

The logo for 'Salesian Newslink' features the word 'Salesian' in a large, stylized yellow font with a textured, woven appearance. The 'S' is particularly large and has three white lines trailing off to the left. Below 'Salesian', the word 'Newslink' is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The background of the entire cover is a photograph of a large waterfall cascading over dark, craggy rocks, with a crowd of people gathered at the base of the falls.

Salesian Newslink

CampoBosco: Kabwe '13
World Youth Day: RIO
Newly Professed Salesians
FMA Youth Rally - Kasama

Pope Francis:
A FASCINATING
POPE



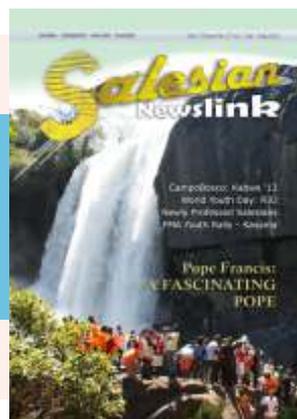
**FMA Youth Rally - Kasama:
Cultural Presentation, Trip to Chishimba Falls
and moments of Group Discussion**

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Fr. Javier Antonio Barrientos

POPE FRANCIS IN RIO FOR THE WYD 2013

Back in July Pope Francis visited Brazil; he arrived at Rio International Airport where he was greeted by thousands of young people who were expectant to see him. As usual, the President of Brazil, religious authorities and other officials got the closest look of him, and they, too, had the chance to meet him personally, to stretch out hands with him and enjoy being in his presence.

Pope Francis was very pleased to be in Brazil (at least that was the look in his face) and to meet the citizens of one of the most Catholic countries in the world.

At the end of the first day of his visit to various significant places of the City of Rio de Janeiro, Pope Francis requested (from the organizers of his visit to Brazil) that a visit to the favelas or poorest townships also be included; and thus tight security measures were set in place to give the Pope the chance to get closer to the reality of a vast majority of Brazilians: utter poverty!

In the days previous to the arrival of the Pope and of the young pilgrims of the WYD, protests broke up in various towns countrywide. People demonstrated against the various socio-economic policies of the Brazilian government. At the same

time, the Media –interestingly enough, also showed how people in various poor areas of Brazil, especially in Rio and other major cities, prepared themselves, their houses and families to welcome the pilgrims. Images were shown of people in the townships re-painting their houses, re-arranging rooms, fixing doors, water pipes, electrical installations, etc, in order to ready to welcome the pilgrims.

During his visit to Brazil, the Pope made use of a very simple vehicle; this was something unexpected, and made a good impression on people. The Pope's love for poverty and moderation is an open invitation to all to make the Church more credible in the eyes of the world.

Pope Francis continues using his black trousers and also his black shoes, carries his black leather bag, and what is most important he keeps the same simplicity of the first day of his pontificate.

In one his speeches at Copacabana beach, he addressed the millions of young pilgrims in ways that did not seek to win popularity but to touch the hearts of young people, inviting them to live a life of radical adherence to the Gospel. It was more like a father talking to his children explaining to them issues of life in a manner they could easily understand.

On Friday 26 during the traditional Way of the Cross, the Pope was moved at the symbol presented to him in one of the thirteen Stations of the Via Crucis; it was “the structure of a church that needed to be rebuilt”. Pope Francis welcomed the message of this symbol and asked young people to join him in the task of re-building –not only the image of the Church in the world, but rebuilding the Church itself.

Poverty was a powerful tool that helped St Francis of Assisi to rebuild the Church in the Middle-Ages. Pope Francis says, he wants a “poorer Church” that becomes day-by-day a Church for the poor. ☺

Don Bosco EDUCATOR



Fr Pascual Chavez SDB
RECTOR MAJOR



It is not enough to kiss the cross...
we must carry it!

DON BOSCO SAYS:

What sanctifies is not the suffering
but the patience to put up with it

Returning from Barcelona and Paris

That evening of May 12, 1886 I arrived at Grenoble tired and exhausted by a long trip that, in three months, I had taken from Turin to France and Spain. I was subjected to a veritable tour de force because the construction of the church in honour of the Sacred Heart stagnated due to a chronic lack of money.

I was nicely greeted by Rector of the seminary who, worried with the pitiful state of exhaustion in which he found me, addressed fraternal words of comfort: "Reverend Father, none better than you knows how much suffering sanctifies". Whereupon, I was allowed to correct him by saying that "What sanctifies is not the suffering, but the patience". It wasn't just a phrase for effect; it was the synthesis of my existence, troubled and painful: 71 years that were now weighing on my shoulders and I had been reduced to "a man killed by fatigue", repeating those same words which Dr. Combal, in Montpellier said to me authoritatively a few days before, when he came to visit me in Marseille in March 1884.

A family chat and some confidence

I remember that in a lecture I gave to my Salesians I had explained to them the meaning of the word "patience" and had made reference to the Latin verb that means "to undergo, tolerate, suffer, be violent." And I pointed out with great realism: "If it doesn't cost effort, patience would be no more." Then, I added: "We need a lot of patience; or better to say, a lot of charity topped with condiments of St. Francis de Sales: gentleness, meekness".

Based on the experience that I was going through and with a directness that I knew, I pre-empted an objection and I opened myself with confidence by saying: "I, too, realize that it costs. And please do not think that it's the greatest pleasure in the world staying in all morning engaged in interviews or stuck at a table all evening to give way to all chores, to letters or similar. Oh!, I assure you that many times I'd go out glad to get some air

rector major

and maybe I would have a real need ... Please don't think that it doesn't cost me too, after having appointed someone to do a job or after having sent some errand either delicate or of concern, and not finding it done in time or even badly done, that it doesn't cost me to keep calm; I assure you that sometimes the blood boils in my veins, a tingling dominates all senses. So what? Get Impatient? Don't you see that the job not done is done, and even corrects itself with fury". And I ended with a thought very dear to me: "What sustains patience must be hope. This supports us, were we to lack patience".

Many times I realized not to have been understood, even by someone I was roughly 'told off' about the method by which (especially in the early years) I was training my future Salesians. Can I justify myself by claiming that I was opening up a new path. I brought out a totally different experience, but I didn't go blindly. I just contented myself to be as prudent as possible, even though my view went further. A few decades later, doing a re-scanning of the path I was walking and recalling the challenges faced, I said: "Many clerics were staying in bed in the morning, some were not going to school, they were not doing spiritual reading, nor meditation ... I saw all those disorders and I left that to be brought forward as one could. If I wanted to get rid of all the riots at once, I would have to close the Oratory and send away all the young people, because the clerics would not have adapted to strict rules, and would all go away. I saw that of those clerics who also went away many worked willingly, were of good heart, of wholly proven morality, and, beyond that the fervor of youth, I would then have helped a lot. And I have to say that several of the priests of the Congregation, who were part of that number, are now among those who work more, have a better ecclesiastical spirit, while they certainly went away rather than submit to certain restrictive rules ... If everything went to perfection I would have been reduced to a small group, not having finished anything."

The art of knowing how to wait

A good farmer had learned to wait, learning and practising the lesson of patience, I remembered hearing many times from my mum a saying filled with wisdom: "By walking you lighten the burden of the donkey". This was the most common means of transport, safe and economical. The goods were divided into parts with equal weights on both sides of the animal through two large saddlebags or baskets. During the journey, the inevitable jolts ended up with having to adjust the load. This memory of my childhood made me say later: "When I encounter a difficulty I do what one does going down the street

and at a certain point is blocked by a large boulder. If you can't get it out of the way, you get over or around it. Or, leave the job begun unfinished, in order not to lose time in unnecessary waiting, put your hand to something else. However, do not lose sight of the interrupted initial work. For over time, the fruits ripen, men change, the difficulties are smoothed out".

