Ħajja Salesjana

JANNAR - FRAR 2009
il-212 Ħarġa

Dun Bosco 75 sena f'Għawdex

Jien għalikom nistudja

Remembering Father Rua in 2010

The Logo of the Salesians of Don Bosco is made up of two superimposed images: in the background a stylised "S" (Salesians) in white marked to the right and left by two cuttings between the hills (a road). The second image is in the centre of the globe: an arrow pointing upwards resting on three perpendicular legs on top of which are three closed circles making a stylised image of three people: the first of these in the midde and taller (the Salesian) appears as if embracing the side figures (the young). The three stylised figures can also be viewed as an arrow pointing upwards (education / formation) or simply as a dwelling (Salesian house) with three pillars holding it up (reason, religion, loving kindness).

The coat of arms of the Salesian Congregation shows the shining star, the large anchor, the heart on fire symbolizing faith, hope and charity; the figure of St. Francis de Sales recalling the Patron of the Society; the small wood in the lower part reminds us of the Founder (Bosco) the high mountains signify the heights of perfection towards which members strive; the interwoven palm and laurel that enfold the shield either side are emblematic of the prize reserved for a sacrificial and virtuous life. The motto Da mihi animas, caetera tolle,give (me souls, take the rest) expresses every Salesian's ideal.

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Front Cover: Billi din is-sena jaħbat iċ-ċentenarju tas-Salesian Brigade, u billi l'istrenna tar-Rettur Maġġur tgħidilna "nwasslu l-Vanġelu liż-żgħażagħ", ir-ritratt tal-qoxra juri mumenti fil-ħajja tas-Salesian Brigade.

Is-Sena ta' **Dun Mikiel Rua**

Għeżież Qarrejja,

Għadna kif tajna bidu għal sena oħra, opportunita' ġdida fejn spiss inħossu l-ħtieġa li nagħmlu proponimenti ħalli ntejbu ħajjitna. J'Alla dawn ix-xhur li resqin fuqna jkunu mimlija barka mill-Mulej. Id f'id ma' Dun Bosco, din is-sena se tkun għall-Familja Salesjana ġrajja oħra ta' grazzji u tifkiriet li għandhom iqanqlu fina spirtu mġedded f'dak li sawwar fina l-ispirtu Salesjan.

Apparti l-festi Salesjani li ġa niċċelebraw, is-sena 2010 se timmarka avveniment speċjali. Sewwasew, kien id-29 t'Ottubru 1910 li miet l-ewwel suċċessur ta' Dun Bosco, Don Mikiel Rua. L-istedina tar-Rettur Maġġur hija dik li nerġgħu niskopru l-kariżma u l-persuna ta' dan il-bniedem, li sa mill-eta' bikrija, kien qed jgħix fl-Oratorju ta' Valdocco, spalla ma' spalla ma' Dun Bosco. Nistgħu ngħidu ħafna ġrajjiet mill-ħajja ta' Don Rua. Biżżejjed insemmu ż-żewġ żjajjar li huwa għamel fi gżiritna biex inawgura l-ftuħ ta' l-iskola ta' St. Patrick kif ukoll tal-Juventutis Domus, jew kif inhu magħruf llum, it-Teatru Salesjan.

Meta wieħed jitkellem fuq Don Rua, minnufih jintebah kif f'ħajtu huwa fittex li jgħix jum b'jum, l-istess spirtu li wiret minn għand Dun Bosco. Kien bniedem li ħabb il-faqar, li emmen fit-tfal u li, minkejja r-rwol importanti li ħaddan, ma ddejjaqx kuljum ikun preżenti fil-bitħa mat-tfal. Dak il-lejl li Dun Bosco miet, Don Rua qattgħu waħdu fil-Bażilka ta' Marija Għajnuna ta' l-Insara, ma ġenb il-ġisem mejjet ta' Dun Bosco, jitlob fis-skiet. Kienet din il-fiduċja f' Marija li sostnietu fil-mixja tiegħu bħala Salesjan, saċerdot u missier il-Familja Salesjana għal aktar minn 20 sena. Jekk sal-mewt ta' Dun Bosco is-Salesjani kienu qabżu is-700, fis-snin li mexxa Don Rua, is-Salesjani kienu laħqu telgħu għal aktar minn 3000, mifruxa ma' ħafna pajjiżi ġodda. Il-biża' li mal-mewt ta' Dun Bosco, il-kongregazzjoni setgħet tisfaxxa, taret mar-riħ grazzi għall-ħidma bla serħan tiegħu. Il-weġgħat u l-ferħat, li kienu bosta fil-ħajja tiegħu, kienu prova li Don Rua fehem dak li snin qabel Dun Bosco ried jgħid meta qallu: « Jien u int għad naqsmu kollox flimkien. »

Inħeġġiġkom biex niskopru d-doni spiritwali li dan il-Beatu għex u qasam ma' l-oħrajn, li bħal Dun Bosco, ħadem sa l-aħħar nifs ta' ħajtu għal ġid tat-tfal u ż-żgħażagħ. J'Alla din is-sena l-ġdida tkun għalina lkoll opportunita' li nixbħuh fis-sehem tagħna fil-qasam edukattiv.

Fr. Paul Formosa SDB – Delegat

"L-istedina tar-Rettur Maġġur hija dik li nerġgħu niskopru l-kariżma u l-persuna ta' dan il-bniedem, li sa mill-eta' bikrija, kien qed jgħix fl-Oratorju ta' Valdocco, spalla ma' spalla ma' Dun Bosco."

The Year of **Bl. Michael Rua**

Dear Readers

We just started a New Year, something that gives us an opportunity to make new resolutions so as to improve our life. May these coming months be full of God's blessings. Hand in hand with Don Bosco, this year is going to be for us another event of grace and memories that will awaken in us a renewed Salesian spirit.

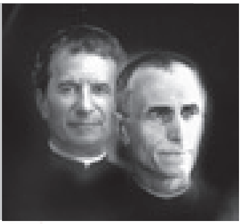
Apart from the Salesian feasts that we usually celebrate, the year 2010 will also mark a special event. It was the 29th October 1910 that Don Michael Rua, the first successor of Don Bosco, passed away. Now, our Rector Major, invites us to rediscover the charism and personality of this man, who, since early childhood lived at the Oratory of Valdocco, next to Don Bosco. We may recall many facts about him; enough to mention his two visits to our island for the opening of St. Patrick's School and of the 'Juventutis Domus', known more as the Salesian Theatre.

When one talks about Don Rua, one will soon realize how much this man tried to live, day by day, the spirit he had inherited from Don Bosco. He was a man who loved poverty; he believed in and loved the young so much that, notwithstanding the important position he had, he would not miss being with the boys in the yard. When Don Bosco died, Don Rua spent the night in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, besides the casket of Don Bosco, praying in silence. He had a great trust in Mary and this sustained him as a priest, a Salesian and a father to the Salesian Family for more than 20 years. If at Don Bosco's death the Salesians numbered 700, in the years of Don Rua's rule that number went up to more than 3000, spread in other new countries. The fear that with Don Bosco's death our Congregation would crumble, vanished thanks to Don Rua's assiduous toil. There were joys and sorrows in his life, and they helped him understand the words Don Bosco had told him, many years before, "You and I will share things by half."

I encourage you to discover the spiritual gifts of this saintly man; how he lived them and shared them with others especially in working up to his last breath, like Don Bosco, for the good of the young. And may this year be for us an opportunity to imitate him in this most noble mission: the formation of the young.

Fr. Paul Formosa SDB - Delegate

When one talks about Don Rua, one will soon realize how much this man tried to live, day by day, the spirit he had inherited from Don Bosco.



Kummenti fuq li Strenna 2010:
Il-Vanġelu liż-Żgħażagħ
Minn Pascual Chavez – Trad. Joe Cini

PEDAGOĠIJA *Salesjana*

AĦBAR TAJBA LILL-BNEDMIN

Ġesù huwa l-'iva' ta' Alla lill-bniedem u anke it-tweġiba tal-bniedem lil Alla (ara Kor 1, 18-24)

Għal xi snin, issa, ili newdhen fuq l-idea li noffri lill-Familja Salesjana xi ħsibijiet sempliċi u sistematiċi fuq dak li huwa ċ-ċentru tal-fidi tagħna waqt li nenfasizza xi aspetti tat-tradizzjoni Salesjana li jmorru lura lejn Dun Bosco. Dan diġà għidtu fl-iSTRENNA 2010, fis-sena taċ-ċentenarju mill-mewt ta' Dun Mikiel Rua: Nimitaw lil Dun Rua, u bħala dixxipli vera u mħeġġa, inwasslu l-Vanġelu liż-żgħażagħ. F'dar-rigward, il-Papa Benedittu XVI ifakkarna li, 'tkun nisrani mhux ir-riżultat ta' xi għażla etika jew idea għolja, imma l-laqgħa ma' ġrajja, ma' persuna, li tiftaħ għall-ħajja orizzont ġdid' (Deus Caritas est, 1). Il-Kristjaneżmu mhux ġabra ta' veritajiet li wasalna għalihom wara sekli ta' ħsieb, lanqas ta' xi mġiba morali li ngħixu, imma laqgħa personali mal-Mulej Ġesù, li tbiddlilna ħajjitna u tagħmilna 'veri nsara' jiġifieri li «nappartjenu lil Kristu ». Dan narawh fit-tifsira tal-kelma 'Vanġelu' li ġejja mil-Griek li tfisser «bxara t-tajba» u li San Mark juża' bħala titlu meta jikteb, «Bidu tal-

Bxara t-Tajba ta' Ġesù Kristu, l-Iben ta' Alla » (Mk 1.1). Sa mill-bidu, imnebbħin mill-Ispirtu s-Santu, l-Insara fehmu li Ġesù kien l-akbar u l-isbaħ aħbar għan-nies kollha tad-dinja.

