most dangerous “pandemics” of our world. If this situation has brought, in many cases and situations the best of us as human beings, it is also true that has brought also the worst.

I would like to mention three more dangerous pandemics which are spreading among us. **The first one is the pandemic of individualism,** this is the worst pandemic that we are facing in today's world. All of us have seen so many manifestations in some countries in the world, especially in the West, claiming for “my” rights to do what I want. Nobody can tell me what to do or not. I want to be free to do as I like and I do not care

about others. This was the strong message. Manifestations against the recommendation of using masks or some restriction in the movements of people, or people not using the masks in public transport of place because I have rights. This is a very contagious disease that from the West is spreading very fast to the rest of the world. To think only about myself, my rights, my desires, my situation, only “my” without thinking or worried about others. A second pandemic is the **pandemic of indifference** which is so much connected with the previous one. It was very sad to watch in the news how in some countries, so many old people have died totally alone and even abandoned in care centres, as if they were the “leftover” of the society or people going to the supermarket and finishing the stock of some items without necessity or thinking that also other people will need them. And the last one, it is the **pandemic of the primacy of the economy or materialism over the person**. The Covid-19 puts in evidence the unjust economical system in which we are. This situation has affected all the world but has made more clear the gap that exist between the rich and the poor countries but even inside each country, the possibilities that have the first and the little possibilities of the latter. The consequences the unprivileged people have suffered

and will suffer are unthinkable. It is enough to mention, the loss of jobs, the insecurity, the impossibility of continuing their education and the almost not access to the health system.

The covid-19 pandemic has made as conscience of these old other pandemics present in our world. However, in this moment, we are also assisting with hope to the news of the near vaccination, in fact, some countries have already started. Some are saying that, at least, we can see now the light at the end of the tunnel. But, together with this vaccination, there are three other important vaccinations as well. The first is the **vaccination that we may call “community”**. This pandemic has shown us that the contribution of everyone is so necessary and important, even indispensable. In many places the slogan used was

and is *“take care of yourself taking care of others”*.

We have realized that we are in the same boat, we need each other, we are not simple individuals, we are a community, a unique family, the human family. The second vaccination is the **vaccination of solidarity**. What an important and

fundamental injection is this. It is the only one which will make us immune to the individualism and indifference diseases. This pandemic has shown us the solidarity of so many people that normally nobody was paying attention on them. I speak about doctors, nurses, people working in the health centres of any kind, priest and religious, cleaners, drivers and



other apparently insignificant jobs. There have been so many initiatives which the purpose was to take care of the most affected people and even small gestures among neighbours. I have been object of the effects of this kind of solidarity. Coming back from

the General Chapter 28, we were with the provincial in the airport of Milan. During the check-in, the person who received the ticket was telling us that without mask we cannot travel. It was at the beginning of the pandemic so we were not able to get masks. But, at that moment, a family in the queue seeing our situation offered us some masks and in this way, we were able to come back to Ethiopia. We did not know them and they did not know us but they showed a great solidarity with us. **The last vaccination is the vaccination of putting the person at the centre**, especially the last ones, the poor and unprivileged. A small virus which has put us under our knees has shown us how many unnecessary things we have or look for and has helped us to really think what is essential and what are the real values in life.

Each one of us is waiting to come back to “normality”. But if for this, we understand to come back to the life that we have had before the pandemic started, all the sufferings and the sacrifices done would be totally useless. I hope that this pandemic has taught us that we must change something as humanity and as persons. It is an invitation to take seriously the call of being protagonist of the transformation of our world in a more just and supportive one, as God wants it.



## Underground Catholic bishop dies in China

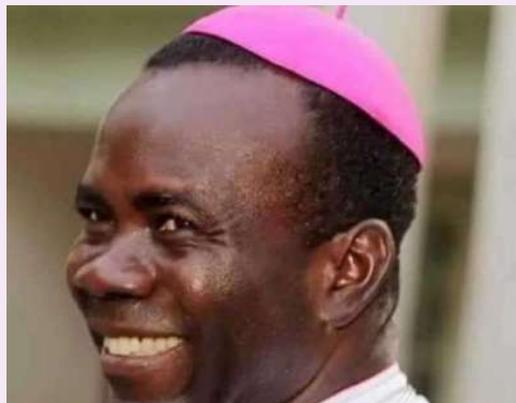


According to the Catholic outlet AsiaNews, headquartered in Rome, Bishop Andrea Han Jingtao, 99, a leader in the underground Catholic Church in China, died Dec. 30. Han Jingtao was the underground Bishop of Siping. In his early years growing up in a Catholic family, Han received a high-quality formation and education from the Canadian missionaries of Quebec, who ran the apostolic vicariate in his region of China before the communist revolution. After Mao Zedong took power, the late bishop was sent to a concentration camp where he would be imprisoned for 27 years (1953-1980) “for refusing to participate in the ‘independent and autonomous’ Church, as Mao Zedong wanted,” AsiaNews reports. Once freed, his command of the English language made him an asset for the communist regime, which conscripted him into service as an English teacher at Changchun University and then at the Northeast University for masters and doctoral programs. Ac-

ording to AsiaNews, “He introduced many Chinese to the study of Classical, Latin, and Greek languages and cultures.” CNA