Towards the end of my life, with the number of confreres increasing, it had become impossible to write a couple of lines to each one personally. I sent a circular to all my Salesians to wish them a year blessed by Lord enriched with many initiatives. In 1884 (6th January) I wrote: "Do we want to go to heaven in a carriage? We are in fact religious not to enjoy, but – through sacrifice – to obtain merits for the other life. Take heart, therefore, my dear and beloved children. Let's move on. It will cost us effort, there will be hardships: we shall reply: If the size of the award fascinates us, we must not be scared of all the hardships that we must undergo to deserve it".

Death was at home in Valdocco. But it wasn't the heavy and lugubrious atmosphere that some authors have described. Every month I offered the boys and the Salesians the Exercise of the Happy Death, a devotional practice that already existed. It was a plunge into the solemn mysteries of eternity. I, the educator of joy and healthy fun, predicted with great naturalness the imminent deaths of teenagers, not to scare them, but to make their love of life grow in them. I was able to spread peace even when I spoke of death, because the last word was about Paradise. I was talking about it as a child speaking about their dad's house. The boys who died in Valdocco spoke with ease and conviction of heaven, as their home, accepted messages from classmates and their teachers, were dying with a smile on their face. I remembered without doubt a phrase that I loved to repeat: "Paradise pays everything". The death became an irresistible appeal to goodness of a God who forgives, who welcomes children and feasts with them.

Due to my training, I wasn't very inclined to accept external forms of exaggerated penances. I had to restrain that holy boy called Dominic Savio and rule out any kind of mortification. Let him only "bear with patience the insults if someone insults thee, bear with patience the heat, cold, wind, rain, tiredness and all those difficulties of health that God allows". It was what I advised everyone: "To make up in themselves the sufferings of Jesus, the ways are not lacking there are: heat, cold, illness, people, events. These are the means to live humbly". I gathered my thoughts with this expression: "to kiss the cross is not enough; you have to carry it".

FAITH AND VIOLENCE ARE INCOMPATIBLE

SOURCE:
Vatican City, August 19, 2013
(Zenit.org)
Junno Arocho Esteves



During his weekly Sunday Angelus address, Pope Francis called on the faithful to look to God for strength in times of turmoil. The Holy Father's remarks come at turbulent time in the world where violence rages on in Egypt and a ferry disaster claimed the lives of more than 50 people in the Philippines.

The Holy Father reflected on the words of Christ in Sunday's Gospel that he said needed to be explained "so that they are not misunderstood." The Gospel of Luke recounted Jesus telling his disciples: "Did you think that I came to bring peace to the earth? No, I say to you, I came to bring division" (Luke 12:51).

"What does this mean? It means that the faith is not something decorative, ornamental; living the faith is not decorating life with a little religion, as if life were a pie and faith like the whipped cream that you use to decorate it," the Pope explained. "No, faith is not this. Faith entails choosing God as the basic criterion for life, and God is not empty, God is not neutral, God is always positive, God is love, and love is positive!"

The Pope continued saying that it is not Christ who intends to divide men against each other; rather the choice to follow Jesus may divide us "even from the closest bonds."

"Following Jesus means rejecting evil, egoism, and choosing the good, truth, justice, even when that requires sacrifice and renunciation of our own interests," the Holy Father said. "And, yes, this divides."

The Holy Father also reminded the faithful that the Gospel in no way authorizes the use of force in spreading the faith, saying that the true force of Christians "is the force of truth and love".

"Faith and violence are incompatible! Faith and violence are incompatible!," he exclaimed. "But faith and strength go together. The Christian is not violent, but he is strong. And with what strength? That of meekness, the force of meekness, the force of love."

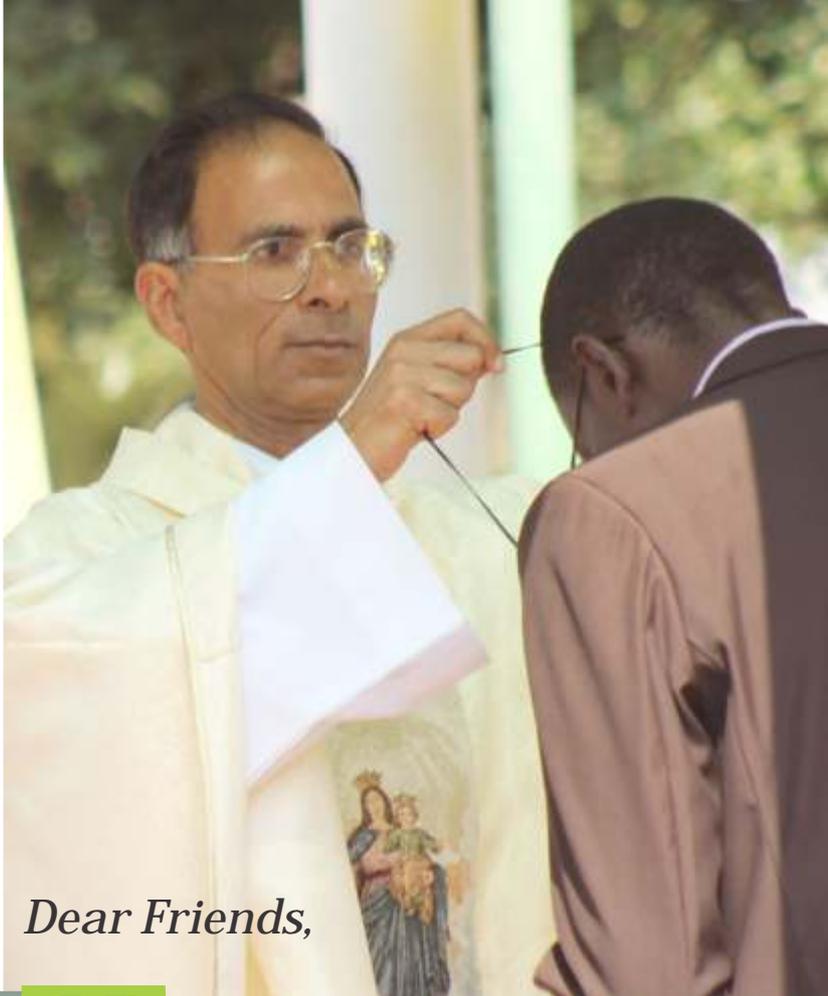
Following the recitation of the Angelus, the Holy Father lead the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square in praying for the violent situation occurring in Egypt, where hundreds have died and numerous Christian Churches were looted, vandalized and burnt to the ground.

"Let us continue to pray for peace in Egypt. All together: Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!" the Holy Father told the faithful.

The Holy Father also prayed for the victims of a tragic disaster that occurred in the Central Port of Cebu, where a passenger ferry collided with a cargo ship on Friday, killing over 50 people. [📖](#)



Cairo - Egypt: Christian church burnt down by Muslim mobs.



Dear Friends,

The past few weeks have been filled with celebrations of one sort or another. We had the celebration of the World Youth Day in Rio, Brazil, towards the end of July. We had the Final Profession of our 3 Brothers – Alphoncious Hamweete, Mark Phiri and George Phiri, on 28th July. On 15th August we had the First profession of 7 of our Novices. From 22-25 August, there was the Youth Rally in Kasama organized by the Salesian Sisters, with young people, FMAs, Salesians, Cooperators and Volunteers from different communities of our Provinces. Everything symbolized celebration – happiness. The atmosphere in Rio was electrifying with a close estimate of over 3.7 million youngsters and others gathered together with Pope Francis to hear once again the same message of Jesus, from his representative here on earth – “Go proclaim the good news.” The sea of people left a deep impression that the Catholic faith is still very much vibrant in people.