Ejjew nirriflettu ftit. Bxara tassew tajba jkollha tliet kwalitajiet: tkun mhux mistennija; tkun ġejja minn "barra"; timla l-qalb b'ferħ mhux tas-soltu. Jekk napplikaw dawn għall-Kristjaneżmu nifhmu li mhix kwistjoni ta' ferħ uman, iżda tal-verità meraviljuża li Alla jħobbna u għamilna, fi Kristu, uliedu. Din hija bil-ħafna l-isbaħ bxara. Il-poplu ta' Israel ukoll, għalkemm kien stenna il-Messija għal sekli sħaħ, sfaw imħawda. Dawk biss li kienu lesti jbiddlu l-attitudni kollha tagħhom waslu biex jaċċettaw lil Ġesù bħala l-Messija/Kristu. Irridu però nammettu li din ma kinetx 'bxara tajba' għal kulħadd; għal dawk li jserrħu moħħhom fuq il-qawwa tal-kburija tagħhom, fuq il-poter jew l-għana u l-ġid (Lk 1, 51-53) din kienet aktarx 'bxara ħażina', u fl-aħħar din wasslet lil dak li ħabbha sal-mewt. Meta wieħed imbagħad jemmen li l-Kristjaneżmu huwa l-isbaħ aħbar għall-bnedmin, iħoss id-dover li jwassal dil-bxara lid-dinja kollha. "Kif jistgħu jsejħu lil Dak li ma jemmnux fih? Kif

jistgħu jemmnu f'dak li ma semgħux bih? Kif jistgħu jisimgħu jekk ma jxandrulhomx?" (Rom 10,14). Li wieħed jieqaf milli jxandar u jkun missjunarju huwa l-akbar infedeltà lejn Alla u l-akbar azzjoni egoista lejn il-bniedem. Immaġinaw familja fqira li tirbaħ il-lotterija nazzjonali; jekk minħabba l-faqar din ma tistax tkun taf b'din l-aħbar lanqas tistà tiġbor il-premju. Xi ħadd li jaf b'dan u ma jgħidilhomx, ikun verament egoist mill-akbar. Issa, f'Ġesù il-bnedmin kollha rebħu l-akbar premju immaġinabbli; imma ħafna u ħafna minnhom dan ma jafuhx! Bir-raġun ma nistgħux ma nħabbrux din l-aħbar li, kif jgħid il-Papa Benedittu, 'tiftaħ għall- ħajja orizzont

DIN HIJA BIL-ĦAFNA L-ISBAĦ BXARA. IL-POPLU TA' ISRAEL UKOLL, GĦALKEMM KIENU STENNEW IL-MESSIJA GĦAL SEKLI SĦAĦ, SFAW IMĦAWDA. DAWK BISS LI KIENU LESTI JBIDDLU L-ATTITUDNI KOLLHA TAGĦHOM WASLU BIEX JAĊĊETTAW LIL ĠESÙ BĦALA L-MESSIJA/KRISTU.

ġdid', u twassal għall-ħajja ta' dejjem.

Meta nħarsu lejn Dun Bosco nindunaw li 1) is-sistema edukattiva tiegħu m'hijiex ġabra ta' ideat u regoli imma mixja ta' fidi li twassal għal-laqgħa ħajja mal-persuna ta' Ġesù. Huwa eduka billi mexa fit-triq ta' twettiq uman u qdusija nisranija bbasata fuq ħbiberija ma' Ġesù, mgħixa b'impenn. 2) Dun Bosco ħass fil-fond is-sitwazzjoni ta' dawk li ma kinux semgħu l-Bxara t-Tajba u mill-bidunett, skond ma seta' jiddisponi, kien ħabrek għax-xogħol missjunarju u ħalla din il-marka u ħeġġa lill-Familja Salesjana. Ta' kull sena jiena għandi l-ferħ, permezz ta' l-għotja tal-kurċifiss, li nibgħat ħafna membri tal-Familja Salesjana lejn l-artijiet tal-missjoni; tradizzjoni li bidet fl-1875. Imma, jibqgħu jidwu kliem Ġesù, «Il-ħsad huwa kbir imma l-ħaddiema ftit», għalhekk kull wieħed u waħda minnkom, bil-kelma jew bix-xhieda ta' ħajjitkom, skond il-possibiltà tiegħu/tagħha, irid iġib il-Bxara t-Tajba lil ħutu l-bnedmin, jiġifieri li aħna lkoll ulied Alla li jħobbna.

TA' KULL SENA JIENA GĦANDI L-FERĦ, PERMEZZ TA' L-GĦOTJA TAL-KURĊIFISS, LI NIBGĦAT ĦAFNA MEMBRI TAL-FAMILJA SALESJANA LEJN L-ARTIJIET TAL-MISSJONI; TRADIZZJONI LI BIDET FL-1875.

2010 CALENDAR OF SALESIAN FEASTS & EVENTS

JANUARY

Fri	1	Our Lady, Mother of God. World Day of Peace
Sun	3	Past Pupils of St. Patrick's Committee Meeting at 9.30 a.m.
Tue	5	Beginning of 2nd Term of school.
Wed	6	Sliema Salesian Cooperators' Meeting at St. Patrick's.
Thu	7	2nd Term of School begins
Sun	10	Prayer Day for Salesian Missions
Fri	15	Blessed Luigi Variara SDB
Sat	16	Course in Salesian Spirituality 4
Fri	22	Blessed Laura Vicuna. Feast Day at Laura Vicuna School, Ghasri.
Sun	24	Feast of St. Francis of Sales. Patron saint of Salesian Congregation
Mon	25	Commemoration of Mary Help of Christians
Fri	29	Feasting St. John Bosco at Salesian Schools.
Sun	31	Feast of St. John Bosco. Masses in St. Patrick's and Sliema Oratory Churches will be of the Saint. AGM of Past Pupils at St. Patrick's at 8.45a.m. Special Mass for Salesian Cooperators and Past Pupils at 11.30 a.m. followed by Feastday Lunch

FEBRUARY

Wed	3	School Leaving Exams Form 5 at Savio College. Sliema Salesian Cooperators' Meeting at St. Patrick's.
Fri	5	First Friday Devotions at St. Patrick's Church
Tue	9	Bl. Eusebia Palomino FMA
Wed	10	St. Paul's Shipwreck. Prayer Day for Salesian Missions
Sat	13	Course in Salesian Spirituality 5
Sun	14	Past Pupils of St. Patrick's Committee Meeting at 9.30 a.m.
		Carnival holidays
Wed	17	Ash Wednesday. Stations of the Cross & Mass at 6.30 p.m. at St. Patrick's
Thu	25	Sts. A.Versiglia & C.Caravario Salesian missionaries martyred in China

MARCH

Wed	3	Sliema Salesian Cooperators' Meeting at St. Patrick's.
Sat	6	Course in Salesian Spirituality 6
	8 - 12	Lenten Sermons at St. Patrick's
Sun	14	Past Pupils of St. Patrick's Committee Meeting at 9.30 a.m.
Fri	19	Feast of St. Joseph. Yearly Bikeathlon at Savio College

Read ħajja Salesjana on the website: **www.salesiansmalta.org**

Dun Bosco 75 sena f'Għawdex

minn John Cremona

FL-EWWEL TA' APRIL TAS-SENA LI GĦADDIET ĦABAT IL-75 ANNIVERSARJU MINN META BDIET ISSEĦĦ IL-ĦOLMA TA' XI SAĊERDOTI QADDISA FIR-RABAT, GĦAWDEX. L-ORATORJU 'DUN BOSCO', LI MINN DIK IL-ĠURNATA STORIKA SAL-LUM QATT MA REĠA' GĦALAQ IL-BIBIEN TIEGĦU, QED IFAKKAR B'MOD XIERAQ DAWN IL-ĠRAJJIET LI HAWN QIEGĦED NIRRAKKONTA.

Kien proprju l-1 ta' April, Ħadd il-Għid tas-'Sena Mqaddsa' ta' 1934, meta l-Papa Piju XI f'Ruma kien qed imexxi r-rit tal-Kanonizzazzjoni ta' Don Bosco fil-Vatikan, li fi Triq il-Karità, fir-Rabat Għawdex, infetħu għall-ewwel darba il-bibien żgħar ta' l-ewwel Oratorju.

75 sena huma ħafna drabi aktar minn għomor ta' bniedem, u ftit huma dawk l-ixxurtjati li kienu preżenti dak in-nhar u li l-lum għadhom ħajjin. Forsi huma kienu jkunu f'pożizzjoni aħjar minni li jirrakkuntaw x'ġara dak in-nhar, imma jien se nibbaża dawn il-ftit linji fuq kitbiet li ħalla l-protagonist ewlieni ta' din il-ġrajja f'Għawdex, Dun Pawl Micallef.

Il-Bidu ta' Xewqa Kbira

Kif għedna, kien il-Ħadd filgħodu meta Dun Ġużepp Spiteri, qassis Malti li kien ġie joqgħod Għawdex fetaħ għall-ewwel darba il-bibien ta' l-Oratorju. Nistħajjilkom tistaqsu "Mela Dun Pawl fejn kien? Jirrakkonta Dun Pawl;

"Wasal il-jum tant mixtieq ta' l-1 ta' April 1934, waqt li jien kont Ruma nassisti ċ-ċerimonji sollenni tal-Kanonizzazzjoni tal-Maħbub Missier u Mgħallem taż-Żgħażagħ, fost ħlejjaq ta' nies u pellegrini li qatt ma kienu dehru daqshom ġo San Pietru u barra l-knisja, Dun Ġużepp hawn Għawdex fetaħ il-bibien liċ-ċkejknin għeżież ta' D. Bosco. L-Oratorju ġie miftuħ! Fost l-ikbar ferħ".

Il-ftuħ ta' l-ewwel Oratorju ma ġiex b'kumbinazzjoni; qabel din il-ġrajja, kien hemm snin twal ta' ħidma, talb u qtigħ il-qalb għal Dun Pawl Micallef. Huwa nnifsu jistqarr li kien għadu fuq il-bankijiet ta' l-iskola meta hu u Dun Alwig Mizzi, li aktar tard kellu jsir Salesjan, kienu dejjem jitkellmu u joħolmu fuq Dun Bosco, is-Salesjani u l-Oratorju. Huwa kien jaħdem biex ixerred id-devozzjoni lejn Dun Bosco kemm permezz ta' artikli li beda jikteb fil-'Leħen is-Sewwa' kif ukoll bit-tqassim ta' santi u kurunelli

L-ewwel opportunità għal Dun Pawl ġiet meta fl-1929 Mons. Kan. Dun Pawl Cauchi, Rettur tal-Knisja ta' Savina, reħa l-għaqda tal-Paġġi tas-Sagrament f'idejn Dun Pawl Micallef u din serviet bħala l-ewwel opportunità li jibda jiġbor it-tfal. Din l-għaqda ħadet spinta fl-1931 f'għeluq il-25 sena mit-twaqqif tal-Paġġi tas-Sagrament meta f'Savina saru festi kbar u t-tfal żdiedu fuq li żdiedu. Mons Pawl Cauchi fi tmiem tal-festi kien qal lit-tfal u lin-nies miġbura fil-knisja li *"L-Oratorju hu lest, tonqos id-dar u s-Salesjani kemm jiġu jieħdu ħsiebu"*.