## Catholic bishop released five days after kidnapping in Nigeria

A Catholic bishop in Nigeria, who was



kidnapped few weeks ago has been released unharmed, according to the Archdiocese of Owerri. The diocese, which is in southeastern Nigeria, announced in a [social media post](#) late on Jan. 1 that Bishop Moses Chikwe and his driver, Ndubuisi Robert, had been released by their abductors “unhurt and without ransom.”

“More details to come,” the announcement continued. “To GOD be the glory.” The post was accompanied by a photo, with the words “welcome back our beloved Bishop, God heard [the] prayers of his people.” Chikwe, the auxiliary bishop of Owerri archdiocese, was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 27, in Owerri, the capital of Imo State in southeastern Nigeria.

## Twenty Catholic missionaries killed worldwide in 2020

Twenty Catholic missionaries were killed across the world in 2020, the information



service of the Pontifical Mission Societies said Wednesday. Agenzia Fides [reported](#) Dec. 30 that those who lost their lives in service of the Church comprised eight priests, three religious women, one male religious, two seminarians, and six lay people. As in previous years, the most deadly continents for Church workers were the Americas, where five priests and three lay people were killed this year, and Africa, where one priest, three female religious, one seminarian, and two lay people gave their lives. The Vatican-based news agency, which was founded in 1927 and releases an annual list of murdered Church workers, explained that it used the term “missionary” to refer to “all the baptized engaged in the life of the Church who died in a violent way.” The figure for 2020 is lower than in [2019](#) when Fides reported the deaths of 29 missionaries. In [2018](#), 40 missionaries were killed and in [2017](#), 23 died. CNA

## Bishops in Kerala on hunger strike for Catholic education

Several bishops in Kerala held a day-long hunger strike to protest the state government’s withholding of funds



from Catholic schools. The hunger strike was held in front of the Kerala state secretariat. The prelates participating were Bishops Joshua Kizhakkeveetil of the Syro-Malankara Eparchy of Mavelikara, chair of the Kerala bishops’ education commission; Paul Mullassery of Quilon, the vice chair; and Thomas Tharayil, an auxiliary of the Syro-Malabar Archeparchy of Changanacherry. Archbishop Maria Callist Soosa Pakiam of Trivandrum said the state government “curtails our rights as a religious minority to run education institutions through arbitrary orders and amendments to the existing laws,” [UCA News reported](#). Christians run about 5,000 of Kerala’s 13,000 schools. The government is required to provide financial aid to over half of these schools to support teachers’ salaries. Archbishop Soosa Pakiam said that in the last five years, over 3,000 teachers in Catholic schools have not been paid because the govern-

ment has not distributed its promised aid. Since May 2016, the Kerala government has been led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist). The archbishop said it was an “act of cruelty” to deny these employees’ salaries during the coronavirus pandemic. Archbishop Soosa Pakiam said the hunger strike is not seeking to solicit “special favors from the state. It is to ensure our constitutional rights.” CNA

**Aid to the Church in Need sending 250,000 euro in food aid to Lebanon**  
International Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has announced



an emergency 250,000 euro food aid package for victims of the massive August 4 explosion in Beirut, Lebanon. The ACN grant will focus on poor families most affected by the explosion, which devastated the port area of the Lebanese capital and adjacent areas, including the mostly Christian neighborhoods of Mar Maroun and Achrafieh. At least 135 people have died and another 5,000 were injured when a warehouse storing some 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate exploded a few months back.

Fr. Samer Nassif, a Lebanese priest, told Aid to the Church in Need that the Christian area of Beirut is “completely devastated,” with at least 10 churches destroyed. “In one second, more damage was done to the Christian area of Beirut than during the long years of the civil war. We have to rebuild everything again from the ground up.” ACN estimates some 300,000 people have been left homeless. Additionally, many offices, schools, hospitals, and shops were completely destroyed in the explosion. The priest stressed that amid the country’s long economic crisis and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Lebanon is ill-equipped to face this new emergency. International aid is urgently needed to meet people’s basic needs, they said.