The Final Profession – called also Perpetual Profession, and the First Profession, are truly prophetic signs in today's world that does not want to see life-long commitments. The tendency in the world is to go for what is instantaneous. People are weary of long-term commitments. At weddings, men and women say they love each other very much, get married and promise that they will be for each other until death. But in a few years time, this determination to live with each other and love and cherish one another, fades, in many cases. Even among priests and religious, who say they want to live their whole life in dedication to God, it is not uncommon to find some, whose motivation changes and they are no more propelled by their initial enthusiasm, and leave their commitment. In such a context, how do our Brothers make publicly this commitment of fidelity – to follow Jesus in the footsteps of Don Bosco, to offer their life and their love for God and for the young, for all their life? I am sure before their profession, they too wondered: 'How

Our response to

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

can they remain faithful to this commitment till death?'. But, in spite of this, an inner compulsion led them to make this promise. Each one of them had this certainty that the Lord loves him and that they can count on HIM to remain faithful. They are not alone. The Lord's grace helps them to be faithful. They have the certainty that everyday, this love that there is between them and the Lord, can be nourished and strengthened. Just like true lovers who grow every day more close to each other in love, they also grow more strong and joyful in their commitment. There is no thought of infidelity. The secret that helped our Brothers to make this Final Commitment is the assurance, that the key to fidelity forever, is fidelity lived every day. They do not need to be worried if they will remain faithful for 20 or 30 years or longer. But the everyday nourishing of their love for God, enables them to remain faithful all their lives.

We congratulate our Brothers who in spite of their doubts and anxieties, were glad to make this step and we support them in their life of fidelity, with our prayers. I wish you all God's blessings in abundance and also that we all live our everyday life close to God. Like that famous pop song we too ask the Lord:

“One day at a time, sweet Jesus, that's all I am asking from You!” 🙏

With best wishes and prayers,
Yours aff.ly,

Fr George Chalissery SDB



**:: FMA YOUTH RALLY 2013 ::
Kasama (Zambia) 22-25/8/13.**

The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA) have held an international youth rally in Kasama with the purpose of studying, reflecting and celebrating the Strenna 2013. The meeting gathered young people from the SYM, as well as SDB's, Salesian Cooperators and other members of the Salesian Family. The gathering began on Thursday 22 and over 370 young people from within Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi were present to the event. Volunteers from Australia, Poland, England and Italy were also actively present.

**:: GERMAN VISITORS ::
Kabwe (ZAMBIA) 22/08/2013.**

Mr Anton Stadlmeier and his family has visited St Mary's Parish in an effort to strengthen the bonds existing between St Bernhard Parish in Germany and St Mary's. Their visit comprised a visit to some of the major centres and outstations of the parish as well as meeting with the parish priest and church council.



**:: YOUTH RETREAT FOR WYD PARTICIPANTS ::
Namalundu (ZAMBIA)
16-18/8/2013.**

Young people who took part in the 2013 World Youth Day in Rio gathered at Namalundu Mission (40Km from Lusaka) to hold a retreat and share with a larger group on the experience of the WYD. Fr Antonio, the ZMB Youth Delegate was there among the facilitators of the retreat. After the retreat there was a short visit to Kafue Gorge.



**:: FIRST PROFESSIONS ::
Lusaka (ZAMBIA) 15/08/2013.**

The Provincial Superior of ZMB, Fr. George Chalissery, has received the vows of the 7 novices of ZMB and AFM. The ceremony took place in the parking place of the Provincial House. FMA's and Salesian Cooperators were among the invited guests.



:: FINAL PROFESSIONS IN MALAWI ::

Lilongwe (MALAWI) 28/7/13.
Three of our ZMB confreres have made their final vows in Lilongwe, Alphoncius Hamweete (Zambia), Emmanuel G. Phiri and Emmanuel M. Phiri (Malawi) in the presence of Fr George Chalissery, Provincial Superior of ZMB, and the parish community of Don Bosco Parish. Parents of our confreres were also present in the event.



**:: CAMPOBOSCO ::
Kabwe (ZAMBIA) 29/6/2013.**

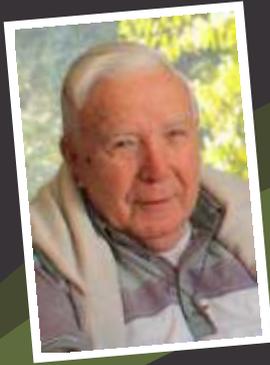
The Youth Ministry Department in coordination with Fr Mariusz Skowron organised the first CampoBosco for ZMB, meant to offer young people from our Vice-Province the opportunity to study more in depth the life of Don Bosco as well as his Educative System. The meeting took place in Kabwe and participants came from Mazabuka, Chingola, Lusaka, Mukonchi and Kabwe.



**:: BR WALTER GRADUATED WITH FLYING COLOURS ::
Lusaka (ZAMBIA) 02/07/13.-**

Br Walter Thyrniang has successfully completed his Master's Degree at Cavendish University - Lusaka. After a two-year course, our young confrere has achieved his Master's Degree in Project Management. Br Walter now works in Mansa as the New School Manager for Don Bosco Secondary School. ☺





Following Christ in Affirming Others

By Anthony Geoghegan SJ

I am sure that there have been moments in our lives when we have experienced being affirmed by other; when some "significant other" gave us a new sight into our own worth.

In the language of modern psychology, the term 'affirmation' or "to affirm" is quite commonly used. We have the expression: "S/he is an affirmed person" and also the expression "s/he is an affirming person".

I think that the best book available on the whole theory of affirmation was written by the great German Thomistic philosopher Joseph Pieper. The title of Pieper's book is: ABOUT LOVE. The very title of that book gives us the key to the meaning of "affirmation".

The Latin word "Affirmare" means to "make firm", to make strong, to give strength to. It implies assent, agreement, consent, a willingness to say "YES" to all that is good and true and beautiful in God's creation. And since human beings are at the peak of the hierarchy of God's creation, superior ontologically to the brute animals and to the plants, affirmation means especially saying "Yes" to everything that is good and true and beautiful in our fellow human beings. Affirmation is the acceptance of the goodness of the OTHER person. Joseph Pieper puts it beautifully when he states: "At the essence of all maturing love is affirmation".

You are good, you are wonderful

You are good because you are you, because you have great worth, because you are God's creation, God's work of art, God's masterpiece.

You are good, not primarily because you have done anything; you are good, not primarily because you

have accomplished a great deal.

You are good, not primarily because you are successful, but just because you are you... a unique creation, made in God's own image and likeness, as the book of Genesis teaches us (Gen 1:31).

"God created man in his own image...

God saw all that He had made, And indeed it was very good."

There are different ways in which we human beings can affirm each other. Affirmation can be visual, when we respond to another with a smile. Affirmation can be verbal, when we respond to another with an encouraging word. Affirmation can be tactile, for example when we sincerely greet another person with a hand shake, a pat on the back or an embrace. Our affirmation can also be spiritual... when we share prayer together in a genuine spirit and atmosphere of Christian love.

The philosopher Joseph Pieper has stated, as I mentioned earlier that "at the essence of all maturing love is affirmation." Affirmation can only be given as a free gift. And affirmation can only be a gift if it is graciously received by the other person. St Thomas Aquinas wrote "Love is the first gift; whatever else is given to us becomes a gift only through love".

Love has been described as the 'affirmative of affirmatives'.

Love enlarges the vision;

Love expands the heart of man;

Love is the spirit of brotherhood;

Love is tenderness and compassion, forgiveness and tolerance;

Love is dynamic motivation behind every worthy purpose;

Love is the upward thrust that lifts men to the heights, and the art of

love is God at work through you.

We might ask ourselves. What are the effects of having been affirmed by others and having affirmed others? The good effects, the good fruits are many.

I will gradually come to know and feel who I am... I will gradually become aware of my true identity; I will come to a growing awareness that I am different, but accepted;



I will have a growing awareness that I belong, to this world and that I can contribute to it, and that I am contributing to it and helping to develop it;

I will grow more confidently open to what is to come, sensing in the words of Anthony de Mello: "The best is yet to come. Once we have experienced affirmation, then we will wish to share it with others. But it is equally true that one, who has

FOLLOWING CHRIST IN AFFIRMING OTHERS

not been affirmed by others, will have great difficulty affirming others, or it may be impossible for him to affirm others.

