

February – March 2011



Newsletter



SALESIANS of Don Bosco
Journeying with the Young

Ghana
Liberia
Nigeria
Sierra Leone

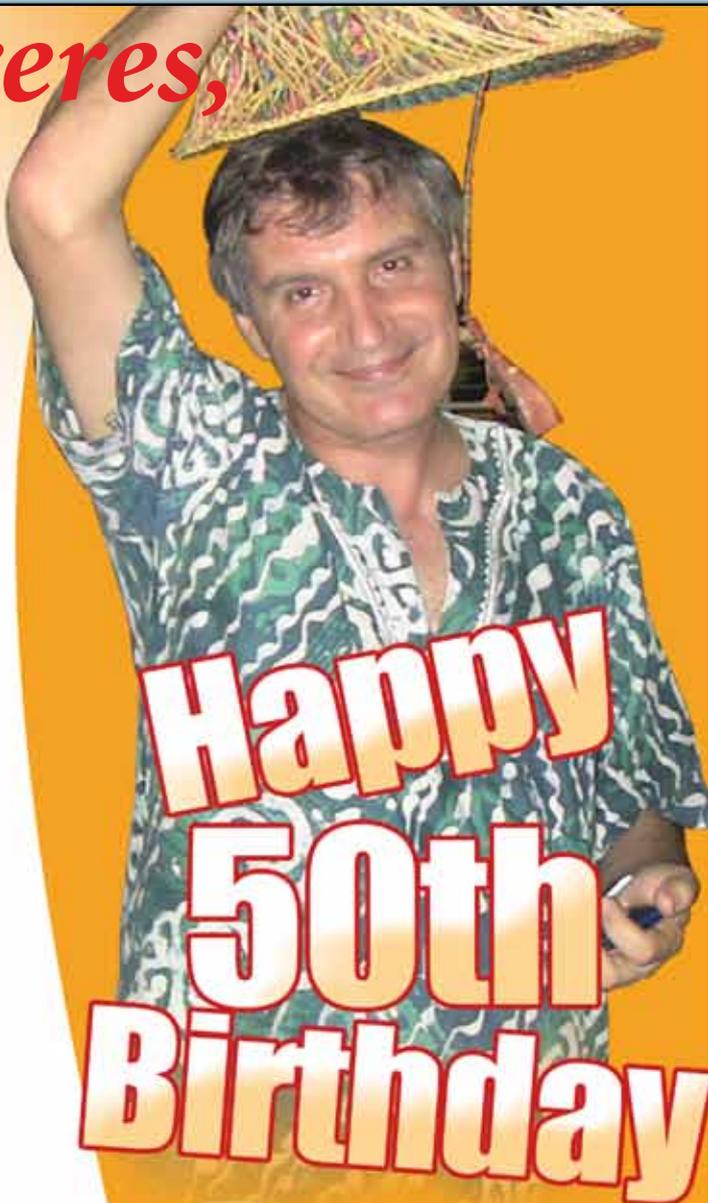
My dear Confreres,

This year is a year of special blessings for me for as you know I have just celebrated by God's grace my 50th Birthday, and it is 25 years since I made this my final profession and total commitment to the Lord.

I have been touched by all the best wishes that I have received from confreres, family and friends. I use this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your affection and prayers, for your love and support. Thanks for all the messages, mails and phone calls. Your encouraging words fill me with joy and hope.

The celebrations started at Sunyani with the Novices and the Don Bosco Community and reached their climax in Provincial House on the day of my birthday where we had a very nice celebration in the evening with the two communities and the Salesian Sisters, with a good representation of Co-operators Past-pupils and friends.

The most beautiful discovery was that at the centre of the celebration was not the Provincial but the Provincial Community and the Salesian Family: Co-operators and Past Pupils were there. Three new branches of the Salesian Family also said "present": the Salesian Sisters who had started as a small community in August have now become one large community having been joined by the Novices and Sisters from Ivory Coast. The Volontari Con Don Bosco (CDB) (with one member in Onitsha and a new candidate who has started in Ghana); and the CMB ("Comunita della Missione di Don Bosco"= Community of Don Bosco's Mission), a lay association of faithful who live out Don Bosco's Missionary spirituality and who are itplanning to open soon a presence in Ghana



*Fr
Jorge*



This leads me to a point that I have very much at heart; the importance of strengthening of the Salesian Family in our Province. It is good to remember that we as Salesians have been entrusted to be the custodians of Don Bosco's Spirit and Charism but we do not have a monopoly over it. The presence of the Salesian Sisters adds that feminine dimension and a more effective outreach to girls and young women.

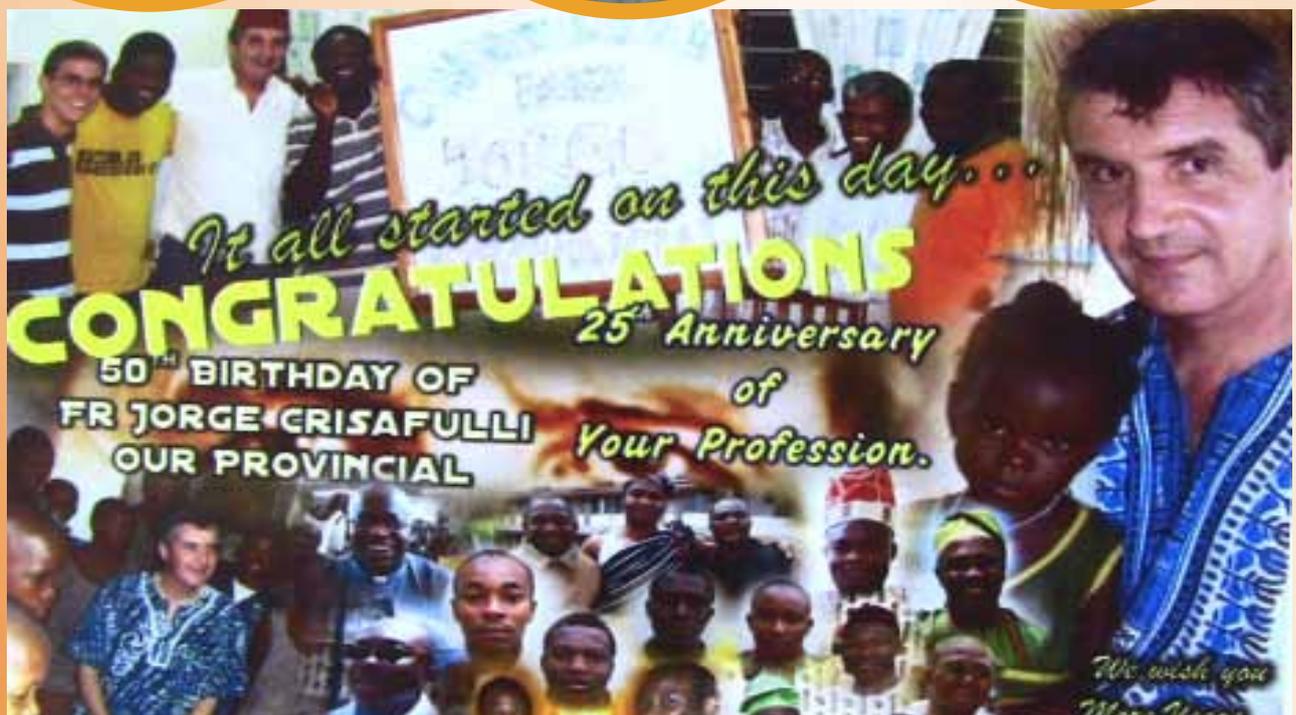
The Salesian Co-operators had for Don Bosco a very important role in his mission of evangelization and out-reach into all spheres of society. They need to be continually supported and promoted in our works and communities. In my last circular letter I underlined the need to consolidate the Salesian Family and this will require a journey in each community and country.