Kellhom jgħaddu madanakollu sentejn oħra qabel mal-proġett li kellu f'moħħu Dun Pawl beda jieħu s-sura. Iż-żmien ma kienx wieħed sabiħ f'Għawdex. Il-livell ta' għixien kien baxx ħafna u l-livell ta' l-edukazzjoni kien bil-wisq aktar baxx. Għal darb'oħra ser inħalli lill-protagonist biex jirrakkonta huwa stess dwar is-sitwazzjoni f'Għawdex; *"Id-duttrina fil-Knisja Parrokkjali ta' San Ġorġ kienet wisq sejra lura xi drabi konna inkunu iktar katekisti milli tfal. Xi qassisin kienu imorru l-barra għax bla tfal jew il-ftit tagħhom kienu jagħtuhom lil ħaddieħor. Bruda kbira fit-tfal u f'min jgħallem! Imma donnu kollox minn Alla! Donnu Alla ħalla li jsir dan biex aktar tidher il-ħtieġa ta' Oratorju"*.

Bil-ftit il-ftit

Imqanqal minn din is-sitwazzjoni, l-Arċipriet tar-Rabat Mons Alfons Maria Hili, f'Novembru 1933 reħa t-tagħlim tad-duttrina f'idejn Dun Ġużepp Spiteri, magħruf bħala l-Malti, li dan kellu ħafna mis-sistemi ta' Dun Bosco. F'xi żmien wara Dun Ġużepp talab l-għajnuna ta' Dun Pawl biex jgħinu u *"f'malajr t-tnejn sirna qisna qalb waħda"* jgħid Dun Pawl. Biex tattira t-tfal kienu jinħtieġu s-santi u r-rigali u għalhekk kien hemm ħtieġa ta' għajnuna materjali. Dun Ġużepp Spiteri talab lill-isqof biex ikun jista' jagħmel ġabra darba fix-xahar fil-Parroċċa ta' San Ġorġ, iżda l-isqof deherlu li aħjar li tibda ssir ġabra nhar ta' Ġimgħa fil-quddiesa tat-8.00 (filgħodu) u l-ewwel ġabra saret fil-21 ta' Novembru 1933 u nġabru ħdax-il sold u nofs .

F'waħda miż-żjajjar li Dun Bosco għamel lill-Papa Piju IX fil-Vatikan, dan il-Papa qaddis li għaraf ukoll il-qdusija ta' Dun Bosco, talbu biex jikteb l-istorja ta' ħajtu biex isservi ta' tagħlim għal uliedu spiritwali. Dun Bosco, dan wettqu biss bosta snin wara, meta l-Papa tah ordni biex jikteb

il-memorji tiegħu. Ma nafx għal liema raġuni, imma Dun Pawl ukoll kiteb il-memorji tat-twaqqif u tal-ftuħ ta' l-ewwel Oratorju. Sfortunatament din il-ktiba tasal biss sas-sena 1938 imma tagħti ħafna informazzjoni dwar l-ewwel snin ta' l-Oratorju.

Għal darb'oħra, ir-rakkont ta' kif akkwista l-ewwel dar se nerġa' nħallih għall-pinna ta' Dun Pawl. "*Dak ix-xahar stess (Novembru 1933) tkellimna fuq il-ħtieġa li nsibu xi dar, konna fuq il-għatba tas-sakristija ta' S. Ġorġ, kien hemm is-servjent ta' S. Ġorġ M'Ang Agius u kif semagħna nitkellmu qabeż qalilna: "Hawn dar naħseb li tajba, m'hix mikrija għax-jgħidu li fiha l-ħares, hawn qrib No 12,13 Sda Carita, ta' Ġużepp Grech"*:

U tassew! Sibna lil Ġużepp u f'malajr ftehmna, bil-patt li 2 ikmamar jiftaħomlna f'waħda: u s-sid kien wisq ġentili magħna, għamlilna li tlabnih u krielna d-dar bi ftit flus. U l-ħares? Malajr keċċih D. Bosco! Kif konna naraw id-dar, Ġużepp irrakkontalna l-biċċa tal-ħares. Hemmhekk kellu l-barrin u mal-lejl xi wieħed isib ruħu maħlul u kien jitla u jinżel it-taraġ u l-katina ċlikk, ċlikk, kienu jaħsbu li hemm ix-xjaten il-ġirien: u ma dħakniex bi ftit".

L-ewwel dar – jibda l-Oratorju

L-ewwel snin ta' l-Oratorju kienu karatterizzati minn diffikultajiet u għaks kbir, karatteristiċi li ssibhom f'kull opra għall-glorja ta' Alla. Id-dar kienet kważi art u saqaf u kull ma kien hemm fil-ftuħ tad-dar kienu xi bankijiet li nxtraw mit-talkies ta' Mikiel Vella u mill-Każin ta' Ljun u sintendi kwadru ta' Dun Bosco. Is-siġġijiet għall-katekisti kienu jisselfu minn San Ġorġ. Sena wara mbagħad inxtrat l-ewwel magna tal-films mingħand Mikiel Vella.

F'din id-dar bdiet issir id-duttrina kuljum u l-ispjega tal-vanġelu fil-Ħdud u l-festi filwaqt li l-quddiesa tal-Ħadd kienet issir fil-Knisja ta' San Ġakbu. Hawn beda wkoll it-teatrin, pilastru ewlieni fis-sistema ta' Dun Bosco u l-ewwel dramm li ttella' kien proppju Duminku Savio, dramm maqlub għall-Malti minn Dun Pawl Micallef.

F'din id-dar ma damx wisq għaliex sa sentejn wara, Dun Pawl, kien diġa' trasferixxa l-Oratorju għal 24 Strada Pieta' illum Triq Mons Ġużeppi Farrugia li kienet dar akbar fejn ħoloq teatru żgħir u kappella. Dun Pawl ħaseb ukoll biex jordna statwa ta' Dun Bosco, "*mingħand l-istatwarju Wistin Camilleri "Min għand Wistin ħadniha bit-tfal ikantaw 'Don Bosco ritorna' u ġiet imbierka mill-Arċipriet Alf. M. Hili fil-Knisja ta' San Ġorġ u ftit wara bdew il-festi fl-1,2 u 3 ta' Mejju 1936. Għasar u priedka u filgħodu quddiesa bit-tqarbina tat-tfal. 1 ippriedka D.P. Micallef, 2 D. Lwiġ Galea, 3 Mons C. Fort. Griek: Jum il-festa bil-mużika: L-istatwa rigal tiegħi*".

(Il-kwotazzjonijiet bil-korsiv huma riprodotti kif miktuba minn Dun Pawl Micallef).

The Ultimate Fun Experience

THE FOURTH EDITION OF BOSCOFEST WAS UNDERWAY AS WAY BACK AS APRIL 2009! AND THE PLANNING WAS ALREADY IN HAND AS WAY BACK AS DECEMBER 2008. TO BE HONEST, I WASN'T QUITE SURE OF WHAT TO EXPECT. THE PREVIOUS BOSCOFESTS WERE ALREADY BRILLIANT, SO I ONLY WONDERED HOW MUCH BETTER IT COULD POSSIBLY BE...

When I went to the initial meeting held in April, I was flabber-gasted!!! Over 300 teenagers from all over Malta were present and eager to get their place in Boscofest. It was really amazing. In the first edition of Boscofest, we performed "The Hunchback of Notre Dame", with only 50 participants enrolled. Later, we pulled off "Oliver Twist", and the number had already increased to about 120. Boscofest 2007 was a sure, and about 170 youngsters participated. Now, it seemed that for the very first time some applicants were going to be turned down!

One thing I really like about Boscofest is the big sense of family-belonging. Thanks to Fr.Louis Grech, Ms Mariel Gauci and over 80 helpers and animators, everyone feels at home and no one left out. Everybody gets to know each other by the end of the first couple of meetings. We are like a family... a

rather big family! Personally, I really love the way each and every teenager is treated. The animators are always available to everyone when someone needed to express oneself.

In Boscofest, the main aim is not to pull off a magnificent final show. The main goal is that each youngster grows in his relationship with God. This summer, over 300 participants made a walk, through which they grew in relationship with others and, most importantly, with God. In fact, in our rehearsals, we had three sessions, one of which would be a formation session. In this gathering, we talked about several important life necessities, like communication, trust, empathy, etc. These acquired skills helped us to continue with our rehearsals and our interelationships. If we hadn't had these attitudes we surely wouldn't have pulled off such an awesome show.

Finally, we had two live-ins where each group had time to conclude its acts. The first one was for orchestra, maltese drama, dance & gymnastics, and the second one was for english drama, creative arts and mime & impressions. These live-ins proved vital for each group as all of them fine-tuned their performances. Of course, in the live-in, it isn't all work and no play, that's for sure! We laughed together, we ate together, we prayed together and most importantly we celebrated mass together. Those are surely moments that each participant will treasure for life.