It is a very useful exercise for us to sometimes, consciously and with thanksgiving, call to mind the 'significant others in our personal life history who affirmed us, and to reflect on the content of their affirmations. It will motivate us to show our thanksgiving to God for these 'angels of affirmation' or 'angels of consolation' by being more ready to affirm everything that is good, and true and desire in others. If we wish to be affirmed, then we must desire to affirm others.

There are some human beings who seek affirmation, who plead for affirmation, and struggle to win acceptance but they never seem to experience the affirmation that they seek so much. Why are they futile searchers? Probably because they fail to affirm others. Their whole energies are used up in trying to affirm themselves, perhaps by doing many things, perhaps, by striving to achieve success for the sake of success. Perhaps by always trying to please people and so gain cheap popularity. They forget that only another person can affirm us and that affirmation is a gift which we can never force another to give us. It is a free gift like grace itself, like love itself. I think it is true that people affirm us more on account of what we are than on account of what we do.

At Christmas time people exchange gifts. But the greatest gift that we can offer to another is to make him aware of his worth, his value. We can only give this gift through love. Love affirms the other as other. Genuine love never desire to possess and manipulate the other as mine.

We were suggesting the very useful exercise of remembering the 'significant others'. We learned to grow emotionally in the essentials of affirmation. To grow in trust, recognition, acceptance, appreciation and reverence for my own goodness. Those 'significant others in my life' affirm me, give me strength while not robbing me of my own individuality.

Those 'significant others' in my life move me with joy to sing out in thanksgiving to God, the river of all good gifts. "I am loved". "I am worthwhile". "I am precious"... and each of these statements is true because that is how Jesus, the 'most significant other in my life' sees me... he loves me, in his eyes I am worthwhile. In his sight I am precious – so precious, so valuable that I was bought at a great price, by the redeeming blood of the Son of God. Jesus sees the good in me. Wonderfully created is a mystery of God's love and I am his creature,

wonderfully created and still more wonderfully re-created.

If we want to learn to grow in affirming others, let us imitate Jesus, our model. The whole of the gospel is just full of incidents in which Jesus affirmed people in the course of his public life. And we could reflect on the way Jesus affirmed them and the effect of his affirmation on their lives.

Let me propose just one example of a person in the gospel whose whole life was changed by the affirming action of Jesus. That man was Simon Peter. And the 'significant other' in the life of Simon the fisherman was Jesus Christ himself. It was Jesus who first gave Simon Peter a deep sense of his own worth by choosing him, by selecting him to be the Rock and that name-change was a sign of the special vocation from God himself "you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church". (Mt 16,18).

It was Jesus who selected Peter, along with James and John, for the privileged experience of witnessing his transfiguration on Mount Tabor, and for the equally privileged experience of being invited into the sorrow and agony. And most amazing of all, it was Jesus who affirmed Peter and confirmed him as shepherd of his flock after the resurrection by the sea of Tiberius, in spite of the fact that it was the same Peter who betrayed his master three times during the passion saying, "I do not know the man" (Mt 26,27). It was this same Peter who publicly denied that he was a disciple of Jesus when the maid on duty at the door of the high priest's palace questioned him, "Aren't you another of that man's disciple? He answered, "I am not" (Jn 18,17).

Peter was asked three times by Jesus on the lakeshore, "Do you love me? And his solemn word was, "Yes, Lord I love you ... You know that I love you. (Jn 21,15-17).

Immediately Jesus AFFIRMED PETER as Shepherd of his flock... "Feed my lambs"... look after my sheep" "Feed my sheep".

Once affirmed by Jesus, the great 'significant other' in his life Peter, having been strengthened by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, begins to affirm. We find Peter's first great speech after Pentecost (Acts 2,14 ff).

And what could be more affirming than the early Christians.

"You are a chosen race,

A royal priesthood,

A consecrated nation,

A people set apart to sing the praise of God who called you of the darkness into his wonderful light (1Pe 2). ☺

REAPING WHAT YOU SOW

My Take of the Salesian Youth Rally in Kasama.



Sr. Prisca Mwila FMA addressing the young participants

Traditional dance from Lufubu

Fr Jorge during confession

Mass at Chishimba Falls - Kasama

Fr Chester playing the accordion

By chance I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Salesian Youth Rally organised by the Salesian Sisters in Kasama recently. Since I was an enthusiastic participant I now want to share contribution of the amazing experience of being present among the young people.

1. Congratulations to the Salesian Sisters (FMA) for organising the event. They did a fantastic job in every way. The programme, the food, accommodation and entertainment were beyond the expectation.

2. Fun as it was, the organisers never lost focus. They concentrated on the theme and made sure it was a spiritual and formative experience. Even the trip to the National heritage site was linked to Prayer, education and cultural episode. Yes, all the sessions were classic, and the enthusiasm was demonstrated during questioning, discussion, counselling time and at the confessional.

3. Again, the Salesian Sisters deserve credit for constructing simple and functional facilities both for regular education activities

as well as occasional events such as the youth rally. I must honestly say all of us on the SDB's side should learn from them.

4. The biggest number of participants was from Don Bosco Lufubu. I was sceptical about them because many were children, but they put up outstanding performances under the expert leadership of Fr. Czeslaw Lenczuk. Their introductory show, the musical item on the theme, and the dances during the Mass were superb. They prepared it very well. The combination of an able Salesian leader,

Aspirants, Volunteers, Lay people and the young themselves tell the deepest story between the meaningful lines of their poems and songs. Young as there were they participated better than some adults. Maybe there are no agriculture students in Lufubu but I see that those youngsters are growing up very well.

5. Because I had no official duty, I had time and was free to mingle with the throng of young people (over 370 of them) most of the time. I also noticed the ever presence of fellow Salesians (Priests and Brothers), FMA Sisters, Salesian Co-operators, Teachers, Youth Leaders and even Drivers among the young and the young people seemed very comfortable with the homely and friendly environment. That was the real Salesian Presence of the famous "Valdocco experience."

How successful was the degree of the Preventive System I am not in a position to evaluate, all I can say is that, I saw happy Salesians among young people (which is rare today) and the young people enjoyed it.

I hope such event will be repeated. I can honestly say that some young people spoke of their wish for similar rallies in the near future. Once again, congratulations to the Salesian Sisters especially those who played leading roles in organising the event! 🙏

- *Walter Thyrsiang SDB*

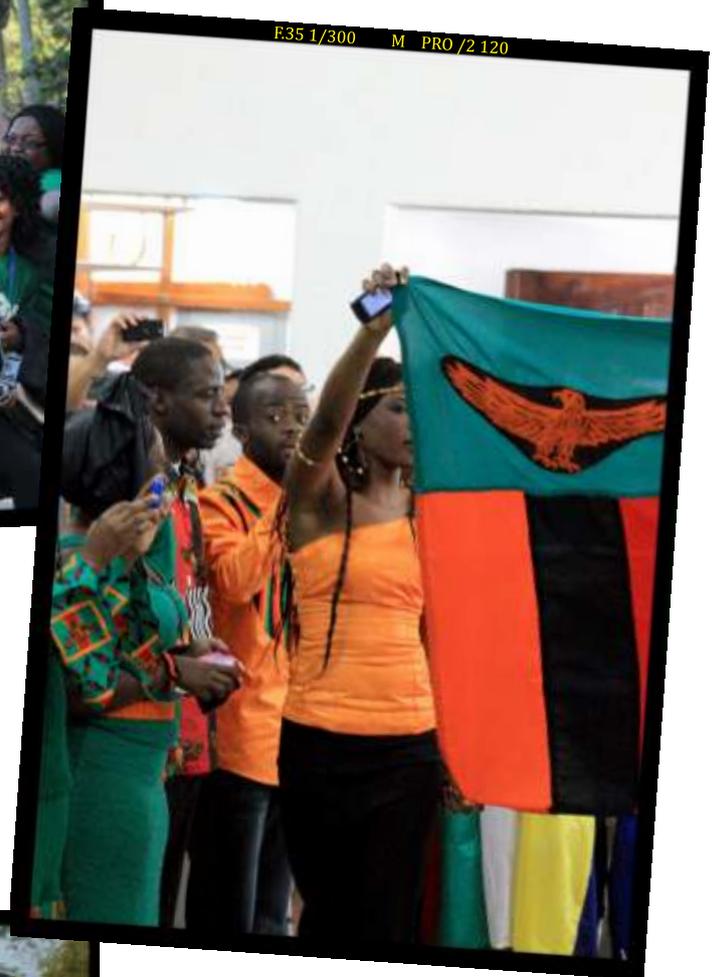
ROCK IN RIO

WYD 2013

The World Youth Day has become a meeting point between the Pope and the young from all over the world. The programme of the WYD is almost the same yet, the religious experience is what makes it always new.