The programme which the Rector Major has set out for us in preparation for the Bi-centenary is good outline of how we should progress and my desire is that for the actual celebrations we would be able to hold a Provincial Congress of the Salesian Family at country level. In the meantime each community and

country has to seek ways of reinforcing their presence and number. One sure way of achieving this is by taking a personal interest in them whenever they have meetings or activities.

Once again I would like to thank each and every one of you for your kind wishes and prayers. I keep you in my heart and place you in our Mother's arms!

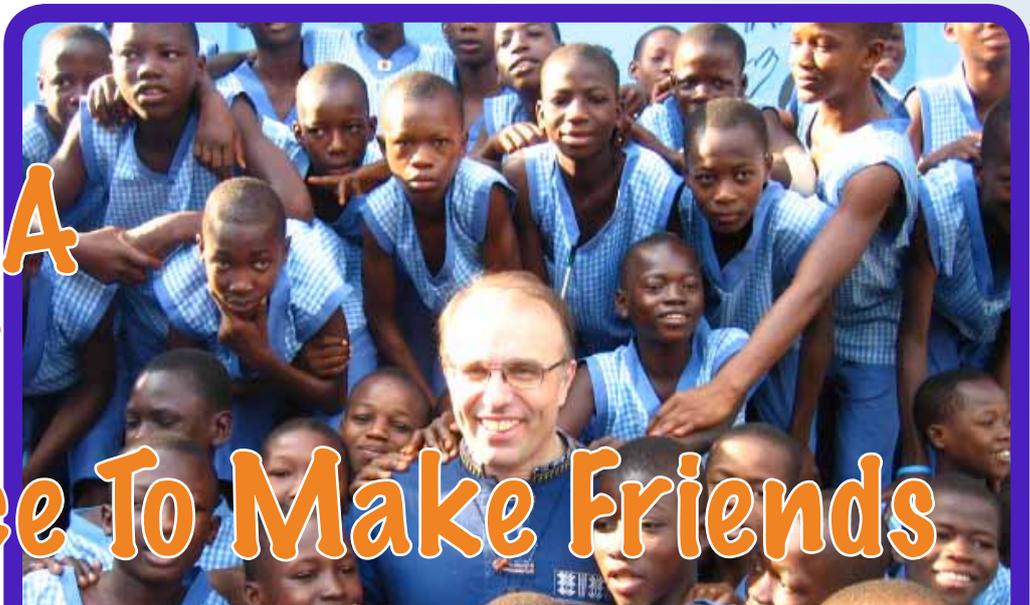
George



Fr Jorge Birthday Photos



SIERRA LEONE A Place To Make Friends



Fr Klement, General Councillor for the Missions spent some days in our Vice-Province from the 14th to the 20th of February. He had expressed his desire to come to the Province and visit the places for future expansion of our presence as well as our formation houses. In an incredible marathon he visited 3 countries and 6 houses in just 5 days: Ghana, Sierra Leone and Nigeria (our communities in Ashaiman, Lungi, Freetown, Ibadan, Akure and Ondo). Here he shares his reflections of his visit to Sierra Leone.

Fr V. Klement

Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries in the world. A small country with many young people, with very friendly and open population, majority of them Muslim faith. Don Bosco present already 25 years. The celebration of Salesian Silver Jubilee is going on.

Three days of very intense human, Christian and Salesian experience.

Eight SDB with many committed Salesian Cooperators, social workers, teachers, past pupils are witnessing the growth of Salesian Charism in the country.

Probably few countries in the world did suffer so much during the war, that finished just 10 years ago. In spite of that, we have already 10+ young Salesians, every year some novice and good number of candidate. Two communities of Freetown (capital) looking for a parish, street children work – Don Bosco Fambul (family) and Lungi (on the side of the international airport) looking for some 8 schools, parish with many chapels and Aspirantate are very colorful, composed of Salesians coming from four continents. This witness is strong indeed!

One day with the street children of Fambul. First in the streets around the mobile station – bus Don Bosco. Then moving to the DB center, walking in the streets one kilometer with our noisy brass band, welcome in the yard finished with the missionary crucifix liturgy, sending some 22 Salesian parishioners who will serve during the Holy Week in the city of Bo (our next presence in Sierra Leone) around the village home missions! Two Sierra Leone communities coming together for a dinner with a long storytelling.



Second day morning still in Freetown, Fambul continuing with the Eucharist in the playground of the street children. After breakfast a courtesy visit to the archbishop of Freetown Mons. Joseph Henry Ganda (running up in his house the stairs!) and the Bishop elect of Bo, Mons. Charles.. After a very cordial meeting a long trip to the second largest city of Sierra Leone, where we have already 20 hectares of land for the future work. Not only visiting the place and the local Church, but also an improvised meeting with five families of our Salesian confreres, all of them from Bo (second largest city). A colorful African shirt received from one "Mama Margaret" will remember for a long time this encounter. And it took another half a day to return to the Valdocco of Sierra Leone, Lungi community for the night.

Third day in Lungi. Wonderful experience of friendly co-existence of Muslims and Christians, a good example for the rest of Africa. Although the Muslims are about 80% of the population, and every village there is a small mosque, our students are praying very well Hail Mary, our Church is dedicated to Mary, Our Help and in the catechumen class there are some 80% of the boys coming from Muslim families. Even the marriages

are mixed. It was very moving to listen to the Koran recitation of one Christian boy and the future dreams of one Muslim student who want to become a Catholic priest! Also visit in some local mosque, public and home based, talks in the family of our Muslim friends was a good eye opener.



Fr. Klement In Afw Photo Journal



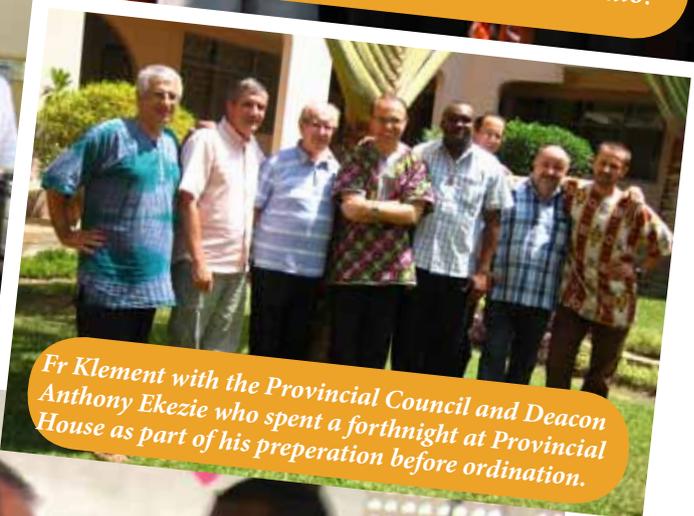
Fr Klement with the Novices of the Salesian Sister, who at present are continuing their novitiate in Ghana.



Fr Klement encouraging Michael and Achiaa who are working in the Audio Video Studio.