**Bishop Flores affirms COVID vaccines are ‘morally permissible’**

Bishop Daniel Flores has released a pastoral letter reaffirming the morality



of Catholics receiving the coronavirus vaccines. Flores, the Bishop of Brownsville, Texas, was elected by the other American bishops last month to serve as the next chair of the USSCB’s committee on doctrinal affairs. In a December 8 letter to his diocese, Flores said that he wants “to assure Catholics that it is mor-

ally permissible for us to make use of the various vaccines when they become available,” and that claims that the vaccines are “morally tainted” due to an association with abortion is an “inaccurate appraisal.” Vaccine distribution began in the United States on December 14. “It is important to note that neither the Pfizer nor the Moderna vaccines, which are now being prepared for distribution, used aborted fetal cells in the development or production of their vaccine,” he said. The bishop did note that “early lab testing, though, seems to have involved use of a tainted cell line.” Flores explained that the Church has differentiated between “proximate, mediate and remote participation in an evil,” and that the testing of the vaccine on a line derived from fetal cells harvested from an abortion would constitute a “remote association.” “Given the seriousness of the evil posed by the virus, and the common good protected by use of an effective vaccine, the remote association to tainted cell lines during the testing regime does not constitute a sufficient reason to object to the moral permissibility of the vaccine,” said Flores. CNA

### **Pope Francis appoints first lay head of Roman Curia’s disciplinary commission**

Pope Francis has appointed the first lay head of the Roman Curia’s disciplinary commission. The Holy See press office announced on Jan. 8 that the pope had named Vincenzo Buonomo, rector of the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, as president of the Disciplinary Commission of the Roman Curia.

Buonomo succeeds the Italian Bishop Giorgio Corbellini, who served in the role from 2010 until his death on Nov. 13, 2019. The commission, founded in 1981, is the main disciplinary body



within the curia, the administrative apparatus of the Holy See. It is responsible for determining sanctions against curial employees accused of misconduct, ranging from suspension to dismissal. Buonomo, 59, is a professor of international law who has served as a consultant to the Holy See since the 1980s. He worked with Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, Vatican Secretary of State from 1979 to 1990, as well as Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of State from 2006 to 2013. He edited a book of Bertone’s speeches. CNA

### **Bishops of Angola dedicate country to St. Joseph, pray for peace**

During a time of civil unrest, and taking a cue from Pope Francis, the Catholic bishops of Angola have dedicated their country to the protection of St. Joseph. According to Vatican News, the bishops said they hoped St. Joseph would help protect the country and help to alleviate the “economic and social suffocation” from which their people were suffering. The announcement comes just days af-

ter Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church. During the



past few months, hundreds of Angolans have been arrested during violent protests in the capital city of Luanda. According to the BBC, the demonstrators were protesting government corruption, including elections that have been delayed, in part due to the coronavirus pandemic. The country still faces many problems after a civil war ravaged the country from 1975-2002. People were also protesting against the high cost of living, rising unemployment and police brutality. Over the summer, Angolan security forces killed at least seven teenagers for violating COVID-19 restrictions, the BBC reported. The bishops lamented the “dire” situation in their country, in which they said many people are unable to feed their families. The bishops called for dialogue and policies “as the best way forward given the sensitivities in society and with the aim of avoiding all sensationalism currently generating uncertainty, fear and insecurity (in the nation),” Vatican News reported. CNA

### **Pope Francis calls everyone to take care of each other in 2021**

Pope Francis warned Sunday against the temptation to ignore the suffering of others during the coronavirus pandemic and said that things will get better in the



new year to the extent to which the needs of the weakest and most disadvantaged are prioritized. “We don’t know what 2021 has in store for us, but what each of us and all of us together can do is to commit ourselves a little more to take care of each other and of creation, our common home,” the pope said in his Angelus address Jan. 3.

In the live video broadcast from the Apostolic Palace, the pope said that “things will get better to the extent that, with God’s help, we work together for the common good, putting the weakest and most disadvantaged at the center.” The pope said that there is a temptation to take care only of one’s own interests during the pandemic and “to live hedonistically, that is, seeking only to satisfy our own pleasure.” CNA

## Best Quarantine Jokes



Why did the chicken cross the road together? Because the chicken behind it didn't know how to socially distance properly.

My mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now, ma! I'm saving the world!

If I keep stress-eating at this level, the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other.

Being quarantined with a talkative child is like having an insane parrot glued to your shoulder.

The World Health Organization announced that dogs cannot contract COVID-19.

Dogs previously held in quarantine can now be released. To be clear, WHO let the dogs out.