ZAMBIAN PILGRIMS, visiting one of Sao Paulo's biggest green area for family leisure time. "The visit to the park gave us a sense of peace and tranquility."



MUTINTA MAPULANGA, holding the Zambian flag during the eucharistic celebration held at "Moses the Liberator" Small Christian Community.



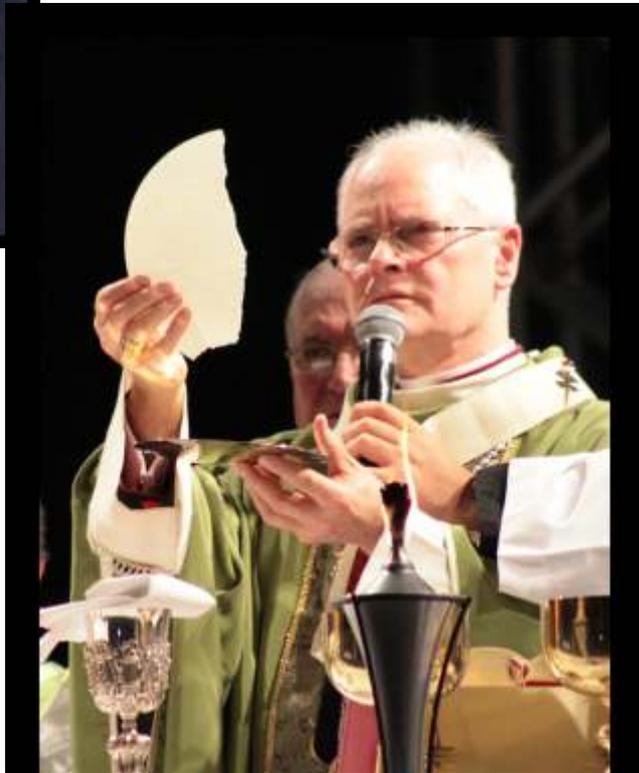
JAMES ZULU, MATEUS, MICHAEL KELVIN, ANNIE, posing for a group photo after their performance at 4th Centenary Park in Sao Paulo. "Brazilians delighted us with their Capoeira dance while they enjoyed our traditional Zambian bits".



ZAMBIAN PILGRIMS: Miriam & Mundia, in the forefront on the first day of their arrival in Brazil. The parish community of Sao Paulo Apostolo offered them the traditional Brazilian dish “Fechoada”. “It reminded us of our times in the boarding schools when we used to eat beans; though this were so delicious”.



CARD. SCHERER, during the closing mass of the mission week at Sao Paulo before the departure for Rio de Janeiro. In his homily, Card. Scherer encouraged young people to work harder in making the message of Christ be heard far and wide, as it was the theme of the WYD for Rio.



YOUNG PILGRIMS, during the *send off mass* in Sao Paulo. The eucharistic celebration concluded the Mission Week and all pilgrims travelled to Rio immediately after.



IRVIN LUMANO SDB, carrying the cross during the “*procession of the martyrs*”, a custom in the Brazilian church to commemorate the deceased members of the Christian community who were murdered because of their work for indigenous people and human rights. 



TESTIMONY

By Irvin Lumano SDB

ROCK in

RIO DE JANEIRO



The massive presence of the young Catholics at Copacabana Beach has been a wonderful witness to their faith: singing, praying and having good time together. They did all they could to be there with Pope Francis.

A delegation of forty eight vibrant Zambians jettied off from Kenneth Kaunda International airport to Guarulhos International airport in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 9th July 2013 and touched back on Zambian soil on the 28th of July. It was a journey that was not to begin in Zambia and end in Rio with the Pope, nor when we came back to Zambia; but a journey to have an encounter with Christ together with the rest of the youth from all corners of the world.

The first week was spent at the parish of St. Paul the Apostle in the archdiocese of Sao Paulo and thanks to Fr. Omir Oliveira SVD, who made it possible; he once worked in Zambia as a missionary for fifteen years. A crowd of parishioners awaited us at Guarulhos International Airport with much enthusiasm and jubilation as though waiting for long lost relatives yet we were strangers. We felt so much at home within the first few minutes of our arrival. We were driven to the parish where the rest of the host families were waiting to pick up their sons and daughters from Zambia.

The week was packed with different activities which included faith sharing, visits to the small Christian communities, cultural exchange programs and visits to different parts of the town. It was an awesome experience and I was very impressed by the

extent to which the concept of the small Christian community has developed in that country. Each small Christian community has its own chapel in their suburb and some charitable work which they do such as taking care of children and the homeless among many others depending on the need. Interesting is how these communities were born. Most of them used to gather in some small house or in someone's garage to pray and discuss the need of the community which inspired them to push for the rights of the people and to make the lives of the people better. The priests go to celebrate mass in the small Christian communities once per week, usually on Saturdays and Sundays, which means they only meet in the main parish on major feasts. In this, one can see the importance of the small Christian community and how the church was born out of it. I have come to learn how small Christian communities can have a major impact on the lives of people in society.

The second week was the mission week, which marked the beginning of the official program of the World Youth Day and we spent it at St. Mark parish, also within Sao Paulo. Many other activities were done including a visit to the museums. On the last day in Sao Paulo, we had a send off Mass with the young people and pilgrims who were hosted in the archdiocese with the metropolitan Archbishop of Sao Paulo, Odilo Cardinal Scherer.

In Rio de Janeiro, we were hosted by the parish of Sao Afonso Liguori who arranged families to host us in groups of about two per family. We would meet every morning with other pilgrims from English speaking countries with a bishop expounding on the theme of the World Youth Day which was, "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Mat 28:19) and other topics. On Wednesday 24th July, the archbishop of Rio de Janeiro celebrated mass on the world famous Copacabana beach at the end of which the Prefect for the Congregation of the laity Cardinal read to declare the 2013 WYD officially open on behalf of the Pope who had gone to visit the famous Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida. The following day we had the welcoming of the Pope Francis who humbly always referred to himself as bishop. On Friday we had a beautiful way of the cross together with his holiness Pope Francis.

At the first brush of the life style of today's youth, one would think they care less about God and for me the over two million young pilgrims from all over the world proved to all that many young people know that a life without Christ is empty. There is an insatiable thirst in them to have a meaningful life with Christ at the centre of their lives.

No words can suffice to express our heartfelt gratitude to our hosts for their hospitality. Despite the language difference, their love and care during our stay proved true the anecdote which says that where there is love, language is not a barrier. New families were born of this encounter; differences of language and race broken and in unison we made love a concrete experience. It is my prayer and hope that this experience will be a strong foundation for us to go out there and make disciples of all nations. ☺



(ANS - Moscow) 26/8/2013.- Pilgrimage of the Relics of Don Bosco. Between 17 and 25 August, the relics of Don Bosco visited three large cities in Russia: Rostov na Donu, Moscow and St Petersburg. The pilgrimage to Poland ended in Auschwitz on 17 August and the next day the relics of Don Bosco were brought to the city of Rostov na Donu. They were received at the airport by fr Zbigniew Bartoszewski, Rector of the Salesian House at Rostov, together with a large group of the faithful.