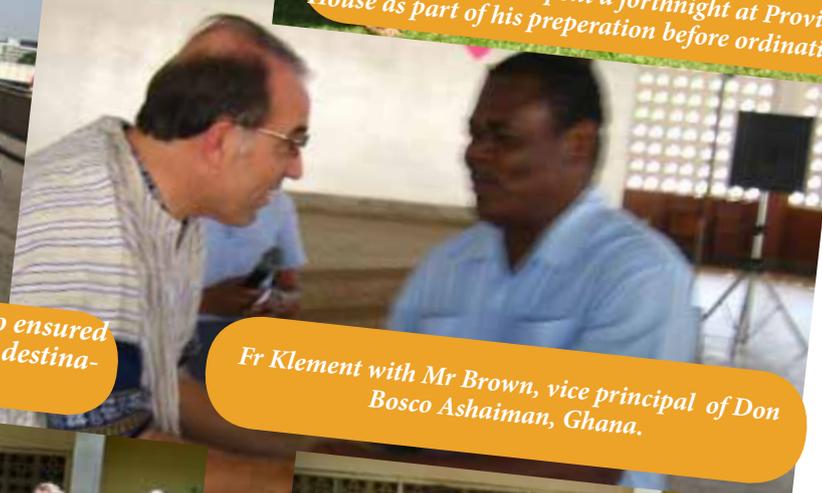
Fr Klement with Fr George and Fr Cyril, who was on breif home visit from the Sudan, the first missionary of the AFW Province.



Fr Klement with the Provincial Council and Deacon Anthony Ekezie who spent a fortnight at Provincial House as part of his preperation before ordination.



Fr Klement with Br Thomas who ensured that Father arrived safely at his destinations in Nigeria.



Fr Klement with Mr Brown, vice principal of Don Bosco Ashaiman, Ghana.



Fr Klement with community and Pre-Novices and aspirants in Formation House in Ondo.



Fr Klement with Fr Michael the Rector and all the Salesian Community in Ondo.

BRAVO! Our team of communication

Fr Chuks is about to finish his studies at the Ups in Rome. Being far away from the province is not always easy; here he shares with us his spontaneous reactions on receiving the Salesian Buletin of the Province, an important means of animation for the Salesian family.

At the refectory today arrived a parcel from AFW and it was containing the three magi (Salesian bulletin, message of the Rector Major to the SYM and Youth.com) bringing me the good news, thoughts and reflections of my confreres and the young people of AFW vice province. It was a good “*pausa*” for me as I started with the Salesian bulletin. I read with joy, looking at the faces of the youths and confreres working very hard to radiate the face of Don Bosco that makes present the love of Christ to all and sundry.

Reading the write ups, hundreds of flashbacks and thoughts filled my mind. Like a the young law student Mawuli Bakhita on the page 31 of Youth.Com I appreciate so much the effort made by the editorial personnel in getting these news across. Like good ingredients in their rich variety and appealing, one foresee already the contents of the write ups are moving towards the formation that is healthy and integral.

Reading the Rector Major’s short reflection on “*life as vocation and*

the vocation of life” on page 14-15 of the Salesian Bulletin.... I began to think and appreciate the initiatives of many confreres in our vice province in creating the atmosphere and spiritual accompaniment for many young people as this is typical of Don Bosco’s pedagogy for caring and giving chance to all and in particular, those who perceive their lives as gifts and call. Vocation nurtured vocation abundant. Experience shows that many of our youths have similar vocation story of the Biblical young Samuel than that of Isaiah’s “Here I am, send me”. By creating the atmosphere and accompaniment of the youths we become real co-workers with the gift and the grace of God to nurture vocation in its abundance.

The reflection of the Holy Father on education inserted on page 20 of the Salesian Bulletin in incredibly fascinating as he summarised the goal of education as friendship with God that brings positive changes and the happiness everyone is looking for. Education is more than growing in

proficiency in science or in technical subjects. It is the process of bringing out the goodness that is in us, the same goodness that is confirmed in the book of Genesis (1:31). I love it. Isn’t this so beautiful and worthy of a *mantra* for meditation “once you enter into friendship with God everything in your life begins to change?” This is still on the same theme by the Holy Father on the essence of education on page 21. Every single word of this line is a food for thought. There are other areas like the voluntary service in the Salesian mission, youth campaigns and rallies creating awareness on Drugs, HIV etc.. on page 18-23 of Youth.com, interestingly good. *E viva AFW !!!*

With this, I am sincerely grateful to all those that sustain this means of evangelization and animation in our province. I am just proud of you.

Chuks



Don Bosco Feast

As Salesians Don Bosco holds a very special place in our hearts, and his feast is always celebrated in a special way in our houses. While the Rector Major is urging us to prepare well for his bi-centenary in 2015, in the following pages we share with you some of the celebrations that were held in our houses.

Bicentenary

On *the 31st January*, the Rector Major, Don Chavez announced the preparations for the Bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco which will be celebrated on 16 August 2015.

Don Chaves proposes three stages of preparation:

1st year: 16 August 2011 to 15 August 2012

Knowledge of Don Bosco's history.

2nd year: 16 August 2012 to 15 August 2013

Don Bosco's Pedagogy.

3rd year: 16 August 2013 to 15 August 2014

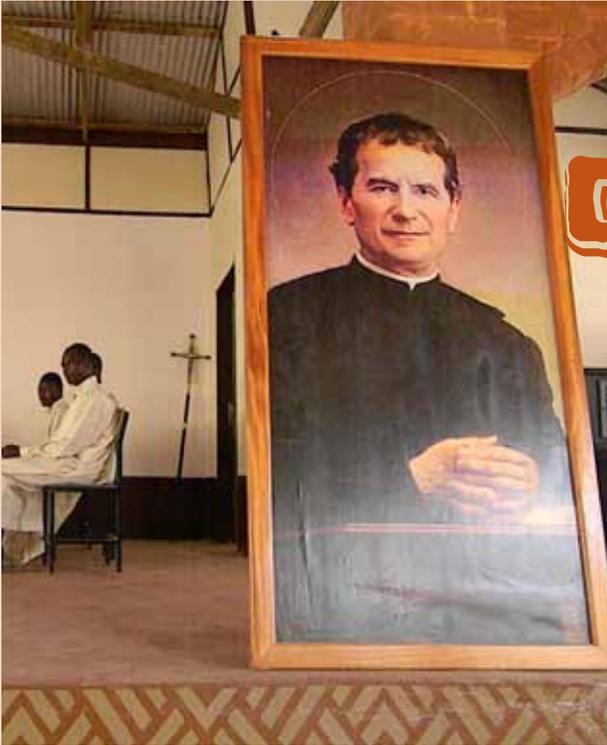
Don Bosco's Spirituality.

Year of celebration:

16 August 2014 to 16 August 2015

Don Bosco's Mission with the young and for the young.

The celebration of the Bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco will take place after the XXVII General Chapter. This event requires an intense and profound process of preparation, so that it may prove fruitful for all of us, for the Church, for the young and for society.



FEAST OF DON BOSCO Sunyani.

Don Bosco was celebrated in a great way as always in Sunyani. This year, it was a four day celebration of our Father and Founder. The celebrations kicked off in the school (Don Bosco Technical Institute) on Friday January 28, 2011 with a solemn mass by the Rector of the community Fr Piotr Wojnarowski SDB. In his homily, he apologized on behalf of the Salesians and Staff to the students for the times they were not treated as they should and also in occasions when they were negated. Following the homily, was a symbolic gesture by the Salesians and Staff taking a heart shaped paper with the inscription on it “We Love You” and distributing among the students as a sign of their love and commitment to work for their growth and betterment. Still at the mass, the letter of the Rector Major to young people was also given out to all the students and staff of the Institute in a significant way. The feast was also an occasion in which the new hall building and the multi-purpose court was blessed and inaugurated. After the mass, the celebration continued with various activities like Don Bosco quiz, two well acted skit by the students and Novices on the Salesian system of education (the right man for the job), games and lot more.