What's the best way to avoid touching your face? A glass of wine in each hand.

What's the difference between COVID-19 and Romeo and Juliet? One's the coronavirus and the other is a Verona crisis.

What should you do if you don't understand a coronavirus joke? Be patient.

Friend 1: Corona virus pandemic could be over in two years.

Friend 2: who told?

Friend 1: Yes WHO told.

# SALESIAN WORLD

## LOCAL NEWS

### Feast of Holy Family celebrated at MHOC parish at Mekanissa



**Mekanissa:** It was indeed a great joy to see so many families who gathered in the church for the feast of the Holy Family on 10 January, 2021. The Eucharist in which many priests concelebrated, Abba Tesfay Matheos the former parish priest of Mekanissa was the main celebrant. After the Mass and the breakfast offered at the parish, there was also an input session for the families organized by the pastoral committee of the parish.

### Abba Giorgio Pontiggia leaves for his Eternal reward



**Sondrio:** 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, Addis Ababa, Gambella as a great missionary with great zeal and passion for mission. May his soul Rest in Peace. He died in Italy on 28 December 2020, after succumbing to Covid-19.

### Brief visit of Nuncio to Don Bosco Soddo



**Soddo:** A brief visit was made by Archbishop Antonie Camilleri, Apostolic Nuncio to Ethiopia and Djibouti and Apostolic delegate of Somalia, to our mission in Soddo. Thanks also to Bishop Tsegaye Kenei, Bishop of Soddo vicariate for bringing the Nuncio to our Salesian community. It was a fraternal moment for the entire community and a great occasion also for Nuncio to get to know the Salesian charism.

## Animation on awareness and prevention of COVID-19 organized by the Youth Ministry Department



**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.

## COVID-19 campaign, hands-free handwashing machines



**Mekanissa:** The Covid-19 campaign is still going on. Different communities are taking different measures to tackle the crisis of the pandemic. The TVET College of Mekanissa has also taken an active part in the alleviation of the spreading of the pandemic by making hands-free hand washing machines. The College of Adwa had already done similar things. Here are four machines that were made

for the School of Zway.

## Carlo Acutis vibes in Gambella



**Gambella:** Carlo Acutis vibes also in Gambella. The community of Gambella inspired by the youthful holiness of the newly blessed Carlo Acutis, a short animation program was thought of for the youth of the oratory of Gambella. The program in which all the Salesian Confreres took part was indeed a moment of witness of the special predilection of the salesians for the young people.

## The long awaited Bishop for Gambella



**Gambella:** The long awaited Bishop of Gambella, Abuna Roberto Bergamaschi arrives in Gambella. It was a long awaited nomination for the Catholic community of Gambella. He was given a solemn welcome at Gambella. He was received by several dignitaries at the airport, who included his eminence Cardinal Berhane Yesus, Abuna Markos, Abuna Lisane-Christos Matheos, Mons.

Jean Paul, and many others.

### Don Bosco Gola receives two post-novices this year



**Adigrat:** The Community of Gola was also overjoyed at the presence of two new post novices, Cl. Dame Bayisa and Cl. Yosief Sabro. Both of them arrived in the community on 28th of September after having spent two days in quarantine in Makelle. The community is receiving new post novices after a gap of one year.

### Commemorative Mass for Abba Tesfay Kidane at Salesianum



**Addis Ababa:** On 5th August was held a commemorative Mass in honor of Abba Tesfaye Kidane, who passed away on 2nd August, 2020. More than hundred priests and religious were present and Abba Tesfay Weldemariam, the Vicar General of Addis Ababa was one among

the many who participated in the Requiem Mass.

### Diaconal Ordinations at Utume



**Nairobi:** On 16th August, on the birthday of Don Bosco, 14 clerics were ordained as deacons in Nairobi. The diaconate ordination was conferred by Most Rev. Rodrigo Mejia SJ. Among the 14 deacons, two of them, Dn. Fissuh and Dn. Tariku belong to our province of AET. As we congratulate them, we do promise our prayers and support in their ministry.

### Rectors' meeting at Salesianum



**Addis Ababa:** From 25 to 27 August was held the meeting of the Rectors and Economers at the Salesianum in Addis Ababa. The first two days were dedicated for the Rectors and the last day saw the joined meeting of Rectors and Economers. On the last day of the meeting a T-shirt sponsored

by the PDO was distributed to all participants.

### Abba Elio remembered at Zway



**Zway:** 13th May, the Feast of St. Maria Domenica Mazarello is the death anniversary of Abba Elio Bonomi, the great Italian Missionary who passed away in 1993 but whose memories are still fresh in the hearts of the people of Ethiopia. A commemoration service was held in Zway on the day of his death anniversary.