(ANS - Lima) 16/8/2013.- Solidarity for the difficult situation at San Luis Mission. On 14 August last ANS published a brief news item and photo regarding the visit that Fr Vaclav Klement, Councillor for the Salesian Missions, made to the indignant Achuar group at Kuyntsa in the Yurimaguas Vicariate; on that same day Fr Vicente Santilli, sent a letter to the Rector Major, Fr Pascual Chavez, telling him of the difficult situation they are going through at San Luis, a mission parish in the



Conchucos district. Here are some excerpts from that letter and the Rector Major's reply: Fr Santilli beging by describing the joint visit he made with Klement to these missions in the high plains, to Pucallpa and the Alto Amazonas, where he met Fr Diego Clavijo, Permanent Deacons, Ministers of Eucharist and the word. "The testimonies were vivid and poignant. One gets a sense of the great work of evangelisation, and especially of Fr Bola's personally - he has the stature of the great evengeliser and saint."



(ANS - Kamuli) 12/8/2013.- Youth Forum 2013. Wednesday, August 7, 2013. The Youth Forum for the Vice Province of Africa Great Lakes (AGL) was held in the Salesian house of Kamuli, Uganda. The event, organised by the AGL youth ministry team, was attended by about 250 young people, who wanted to explore the theme: "Pedagogy of joy" proposed by the Rector Major for this year's pastoral animation. Many Salesians were present for this event, among them were the Superior of the Vice Province, Fr Camiel Swetvagher, the Delegate for Youth Ministry, Fr Jean Pierre Turabanye and Fr Lazar Arasu, director of the community of Kamuli. They encouraged the boys to find their joy in Jesus.

(ANS - Lubumbashi) 14/8/2013. Fr Basañes Starts the Extraordinary Visitation. Friday, 9 August, Fr Guillermo Basañes, representing the Rector Major, arrived in Lubumbashi to start the Extraordinary Visitation for the Central Africa Province (AFC).

The Extraordinary Visitation is a moment of grace for the Province, during which it can directly experience the attention and paternal care of the superiors of the Congregation. Fr Basañes gave a good example of that by making a visit, already in the evening of Friday 9, to the Salesian Community of Carrefour, which hosues the elderly and sick Salesians of the Province.



(ANS - Asuncion) 6/8/2013.- Ordination of Bishop Gabriel N. Escobar Ayala, SDB. On Saturday 3, August, at the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Asuncion, Fr Gabriel N. Ayala Escobar, SDB, the new Bishop of Paraguayan Apostolic Vicariate of Chacho, was ordained bishop. The new bishop is responsible for a community of 20,000 people.





By Walter Thyrniang SDB, MA

The example of

POPE FRANCIS

Hello Thinking people. Pope Francis has captivated my attention from the day of his election. I have never heard of this person before that moment when he came out to greet the pilgrims in a simply, honest and yet -very touching way. And since then he has been living that spirit. Recently I read about the Colombian priest who after hearing the words of Pope Francis on austerity, sold his Mercedes Benz to use a bicycle instead joyfully declaring: "I have no problem with that".

During the talk to 6000 Seminarians on 8 July, 2013 the Pontiff challenged them frankly on the values of consecration. He emphasised on the need of making Christ the centre of their lives. While speaking about the joy in ones' vocation, he stated that it does not come from owning the latest Smart phone, "I tell you sincerely, it pains me when I see a priest or a nun with the latest automobile," he said. A religious without joy indicates a problem of satisfaction with one self and the community since religious life must be "chaste and fertile at the same time". He even said that it is better to have "the worst seminary than no seminary" while speaking about community life. He was so bold when speaking about poverty; and I feel as if he is speaking to us in ZMB who are claiming to be poor because "we have no money" and have been singing the song of financial difficulty, but still failing to practice austerity. "When an institution or parish (may I add a vice province) is seen placing importance on money, it is not doing good, because "it is through our life

that others need to read the Gospel from. He said to the applause of those present: "...and if you like a nice car, think only of how many children die of hunger in the world." I am deeply challenged by these words in front of what I see in ZMB.

I was so glad to see the final profession of our three confreres in Lilongwe, which reminded me of the day I too made mine in that very place. And yes there are those on the way to the priesthood and religious life that gives us joy and hope: it is very encouraging! Nevertheless, while reading the lamentation of the provincial in his circular letter, about the many brothers who have decided or were advised to leave the Salesian life; it is also a painful experience.

My thinking point is focused on the manner I am living my religious life as a Salesian. Often I think I have gone back to collect the very things I promised God that I would leave behind: money, gadgets, cars, freedom and attachment to positions of authority, place or particular friends. When I was a confrere in temporary vows, I was somehow restricted to those things and I avoided them because of fear rather than conviction. Today I am collecting them in the justification of my Mission. It is but a hypocrite appease of my conscience. I am definitely not witnessing the values I professed or the principles I preach from the pulpit.

Concluding his address, the Pope invited the seminarians and religious men and women to avoid being "bachelors or bachelorettes", but to have apostolic fertility. Perhaps it isn't this the call for us in ZMB today?

What do you think? ☺





A man sent by God: DON BOSCO



Campo ^dBosco _n

The Campo Bosco is a meeting of young people who gather around the figure of St John Bosco to know more about his life, his pastoral approach to the work on behalf of youth and his path to holiness. It is a journey to get to know him more and know the history behind, the places where he lived and the way he interacted with time and history in order to provoke reflection.

Originally the idea comes from the Salesians in Europe who sought to gather young people and with them make a journey to the birth place of St John Bosco in order to live with them the experience of the oratory and see, touch, walk in the same places where Don Bosco lived and worked.

The Campo Bosco in ZMB is an experience of study, reflection and awareness that Don Bosco's charismatic figure is alive and continues to guide Salesians and young people towards holiness.

The Campo Bosco is a combination of two words: "Campo" that in English can be translated as "Camp", which is an open space for temporary accommodation and the word "Bosco" which is the family name of St John Bosco the founder of the Salesian Movement and the inspiration for so many young people worldwide.

Campo Bosco is also an experience of living together as friends and day by day becoming a family. ☺

DID YOU KNOW

THAT...

by Dn. Jerome Bwalya sdb

1. The Current Pope – Pope Francis was baptised by a Salesian Missionary from Italy, who went to South America - Fr Enriko Pozzoli SDB. He was baptised on Christmas night, in 1936 in the basilica of “Mary Help of Christians”. Fr Enriko Pozzoli lived in Argentina from 1906 until his death in 1961. He left Italy as a young priest to work in South America and he was a 'very important figure and model of priestly life' for Pope Francis.

2. In all the countries that make up ZMB Vice-Province (Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe), there has been a few “Don Bosco Schools” before the coming of the Salesians; these schools were/are not built/run by the Salesians. In Malawi there is “Don Bosco High School” in Mzimba Boma (Muzuzu Diocese), in Namibia there is “Don Bosco Primary” in Keetmanshoop, (Keetmanshoop Diocese). In Zimbabwe there is “Don Bosco High School” in Masvingo (Masvingo Diocese). In Zambia yet to be discovered.

3. Among the “Local Salesian Priests” only Fr Mulenga Orswald and Fr Kunda Christopher were ordained by a Salesian Bishop. Fr Oswald Mulenga was ordained in 2005 in Chingola by Bishop Gaston Ruvezi SDB from Congo D.R. (Bishop of Sakania – Kipushi Diocese). Fr Kunda Christopher was ordained in 2012 in Lusaka by Bishop Mulenga Clement SDB (Bishop of Kabwe Diocese). Both were the last ones to do “Philosophy and Youth Ministry” in Moshi (Tanzania); and they both finished in 1999. Both had their first appointment as Assistant Parish Priest of St. Paul's Parish – Nkhotakota, Malawi.

