

FR. FABIO ATTARD VISITS AFW PROVINCE



By Philip Bua

today, from Christ the evangelizer to the evangelizing Church, the Preventive System: a spiritual and educative experience, educative-pastoral community: make of our presence a family for the young, Salesians educative-pastoral project: pastoral tool, activities and works of Salesians youth ministry.

In our Salesians schools, academic results and professionalism shouldn't be the main goal, but moral and Christian values should be the priority. Salesians should help young people to enter into the global world without being consumed. They should be challenged by the situations young people are facing.

The best way to handle the youth situation is to create a welcoming environment where a sensible approach is adopted towards the young people, following the preventive system of education proposed by Don Bosco

In the afternoon session, the sharing was on spiritual direction. According to Fr.

On Monday evening 19th August, 2013 Fr. Fabio Attard, the Councillor for Youth ministry, was welcomed to the Provincial house in Ghana, West Africa English speaking Province (AFW Province).

After Mass on Tuesday morning confreres assembled in the conference room for sharing which was divided into two sessions. The morning session focused on the challenges that young people of Africa are facing today. The Salesians were asked to go into groups of 3 persons and to come out with three major challenges youth are facing today. In Africa the following points emerged: poverty, family breakdown, media negative impart, globalization, unemployment, lack of direction, lack of appreciation of Cultural heritage.

Fr. Fabio helped us to look deep inside what was shared: poverty and evangelization, media and globalization, family problems are appealing to our Salesian evangelizing and educating apostolic identity. Fr. Fabio presented these according to the rethinking experience done by youth ministry with the involvement of the whole congregation.



Fabio, spiritual direction is a ministry within a 'faith-full' life, a sacramental life, an experience of the body of Christ. In order to direct others the person must have experience of Christ. Meditation is where this experience of Jesus is strengthened. Salesians shouldn't live without meditation.

Spiritual direction is helping someone to live a deeper knowledge and awareness of God, a discovery of God's action in one's life and how to respond to him. Spiritual Direction can only be effective if the one who is directing is going through the same experience. The meeting with Fr. Fabio was very enriching and the dialogue and interaction with him was much appreciated.

The result of the major work as a congregation is now expressed, in the youth ministry manual, which is translated into different languages. The manual is divided into three parts with the following chapters: to be familiar with life and the culture of the young

AFRICAN CHILD DAY IN SIERRA LEONE

By Fr. Sergej Goman

The youth center indeed is a home for young people in our community. It has been a custom for our center to always celebrate the day of the African child with the children. June 16th a day the children are in their typical cultural dresses showing the real beauty of Africa.

Our youth center starts its preparation for this day with Animators by holding meetings on how we want to be with the children to make them feel that they are really loved. This year, we celebrated it on the 15th June, 2013 rather the proper day 16th which happened to be a Sunday.

Animators started off by registering the regular boys and girls in the oratory. And this exercise lasted for one week. And after that, we invited them for a meeting to tell the activities that they will be performing on that day and also tell them that the oratory will be opened thirty minutes before the normal time and close beyond the normal schedule for them. The children were coming every day for interaction with the Animators for the program lined up for them. The first activity is to show them the movie called Sarafina. The movie is trying to show exactly what happened in Soweto during the Apartheid regime in South Africa.

These are some of the activities children engaged in the oratory with the Salesians and the Animators in our community:

Brief explanation about the celebration, Presentation of poems about the pain and suffering of children, Drama and group dance by the Youth center salamalague group, Dancing and



miming competition for the children, Crowning of the miss Don Bosco Youth Center African child for 2013.

This year, the celebration was very much colorful because there were ten young girls from the nursery and primary school that contested for the position. These beautiful queens appeared on stage with three different dresses: School uniforms, Cultural dress and Africana dress.

Animators who served in the capacity of judges were able to bring out result at the end of the appearance. The queen for this year's celebration was indeed a true African child called Sitta Koroma.

She is attending St Augustine primary School in Tintafor. She is in class five and 11 years old. She was given half bag of rice as a gift from the Salesians of Don Bosco and the oratory. There were other prizes like school bags, tooth pastes and brushes, wall clocks, school shoes, lights for night studies, soap etc. given to thirty children. There were over six hundred people including parents were present.

YEAR OF FAITH: A HOLIDAY CAMP OF FAITH

By Joshua sdb

It has been a Salesians culture throughout the world, organizing holiday-camps for youth and children. This is not just to make children happy, but to help them grow spiritually, socially, academically and for them to have a balanced relationship. This year, the camp in Lagos has been an interesting and colorful one, 570 children were registered and 50 animators were present to animate them. Children were introduced to different aspects of life such as: dancing, drama, music, shoe making and games etc.

