

TAVUR



The newsletter of the Salesian delegation of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands

January – February 2011

Dear Confreres and Members of the Salesian Family,

Warm greetings to all of you. Allow me again to wish all of you a Happy New Year.



I believe that at this time of the year we are quite busy as we commence our New Scholastic Year. And yes we have reason to move on for life is always a journey.

I am still amazed of the past festivity we had. At the end of this month we celebrated in a very simple way the feast of our founder, father and teacher Don Bosco. Prior to that the feast of St. Francis de Sales, Patron of the Salesians. And Blessed Laura Vicuna a young saint who offered her pain and suffering for the conversion of her mother. We are blessed with such good examples from these holy people. It will be nice that we reflect and eventually put into practice the virtues they stood, lived and died for - for our own good. We all need to thank God, for the many gifts and blessings we have received from Him.

As we begin again our scholastic year may I encourage all of you to read and reflect the Strenna of our dear Rector Major for this year 2011: "COME AND SEE." This will assist us in our pastoral direction in the coming months. The Rector Major

challenges every member of the salesian family to invite and call others for their worthy vocation - be it religious, priestly ministry or a lay vocation. And to do this he is expecting us to be a true and authentic spiritual guide for the young. I am touched with his practical direction of being an authentic witness of the beauty of our salesian vocation, for all of us members of the salesian family; and to live our lives and help the lives of others to be understood as vocation and mission.

To do this let us go back and refresh ourselves with the rich and truthful witness of the life of St. John Bosco, and as I mentioned the good example and witness of life of our own salesian saints. I count them as real blessings because they set an example, they initiate a direction on how to be a good disciples and at the same time to be real guides for the salvation of our souls and the souls of our young people.

May the starting of this scholastic year be a point of our apostolic and spiritual journey together with the young.

We look forward to the 200 years anniversary of the birth of our Father and Teacher St. John Bosco in 2015.

Wishing you all the best of the coming days.
Viva Don Bosco!

Affectionately,
Fr. Raffy Galve sdb, Delegate

The Friend of Youth *folds up*

Courtesy: Don Bosco, A new biography, by Teresa Bosco, Translated by Fr. Gisuppe Moja sdb

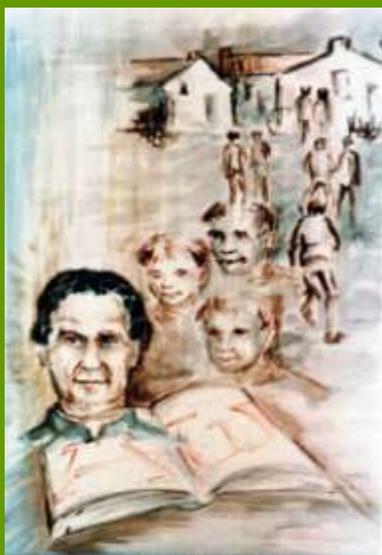
Don Bosco was worried by the havoc caused by the anticlerical papers even among the young. These papers were everywhere, sold in the streets, pasted on the walls. The Catholic papers were few and lacked that touch of aggressiveness that made a paper readable.

Don Bosco already had his hands full, but in the month of February, 1849, he took up one more enterprise: he started a paper called *The Friend of Youth*. The paper appeared thrice a week. It was

prepared with the help of Fr. Carpano and Fr. Chiaves, and was printed at the Speirani-Ferrero press.

The paper was a failure. It had 137 subscribers in the first trimester, and 116 in the second. It folded up after 61 issues, with a deficit of 272 lire.

However, Don Bosco never regretted it. He had tried to do some good and had encountered, for the first time, the 'peaceful-apathy' of the 'good'. The Catholic press in Italy is still dragging that dead weight after more than a hundred years.



Father, Thank you for giving us

say the Boys of Palnakaur

RABUAL: It was sometime mid-last year when I chanced upon the chronicle archive of Vunabosco in the Rector's Office. My eyes widened as I read the earliest entries and marveled at the exploits of Br. Joseph Kramar and Fr. Oscar Zamora as they waited for the right offer of land in order to build the Don Bosco for the Islands Region. Among the numerous photographs preserved, one stood out. It was the record of the first meeting of Fr. Peter Zago, the Rector, and the representatives of the Archdiocese of Rabaul with the people of Palnakaur and Bitagalip, the two neighboring villages in which the still-to-be constructed school was situated. The meeting was called to assuage the anxiety of the people and to assure them that their own children would benefit from this educational institution. While that may have been true in years past, the rising school fees of the Salesian school in disproportion to the downward spiral of the villagers' incomes had prevented that in recent times. It tugs at my heart that the promise of my predecessors was no longer being fulfilled. It dawned on me that getting the youth of the nearby villages was a historical imperative. It struck me that the priests of my community were going as far a New Hanover in New Ireland Province (Fr. Clifford), or Kimbe and Bialla in the West (WNBP; Fr. Timothy) and even as deep south as Buin (myself) to recruit new intakes, while those at our doorstep could not get in.