The celebration train moved from the school to Don Bosco boys home who celebrated theirs that evening. The community joined the boys in the home to celebrated Don Bosco. The high point of the evening was the goodnight of the Rector to the boys where he asked them to be grateful to God for the gift of Don Bosco and then a beautiful story of a young girl who was despised and rejected by friends but loved by only one boy just because she was blind. The girl he said, longed to see and told this boy loved her that she would marry him if she could see. The story went on to say that one day the boy came up to her and told her that a donor has accepted to give his eye to her so that she may see again. The operation was done and she could see. She asked to see her friend whom she saw but to her greatest surprise, he was blind. He asked her “Now that you can see would you marry me?” And her response was “I am sorry but no I cannot marry you. I thought that you could see that was why I said I would marry you when I begin to see but you are blind and I cannot marry you I am sorry.”



that was why I said I would marry you when I begin to see but you are blind and I cannot marry you I am sorry.” Accepting this fact, the boy went home and after some day, wrote to her saying: “Those eyes, before they became yours were mine and I gave them to you so as to see you smile again.....” the girl confused and sorry, wept. He drew saying that the girl even though she could see was blind to see how much the boys loved her and this also is applicable to us in the sense that even though we can see, we are still blind to the love of God towards us.

The next day Saturday January 29, 2011 was the turn of Mary Help of Christians Parish to celebrate Don Bosco. Young people from Holy Spirit Catholic Church Sunyani, Don Bosco Technical Institute, Don Bosco Boys Home, Adentia, Quateri Oratory and the Novices together with their master, came in their numbers to celebrate with the young people of Mary Help of Christians Parish Odumase. The celebration began with a well performed dance drama by the Novices followed by an input by the rector Fr Piotr Wojnarowski SDB on Don Bosco and centered on vocation. According to the rector “Life is a vocation which young people today have to realize.” He went ahead, inviting them to think about the Salesian consecrated life. After the input, he also distributed the letter of the Rector Major to young people to all the young people present. After the input were games and some other side attractions made possible by Fr Silvio and the Novices.

Sunday January 30, 2011 was the thanksgiving mass at Mary Help of Christians Parish Odumase with Fr Silvio Roggia presiding over the mass. In the evening of that day, was the turn of the Salesian Family which also had in attendance other

religious congregations and the Bishop of Sunyani Diocese Most Rev. Dr Matthew Kwesi Gyamfi. It was a moment of family sharing. In his speech, the bishop stressed the need to working together and this the Salesian had shown in the diocese these past years. The day ended with the benediction by the bishop.

Monday January 31, 2011 Feast of Don Bosco and Patron of the community. The celebration began with a solemn morning prayer in honor of Don Bosco and mass with the students presided over by the rector. In place of the homily, the rector asked that Confrere should say one or two things that made them say “YES” to Don Bosco. This was really a deep sharing which I know would linger on not just in the heart of the Confrere but also in the hearts of the young people present at the mass. Don Bosco Oratory Odumase, also had their turn in the celebration with hundreds of young stars came together in Obolo hall to celebrate Don Bosco. The evening was a nice get family together of the community which was also used to celebrate the birthday of Fr Peter Savio.

What else to I have to say but “I am proud to be part of this family of vast movement of people....” Bravo Bosco!!!!!!!!!!!!

EKUGBAH CHIKEZIE SDB
Sanit John Bosco Community
Sunyani.



FORMATION HOUSE - ONDO

CELEBRATING TOGETHER DON BOSCO FEAST

Every year Catholics all over the world commemorate the memory of St John Bosco but for the Salesians it is a solemnity. Prior to the feast day, that is the 31st of January, the Salesians in Ondo together with pre-novices, as a sign of honour to their founder and father they prayed the nine days novena to St John Bosco with joy, enthusiasm and hope that our founder will surely rejuvenate us. It was in view of this that on the eve of this Solemnity of St John Bosco that the Pre-novices together with their assistants Joseph SDB and Maximums SDB organized a quiz competition in honour and to celebrate the feast of Don Bosco. The Salesians community Ondo expressed their profound gratitude to the Pre-novices and to the assistants for being creative enough to organize such an activity. Gifts were presented by the vice rector Rev Fr Chris SDB to the participants from the various groups, that is Cimetti, Zatti, Mary at Cana, and Francis de Sales groups respectively.

Also, on the feast day, the Salesians together with the Formation House gathered in the chapel as a community and as followers of Don Bosco to pray the psalms with faith, hope and charity. Later in the evening the Salesians and Formation House with their director Rev Fr Oche SDB and his assistants Joseph SDB and Maximums SDB invited the whole Priests, Religious and Salesians Co-operators in Ondo town to celebrate the feast of our founder and father. It started at about 6.30pm with evening prayer animated by Joseph SDB after which Rev Fr Chris SDB welcomed everybody present and presented to them the strenna of the year as compiled by the Rector Major Rev Fr Paschal Chavez SDB titled iCOME AND SEEi. They all watched the documentary, after which we went into the house for a get-together. Many Religious communities were present at the celebration and some diocesan priests. The Pre-novices as is customary and traditional, entertained everybody present with their melodious and sweet voices. The Pre-novices also showed to everybody present that they can not only sing but also dance. As such they presented traditional dance and choreography, together with their Guardian Angels Joseph SDB and Maximums SDB.

The Religious, Priest and Salesians Co-operators were all happy and in return expressed their gratitude to the

community by clapping. The cutting of the cake was led by the eldest Salesian in the community Br John Patrucco SDB who also expressed his appreciation to all.

The celebration ended with the vice rector Fr Chris SDB giving the valedictory speech to all, saying Don Bosco shared his life with the young people as such we should also share our lives with others.

Finally, Fr Chris led all the the Salesians, Pre-novices, Salesian Co-operators, Religious and Priest present in



prayer as we recited three Hail Mary just like Don Bosco used to do to close the day; he then gave the final blessing.

From entertainment committee of the Formation House Ondo



DON BOSCO FEAST

-31st January 2011

We have just ended the celebrations for the feast of St. John Bosco!

The event has been prepared with three days characterized by the presentation of Don Bosco Vocation accompanied by Mamma Margaret, Fr Calosso, his first spiritual guide, Luis Comollo, his friend during the Adolescent time, and Fr Joseph Cafasso, his confessor and inspiration during the priestly life.

Friday 28th we organized the Penitential Rite for all the students, Saturday morning we participate to the Maraton – race “Run for Don Bosco” and Sunday 30th has been dedicated to the Parents of the salesians living nearby Onitsha. Sunday afternoon has been spent together with the 700 boys and girls of the Oratory.

Monday 31st January, with the Students of the Technical School and of the Secondary School we celebrated the Eucharist, followed by sport and cultural activities.

In the evening the Salesian Community shared with some of our friend priests the prayer of the Vespers and the supper.

More and more, Don Bosco’s Love spreads and with it also his charisma, his style of holiness and his educative system founded on the fundamental pillars: reason, religion and loving kindness.



ONITSHA



OUR PARISH BELONGS TO YOU BOSCO

The Parish community of St John Bosco in Ondo celebrated the feast and solemnity of their Patron St. John Bosco.