It was really a nice adventure, because it all took place in a shed (what in Don Bosco's time was called Pinadi). This experience demonstrated God's intervention. A camp that lacked facilitators/ animators now had many. Who brought them? We believe that Mary Help of Christians brought



them and She has always been there for the Salesians.

The young people of Omole, Lagos were happy and wished the Holiday-Camp would continue. The seed Don Bosco has planted in their hearts makes them yearn for more Holiday-Camps. The desert where a river never flowed, a sea began to flow. The gospel was offered daily with joy and the pedagogy of kindness.

Holiday Camp at Ashaiman and Tema Newtown

By Adoma Bernard sdb

The summer camp held at Tema Newtown and Don Bosco community in Ashaiman has been a successful one. Looking at the theme: Empowering Human Dignity through Education and Ecology, many children were empowered and they went home with useful information for their growth.

As part of the preparation for the success of the camp, a three day workshop was organized on the 3rd to 5th of August 2013. The theme of the workshop was: Trained to Train, educating Animators how to animate children based on Don Bosco pedagogy of educating the young people. All together, 31 Animators were present, together with Salesians and Salesian volunteers.

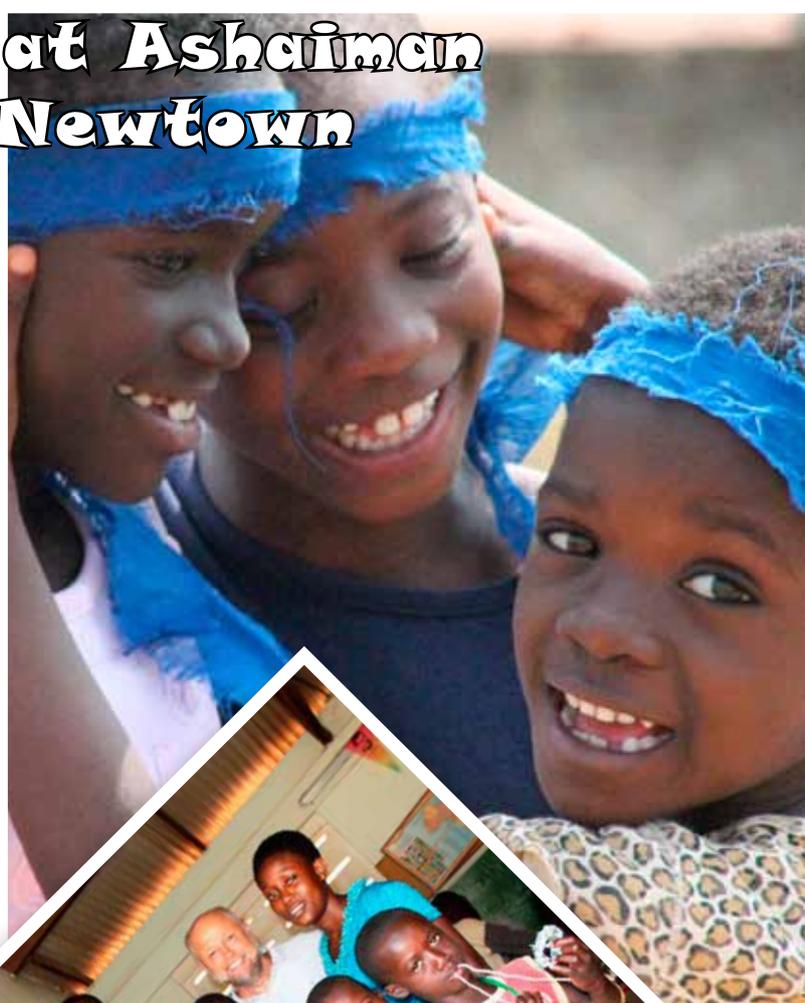
The main camp commenced on the 6th to 17th of August. 300 children were registered in the two camp centers. In Ashaiman, the camp begins with a morning talk and prayer session after which all depart to their various class rooms. The class ranges from Primary one to Senior High School one pupils.

After classroom work, there is a creative art session in the hall and lunch at 12:00 pm. Games follows at 1:00 pm. There children were introduced to indoor and outdoor games. The camp ends everyday at 4:15 pm with cleaning, announcing of points and prayer. A bus was made available to convey children to the camp as well as take them back. The day ends with evaluations of activities.

Towards the end of the camp, parents were invited to witness the activities of the camp. There, the children exhibited their potentials and talents to their parents.

On the last day, Nestle Ghana limited came to witness the camp and also brought other interesting games for the children to play. obviously the duration was too short and the Children, requested for an extension of the Holiday camp.

The children affirmed to their animators about the success of the camp and how educative and above all interesting it had been. The camp ended with a general evaluation of the whole activities carried out.