I had made some efforts in the past. In early August, I had met with some 25 young men and women who were school leavers to see what Vunabosco could do for them to get back into formal education. However, most were already satisfied to target the "Short Course" program initiated by Fr. Edwin Genovia. In numerous times, I had invited the youth of Palnakaur to seek enrolment in Vunabosco, the most recent being on 9 January this year. Only two even bothered to inquire. It was at that moment that something snapped inside of me. The next afternoon, together with a boarder, I went on a house to house search in the hill top village of Palnakaur. With the help of the two boys who had come earlier, Karl and Benjamin, we went directly to the parents of the young people to convince them to bring us their

HOPE

children. We had earlier made a survey of the families of this village, so I knew that many youths were out of school. But meeting the young men themselves was a totally different experience. It brought me back two decades before when as a youthful priest-director of a youth centre I had gone on a house-to-house visitation of urban slum dwellings in our Salesian parish.



Over the next two weeks, a dozen youth of Palnakaur rendered community service in Vunabosco with the promise of obtaining a Salesian community scholarship. The extra help enabled us to prepare the school diary on time and to clean the school grounds and class rooms for the coming enrolment. As youths heard that they had a shot of getting into Vunabosco, more young people came along – young people were bringing in their friends and relatives. Since the condition of scholarship required Saturday service throughout the school year, it gave me hope that finally – perhaps, just finally – we could establish the long desired Oratory, in Palnakaur itself!

I had to leave Vunabosco just before enrolment began. There were a number of farewells along the way. But the one I treasure most is the simple word of gratitude from the boys of Palnakaur, "Father, thank you for giving us hope."

Strenna 2011

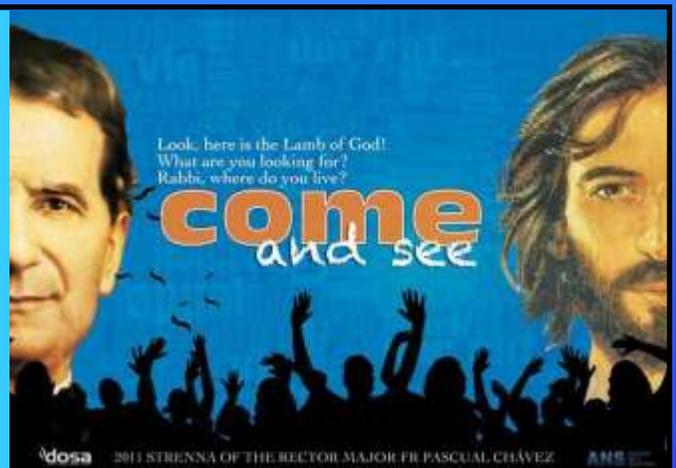
Come and see (Jn 1:36-39)

Jesus called some to follow him (cf. Mk 1:16-20).

These first disciples of his thus became his companions. (Acts 1:21-22).

Here then is the pedagogical direction we must take:

- 1. Return to Don Bosco**
- 2. Don Bosco for the young people of today**



A School of Melanesian Culture

- Br Moise Paluku sdb

KEFOMA-GOROKA: To improve their own apostolate as missionaries, three young Salesians from the Salesian Delegation of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands have attended an Orientation Course in Melanesian culture, organised by the Melanesian Institute between 2 and 22 January.

Among the 29 taking part from 16 different countries mainly from Europe were Stephen Maswili, John Tien and Moise Paluku, originally from Africa, accompanied by 2 lay Volunteers, Marites Sabando and Crispy Noche from Araimiri. At the meeting in Kefamo-Goroka those taking part learned about the culture of the peoples they would be



working with, including courses on the History of the peoples of Melanesia – from their beginnings to the present day – land issues, traditional and present situation of marriage, religious matters, health issues, traditional and present values, sorcery matters, intercultural communication, and Youth and education concerns.



Documentaries helped them with their discussions. The advantages of the course also included the ecumenical dialogue among those taking part, as a result of the organisers arranging to have representatives from the main churches in Melanesia. The Salesians also made their own special contribution through their cheerful spirit of collaboration, and the other missionaries remarked on the enthusiasm and involvement produced by the charism of Don Bosco.