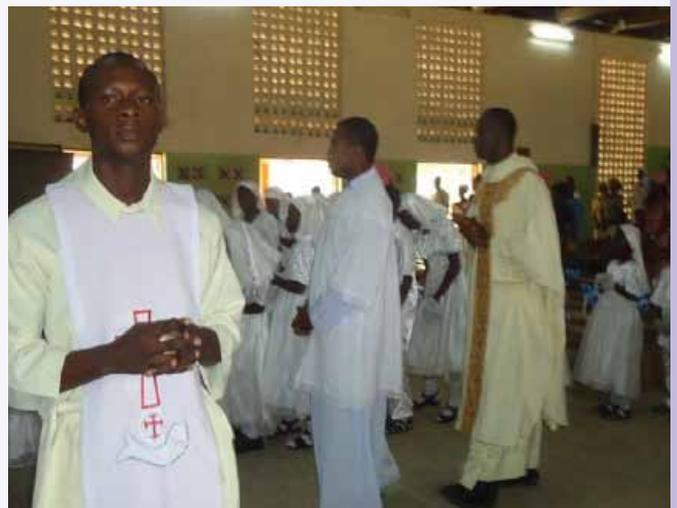
The parishioners prepared themselves for the feast with a nine days novena in honor of their patron saint John Bosco. The novena, which was animated by Chiemeka SDB and the two practical trainees Joseph SDB and Maximums SDB, came to an end with a solemn Mass on Sunday 30th January, 2011, the Sunday nearest to the main feast day. The mass started at about 9am in the morning with Fr Micheal Oguniyi SDB , the parish priest as the chief celebrant and the co-celebrants the vice rector Fr Chris SDB and Fr Oche SDB while practical trainees Joseph and Maximums served as assistants on the altar. It was really a day of joy for the entire parishioners of St. John Bosco catholic Parish Ondo town.

During the mass the vice rector Rev.Fr Chris (SDB) encouraged the congregation to follow the footprint of their patron saint, and in this way they would be able to see Jesus and to know where He lives. The parishioners as a sign of honor together with the salesians of Ondo community danced and gave thanks to God for giving them St John Bosco. A man of wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart as the sand that is on the sea shore.

There was a reception after the Eucharistic celebration in honor of this great Man. The parishioners sang praises to God and also had a get-together meal in honor of their patron saint. Also the Pre-novices with their brother assistant Joseph SDB joined the lay faithful to celebrate by presenting some wonderful songs. The parishioners showed their mark of appreciation by thanking God not only for St John Bosco but also by giving them the future "John Boscoís".

The celebration came to an end with the parish priest entrusting all the parishioners into the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mary Help of Christian with three Hail Maryís, after which he gave the final blessing and all returned home in peace.

From the press group of Don Bosco Youth Center Ondo



DON BOSCO FRIEND OF THE YOUTH



Many people wanted to witness don Bosco celebration at the youth centre St. Augustine Junior Secondary School and St. Augustine Senior Secondary School though it was a challenge since their programs were going on concurrently.

In the youth centre the following programs were organized for the following activities: Marathon Race , 300 Meters for Girls, Volleyball and Basketball.

Each winner was awarded a prize which included that for young choir and for drama, as well as some mini games played by children aged 7 years to 15 years.

The vigilant animators were really in action and a series of competitions were guided by them. The junior secondary school activities reached their climax on don Bosco feast day on the 31st January with a March Past and an award ceremony. Later there was the formal opening of a well furnished library, canteen, toilet, chapel and the Principal's office. A drama and refreshment ended the program in the J.S.S

The football gala which had been going on for about a month amongst the classes in the Senior Secondary school pupils was won by Form three commercial one (3Com1) in the 31st January, after hard struggle. Other activities went on simultaneously which were

all finally concluded with refreshments.

Don Bosco loved to pray and play. To mark his feast day, a solemn mass was celebrated on the 30th of January with all Salesians priests in Lungi present. A visiting priest Fr. Richard was the main celebrant. In his homily, he reiterated that we are grateful to God as we celebrate 25 years presence of Salesians in Sierra Leone, and secondly for the 50th anniversary of Sierra Leone independence. Before the reading of the Gospel, the youths presented a little drama in which they brought salt, water, fire, showing and explaining the word of God to congregation, Fr. Richard said we need to form good and honest citizens. He further stated that youths need guidance and our support.

Finally at the end of the celebration Fr. Richard blessed the Youth Executive that comprises of the Chairman, Thomas V.M. Sengeh and Chairlady Elizabeth K. Kargbo, the Secretary Domains K Kargbo, the Public Relation Officer Zachariah I. Bendu, Whip Maurice Saffa and the Financial Secretary Lawrence Gray.



THE MONTH OF LOVE

St Valentine's Day is a popular day not only with the young but with people in general; it is an opportunity for many to express their sentiments to their true loved ones. For the Salesian community in Sunyani however it was an opportunity not to be missed to pass on to the young true Christian values in a truly Salesian Spirit on what true love is.

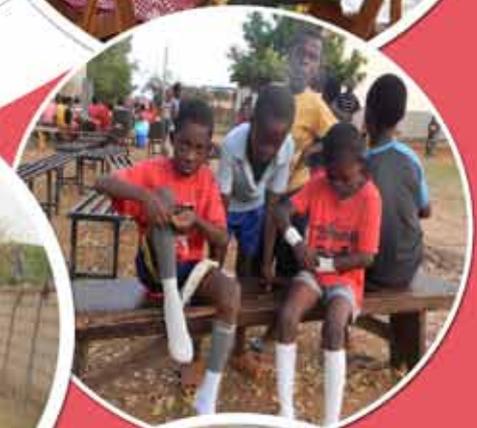
The Month of February or as some would call the "Month of Love" (owing to the fact that Valentines Day falls on this month) was filled with so many activities for the community of Sunyani.

First on the list of activities was Val's day celebration which was celebrated in a very healthy way on 12 Feb in the hostels having a joint programme, and for the first time in the Parish. Val's day in the hostel was so unique, having the Rector Fr Peter W as the MC of the day. Br Paolo gave a beautiful story on Love; the love of God whose light on us never dims... following Br Paolo were different acts on stage who entertained with their songs, dance, poem etc. the day ended with closing prayer by Fr Mark Anthony and a well animated goodnight by the rector showing the youngsters through a song the love of God for them.

From the hostel, the baton was handed over to the Parish who on 13 Feb for the first time, celebrated Val's day tagging it "Valentine Dinner." Married couples, young gents and ladies all trooped to the venue of the event which was the Parish hall. The event started with Fr Mark Anthony giving the input followed by other activities like pick 'n' act, two can play (which was to show how much couples knew themselves) and the event came to its peak when the two gospel acts from Sunyani came up to thrill the audience with their out of this world performance. The day came to a close with the concluding prayer and final blessing from the Parish Priest Fr Peter Savio.

Also in this month of February, was a heritage which the oratory of Odumase already had and that is Obolo Gala of popularly known as Obolo Ice kenkey. This is a football tournament for young boys and girls from ages 7-15 started by the famous Br Michael Schmitz popularly known as Obolo by the people and since then has come to stay. This year's tournament had 670 boys and girls playing for different team which does not include those who come to watch. The children are given bread and Ice kenkey as refreshment. Children need an avenue to bring out what they've got inside of them and I am glad we are giving them that opportunity as Don Bosco would say "Da Mihi Animas Cetera Tolle."

EKUGBAH CHIKEZIE SDB
*St John Bosco Community
 Sunyani*



DON BOSCO LIFE CHOICES VCT-NIGERIA CELEBRATES VALENTINE 2011 IN STYLE



BY SIR RICHARD B. AJAYI.

Only total abstinence from premarital sex among youths or sticking only to a faithful marital partner in the case of married couples can prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, Mrs. K. A . Bada, the Matron, Isolo Maternity Health Centre, Akure has said.

Delivering a Paper entitled: **“Love, Sex and Sexuality”** to a group of Youths drawn from Secondary Grammar Schools, Churches, Mosques and other Youth Organisations recently in Don Bosco Centre, Akure, during the **Valentine 2011 Symposium** organized by the Don Bosco Life Choices VCT-Nigeria to mark the Valentine Day, the Health Officer observed that sexuality was the expression of the sexual drive but the expression of sexuality should be, as expected, only in heterosexual marriage.

She noted that what most of the youths indulged in nowadays was basically infatuation rather than love. According to her, infatuation would normally rear its head, but it should be handled “responsibly without giving in to its foolish desires and recklessness”.