AFRICATRACK AND AGCO DONATES TRACTOR AND AGRICULTURAL MACHINERIES TO THE SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO - WEST AFRICA

AFRICATRACK teamed up with AGCO to make a difference in the lives of young people in West Africa.

There is a Chinese proverb which AFRICATRACK adopted as their motto: "Give a fish to a hungry man and he will eat for one day; give him a boat and a net and teach him how to fish: he will have something to eat for the rest of his life".

The main idea behind this initiative is to motivate and train young people in mechanized agriculture, thereby improving agriculture productivity not only in Ghana but in the whole of Africa.

AFRICATRACK is the main organization that found donors from different companies for the tractor and accessories brought to the Salesians in West Africa.

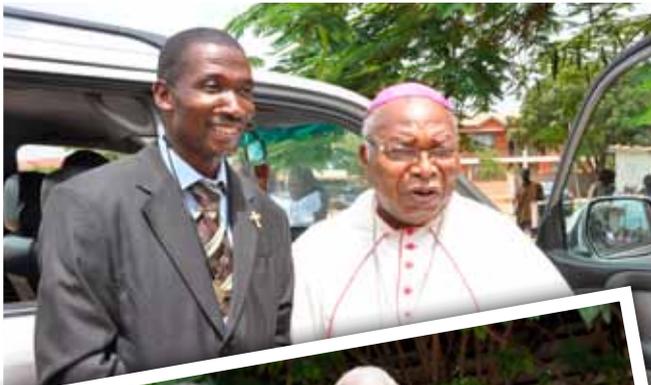
AGCO donated a Massey Ferguson 440-4WD XTRA - 82 HP tractor while other companies donated a double axel trailer, a disk plow, a rotary harrow, a uni-mower, a water pump and money for the journey from Germany to Sunyani - Ghana.



FINAL PROFESSION



The perpetual Profession of Killian KPOGO and Frederick OKUSU, on the 27 July, 2013 at St John Bosco Church Golf City Tema- Ghana. Present at the profession was Most Rev. Francis A. K. Lodonu, Bishop of Ho Diocese.



It was a moment of great joy coming together after a long period away from the Province. A moment of listening and sharing with the sectors of the province at the Provincial house in Ghana.

The programme gave an horizon on the present situation of the province. seeing that there was a lot being done in bringing the gospel to the young. We were challenged to help spread or facilitate the visions and goals of the province.

In one of our discussion we had the honour of meeting the youngsters who shared with us their views on how the Salesians have been so instrumental in their lives and how they hope the Salesians continue to respond to their needs in all its ramifications.

STRENNA 2014

“Da mihi animas, cetera tolle”

Let us draw upon Don Bosco’s experience, so we can walk in holiness according to our specific vocation

“The glory of God and the salvation of souls”

I invite you then, my dear brothers and sisters, all members of the Salesian Family, to draw from the wellsprings of Don Bosco’s spirituality, from his pastoral and educative charity; it finds its model in Christ the Good Shepherd and its prayer and programme for life in Don Bosco’s motto “Da mihi animas, cetera tolle”. Thus we will be able to discover “Don Bosco the mystic”, whose spiritual experience lies at the basis of our way of being today, our Salesian spirituality according to the different vocations which take their inspiration from it.

IBADAN

ANNUAL RETREAT

By Bro. Paolo Vaschetto

The annual retreat in Ibadan was successfully concluded on the 13th of July. It was a deep moment of reflection led by an experienced Salesian who was able to share his understanding of our specific religious life in the Church. The whole group of the participants is portrayed in this picture while some volunteers for the Holiday camp were already around to prepare with us this very interesting experience. Fr. George Chalissery, Provincial of ZMB Province, our highly esteemed preacher, deserves all our gratitude expressed by the joy of our "Oga" Victor.



Fr. George Crisafulli, AFW Provincial, spent few moments with the youth of the Oratory and gave us a memorable "goodnight" about the project of Street Children in Sierra Leone.

He showed a big concern from his heart for all the exploited and abused children in West Africa, an appeal that should be heard by the whole society we are living in. Let us give him all the support he needs to develop this commendable effort to work for the poorest among the poor.



Social sport Academy project in lungi SIERRA LEONE

OBJECTIVE: create opportunities through education and employment of young people in Lungi, Sierra Leone.

RELEVANCE: The ten years long devastating Rebel-War in Sierra Leone still remains to show its economic effect on the lives of the people.

People in Lungi are mainly involved in fishing and peti-trading for their livelihood (survival). They encourage their school going children to join in their business immediately after school and fully in business during the weekends to enable them secure funds for school fees and other basic needs. This gives no opportunity for extra curricular activities and studying time for students.