### Ministerial ordinations at Utume



**Nairobi:** On 16th May 2020, two of our young clerics studying in Utume-Nairobi, Cl. Dory Amene and Cl. Hagos Debesay, received their ministry of Lector. On the same day was held

also the perpetual profession of some of the confreres in the Theologium. We wish them all the very best in their journey towards priesthood.

### Joining the COVID-19 campaign



**Bosco Children, Addis Ababa:** COVID-19 is making its impact all over the world. Ethiopia is also not an exception to the list of countries affected by it. The Salesian world all over is responding positively to this Pandemic Crisis. In the photo is seen a boy from Bosco Children Center who is stitching masks for the distribution among the local public.

### High school construction at progress in Soddo

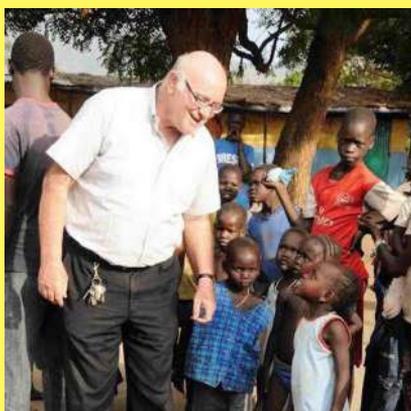


**Soddo:** Even during the lock-down period the construction is in full swing. The High School building in Soddo is making fast progress which is already in its third floor. The construction has been sponsored by Nuovo Fiore in Africa under the close supervision of the PDO. The idea is to begin with the High School in the new Ethiopian year 2013.

# *They have left for the Salesian Garden...*



**Abba Tesfaye Kidane SDB**



**Abuna Angelo Moreschi SDB**



**Abba Giorgio Pontiggia SDB**





**ABBA GIORGIO PONTIGGIA SDB** - left for his Eternal reward on 28 December 2020 at the age of 77 after a brief period of medication due to complications arising from Corona virus. Abba Giorgio worked in Ethiopia for many years – in former Mekanissa, in Salesianum as assistant to the Novice Master and also as Novice Master, in Dilla as Rector and Parish Priest, in Gambella Vicariate (Pugnido). After returning to Italy he was in Sondrio working in the parish. Abba Giorgio is always remembered for his dedication to first evangelization both in Dilla and Pugnido. He gave great importance to preparation of catechists and took pains to prepare the catechetical materials in local languages. We express our condolence to the Province of ILE, our Vice-Province, his family members and his many friends. We believe in faith that Don Bosco and many other Salesians saints welcome him in the Salesian Garden in Heaven.



**ABBA TEFAYE KIDANE SDB** - left for his Eternal reward on 2nd August 2020, at the age of 49 after a few months of hospitalization and treatment. During his 25 years of religious life, he had spent his youthful years in Adwa, Makelle, Dilla and Gambella with a gap of 4 years in Ireland where he spent for his specialization. By nature, he was not a complicated man, very exemplary in his simple life, always ready to collaborate with everyone who approached him for any help. Whether the time was opportune or not one could easily notice Abba Tesfay always with a smiling face, happy with the little he was offered. He had a special talent to deal with people and was able to win the friendship of people in a very short time. His death is certainly a loss for our vice-province but as our Constitution reminds, when it happens that a Salesian dies working for souls, the Congregation has won a great reward.



**ABUNA ANGELO MORESCHI SDB** - left for his Eternal reward on 25th March in Brescia (Italy) due to the coronavirus. In Ethiopia as a missionary he served as a parish priest and Director in Dilla (1991-2000) and held the office of Provincial Councilor for the then Vice-Province Africa Ethiopia-Eritrea (1998-2001). On November 16, 2000, he was appointed Apostolic Prefect of Gambella; on December 5, 2009, the prefecture was elevated to vicariate and he was appointed titular Bishop of Elefantaria of Mauritania and Apostolic Vicar of Gambella, receiving episcopal consecration on January 31, 2010. In his mission as prefect and then as apostolic vicar, he continued to embody the Salesian focus in helping children, accompanying them by his practical spirit and his strong apostolic zeal. In his visits to the villages, they still remember when the Salesian arrived with a battered SUV - or by motorboat in the villages along the Baro river when the roads were flooded - and he immediately began to distribute multi-vitamin biscuits to malnourished children. Bishop Moreschi leaves this land after serving the young, the poor and his flock of souls as a Salesian for 46 years, as a priest for 38, and as a bishop for over 10



# Don Bosco Catholic TVET College

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