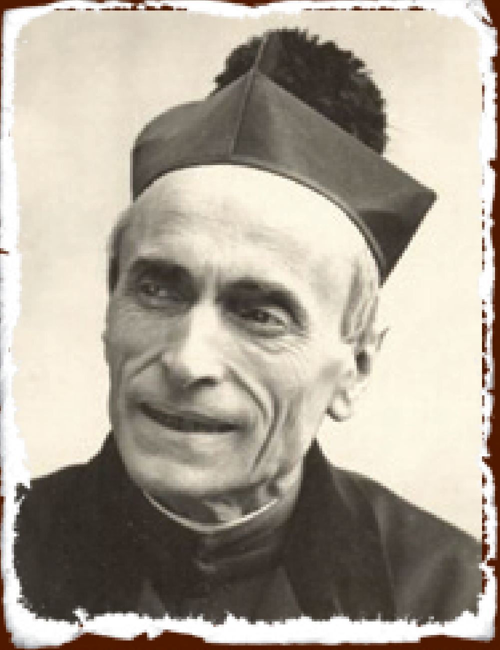
As the grande finale was closing in, we also had a general rehearsal. Everyone got into their costumes and each group performed as if they were in front of the audience. I really appreciated the support each of us gave to the other participants. Then, the big two days arrived. On Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September, Savio College was transformed. It was filled with teenagers performing and showing their talents. About 3000 people from all over Malta and Gozo came to witness an amazing show. Everyone seemed to really enjoy himself and all had a wonerful time.

All good things come to an end. Unfortunately Boscofest 2009 is over. But all the memories and stories of that great summer will still remain treasured in the hearts of those 300 participants. We are all eagerly waiting for Boscofest editon 5 to start all over again!

Ryan Bezzina
Ryan is a student at Savio College
and a participant in Boscofest 2009

Blessed Michael Rua (1)

WHILE STILL A BOY, MICHAEL RUA MET SAINT JOHN BOSCO AND WAS SOON WON OVER BY HIM. HE LIVED IN THE SHADOW OF THE SAINT, WAS HIS MOST TRUSTED HELPER, AND BECAME HIS SUCCESSOR AS HEAD OF HIS WORLDWIDE RELIGIOUS ORDER, THE SALESIAN SOCIETY. DECLARED "BLESSED" BY THE CHURCH HE HAD SO NOBLY SERVED, FATHER MICHAEL RUA, WHO SHARED DON BOSCO'S APOSTOLIC LABOURS, NOW SHARES WITH HIM THE HONOURS OF THE ALTAR.



Halves in Everything

From the thorough de la Salle Brothers in Turin, young Michael Rua learned his first lessons in precision and self-discipline. Their school prospectus (1848) seemed formidable enough to daunt any eleven-year-old newcomer: "Besides religious knowledge, the rules of literature, the system of weights and measures used in Piedmont; the recently developed decimal metric system, the geography of Asia and Africa, the history of Savoy, drawing and handwriting."

Michelino, as the slightly built Rua was called, remained undaunted. He would need to. His father, a supervisor at the Royal Munitions Factory in Turin, had died when Michael was only eight, leaving a widow and three sons. As the youngest and brightest and serious beyond his years, Michael seemed earmarked for a clerical job that would hopefully lead up to his father's old position at the factory.

But the school chaplain, a 33-year old priest called Don Bosco, was to open up new vistas for the lad. Whenever Don Bosco entered the school chapel for Mass or confessions, the Brothers' discipline went out the proverbial window. "There was always a mad rush to greet him or to shake his hand, the Brothers vainly trying to keep us in our benches. Each one of us felt genuinely loved by him," recalled one student.

Halves in everything

Michael had already met Don Bosco on his home ground. Dazzled by a friend's bright tie won as a prize at the Valdocco Oratory, Michael had gone to see such munificence for himself. He had remained deeply impressed by this priest with the smiling eyes who could tolerate any amount of youthful exuberance. But his mother Giovanna soon curtailed such visits. It was all right for his older brother Luigi to be mixing with the rowdy Oratory kids, but not for Michelino with his matchstick frame. Besides, on Sundays he had to be on hand to serve Mass for the elderly factory chaplain who had very definite ideas about Don Bosco, as Rua recalls. "I was deeply distressed when he once suggested that Don Bosco was sick in the head."

Returning from school one day in the Porta Palatina marketplace, Michael and his schoolmates met Don Bosco and, as usual they lined up for a medal. Each received his medal except Michael. Instead the priest held out his open left hand and pretended to cut it in half with his right. "Take it Michelino, take half!"

It was a cryptic invitation to be deciphered only with the passing years – for Rua would go halves in Don Bosco's life and mission: halves in everything.

At Don Bosco's Oratory

It was not easy for Rua, reserved and studious, to settle down in the Oratory. From early morning till late afternoon the boys were out at various private schools or trade centres; Rua's group who went to Professor Bonzanino's school of classics, were known locally as "Don Bosco's little Latinists." Such a casual nomadic existence seems to have thrown Rua's methodical study system out of gear for a while. Yet by the end of the year Michael's teacher was praising "his marvelous progress and enthusiasm". At the Oratory itself, the neatly dressed, soft-spoken Rua must have felt awed by the rough-and-tumble country youngsters who spared neither plants nor people in their sweeping playground battles.

Typical of them was John Cagliero. This John was to leave a fine reputation as the first Salesian bishop, cardinal, and musical composer. He recalls the quiet newcomer for us. "Our youthful recklessness made a great contrast to Rua's self-control and sense of duty. On Sunday mornings while Don Bosco heard confessions before Mass, Michael took it upon himself to stand guard near the playground water pump, to remind forgetful ones of the Eucharist fast (i.e. the old regulations). As our assistant on the way to school he would try, usually in vain, to hurry us on. Later on, as evening tutor to companions of his own age, he would quietly but firmly assert his authority at the start of the class."

Tall, gaunt and eagle-eyed, the student teacher proved just a little too stiff and unbending at times. Once when a young pupil by the name of Dominic Savio (yes the schoolboy apostle) broke out in a fit of uncontrollable laughter, the disciplinarian Rua sentenced him to kneel in a corner. After one such incident, Rua found a small bottle of oil on his doorstep. "Take a few drops to loosen up the stiff hinges," read Don Bosco's accompanying note.

Student and cleric and teacher

Michael Rua was the mainspring of the senior students who went out during the cholera epidemic of 1855 to nurse the sick and dying in the Turin slums, often cutting up Don Bosco's altar cloths for sheets and bandages as they worked heroically for weeks on end. Unstinted, self-sacrificing work would be the test of their authentic Salesian spirit in this low-keyed religious atmosphere.

Having received the clerical habit, Michael now took up his theological studies, often having to rise before dawn because of his regular teaching duties. Again the irrepressible Cagliero leaves us a memoir: "Rua and I slept in adjacent rooms, rising at four o'clock in the winter. With the water frozen in the basins, we used a handful of snow to freshen up before sitting down to work: Rua on his theology or Hebrew, and I at my old battered piano."

A religious society was slowly evolving, almost unnoticed. We find Rua's name among the first nineteen dedicated 'Salesians'. Michael Rua was at last ordained priest in 1860. Huge banners hung up in the playground read "Long live Don Rua." In his embarrassed, humorous way Michael contradicted his boys, saying, "No. Long live Don Bosco." To this newly ordained assistant, Don Bosco had passed on a heavy well-worn cloak for wintry days, adding: "After I am gone, remember you will have to wear Don Bosco's cloak full time." Later he found a note in Don Bosco's handwriting on his desk: "Remember, Michael that you will have many tribulations as a priest: first the dangerous Red Sea and long desert to cross, but then, at the end, you will enter the Promised Land."

A RELIGIOUS SOCIETY WAS SLOWLY EVOLVING, ALMOST UNNOTICED. WE FIND RUA'S NAME AMONG THE FIRST NINETEEN DEDICATED 'SALESIANS'. MICHAEL RUA WAS AT LAST ORDAINED PRIEST IN 1860. HUGE BANNERS HUNG UP IN THE PLAYGROUND READ "LONG LIVE DON RUA."

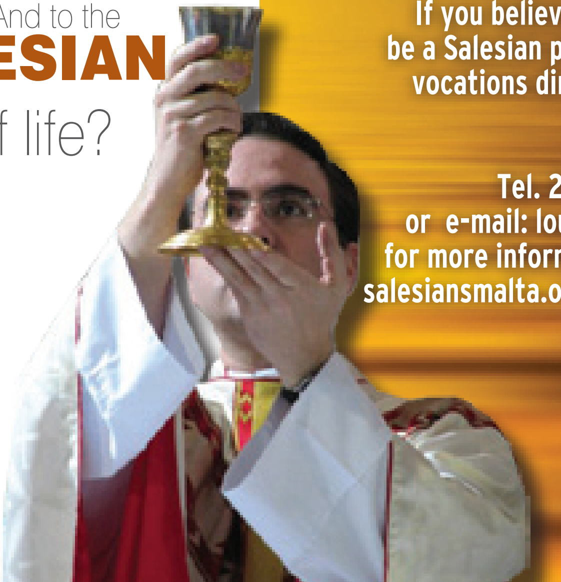
"A good priest is a truly human person who expresses his love for God in prayer and in love for people. These gifts are sanctified and focused through the grace of ordination when he becomes 'a man for others'."

Cardinal Cormac Murphy – O'Connor

- Do I really want to follow Jesus and show his love to others, especially to the young, as Don Bosco did?
- Is prayer and my own relationship with God at the centre of my life?
- Do I want to be honest and 'real' before God and others?
- Do I enjoy the life and company of other people? Am I approachable?
- Am I concerned for the young, the poor and vulnerable?

Are you being called to the **PRIESTHOOD**

And to the **SALESIAN** way of life?