4. Br. Walter Thyрниang is the first Salesian in initial formation to do his Pastoral Training in Namibia. And he was the first Salesian to make his Final Vows in Malawi. He made his final vows on 31st July 2005. Note that only Salesian



Br Walter while a Practical Trainee in Rundu (Namibia)



From Left: Fr Casimir Socha, Fr Casimir Cichecki and Fr Piotr Boryczka in Bauleni.

Brothers (Coadjutors) have been pioneers/first to make final vows in all our countries of ZMB Vice Province where such celebration has been held so far (Br Sylvester Makumba in Zambia in 1995 and Br Walter in Malawi in 2005. Namibia and Zimbabwe still on hold.

5. The Decree of Institution of the Circumscription of ZMB (under the title 'Mary Help of Christians') was issued on 24th July 1994 by the Rector Major Don Egidio Vigano. Fr. Peter Boryczka was appointed as its first superior. Hence we ceased to be a delegation of the Warsaw Province. Remember that next year 2014, we shall be celebrating 20 years of the creation of ZMB Vice-Province.

6. AGONY is when the “Salesian Superiors” from Rome (Italy) come to visit your community and discover that most of the DVDs from Missioni Don Bosco are not opened and are still with plastics, and then they open it for you and starting watching them. Worse off is when among the un-opened DVD; there is one which is a Strenna for that year.

7. The last three of the twelve founder fathers/pioneers of the Salesians in ZMB vice-province (Frs. Paul Dziatkiewick, Fr. Stan Jagodzinski and Fr. Peter Boryczka) to leave ZMB vice province either on medical grounds or on contract with other province or permanently or any other reasons, left the province while working in Malawi. ☺

INITIAL MY LIFE EXPERIENCE IN PRE- NOVITIATE FORMATION

By novice John Chabu



JOHN CHABU AND CHRISTOPHER NONDE



FR JOHN BOSCO AND GABRIEL MWENYA SDB



PAUL NKANDU AND JOSEPH LANJESI

I and the three other Zambians entered the Pre-novitate formation house on the 7th of September 2012, around 20:30hrs accompanied by Fr J. Antonio. We were warmly welcomed by brothers Vernon, Gabriel and David since the rector of the community, by then Fr. Slawek Bartodziej, had gone to Poland for the funeral of his father in Poland. Then a week later four new comers arrived from Malawi and joined the group to make a complete batch of eight pre-novices.

When I just entered the community my mind was preoccupied with lot questions of what to expect from this enormous place, made up of people of different countries, background and culture. I was so enthusiastic by being in Chingola though not sure whether I was going to be happy and enjoy my stay, or it was just a waste of time as I heard other people say.

The first month was quiet hard as everything was quiet new to me, though I had a bit of exposure to Salesian life when I was an aspirant in Bauleni community in Lusaka with Fr. Chisanga. It was a bit hard to open-up and share everything with everyone, especially with the Malawians, for it was my first time to associate with people from other countries. There were moments when we could misunderstand each other even at a point of shouting at each other. Despite such moments, which at first I regarded to be bad occurrences, I never even liked to think of them, yet later on I came to appreciate and cherish those times, for being part of my experience during my stay in pre-novitate. Why..? Because they gave meaning and answers to the question of why having a year of Pre-Novitate instead of going directly to the Novitate. I slowly discover that it was meant to be a moment of discernment. It mainly focused on the human growth. I saw how important was to learn to live with others in community, sharing our lives and skills. Hence, this was a special moment of grace which helped me to know and understand myself and others better and to see that I was not stagnant in my relationship to the others, not only to my fellow Pre-Novices, but even to the young people, both in the school and the oratory, who were so cheerful and helpful.

We were guided by a timetable which consisted of having time for waking up, prayers, meals, classes and study, oratory and recreation. All these programs were of great help to us, for they proved to us that we did not only pass through Pre-Novitate, but it passed through us too! As Don Bosco would say, "that you are young is enough for me to love you cause for you I live, study, work and I'm even ready to give up my life for you." For Don Bosco wanted is youngsters to find joy, peace and love in being honest citizens because of being good Christians. Even today, through the Salesians, he is looking for future followers who will be signs and bearers of God's love to the young people.

A word of thanks to our Pre-novice Director, Fr Bosco Mulenga and the entire community, for being there for us when we needed them most during our second stage in our formation journey. ☺

Miracles **DO** Happen



By Fr Michael Mbandama SDB

The 28th of July 2012 was a long awaited day for the arrival of the relics of Don Bosco. In a culture where death is very much respected, it was very difficult to start explaining to the people what this entire visit would mean. In Malawi as in most parts of Africa, an announcement of death is very touching and very involving. It is a community task and usually if it happens in the evening it is then announced by a whistle blow throughout the perimeters of the village accompanied by a voice announcing the death. If there is a funeral, the whole neighbourhood is obliged to attend.

The day the Casket of Don Bosco was arriving from Nkhotakota, our main market of area 23 was full of people waiting to see what this is all about. The thinking before was that students from Don Bosco Youth Technical Institute would welcome Don Bosco as he arrives but what was well thought and arranged became a disaster to those who saw the all welcome arrangements. We could hear other confreres commenting that the welcoming and sending off in Harare was spectacular, or that the welcoming and the sending off from Zambia was smooth, but it was in this context that a miracle happened.

On the arrival day after mass, people started gathering around the Casket of Don Bosco praying and actually most of them unnoticed because they really wanted God to touch them through the intercession of St John Bosco. A woman from St Joseph Small Christian community in our parish was there too though in great pain. She was there to pray. Originally she is not from Don Bosco Parish but from Balaka and an outstation of a neighbouring parish. She had a

problem with her right hip and she struggled with it for the past nine years. Being a retired teacher she thought of helping here and there teaching the catholic faith but the condition of the leg would not allow her and hence she ended up moving from one hospital to the other without any help coming her way.

The last chance according to her was just to go to S.O.S. Hospital, but at S.O.S Hospital they couldn't help her either, so she was referred to Kamuzu Central Hospital where she stayed for four days awaiting her surgical operation. As she was waiting for the operation that morning, the medical assistant came and told her that she needed to pay MK2,000,000 for an operation to be done or else she would be discharged immediately. Her hip was damaged the doctor said and she would be protected only by fixing a metal piece inside the hip but quite costly. Understanding her situation, she withdrew but complained bitterly and actually said that her last chance of getting help from the hospital was over. She cried but the son comforted her by asking her to stay with him for some days before going back to the village. The son's home is just few metres from Don Bosco Campus so upon hearing that the Casket of Don Bosco was coming, she asked the son if she could stay some more days with him so that she could see the Casket of Don Bosco a chance she missed when the figure of St Philomena was brought to Balaka. Anyway she was not feeling well that day when the Casket arrived but asked the son to drop her off and later spend the whole night praying with the charismatic group. In the morning she thought of attending the morning mass but couldn't manage because she started feeling very bad. She called the son to pick her up so that she could go and rest but felt very bad not to attend mass that day the 30th of July. But however she went and the whole day she slept and never actually woke up. Food was taken to her bedroom but felt worse than before. In the morning when she woke up, she felt better and tried to stretch up and actually she did. As usual she picked the crutches but asked herself why she was taking the crutches when actually she was not feeling any pain. She immediately put the crutches down and tried to walk in doubt but actually she managed to walk. She decided to move out of her bedroom to the sitting room where she found her daughter-in-law seated in the living room and just laughed at her. The grandchildren started laughing and mocking her but actually she managed to walk without any problem; those who were laughing at her became a little bit curious and wanted to know what really happened because by now she was fine and no longer in pain, besides, she was able to walk freely without any help.