First Solomon Islander renews profession as Salesian of Don Bosco – Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb

HENDERSON: 'I renew my vows to live poor, chaste and obedient', said Br Jefferson Ohoau sdb, loudly and clearly on 31st January, 2011, Feast day of Don Bosco as he renewed his vows at the end of the homily

preached by Archbishop Adrian Smith sm, Archbishop of Honiara.

Br. Jefferson Ohoau sdb is the first Solomon Islands Salesian and has made his first profession on 31st January, 2008 in Kungi, Papua New Guinea. He has completed his Machine Fitting Course and has earned a Diploma in the Trade. He has also done his Bachelors of Philosophy together with several courses in humanities and religious life. He has now been appointed to teach and instruct the students at Don Bosco Technical Institute, Henderson.

'I look forward to sharing my skills and knowledge with the students, in the hope that they will have values and attitudes that will help them earn an honest living', is what Br Jefferson is about, as he commences his first year of Practical Training on home soil. "It is wonderful to have him here at the Institute as being a Solomon Islander he is able to understand the young and assist them in the best possible manner", said Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb.

Salesians - Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, Rector of Don Bosco Technical Institute, Henderson and Fr. Michael Laap sdb, Rector of Don Bosco Rural Training Centre, Tetere were happy to witness the occasion, while Br Moise Paluku sdb looked on.

Archbishop Adrian Smith sm, Archbishop of Honiara was president at the Solemn Thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration on the 31st January, 2011, Feast Day of Don Bosco. Concelebrating with him was Bishop Chris Cardone op, Bishop of Auki, together with five other priests. Over 120 religious, priests, teachers, board members, ministry officials, well-wishers and guests were present for the celebration. It was a delightful occasion for his parents and family members who were present for the occasion. "On behalf of the PNG-SI Delegation, we express our sincere gratitude to Mr. and Mrs Pascal Ohoau, the parents of Br Jefferson for the gift of their son to the Salesian Congregation", said Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb in thanksgiving. 'Don Bosco takes his place at home, and you will surely experience his blessings upon you and your family', he continued. Mr Pascal in reply expressed his support and encouragement for the vocation of his son. A festive meal followed the Eucharistic celebration – with delicious dishes brought in by religious and guests. Lively action songs entertained everyone. "It was a very enjoyable, relaxing and joyful celebration", said the guests as they returned home.



Cultural Celebration



KUNGI: PREPARATION

Seven cultural groups : the Kora and Konda from Simbu, Jiwaka, Western Highland, Southern High-

land, Coastal and the Eastern Highlanders with Gasagasa and famous Asaro Mudman rehearsed each day in preparation for the event. The students were obedient and obeyed all the directions of the cultural group leaders.

CULTURAL DAY 28 AUGUST

After the Eucharistic celebration, the students, with help from their parents and guardians dressed up in their costumes and got ready to march the invited guests to the grand stand. Three teachers also took part in the celebration with the students. People from far and near came to witness the grand cultural event. Some came all the way from Western highland, Southern Highland, Eastern Highland and within Simbu Province to witness the Don Bosco Cultural day celebration in Kumgi and see the unique and diverse cultures in PNG. At 10.00am, the program coordinator Mr. Tony Siune, assembled the entire group along the Kumgi Highway to welcome the guests.

The Kora, Konda and Jiwaka groups had similar kind of dressing with colorful face painting and long bird of paradise feathers as headdresses, the western highlanders with beautiful face painting and bilum dresses.



The Southern Highlanders with the *hella wigman* and walking dance. The Coastal group dressed red below waist with colourful headdresses, the Eastern Highlander's *gasagasa* with body painted black all over and the famous Asaro mudman chasing away flies from the dancers.

ARRIVAL OF THE GUESTS

As the guest arrived the Konda gave them a welcome dance accompanied with songs in their own Konda language at the gateway. The invited guest who arrived were Reverend bishop Anton Bal, Hon. Minister for Culture and Tourism Mr. Guma Wau, Mr. Kapa from Provincial Education office, the Board of Governors, the religious and other distinguished guests. The entire cultural group made two lines for guests to walk through to the grand stand. The Opening and welcome speech by the Rector of the school Fr. Eduardo Revilla sdb, was followed by Reverend Bishop Anton Bal, Mr. Kapa and finally by Hon Guma Wau, Minister for culture and tourism. The Hon. Minister donated K150.000 to the school. The Don Bosco inter school sport prizes went to Kundiawa Lutheran high school and St. Mary's Technical school. It was an occasion to learn more about culture and costumes.



Birthday corner

JANUARY

3 Fr. CASPER, Charles (1982)

FEBRUARY

8 Fr. BITU, Augustine (1982)

16 Fr. MORAIS, Clifford (1967)

Next edition...

May the Risen LORD light up your life !

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