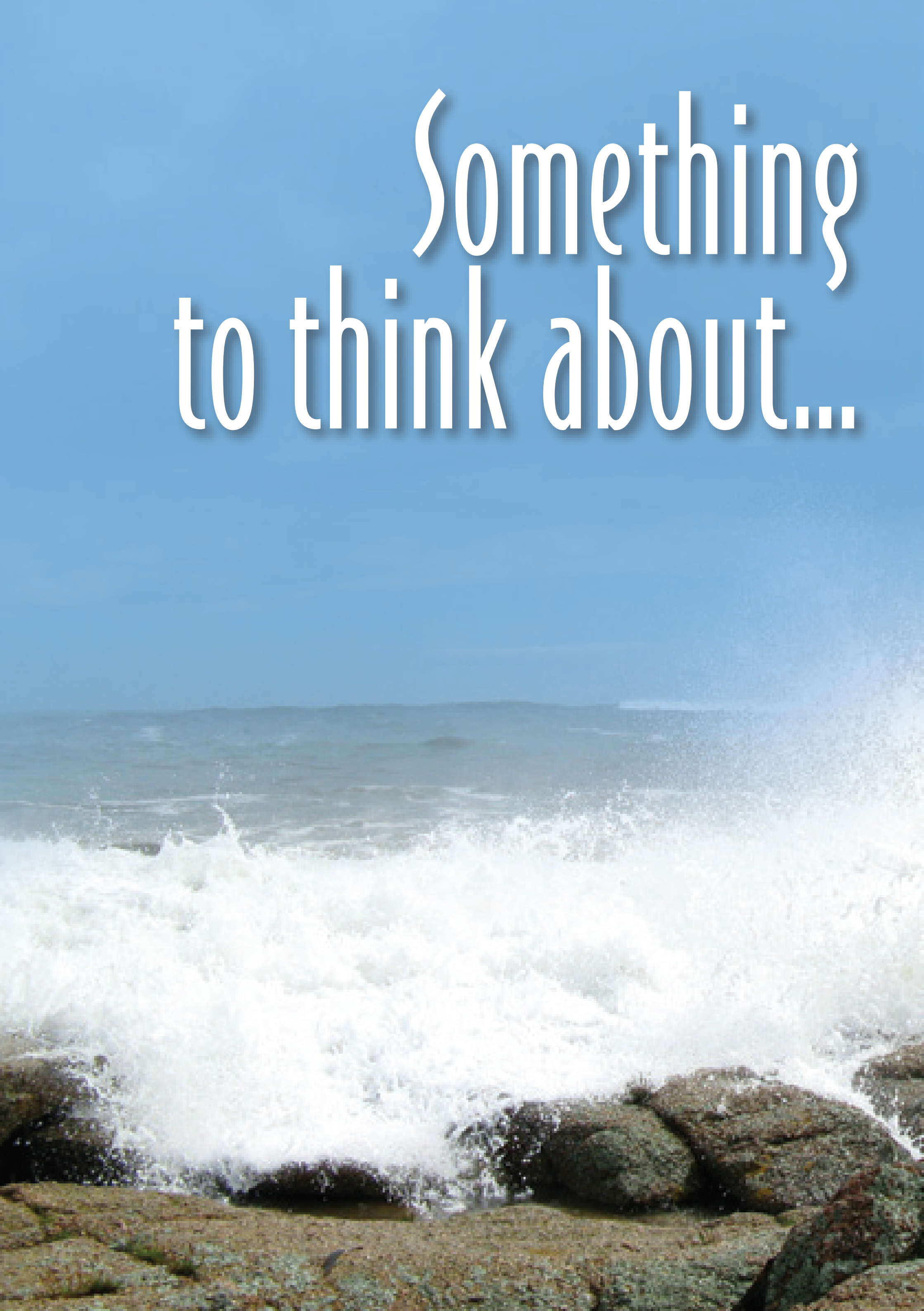


If you believe you have a calling to be a Salesian priest then contact the vocations director, Fr. Louis Grech SDB at:

Tel. 21 454546 / 21 456257
or e-mail: louismgrech@yahoo.com
for more information www.vocations.salesiansmalta.org/www.boscofest.org

Hajja Salesjana

Something to think about...



What makes me weak? **MY FEARS**

What makes me whole? **MY GOD**

What keeps me standing? **MY FAITH**

What makes me compassionate? **MY SELFLESSNESS**

What makes me honest? **MY INTEGRITY**

What sustains my mind? **MY QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE**

What teaches me all lessons? **MY MISTAKES**

What lifts my head high? **MY PRIDE, NOT ARROGANCE**

What if I can't go on? **NOT AN OPTION**

What makes me victorious? **MY COURAGE TO CLIMB**

What makes me competent? **MY CONFIDENCE**

Who says I need love? **I DO**

What empowers me? **MY GOD & ME**

Malta Salesjana

IS-'SALESIAN BRIGADE' TAGĦLAQ 100 SENA

Is- 'Salesian Boys and Girls Brigade', minn dis-sena, se tbiddel isimha u tissejjaħ 'Salesian Brigade'. Din hija biss waħda mill-bidliet li sejrin iseħħu fil-'Brigade', parti mill-proċess ta' rinnovament. Infatti din is-sena 2010 timmarka iċ-`ċentenarju minn meta l-'Brigade' inħolqot ġewwa l-Oratorju Salesjan f'Tas-Sliema. Iż-żmien huwa tajjeb sabiex jerġa' jiġi eżaminat l-ispirtu u l-iskop li bihom titmexxa is-'Salesian Brigade'.

Dan iż-żmien qegħdin jiġu kkunsidrati diversi punti importanti, bħal ma huma t-tiġdid fil-gradi ta' l-uffiċjali, id-dħul ta' mexxejja u membri ġodda, uniformi ġdida kif ukoll il-mod kif niddieħsu aktar fil-Familja Salesjana. Hija ħaġa nkoraġġanti li tara d-dedikazzjoni u l-ħeġġa min-naħa ta' l-uffiċjali u membri sabiex jiġu implementati dawn l-isfidi ġodda. Il-'Brigade' bdiet sena oħra ta' servizz min nhar id-9 t'Ottubru bid-dħul ta' 22 membri ġodda wara kampanja sabiex nuru l-'Brigade' bħala attività attraenti. Issa wasal il-ħin li nistaqsu, « Tista' l-'Brigade' toffri possibiltà ta' 'Salesian Scouting' ? Tista' l-'Brigade' tkun lok fejn sinerġija Salesjana issir possibli?

SR. MARINELLA ŻŻUR LILL-FMA

Dan l-aħħar, Swor Marinella Scano FMA, ġiet maħtura Provinċjala tan-naħa t'isfel ta' l-Italja. Hija għoġobha żżur id-djar tas-Sorijiet Salesjani ta' Victoria u ta' Tas-Sliema matul l-ewwel ġimgħa ta' Ottubru. Għalkemm damet ftit ġranet biss, setgħet tieħu viżjoni sħiħa ta' dawn iż-żewġ komunitajiet u tal-missjoni tagħhom. Din iż-żjara kellha sinifikat speċjali għall-komunità ta' Tas-Sliema minħabba li dak inhar ġiet ikkonfermata il-preżenza ġdida tal-FMA billi tqaddset quddiesa fir-residenza tagħhom, tpoġġa s-Sagrament fit-tabernaklu u tbierek il-post. Fr. Paul Formosa u Fr. Eric iċċelebraw dawn ir-riti.

MUSBIEĦ GĦAL RIĠLEJJA

Musbieħ Għal Riġlejja wasal fit-tielet sena tiegħu. 27 programm dehru s'issa fuq il-Favourite Channel nhar ta' Sibt (5.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.). Is-sehem taż-żgħażagħ f'dan il-programm huwa importanti għaliex jagħtih dehra friska u żagħżugħa. It-tielet serje rat xi bidliet fil-format, żgħar imma bżonnjużi. Qegħdin nagħmlu kuntatt ma' diversi għaqdiet taż-żgħażagħ waqt li ninkoraġġuhom jiġu u jippreżentaw il-karizma jew l-ispirtu tagħhom. Dawn il-gruppi m'għandomx bil-fors ikunu fi ħdan il-Knisja, imma jridu jkunu jħaddnu valuri morali u sodi li jaqblu mat-tagħlim tal-Knisja

BOSCOcrew jieħu ħsieb l-iffilmjar ta' kull grupp interessat li jieħu sehem. Xi wħud mill-membri huma impenjati jagħtu sehemhom, għas-sejħa tal-Papa liż-żgħażagħ, sabiex jevanġelizzaw permezz tal-medja. BOSCOcrew wasal biex jinawgura l-laboratorju tax-xogħol li sejjer ikollu fl-Oratorju Tas-Sliema; u fil-Ġimgħat li ġejjin se jiġi organizzat '*live-in/workshop*' li jisħaq fuq koperazzjoni u formazzjoni għal dawk kollha interessati jitgħallmu u jaħdmu fl-*editing* u *filming*, waqt li jkollhom ukoll l-opportunità jiltaqgħu ma' rappreżentant tal-Knisja fil-medja u komunikazzjoni.

FL-INDJA MINDU KELLU 15 -IL SENA

Bro. Carmel Muscat SDB mill-Indja fejn hu missjunarju, kien hawn Malta dan l-aħħar u ġie jżurna. Huwa twieled il-Mosta fl-1938. Darba kien iltaqa' ma' Dun Karm Attard, missjunarju Salesjan fl-Indja, u baqa' impressjonat tant bih, li fl- 1953, fl-età ta' 15-il sena telaq lejn Shillong, fl-Indja ta' fuq, sabiex isir Salesjan. Fis-sena 1955 -1956 għamel in-novizzjat f'Yercaud u l-ewwel professjoni tiegħu bħala Brother nhar 24 ta' Mejju 1956. Ħa l-voti perpetwi nhar is- 26 ta' Mejju 1962. Huwa ħadem l-aktar f'Shillong, fid-'Don Bosco Technical School' bħala għalliem mastrudaxxa, kap tas-sezzjoni ta' 'electro-mechanics', kap tad-dipartiment tal-illegar tal-kotba, u kull fejn kien meħtieġ. F'dawn il-jiem huwa Bursar ta' l-iskola u responsabbli tal-

'Attard Fund'. Bro. Muscat huwa stmat u maħbub ħafna min nies Khasi ta' Shillong. Jitkellem sew l-ilsien tagħhom u jaf id-drawwiet tagħhom. Nixtiequ lil Bro. Muscat kull barka ta' Alla u ħajja twila sabiex jiflaħ ikompli x-xogħol tal-Mulej.

Jien **għalikom** nistudja

FIL-KTIEB ĠRAJJIET TA' L-ORATORJU TA' DUN DOMENICO RUFFINO, WIEĦED MIS-SALESJANI TA' ŻMIEN DUN BOSCO, INSIBU DAN IL-KLIEM LI DARBA WAĦDA DUN BOSCO QAL LIT-TFAL TIEGĦU: "JIEN GĦALIKOM NISTUDJA, GĦALIKON NAĦDEM, GĦALIKOM JIENA LEST UKOLL NAGĦTI ĦAJTI." (ARCHIVIO SALESIANO CENTRALE 110, QUADERNO NO.5, P.10).