With this she called for a priest from Don Bosco Parish so that she could explain what she experienced during the visit of Don Bosco. I went with Brother Chifundo to the house to hear a testimony of God's greatness. She said that she knelt before Don Bosco asking him to pray for her to God for the gift of healing. She added that she accepted the message from the Doctors but believed that one day God will answer her prayers. She also told us that she always prayed the Rosary and was testifying before many Christians around there that there is power in the Rosary. On the following Saturday she came again walking all by herself as a public testimony that the miracle actually happened and said farewell to the parish priest, thankful for God's kindness. ☺

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

A reflection from Fr Jorge Ormeño on the elements which bind up the Salesian Family as an entity for the service of the mission whilst keeping each its own identity

We can only explain the Salesians Family looking at it from the point of view of God. It is God that brings together people from any gender (male or female); any way of life (single, married, consecrated); any vocation (secular or religious) in a great variety of social, cultural and geographical backgrounds in order to live a common project of life: participate in the Salesian mission at the service of the young and the promotion of the Christian humanism. The ties God unites them all are interior, charismatic and spiritual and are expressed in concrete by a shared Christian identity and a common mission, spirituality and history.

The Christian identity enables the unity of the Salesian Family: the unity of what we are. The different groups of the Salesian Family



Panel of the Salesian Family (SDB, FMA, Salesian Cooperators) during the Salesian Youth Rally in Kasama.



have God as the source of their communion. First of all, we are all children of God. We have been sealed with a covenant with God on the day of our baptism. We have entered into a close relationship with God: we are children of the Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus and

temples of the Holy Spirit. We are his in the real sense of the word. However being his, we have also come to be related to each other: we have become a big family, the Family of God. God has called us to put aside the natural reservations we have for each other; Jesus has given us an example to work together for the good of his people; the Holy Spirit has given us a particular way of being children of God akin to Don Bosco and also to each other.

The common mission gives the Salesian Family a unity in what they want to do. God called Don Bosco for a specific mission. God gave him a vocation: to be a father and an apostle. Don Bosco was a father and teacher to his young people, an educator to the working classes and a



The differences within the groups Salesian Family are evident, but there are several elements that speak of its unity.



promoter of Christian humanism. Don Bosco carried out his vocation with God's assistance, some people around him and by setting up some concrete charitable works. God endowed Don Bosco with some charisma, both personal and in benefit for his mission. Every group and every member of the Salesian Family are also endowed with some charisma to carry out the Salesian mission.

The common spirituality offers the Salesian Family a unity in the way they do things. The groups of the Salesian Family do things the way Don Bosco was doing them, that is, the way God inspired Don Bosco to do them, sharing his spirit. Don Bosco was a master of building relationships based in loving kindness, being

simple and concrete in his approach to God and man, showing joy and optimism in his approach to life, untiringly working for the good of all. The groups and each member of the Salesian Family live out the different elements of the Salesian Spirituality of Don Bosco and recognize themselves in them.

The common history provides the Salesian Family with a unity of past, present and future. There are several decisions taken by Don Bosco that shaped his spiritual family at Valdocco: the devotion to the Eucharist and Mary Help of Christians, the practice of the Christian Humanism of St. Francis de Sales, the commitment to the defence of the Church, the filial loyalty to the Pope, the responsible participation in the life of the civil society and the dedication for his advancement, the commitment to education of the young people and the working classes.

The differences within the groups Salesian Family are evident, but there are several elements that speak of its unity. Maybe the last one to be mentioned is the fact that they want to be together and have the successor of Don Bosco as the father of this vast family. ☺

First Professions: 15.8.2013



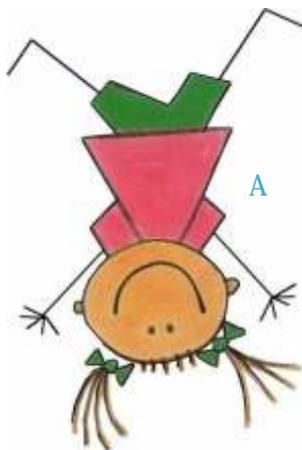
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F

o f F A I T H

Life sometimes is so hard, indeed challenging and complicated at the same time. I, have gone through a lot of challenges in my life, Yes! many obstacles. It is sad to have a father who doesn't care about you (his own blood) and the whole family. Through experience of having heartless father, I indeed thank God for the gift of faith for it is through that that God wants me to be strong in my faith. He never lets His children down, rather shows them the path to eternal happiness. Besides the hardships undergone and still undergoing, I believe that one day things will be fine for me no matter what, God will not fail me.



A

God sent Don Bosco into the church giving him a zealous heart for the young people. Yes! you and me through the opening of the oratories. It is through Don Bosco's oratory that I found a conducive environment to learn with a vision of becoming a good citizen and a good leader. It is also through Don Bosco's school that I am able to find the man of my life as part of fulfillment of my vocation dreams for we are called to serve God in different paths of life.

I

So I just want to encourage you my fellow youths out there that you never lose heart in unfriendly situations, rather trust in God. Life will corner you left and right but know that God is the only answer to all the questions that stirs up our hearts. You only need to have faith in Jesus, as we are in the year of faith too. Let Jesus be the pillar of your life.



T

I know some young people are still in the dark, thinking they are enjoying life through immoral behaviour. My advice to you is that better you let go these misleading behaviors. God is waiting for you for He loves you so much despite displeasing things done to him (GOD).

H

So why not let go the works of darkness? In my case through faith I have become who I am today since life has to be dynamic. As said already, it is all through faith and unceasing prayers that things change in one's life. My brothers and sisters we cannot run away from challenges as far as life is concerned. No one is born with a silver spoon in the mouth; rather it is through working tooth and nail that we become successful in life. One day you shall become who you dream to be through faith in God. Remember the little dreamer (Don Bosco) and all that he went through in life. Shun away from idleness and be in an intimate relationship with God then you shall see the wonders in your life. ☺

*Thank God for you bear Christ's name.
(1 Peter 4:16) one love!!!!!!!!!!!!*



ZMB PHOTO - Issue No 27

1. **Bauleni (ZAMBIA)** Meeting of the Salesian Cooperators with Fr Guillermo Basañes on occasion of his visit to Zambia.
2. **Bauleni (ZAMBIA):** Bishop Clement Mulenga, Fr Mbongiseni and Fr Guillermo Basañes on an informal visit to Bauleni Parish.
3. **Pope-Square Lusaka (ZAMBIA):** Fr Andrew Reut during the celebrations of Life Matters' Day for the Archdiocese of Lusaka.
4. **Chingola (ZAMBIA):** Cl Gabriel Mwenya, acting principal of the Don Bosco Technical School addressing the students in preparation to the final exams.
5. **Kasisi - Lusaka (ZAMBIA):** Fr. Alphonse Owudou together with the participants to the II Annual Retreat.
6. **Chingola (ZAMBIA):** Ongoing Formation Meeting of confreres under 5 years of ordination and Coadjutors in perpetual vows. Fr Alphonse Owudou facilitated the meeting together with Fr George Chalissery.
7. **Sao Paulo (BRAZIL):** Various moments of the WYD. Gathering with Card. Scherer for the Send Off mass. 8. Cultural Presentation of the Zambian Delegation. 9. Brazilian Dance "Capoeira" during the Mission Week.
10. **Livinstone (ZAMBIA):** Fr Jorge Ormeño together with the novices during a visit to the Victoria Falls before the first professions.
11. **Kabwe (ZAMBIA):** Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession Fr Andrew Dzieborski.
12. **Bauleni - Lusaka (ZAMBIA):** Cl Maurice Tichi addressing a group of youngsters during a seminar on faith issues.
13. **Card. Medardo Mazombe** dies on 29 August 2013, at the age of 81 at Lusaka Orthopedic Hospital.