She identified pornography, sex orgies, pedophilia, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestialism, sadomasochism,

voyeurism and genital exhibitionism as the most common sexual perversions plaguing not just the society, but the youths in particular.

In his own Paper entitled: **“ I want to Belong”: Issues and concerns for young People making decisions”**, the Asst. Director, Justice, Development and Peace Commission, JDPC, Rev. Fr. Vincent Anadi observed that what matters was the courage to follow one’s path through **self mastery**, as, what shapes destiny is the choice.

Fr. Anadi remarked that man was created as a decision making machine but regretted that almost every individual is chasing to be like the other and never to be left behind. He was of the view that many young people were not living their lives but other people’s. Frowning at different vogues among the youths, the Priest queried “after the “sagging”, “o ti yanan”, “gangsterism”, “zipdown”, perhaps “Ori e o fokasibe!” what next?

He challenged the youths to get rid of mental blocks, saying that many allowed the mind to be clogged with certain presuppositions and biases as well as prejudices. He called for the development of intuition and logic admonishing that the notion that there is only one ‘right solution’ to a problem should be jettisoned.

At the occasion, the Special Guest, the Commissioner for Youths and Sports, Alhaj Yekini Olanipekun, who was represented by Mr. Bola Faturoti, commended the organizers for bringing up the programme to fashion the future for the youths. He remarked that the youths needed those activities that would give scope and outlet for their psychological and physical energies.

He then called on well-meaning Nigerians, corporate bodies and religious organizations to emulate the organizers and join hands with the government in her determination to develop the youth in all ramifications.

However, the Rector of the Salesians of St John Bosco Community, Rev. Fr. Italo Spagnolo had earlier welcomed the Guests and Students from different Schools, Churches, Mosques and Organisations and he called on the youth to seize the opportunity of being part of the programme to gain something from all that they would be made to know.

While presenting his Speech, the Program Manager, Sir Richard B. Ajayi drew the attention of the gathering to the fact that, the present programme by the Don Bosco Life Choices VCT-Nigeria actually started October 2009 and since then to January 2011, a total number of 9,324 clients had been counseled and tested through the mobile and facility activities.

He implored the youths to be cautious stressing that the programme was meant to show them the future and straighten their conception about the celebration of the yearly Valentine Day.

Nothing less than 15 students were drawn from each of the 15 Secondary Schools invited. Many youths from other churches, mosques and organizations were also invited.

At the end of the Quiz Competition where four Schools, Oyemekun Grammar School, Akure; St. Louis Girls Sec. Grammar School, Akure; Becky Parker College, Akure; and Don Bosco Technical Institute, Akure featured, St. Louis Girls Sec. Grammar School, Akure, won the 1st Position; the 2nd Position was grabbed by Don Bosco Technical Institute, Akure; while Becky Parker College, Akure took the 3rd Position. Their Awards were presented to them by the Rector of the Salesian Community, Rev. Fr. Italo Spagnolo.

A group of promising Youths called the Soldiers for Christ thrilled the audience with Western Dance, while the students of Don Bosco Technical Institute, Akure presented a drama entitled "**Karma**"; with another student of the school, Adesola Adewumi reeling out a Poem to the admiration of the audience.





Nigerian Youth Ministry Seminar

(ANS and Ibadan) ñ Between 21 and 25 February Fr Dominic Sequeira, a member of the Youth Ministry Department, chaired a Seminar at the Don Bosco Institute of Philosophy and Education in Ibadan. Very down to earth and practical, the Seminar encouraged those taking part to become active and effective in accompanying young people.

The participants included Salesian Post-Novices, Guanellians, lay students and lay animators from five African countries and Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Congo DR. Most of the exercises were done in groups. The practical issues concerning each of the countries represented were addressed by participants who had been grouped according to their countries.

The five day seminar began on Monday 21st February with a quick survey on what youth ministry actually entails, and how it can be implemented in the local African contexts.

Subsequently, based on his experience with the young people in India, the United States, and Italy, Fr. Dominic was able to address some pertinent issues raised by the participants. He also urged everyone to take time to think and work out how practical issues pertaining to youth ministry in their various countries can be addressed.

The Seminar continued along very practical lines with tips on how to be a youth minister. Each day there were specific inputs; psychological games, questionnaires and jokes that can also prompt young people to deep reflection.

Making their own valuable contribution to the Seminar by their presence were Fr. Cyril Odia Delegate for

Youth Ministry from the Sudanese Delegation in the ñEast Africañ Province (AFE) and Fr Piotr Wojnarowski, Youth Ministry Delegate for the Vice Province of ñEnglish-speaking West Africañ (AFW).

At the end of the Seminar on the last day, every participant prepared a project that was geared towards addressing specific issues in youth ministry in a locality of their choice.



Ibadan.



FEEDING PROGRAMME AT DON BOSCO

YOUTH CENTRE TINTAFOR LUNGI

Tintafor Lungi is found in the northern district of Port Loko where the only International Airport is found. People in this environment practice petty business and rely on subsistence farming and fishing for their livelihood.

Over two third (2/3) of the population survive on one meal a day just to sustain their lives.

Most children go to school hungry from 8am to 1:35pm. Once in a while world food programme provide food for some schools while some are left without. It is extremely difficult to cater for every pupil in school, because parents cannot feed their children at home or get only one meal a day, most children fear to go to school for whole day with empty stomach. Some parents use these children to do petty business, get some money for the one evening meal.

Don Bosco Youth Centre Lungi has been given recreation and trauma healing to the youth and young adults every day except Sunday. During the day even when the youth centre is not opened some of these children who are not fortunate to go to school are found at the youth centre

with their petty business abandoned playing games.

The director of the youth centre brought about a feeding programme wherein one hundred and twenty five pupils are benefiting. The staple food of Sierra Leone (rice) cooked for these children every lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Each one of the 125 pupil is served a plate of rice which they also share with their friends without. The food is really meant for 125 pupils but more than 200 shared hence each have a friend.

This feeding programme however is useful and according to my witness, the real beneficiaries are getting the food and really appreciate it. This programme started on the 10th of January, 2011. I only hope and pray that in the near future this number may be increased to 250, because children were identify at random, some from St. Augustine Primary, Kankaylay Primary, D.E.C. Kamasondo Primary and Benkeh Primary School. Yet more were.

It thanks the donors and may God bless them.

I thank the donors, volunteers, and the mammy who prepare the food for these puspil

KARATE KIDS IN LUNGI

MARTIAL ARTS BON BOSCO YOUTHS CENTER

INTRODUCTION

The Don Bosco Youths Centre (DBYC) has developed so many sport disciplines in which martial arts is no exception. The martial arts wing in the don Bosco youths centre, was formed in 2006 under the supervision of rev. Fr. Sajej. The martial arts wing was named "the Don Bosco Martial Arts Academy (DB-MAA), and is headed by a black belt 2nd fan holder-Annel Thoronka.

The academy is non-political and non-profit making. The operation of the academy is primarily focused in the DBYC, Tintafor, Lungi.

OBJECTIVES

- I. To inculcate the sense of belongingness.
- II. To promote sport at the grass root level.
- III. To enable youths to appreciate their prime roles in national development,
- IV. To eradicate the fear of domination and marginalization by strong opposition,
- V. To promote karate and facilitate the realization of all her protocols.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership into the don Bosco martial arts academy is automatic but for a person to be recognize as a member of the academy, one need to obtain a registration form at a cost recovery price.

Note that the academy prime objective is to nurture youths as developmental agents and to become self-reliant in society.



AN EMOTIONAL DILEMMA

The effect that have on students in our schools will remain with them al theri lives. When they leave our schools, what they take with them is not just the knowledge and skills that they learnt, but more importantly the values that will guide them throughout life. Here we bring the speech given by a student at the graduation of St Augustine School in Lungi, where our Salesian Community is doing a lot of sterling work in the field of educaiton.