Sa mill-bidu tas-sena 1859 Dun Ruffino kien beda jinnota b'reqqa kbira kull kelma jew għemil ta' Dun Bosco li ra b'għajnejh stess, u fl-1861 ifforma għaqda fost sħabu bl-iskop li jniżżlu bil-miktub kull ma' Dun Bosco kien jagħmel, biex jibqa' tifkira għall-ġejjieni. F'wieħed mill-ħames pitazzi miktubin minn Dun Ruffino matul is-snin 1861 u 1864 insibu il-frażi li għadna kemm semmejna. Din l-stess frażi llum insibuha fil-Kostituzzjoni Salesjana tal-1984, artiklu 14.

Ma' l-ewwel daqqa t'għajn wieħed jista' jaħseb li l-kliem "jien għalikom nistudja" ifissru biss l-istudju ta' Dun Bosco bħala saċerdot u edukatur, iżda dawn il-kelmtejn ifissru wisq aktar.

Tifsir tal-kelma "nistudja"

Il-kelma "nistudja" fuq ilsien Dun Bosco kien jista' jkollha tifsira wisq akbar minn bħal meta tifel ta' l-iskola jgħid: "Se mmur nistudja." Fl-ilsien

Piemontis il-kelma "studie" tista tfisser li wieħed jaħseb u jirrifletti fuq xi xogħol li jkun qiegħed jagħmel, ifittex kif isolvi xi problema, jara kif jagħmel biex iwettaq xi proġett, u Dun Bosco kien ta' spiss jikteb u jitkellem bil-Pjemontis. Fil-fatt, waqt li kien jikteb bit-Taljan kien aktarx jaħseb bil-Pjemontis. Dan insibuh l-aktar meta l-kitba ma kinitx tkun għall-istampa, bħal meta kiteb "Tifkiriet ta' l-Oratorju ta' San Franġisk ta' Sales" u wisq aktar meta kien jikteb xi kelmtejn lis-Salesjani jew lit-tfal. Inħarsu lejn xi eżempji: f'ittra tat-23 ta' Lulju 1861 liż-żgħażagħ ta' l-Oratorju ta' Sant Injazju qrib Lanzo, Dun Bosco kiteb: "Jekk tridu tagħmlu xi ħaġa tassew tajba u fl-istess ħin tagħtu pjaċir lil Ġesu, studjaw kif titolbu bl-attenzjoni". (E243).

F'ittra oħra kiteb, "Nistudja kif nista' mpattilkom għan-nuqqas tiegħi li ma ġejtx narakom, billi meta niġi noqgħod magħkom aktar fit-tul".

Lill-istudenti tal-kullegg ta' Lanzo fis-26 ta' Lulju 1867 kiteb: "Domt daqshekk ma niktbilkom għax kelli ħsieb li niġi narakom qabel il-vaganzi iżda minħabba x-xogħol ma stajtx niġi; issa qiegħed nistudja kif niltaqa' magħkom permezz tal-kitba" (573).

Fl-ittra minn Becchi lil Dun Rua, fil-5 ta'Ottubru 1874 fuq l-imġiba tat-tfal, fost ħwejjeġ oħra Dun Bosco kiteb: "Rossingnoli biss aħjar li ma jiġix; jekk jiġi jagħtina x'nistudjaw" jiġifieri jġibilna ħafna nkwiet. (mill-Pjemontis: dé da studié). Kif nistgħu naraw f'dawn l-erba' eżempji, il-kelma nistudja jista' jkollha ħafna tifsiriet. Mela nerġgħu lejn il-famuza frażi ta' Dun Bosco.

« Jien għalikom nistudja » Interpretazzjoni ta' Don Vecchi.

Ir-Rettur Maġġur tas-Salesjani Dun Juan Vecchi, fl-ittra ċirkolari lis-Salesjani bid-data ta'15 ta' Settembru 1997 jurina biċ-ċar l-interpretazzjoni tal-kliem « jien għalikom nistudja » (ACG No. 361).

Wara li semma 'l-ħtieġa fi żmienna għal-livell kulturali għoli, u allura l-ħtieġa għas-Salesjani, bħala edukaturi, li jiddedikaw ruħhom għall-istudju bħala mezz ta' formazzjoni sħiħa, Dun Vecchi spjega li l-kelma « studju » f'din il-frażi ta' Dun Bosco ma tfissirx biss studju akkademiku, u kompla jgħid: «Niftakru f'Dun Bosco, fid-determinazzjoni tiegħu biex isolvi problemi, biex jipprova mezzi ġodda u jagħmel minn kollox biex ixerred it-tagħlim nisrani ; hu stess kiteb siltiet mill-Kotba Mqaddsa adattati għal idejn iż-żgħażagħ u l-poplu... »

«Jien għalikom nistudja » ifakkarna fil-ħidma ta' Dun Bosco biex jipproduċi sistema edukattiva oriġinali ; ifakkarna fil-proġett Oratorju-Dar-Skola adattat għall-ħtieġa taż-żmien. Dun Bosco kien qiegħed jitgħallem mill-ħajja, kien jimxi 'l quddiem u mhux jikkuntenta ruħu għax dejjem kien isir hekk.

Ma' Dun Bosco illum !

Il-Familja Salesjana illum, għandha quddiemha sfidi ġodda li jeħtieġ naffrontawhom bil-qalb u l-ħsieb ta' Dun Bosco. In-nuqqas ta' reliġion f'ħafna familji qiegħed jirrizulta li ż-żgħażagħ jagħtu importanza biss lil dak li jidher u jintgħoġob. Minn hawn il-ħtiega ta' evanġelizazzjoni ġdida fejn tingħata formazzjoni tassew nisranija. « Ma' Dun Bosco illum ! »

J'Alla l-Missier u Għalliem taż-żgħażagħ jagħti l-għajnuna lill-Familja Salesjana llum biex tqiegħed fil-prattika il-kliem tiegħu : « Jiena għalikom nistudja, għalikom naħdem, għalikom ngħix, għalikom jien lest nagħti ħajti ».

Mit-Taljan ta' Natale Cerrato Il Tempio di Don Bosco, Sett-Ott 2009.

Remembering Father Rua in 2010

The following comes from the Salesian News Service in Rome: *In a short letter addressed to all Salesians, the Rector Major officially announces the celebration of the centennial of the death of the first successor of Don Bosco,Blessed Michael Rua. The commemorative year will begin on January 31, 2010, and conclude on the same day in 2011, the day on which "Father Rua took the tiller, to continue the journey on which the Founder had embarked," following Don Bosco's death in 1888.*

As Father Chavez points out, for the Salesians 2010 will be "a continuation of this present jubilee year; it will help us to bring to fuller maturity our consecrated Salesian vocation."

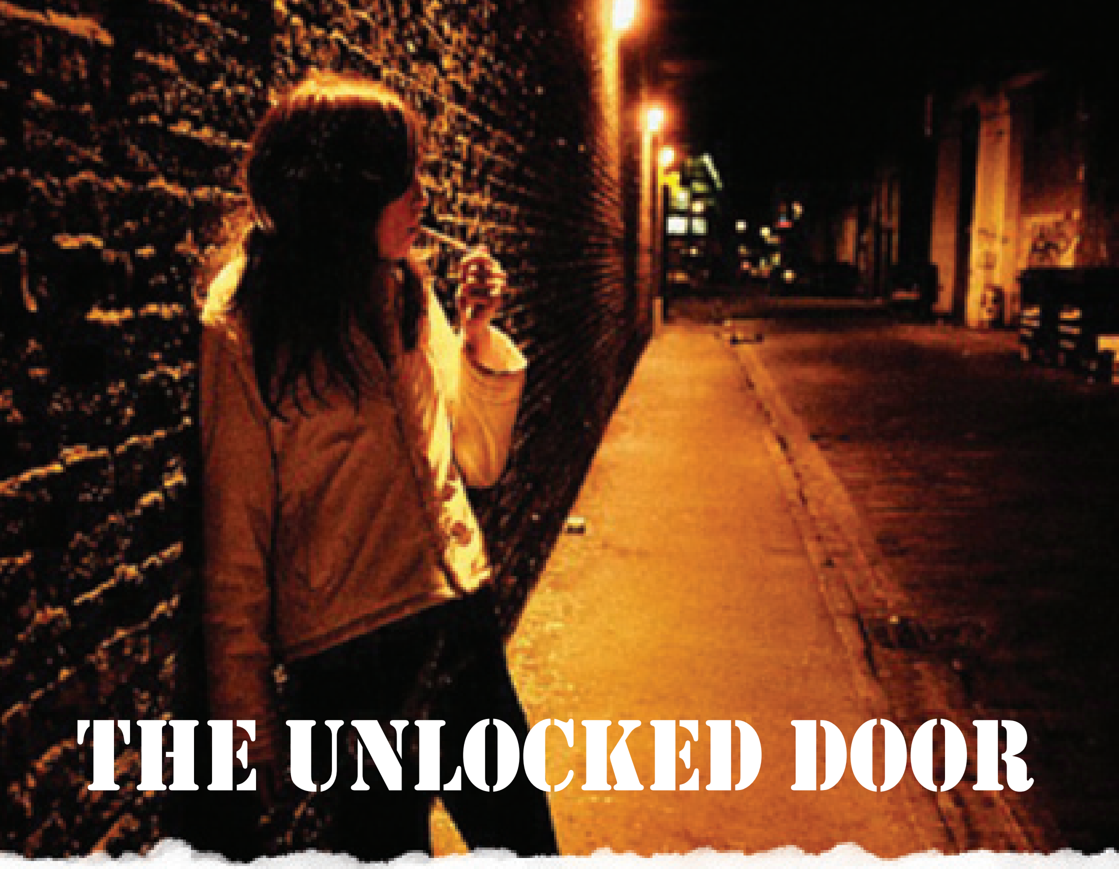
The Rector Major indicates for the Salesians three "focal points" to be borne in mind for spiritual and pastoral planning for the coming year, at personal, community, and province level. He promises to develop them further in a future letter

Father Rua, "the faithful disciple of Jesus in the footsteps of Don Bosco," is for each Salesian the model for "preserving fidelity to the vocation of consecration," a fidelity which needs nourishing by drawing "deeply from the wells of the life of the disciple and the apostle, from the fountains of fidelity to our vocation: Sacred Scripture, through lectio divina and the Eucharist."