PRIESTLY ORDINATION 2013

AFW News Letter

8

July- August, 2013

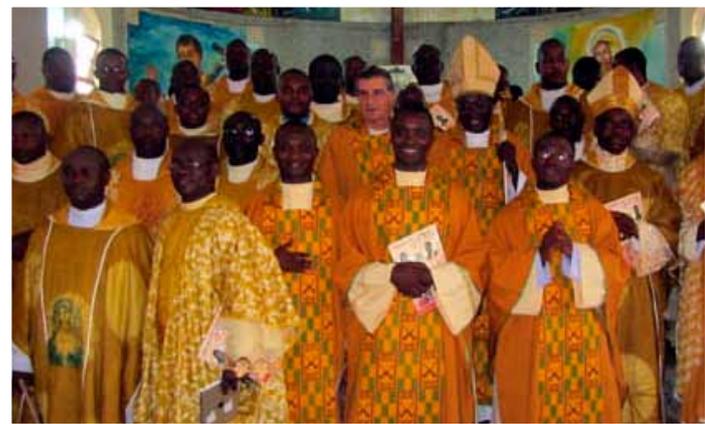


The Most Rev. Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins, Archbishop of Lagos, ordained Deacons Airoboman Raphael, and Ajah Emmanuel, At the Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit Omole Estate Phase 1, Ikeja - Lagos. The Bishop commended the work of Salesians for the youth of the parish and the Archdiocese of Lagos. In his homily, the bishop said, that it was an honour for the families of the newly ordained Priests who were chosen among them to serve the Church. It is not a loss to the family but they are now fathers of the faith and they belong to a bigger family. Therefore, they need a big space now to serve the Church, families should let them go, they are gift to the Church and shouldn't expect them to participate in all the activities of the family...

First Salesian priests from Sierra Leone were ordained by Rt. Rev. Bishop Charles Allieu Mathew Campbell, Bishop of Bo Diocese, at the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Bo, Sierra Leone on 20th July, 2013. In his homily at the ordination, Bishop Campbell extended his blessings to the newly ordained, their

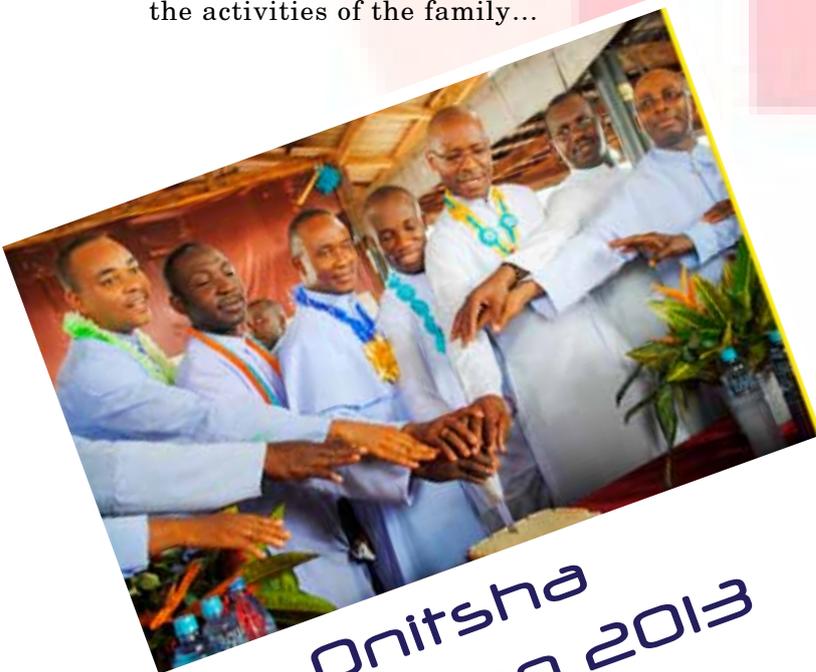


parents and well wishers. He also called on the young people present on the occasion to be attentive to the call



of God. He exhorted the new priests to, "Listen to the Word of God, preach what you hear and practise what you preach."

Fr. Jorge, Provincial, thanked God for having allowed the Charism of Don Bosco to take definitive root in Sierra Leone after twenty eight years of Salesian presence in the country. He also thanked the parents of the newly ordained and reminded them that by, "Giving your Sons to God and to the service of the Church, you lose nothing but gain everything". To the young people of the Salesian Youth Movement, he said, "Follow the example of the new priests, answer your call and follow the Lord joyfully." He exhorted the new priests to, "Be humble, be joyful and be holy."



**Onitsha
Ordination 2013**



Salesians of Don Bosco

English speaking West Africa (AFW) Province

Journeying with the Young



Visit the website of the province for more information- www.sdbafw.org

Send your Articles for Website & News-Letter to: newsletter@sdbafw.org or webmaster@sdbafw.org