What could be more frightful than leaving the assurance of a sanctuary? The St. Augustine Agricultural Secondary School, Tintafor Lungi is a sanctuary that has sheltered my self and many from the callous brutality and glaring hostility of the out side world. It is a loving , caring and considerate mother that has not failed to furnish her children with Love, Protection Morals, and academic ammunion to combat the hostility of the outside world.

Leaving the St. Augustine Agricultural Secondary School, is the hardest reality especially when the Salesians of Don Bosco have always being there to guide and train HONEST CITIZENS AND GOD FEARING PEOPLE in their enviable principle known as the PREVENTIVE SYSTEM they inherited from their Patron Saint {DON BOSCO}. In This system , they have always been there to help us to use our reasoning power in the way we look at things with these three words, REASON , RELIGION and LOVING KINDNESS . It has always neglected the idea that repressive as the best as it is been practised in the neighbouring schools but they believed in the philosophy their presence is merely enough for us and today it is yielding good and enviable fruit for all it's children , without the rod, we are yet disciplined unlike our neighbours that uses the rod. St. Augustine like the mother Kangaroo, the St. Augustine Secondary School has sheltered and protected Me in her pouch

The thought of leaving the invulnerability of her pouch for the vulnerability of the out side World leaves me cold. Moulting from the innocence to experience is indeed frightful. It is leaving the conversance of home where one is assured of all, for the uncertain and uncompromising World where everything is at stake.

On the other hand , going to the out side world is adventurous in a sense . It is an experience every true Augustinain student must not be afraid to challenge. As far as Moral, Spiritual, Academic and Physical values are concerned, no student who pass through the enviable PREVENTIVE SYSTEM

is malnutrined.

The SALESIANS are not there to dispense Moral, Spiritual, Academic , and Physical nutrient to their wards and at the same time , they have not been superfluous in dispensing these values so as to ensure that they do not become fanatics.

We see that we have been fully equipped to face the out side world . Our prospect are indeed bright, this can be manifested in the lives of her children that are leaving for the various universities and other secondary schools, they have always being at the apex of all situation this is as a result of having dedicated EDUCATORS rather than mere teachers and a richly balanced diet to face those challenges Yet , inspite of all these certitudes, I find out that my emotion is embigenal .

Must I be sad or afraid to leave the protective and safe pouch of Mother St. Augustine for the hostility of the adult world? Or must I be happy and fearless to confront the world and put into practice the quintessence of morality a spiritualism what I have learnt as her word. What could have been of us in Lungi without the help of the Salesians?.....

Long live the SALESIANS

Long live the RECTOR MAJOR

Long live our BENEFACTOR

Long live ST. AUGUSTINE

Long live to our relentless and hard working Staff and to all in and out side her pouch.

THOMAS V.M SENGEH
Assistant Head Boy 2ooeight /2oonine

IT IS GROWING! Water the Plants.

For quite a long time, Sierra Leone has had only three dioceses, Makeni diocese (found in the north) Kenema diocese (found in the east and arch dioceses of Freetown and Bo (found in the western area and southern province). Pouring water for the growth of the catholic faith, Bo which is found in the southern of Sierra Leone is really rich in the catholic faith and has produced a lot of priests, and religious up to date.

It may have come like a dream when on the 15th January it was announced that Bo was to become a diocese and rev. Fr. Charles Campbell as the first bishop elect awaiting his ordination on the 7th may, 2011. Bo is the second largest city of Sierra Leone with four well populated districts, and with more than half of its population Catholic Christians.

It is still growing because he is still pouring pure water even though he has celebrated his fiftifh year of priesthood.

Bishop Dr. George Biguzzi, who is celebrating 50 years of priesthood, has just ordained three catholic priests. Two of which were diocesan priests, that is Rev. Fr. Benjamin H. Sesay and Rev. Fr. William sonny brown while Rev. Fr. Andrew Dumbuya belong to the josephite congregation.

Bishop Biguzzi expressed concern over his growing plants, that most people destroy his plants instead of nourishing it to become fresher. He said “these are your own very brothers, instead of given them, you border they with your request, instead of advancing them, you pull them down and destroy there good image.

Before completing his homily, Bishop George said, “a prayer have been issued to all the parishes to be said during every Eucharistic mass in honor of the 50th anniversary of Sierra Leone”. And when ever reciting the litany of Blessed Virgin Mary, we should add “**MARY OUR LADY OF SIERRA LEONE**”.

MINI YOUTH CENTRE – TARGRIN

The Salesians of Don Bosco in Lungi community covers a lot of different communities including Targrin. Targrin is the main route traveler’s use from Lungi to Freetown through a ferry. So many people rely on fishing as their survival need while most of the young boys rush in the ferry to be self employed by carrying loads for people. So the Salesians community saw the usefulness in opening a mini youth centre rather than Tintafor youth alone.

This centre however, comprises of series of activities for youths within the age group ranging from 10 to 18 years. This centre opens to the public for Monday through Saturday at the Roman Catholic Primary School compound by 4:00Pm to 6:45Pm.

Some of the games that youths enjoy at the centre include Football, Tee Tee Ball, Ludo, Table Tennis, Draft and much more. Before the opening of the centre everyday, a little prayer is offered with few minutes gospel reading and reflection on that gospel read.



The games of the youth centre is meant for every youth regardless of your race, religion, gender, or tribe, and many youths take advantage of this, and their talents are identified.

There are a lot of constraint which in due cause can be handled squarely. We hope to do more us plans area on for more development.

SALESIANS OPEN NEW HOUSE IN AKURE

BY SIR RICHARD BABATUNDE AJAYI.

The Salesian Councillor for Missions Worldwide, Rev. Fr. Clement Vaclak, SDB, has called on the faithful in the Catholic Church not to relent in joining others to fulfil the dream of St. John Bosco in the missionary task as bestowed by Don Bosco himself.

Speaking recently in Akure where he was, accompanied by the Provincial for West Africa, Rev. Fr. Jorge Crisafulli, SDB, to commission a new edifice for the use of the Salesian Community in Akure, the Superior Councillor for Missions said in his homily that it was compelled on all to preach the love of God through evangelization as exhibited by St. John Bosco and Akure Community should not be left out.

He remarked that Jesus was calling on every man and woman to have experience of God, stressing that it had ever been the intention of the Salesians to encourage the youths who were aspiring to be such missionaries from Nigeria .

At the colourful but brief ceremony where members of the Community, Staff and Faithful were present, Rev. Frs. Vaclak and Crisafulli were welcomed with songs and cheerfulness, with the Rector of the Community, Rev. Fr. Italo Spagnolo, SDB, familiarizing the visitors with every department in the Community.

Fr. Spagnolo saluted the Superior Councillor for taking the pain to come for the dedication and commissioning of the Salesian House, of which he commended Rev. Bro. Thomas Robert Annan, SDB, who he described as the architect and supervisor of the beautiful u-shaped edifice . He also appreciated the parishioners for their contributions in making the project a reality through the donation made.

While observing the gains of the presence of the Salesians in Akure and Ondo Diocese in general, the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Desmond Eke commended the Salesians of St. John Bosco for making available the Don Bosco Technical Institute, Akure; the Don Bosco Continuing Education Centre and the Evening School, which had availed those who missed the chance of going to regular school the opportunity of being educated; the Don Bosco Printing Press, which had trained a lot of youth on printing technology with the assistance of Rev. Fr. Matteo Bala, SDB,; the Don Bosco Health Centre and Life Choices VCT – Nigeria Centre, with high-tech laboratory services and HIV Advocacy and outreach services and the Youth Centre which had provided a playing ground for thousands of youth irrespective of creed and sex.