The second "point" indicated by Father Chavez is inspired by the commitment Father Rua assumed: "In Mirabello I shall try to be Don Bosco." The Salesian Constitutions, whose importance and spirit need to be rediscovered, are the point of reference in order to be Don Bosco today, the role being asked of every Salesian.

The last point starts from the passion which the first successor of Don Bosco had for Da mihi animas. "The mission called him to respond to the needs of the young and to find pastoral ways suited to reaching them with the proclamation of the gospel," the Rector Major says, inviting Salesians to take up the commitment to the evangelization of the young as the last general chapter requested and according to the Strenna for 2010.

The celebration of the first centennial of the death of Father Rua–the Rector Major points out in his short letter–ought to help Salesians to be "conscious of the historical situation, that from the death of Don Bosco until our own days, the Congregation has had a great and significant development, taking steps forward, having second thoughts, making fresh starts, reflecting deeply. The identity of the Congregation can be understood better, in fact, through its history, knowing the forms and expressions it has assumed at different times and in different places."



THE UNLOCKED DOOR

IN GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, A YOUNG LADY, LIKE A LOT OF TEENS TODAY, GOT TIRED OF HOME AND THE RESTRAINTS OF HER PARENTS. THE DAUGHTER REJECTED HER FAMILY'S RELIGIOUS LIFESTYLE AND SAID, "I DON'T WANT YOUR GOD. I GIVE UP. I'M LEAVING!"

She left home, deciding to become a woman of the world. Before long, however, she was dejected and unable to find a job, so she took to the streets to sell her body as a prostitute.

The years passed by, her father died, her mother grew older, and the daughter became more and more entrenched in her way of life. No contact was made between mother and daughter during these years. The mother, having heard of her daughter's whereabouts, made her way to the skid-row section of the city in search of her daughter.

She stopped at each of the rescue missions with a simple request. "Would you allow me to put up this picture?" It was a picture of the smiling, grey-haired mother with a handwritten message at the bottom: "I love you still...come home!"

Some more months went by, and nothing happened. Then one day the daughter wandered into a rescue mission for a needed meal. She sat

absentmindedly listening to the service, all the while letting her eyes wander over to the bulletin board.

There she saw the picture and thought, 'Could that be my mother?' She couldn't wait until the service was over. She stood and went to look. It was her mother, and there were those words, "I love you still...come home!" As she stood in front of the picture, she wept.

It was too good to be true. By this time it was night, but she was so touched by the message that she started walking home. By the time she arrived it was early in the morning. She was afraid and made her way timidly, not really knowing what to do.

As she knocked, the door opened on its own. She thought someone must have broken into the house. Concerned for her mother's safety, the young woman ran to the bedroom and found her still sleeping. She shook her mother awake and said, "It's me! It's me! I'm home!"

The mother couldn't believe her eyes. She wiped her tears and they fell into each other's arms. The daughter said, "I was so worried! The door was open and I thought someone had broken in!" The mother replied gently, "No dear. From the day you left, that door has never been locked."

Robert Strand

Presentation of the 2010 Strenna

By the Rev. Fr. Pascual Chaves Villanueva – Rector Major

TRULY, NOTHING IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN TO OTHERS [1]

On the occasion of the centenary of the death of Don Michael Rua, who was totally faithful to Don Bosco and to his charism, I want to invite the whole Salesian Family to act as a real movement of disciples and apostles of Jesus and to be committed to the evangelisation of the young.

Being committed to evangelisation is the fruit and the consequence of being the disciple of the Lord Jesus, who following Him becomes his zealous missionary. In this way we want to take up the challenge of helping the young «to look on this other person not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus

Christ»[2] The 2010 Strenna takes its cue from the year of St Paul which has almost finished and from the Synod on the Word of God during which I spoke about the passage in St Luke about the disciples on the way to Emmaus, which on account of the contents and the method is seen as a model for the evangelisation of the young.

"Sir, we want to see Jesus"
In imitation of Don Rua,
as authentic disciples and zealous apostles
let us bring the Gospel to the young

Many groups of the Salesian Family see themselves already in harmony with this commitment. By way of example I refer you to two quotations from the General Chapters of the SDB and the FMA.

The XXVI General Chapter of the Salesians recognises the urgent need to evangelise and the centrality of proposing Jesus Christ: «We perceive evangelisation as the principal requirement of our mission, aware that the young have a right to have Jesus proclaimed to them as the source of life and promise of happiness now and in eternity»[3]. Our fundamental purpose is that of proposing that everyone should live their human life as Jesus lived it. «...at the centre ... should be the proclamation of Jesus Christ and of his Gospel, together with the call to conversion, to the acceptance of the faith, to their taking their place in the Church; then from this will come faith journeys and forms of catechesis, liturgical life and the witness of charitable work »[4].

OUR FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE IS THAT OF PROPOSING THAT EVERYONE SHOULD LIVE THEIR HUMAN LIFE AS JESUS LIVED IT

Then the XXII General Chapter of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians recognises that it is the Love of God which urges us on: «The Upper Room where the apostles were together is not a place for them to stay but one from which to launch out. The Spirit changes them from fearful men into zealous missionaries who, full of courage, carry the good news of the Risen Jesus along the world's highways. Love leads to exodus and to a going out of oneself towards new frontiers to make a gift of oneself: love grows through love.[5] Mary, who from the Upper Room teaches us to throw open the doors was the first to experience the exodus and to set out on her journey. The first to be evangelised became the first evangeliser. Carrying Jesus to others, she offers her service, brings joy, makes love an experience»[6].

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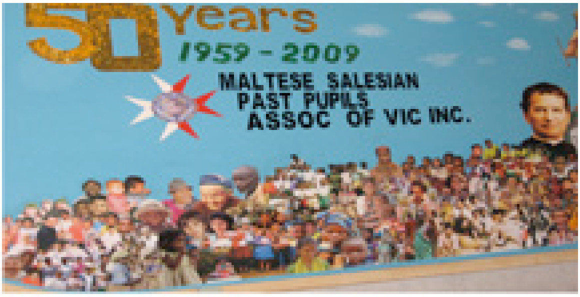
1 BENEDICT XVI, Sacramentum Caritatis, n. 84.
2 BENEDICT XVI, Deus caritas est, n. 18.
3 GC26 SDB, n. 24.
4 BENEDICT XVI, Letter to Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva, Rector Major of the Salesians, on the occasion of the XXVI General Chapter, 1 March 2008, n. 4.
5 Cr. BENEDICT XVI, Deus caritas est, n. 18. <?> Cr. BENEDICT XVI, Deus caritas est, n. 18.
6 GC XXII FMA, The greatest of these is love, n. 33.



Our first activity of the year was on the first Sunday in February.

Members gathered at Rupertswood Salesian College to celebrate the feast of our Patron, Saint John Bosco

A day outing

A entertaining bus trip to Yarrawonga country, Victoria. (photo) Members disembarking the boat after a lunch cruise on Lake Mulwala

Mr. Joe Portelli, President, welcoming the dignitaries, members and guests at the 50th Anniversary Ball

In his speech, Mr. Portelli said that by attending functions, like this Ball, Dinner Dances, Get Togethers, Day Outings and all other social activities, it helps the Association to raise money for the Salesian Missions. Mr. Portelli encouraged everyone to continue with the support

November Picnic Day

In the month of November members meet at the Rupertwood Salesian College to pray for families and Past Pupils that has gone to Eternal Rest. After the church celebrations, members gather for a picnic, meeting and chatting with friends

Children's Christmas Party

Keeping to the Oratory old tradition, of a Children's Party where presents with the theme, "The Birth of Jesus Christ", are given to every child

The committee that made it happen

Dun Bosco
fis-santi u kartolini

Bħala kollezzjonista tas-santi u midħla tas-Salesjani għal aktar minn ħamsa u ħamsin sena ma jistax jonqos li San Giovanni Bosco jkollu post preferenzjali fil-kollezzjoni tiegħi. Bl-ebda mod ma qiegħed nippretendi li għandi kollezzjoni li ma hawnx bħalha, iżda meta tqis li din illum tlaħħaq sew fuq l-erba' mija bejn santi u kartolini naħseb li għandha ċertu valur u interess. Numru sabiħ ta' santi u kartolini fil - kollezzjoni jistgħu jitqiesu bħala rari jew għallinqas mhux komuni u għalhekk nibet il-ħsieb li nibdew nistampaw xi uħud minn dawn f'kull ħarga tal-ħajja Salesjana, biex inkomplu insebbħu din il-pubblikazzjoni b'immaġni antiki u varjati tal-kbir patrun tagħna Dun Bosco u anke biex dawn ma jibqgħux magħluqa f' l-album tiegħi iżda jarawhom kemm jista' jkun nies. Qed ninkludu ukoll il-kartolini mħabba l-fatt li ħafna immaġni jiġu stampati kemm fil-forma ta' santi u kemm f'dik ta' kartolini.

NOTA STORIKA DWAR IS-SANTI

Is-santi, bażikament huma bċejjeċ tal-karti ta' daqs li jista' jinġarr faċilment u li jkollhom stampat fuqhom xi xbieha sagra. Dawn jagħmlu parti integrali mill-kultura viżiva tal-knisja, bħala ma huma l-vari, statwi, pittura, skultura u tiżjin ieħor. Dawn is-santi li ħafna drabi jkollhom ukoll xi talba, jgħinu lid-devot biex iħossuhom aktar qrib tal-qaddis li tiegħu jkun qed jitlob l-għajnuna jew l-interċessjoni. L-għeruq tal-kultura tas-santi jmur lura għas-seklu tnax, fejn naraw simboli reliġjużi jitnaqqxu jew jinżebgħu fuq affarijiet bħal ma huma ħitan, oġġetti tad-dar, riedni taż-żwiemel, tarki tal-gwerra, elmijiet, ilbies, etċ. Aktar tard fiż-żmien ta' meta kienu jinkitbu l-manuskritti fil-monasteri, biċċiet minn dawn b'xi versi mill-Bibbja jew xi tpinġija sagra, kienu jinġarru fuq il-persuna bħala wens u sens ta' protezzjoni divina. Wara dan bdew jiġu magħmula forma ta' santi fuq biċċiet tal-parċmina b'xi immaġni sagra ddekorata mpinġija fuqha. Dan ix-xogħol kien isir kollu bl-idejn l-aktar mis-sorijiet fil-monasteri. Kull waħda minn dawn is-santi tista' titqies bħala biċċa xogħol ta' arti fiha nfisha u xi eżempji ta' din l-epoka għadhom jeżistu f'mużewijiet kbar madwar id-dinja. Mal-miġja tal-karta u l-iżvilupp fil-metodi ta' stampar, bħala ma' huma il-'woodcuts', L-inċiżjoni fuq il-metall, il-litografija u anke iżjed tard il-fotografija, il-produzzjoni tas-santi saret aktar faċli. L-istampar għamel is-santi aċċessibli għal kullħadd u għalhekk il-popolarità żdidet bil-kbir. L-eqdem santa stampata li teżisti hi xbieha ta' San Kristofru, stampata minn fuq xbieha maqtugħa fi blokka ta' l-injam (wood-cut) f'1423. Il-lum għalkemm il-faxxinu li kellhom is-santi ta' dari spiċċa, xorta għadna naraw is-santi jintużaw mhux biss għad-devozzjoni iżda għal kull okkażjoni b'rabta reliġjuża bħal żwieġ, mewt, l-ewwel tqarbina, ordni sagri u kommemorazzjonijiet reliġjużi oħra.