He said members of the Parish and the whole Akure Community would remain grateful for ever for the lease of life and light that the Salesians had brought to the Diocese.

The self-contained-six-room one-storey building also accommodates three offices, one library, one dining room, one store and a reception was commissioned by Rev. Fr. Vaclak at exactly 9.05am at the glare of all, with the assistance of the Provincial , Rev. Fr. Crisafulli and Rector of the Community, Rev. Fr. Spagnolo before proceeding to the Mary Help of Christians Parish Church for Mass which ended at exactly 10.00 after which the Salesian Superiors continued their journey to Lagos where they were to board flight to Ghana same day, via Don Bosco Community, Ondo.

Parishioners were later treated to a light refreshment.



Youth Corner

THE COLOURLESS FLOWER

Around the four walls of St. Augustine , Eyes can view colourless flowers.

Heavens who maketh thy colourless flowers

No, No, an Indian Priest

It is so beautiful, so wonderful , cheerishable, lovely, amicable, and pleasing to every heart.

Oh wonders be thou you

Along the road to Salesian house Tintafor

It shines like a golden ring , Smells like a Heavenly spray

Yes such an undindable bell, Beautiful as it is .

In day light and done, Be it bell or spray, Where lovers search for short snaps .

And Children disturbs it's beauty.

Is it in forest?

Is it in garden?

And why so mythful

Thou God maketh me

Hence mythyful.

*A. L. T. Lamin, Holy Cross Parish Lungi,
Sierra Leone*

THE WAR

There is a war between Colonel rice and Major general fry soup at the pot desert , Colonel rice who was supported by the water battalion was attacked by Major general fry soup who was supported by Captain pepper and corporal onion. The war was how ever planned by president Cook at the kitchen .The kitchen was unable to control the explosions and bombarding so it was sent to the dinning room where Chief Justice spoon and Magistrate plate judged them . They were both found guilty so they sent to the stomach jail for the rest of their lives

*Thomas v.M. Sengeh
Holy cross, parish-lungi*

THE DAY

The day is a wonderful thing during man's creation . It is something that all crave to see . One should thank God for seeing such a thing which money cannot buy. Some people make good use of it while others do not but rather take it uselessly . The day itself lasted for twenty four hours, while the sun and the moon lasted for twelve hours each.

Some people work on their own , like going to the office, building houses, sporting activities, going to church on Sundays etc

*This work may at least last five working days a week, It some times look hot when the sun is overhead and cold when it is raining . It looks dark at times when the weather is fine outside of the houses are clear but inside dark
The sun shines during the day and the moon at night .*

You have being so lucky to see this day just rise up and say thanks to God for His protection.

*Thomas v.M. Senge
Holy cross, parish-lungi*

FOR YOUR DIARY



BIRTHDAY

March:

- 02/78 Samuel Agudosi
- 03/70 Piotr Wojnarowski
- 05/53 Isaias Torres
- 08/74 Francis Berisie
- 08/86 Isaac Okoh
- 14/82 Ephraim Amandi
- 14/67 Ambrose Anene
- 17/84 Joseph Oraegbunam
- 19/61 Jorge Crisafulli
- 20/81 Michael Ebor
- 20/84 Akinyele Cyril
- 21/84 Anthony Odior
- 23/73 Patrick Sokuu
- 25/83 Eshun M. Kwadwo
- 25/40 Lionel Xavier
- 26/32 William Regner
- 27/78 Matthew Adetiloye
- 27/78 Killian Kpogoh
- 29/80 Anthony Ekezie
- 29/71 Henrie Warbah

April:

- 03/71 Charles Uzoeto
- 06/78 Philip Avuleteh
- 08/82 Marcus Blamoh
- 9/89 Udechukwu Chima
- 09/74 Mark Anthony Okpala
- 19/67 Ubaldino Andrade
- 23/82 Anthony Acquaye
- 24/83 Stephen Esuk
- 30/74 Fidelis Agbara
- 30/55 Lawrence Gilmore



ProvinciaCalendar

April

- (Provincial Visitations)
- PT Meeting (Nigeria)
- 24 Easter Sunday
- 26 Post Chapter Assembly (Ibadan, Nigeria)
- 27-28 Rectors' meeting (Ibadan, Nigeria)
- 29-30 PC Meeting (Ibadan, Nigeria)

May

- (Provincial Visitations)
- 8-15 Provincial Vocations Awareness Week (PVAW)
- 11-19 Fr Guillermo Basanes visit to AFW
- 13 Mary Mazzarello
- 14-15 Salesian Brothers' Meeting (Ashaiman, Ghana)
- 15 Blessing New Church (Lungi, Sierra Leone)
- 18 PC meeting with Fr Basanes (Ashaiman, Ghana)
- 20-21 **Curatorium Lome (Togo)**
- 21 Priestly Ordination of Anthony Ekezie (Onitsha, Nigeria)
- 21 Deacon Ordination of Peter Morba (Nairobi, Kenya)
- 26-27 **Curatorium Yaoundé (Cameroon)**
- 24 Mary Help of Christians

Visitation in Nigeria:

- a. **Ondo: 01-05/04**
- b. **Akure 06-10/04**
- c. **Onitsha: 11-17/04**
- d. **Ibadan: 18-25/04**

A MARRIED MAN AND COUNSELLOR

A man who has been married for ten years was consulting a marriage counsellor. "When I was first married I was very happy, because when I came home from hard day work at the shop, my dog would race around barking and my wife would bring me my slippers but now every thing has changed, when I come home my dog brings me my slippers and my wife bark at me," complain the man. "I don't know what you are complaining about" said the counsellor "you are still getting the same service,

JOKES

"Yours Faithfully,
Kankalay Islamic Secondary School
Tintafor - Lungi.

THUS SAID ONDO YOUTH "WE ARE YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS OH! BOSCO"

Every year the church celebrates the memorial of St. John Bosco the father and patron of the youth. And for the Salesians it has been and it will continue to be a great day for them because Don Bosco is their founder.

The Salesians commemorates yearly on the 31st of January, the feast of St. John Bosco in a special way together with their youths as such this year also was not an exceptional for the youth of St. John Bosco Youth Center Ondo town. Don Bosco youth together with the oraterians prepared themselves within the nine days of novena to St. John Bosco by praying three Hail Marys daily, to remember what St John Bosco always tell his boys to do before going to bed.

This came to an end when the youth centre together with the various oratory centers namely; blessed Laura Vicuna oratory, Don Caffaso oratory, St. Philip Neri oratory, St Dominic Savio oratory and Blessed Attimedi Zatti oratory gathered to-

gether in the youth centre to celebrate the solemnity and feast of St. John Bosco. The youngsters were welcomed by the vice rector of the community Fr Chris with a message that they should always **BE CHEERFUL AND PUT THEIR TRUST IN CHRIST**. This will helped them to Jesus lives. The youth later watched Don Bosco's movie where most of the things were elucidated by Joseph SDB to the young people.

All the Salesians in Ondo community were present to celebrate with young people and to witness their various presentations. Which were beautifully presented by all the various oratories centers. It was really a thing of joy and hope for the young people and the Salesians.

The whole event came to an end with Fr. Oche SDB entrusting the youngsters in the hands of Mary help of Christians with three Hail Marys, bless them and all departed in peace.

From the press group of Don Bosco Youth Center Ondo



CONGRATULATIONS

On the 100th birthday of Mrs **Cecilia Mary Xarier** mother of Fr Lionel Xarier.

A special celebration was held for the mother of Fr lionel who turned 100 this year, present for the celebration were amongst others Fr Micheal Korikumnel, Br Sallem, Fr Joy, Mr & Mrs Jacob, close friends of the family.