Se nibdew din is-sensiela b'tlett santi tat-tip msejħa 'die-cut, li fost id-dilettanti Maltin huma magħrufin bħala tal-pizzi. Dan għaliex it-truf tagħhom huma maqtugħa b'xi disinn li jsir permezz ta' magni apposta. It-tlieta li huma ġew possibilment stampati bil-proċess msejjaħ 'cromolithografia' madwar l-1910 u ġew ippubblikati meta Dun Bosco kien għadu Venerabbli.

Ix-xbieha ta' Dun Bosco f'din is-santa tidher li hi meħuda minn xi pittura, fejn Dun Bosco jidher pjuttost avvanzat fl-età. Fuq wara tas-santa nsibu biografija qasira ta' Dun Bosco, u ta' interess huwa li fuq wara wkoll hemm il-firma ta' Dun Allegra (aktarx timbru) li kien is-suċċessur ta' Dun Urso bħala Direttur ta' l-Oratorju Salesjan f'Tas-Sliema. Din is-santa tahieli ġentilment Fr. Joseph Forte SDB. Is-Santa giet ippubblikata mill- i'Scuole Professionali Salesiane'.

(12.5cm x 7.2cm)

Ix-xbieha li qed naraw hi aktarx meħuda minn wieħed mir-ritratti li jeżistu ta' Dun Bosco, iżda b'xi 'retouching' qabel l-istampar. Id-dekorazzjoni madwar il-wiċċ hi ta' stil 'Arts and Crafts' li kien popolari ħafna lejn tmiem is-seklu dsatax u bidu ta' l-għoxrin. Minn dan il-moviment fid-dekorazzjoni żviluppa l-istil 'Art Nouveau' li ġie użat ħafna fis-santi ta' dik l-epoka. Din is-santa ġiet ippubblikata mil-librerja 'Buona Stampa' ta' Turin. Fuq wara hemm l-istess biografija ta' Dun Bosco bħal f'dik ta' qabilha.

(10.6cm x 6.1cm)

It-tielet santa għandha ukoll l-istess tip ta' dekorazzjoni bħal ta' qabilha u ġiet ippubblikata mill-istess dar. Hawn naraw tpinġija ta' Dun Bosco monokromatika li wisq probabbli saret apposta għal-din is-santa. Ma għandniex ħjiel min kien l-artist. Fuq wara nsibu stampat kif għandha ssir novena lil Marija Awżiljatriċi skond ma jirrikkmanda Dun Bosco; flimkien ma' talba lil Alla biex isseħħ il-beatifikazzjoni tiegħu.

(10cm x 5.8cm)

Appell:* *Nixtieq nieħu din l-opportunità biex nistieden lil min għandu xi santi ta' Dun Bosco li jista' jiddisponi minnhom biex jgħaddihomli ħalli titkompla tikber il-kollezzjoni. Il-kollezzjoni tinkludi ukoll lil S. Franġisk ta' Sales, S. Domenico Savio, Maria Awżiljatriċi, u l-erwieħ tajba kollha Salesjani. Niġbor ukoll domni, bolli, midalji u materjal ieħor b'konnessjoni ma' Dun Bosco jew is-Salesjani. Grazzi bil quddiem.

Mingħand l-istudenti tal-Form 4

Il-Fiżika fil-Prattika

Fil-bidu ta' dis-sena skolastika, fil-klassi tagħna ġewwa St. Patrick's, kellna lezzjoni mhux tas-soltu. Dik lezzjoni! Kieku possibli jkunu kollha hekk il-lezzjonijiet!

Kienet lezzjoni tal-Fiżika li konna ilna nippreparaw għaliha mis-sena l-oħra. U t-teacher tagħna kien kellimna fuq din l-esperjenza li kellna nagħmlu, għalhekk konna qegħdin nistennewha.

F'hix taħsbu li kienet tikkonsisti dil-lezzjoni ? Bnejna ċattra. Tgħiduli x'għandha x'taqsam mal-fiżika? Ħafna. Jidħol kalkulazzjoni ta' pressjoni, saħħa ta' strutturi, densità, flotazzjoni, volumi.... Biex ma nsemmiex ukoll daqqa t'għajn lejn il-kurrenti kemm tal-baħar u kemm tar-riħ.

Isma' timmaġinawx xi ħaġa żgħira kemm kemm tiflaħ żewġt itfal. Mela! Din kienet tiflaħ għaxra minna. U kellna naħdmu bħala tim, kemm biex armajnieha u kemm biex qdifna. Fi ftit ħin irnexxielna narmawha u salpajna minn ħdejn il-pont ta' tas-Sliema. Kollox kien 'home-made', biex ngħidu hekk; bl-imqadef b'kollox. U bilħaqq, urejna li aħna baħrin mhux tal-bnazzi biss; għaliex meta wasalna f'nofs il-bajja, jinqasam seratizz. Wara ftit tal-paniku rnexxielna nsalvaw is-sitwazzjoni billi irbatnieh b'ħabel u għoqiedi bis-sens, hekk kif konna tgħallimna matul is-sena.

Kienet esperjenza edukattiva mill-aqwa u ħadna għawma wkoll. Ngħidu prosit u grazzi lill-għalliem tagħna tal-fiżika. Issa ta' lanqas, problema tal-fiżika nħarsu lejha mod ieħor għax bla fiżika ċ-ċattra kienet tispiċċa 'submarine'!

Għin il-ħidma Salesjana

Dawk li huma l-iżjed fil-periklu l-aktar jeħtieġu għajnuna. Dawk li m'għandhomx leħen jeħtieġu xi ħadd jiddefendihom. San Ġwann Bosco kien jafu dan. Hu ħadem f'ħajtu kollha għaż-żgħażagħ, għall-foqra u għal dawk li huma l-aktar fil-bżonn.

Huwa fatt ta' swied il-qalb li llum ħafna żgħażagħ huma:

- **vittma ta' min jużahom biex jistgħana**
- **abbużati sesswalment**
- **użati mill-mexxejja tad-droga**
- **imċaħħdin minn valuri essenzjali fil-ħajja**

Int tistà tgħinna. Meta qed tagħmel hekk, int tkun qed tieħu sehem fil-ħidma ta' Don Bosco. Alla biss ikun jaf il-ġid li tkun qed tagħmel.

Aħna s-Salesjani fil-quddies u t-talb tagħna, niftakru f'dawk kollha li jgħinuna b'xi mod jew ieħor. Ma titħajjarx tgħinna int ukoll? Il-Mulej li qal: "Dak li tagħmlu ma' l-iċken fost ħutkom tkunu qed tagħmluh miegħi", żgur ibierek għal kull għajnuna li tista' tagħti.

Iva, nixtieq ngħin lis-Salesjani. Se nibgħat

☐ €5 ☐ €10 ☐ €25 ☐ €50

☐ kull xahar ☐ kull tliet xhur ☐ kull sena

bħala għajnuna għall-missjoni tagħkom. Naf li din ma tqiegħed l-ebda obbligazzjoni fuqi u li nistà nwaqqaf il-kontribuzzjoni tiegħi meta rrid.

Isem ______________________

Indirizz ______________________

____

____

Borża ta' Studju

X'INHI BORŻA TA' STUDJU?
Hija somma ta' flus li tgħinna biex inħallsu parti mill-formazzjoni ta' żagħżugħ li qed iħejji ruħu biex isir Salesjan.

KEMM TRID TAGĦTI BIEX TWAQQAF BORŻA TA' STUDJU?
Kapital ta' €600

JEĦTIEĠ LI BILFORS TAGĦTI S-SOMMA F'DAQQA?
Le. Wieħed jista' jagħtiha biċċa biċċa, tant fix-xhar jew tant fis-sena.

JEĦTIEĠ LI BILFORS IS-SOMMA TKUN MOGĦTIJA MINN WIEĦED BISS?
Le. Jistgħu jiftehmu flimkien iktar minn persuna waħda u kulħadd jagħti sehmu. Iżda min joħroġ waħdu s-somma kollha, ikun fundatur ta' dik il-Borża.

JISTA WIEĦED IĦALLI L-BORŻA BĦALA LEGAT WARA MEWTU?
Jista'. U min jagħmel hekk, jista' jikteb fit-testment: "Inħalli bħala legat lis-Salesjani ta' Don Bosco, is-somma ta' ______ għall-formazzjoni ta' żagħżugħ Malti fl-istess Soċjetà.

Apparitions of Our Lady

Introduction to Marian Apparitions

A Marian Apparition is a visible manifestation of the Virgin Mary to a visionary, whose purpose is to convey an important message to mankind, such as the need of conversion and prayer. While the Bible and the Dogmas of the Church are considered as public revelation, which every Catholic must accept by faith, Marian Apparitions, even those approved by the Church, are classified as private revelation, which a faithful may or may not accept as true. As far as Marian Apparitions are concerned, the Church can make only three statements: 1) TRUE: established as a supernatural event; 2) MAY BE TRUE: not established as a supernatural event; 3) FALSE: established as a non-supernatural event. Of the thousands reported Marian Apparitions studied by the Church throughout the centuries, only very few have been approved.

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