Ħajja Salesjana

NOVEMBRU-DIĊEMBRU 2011
il-222 Ħarġa

A Baby's Hug

Tradizzjoni għażiża tal-Avvent

Il-Premju Nobel lil Isqof Salesjan

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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Il-Bulettin Salesjan, imsejjaħ b'diversi ismijiet, jiġi stampat f'56 edizzjoni u f' 29 ilsien madwar id-dinja u huwa mxerred fi 131 nazzjon

Responsible: Fr. Paul Formosa SDB
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Design & Printing: Salesian Press, Sliema.

Tista taqra ħajja Salesjana fuq il-kompjuter:
http://www.salesiansmalta.org

Front Cover: Sensiela ta' xbihat tal-Madonna.

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Jum Dinji Taż-Żgħażagħ

Il-Jum Dinji taż-Żgħażagħ ġewwa Madrid, diġà għadda bħala avveniment. Issa, dak li għandu jibqa' huma l-effetti li din l-esperjenza qajmet fil-qlub ta' ħafna żgħażagħ. Jekk nisimgħu u niflu l-kliem tal-Papa Benedittu VXI, jidhirli li nistgħu niffokaw fuq erba' punti.

L-ewwel punt huwa dak fejn il-Papa jistieden liż-żgħażagħ sabiex ***ma jibżgħux!*** Huwa jħeġġiġhom, kemm-il darba sabiex ma jaqtgħux qalbhom minħabba l-ambjent madwarhom li huwa tant kontra l-fidi, ambjent li jiddieħaq b'min jagħżel li jipprattika il-fidi tiegħu. Kliem il-Papa kien ta' wens, mhux ta' konfront.

Fit-tieni punt il-Papa jsejjaħ liż-żgħażagħ sabiex ***jirbħu l-medjokrità*** billi jegħlbu dik il-kultura vojta li l-bnedmin ta' żmienna qegħdin jegħrqu fiha. Kull min jgħix tassew il-fidi, jogħla 'l fuq mix-xejn tad-dinja u jiskopri s-sbuħija tal-misteru li jagħti sens liż-żmien u lill-istorja.

It-tielet punt li l-Papa mbagħad joffrilhom, huwa dak li jkunu ***ankrati fi Kristu***, jiġifieri li jibnu ħajjithom kollha fuq 'il-blat', qawwija fil-fidi.

Dan ma kienx xi kliem bla tifsira għaż-żgħażagħ u għall-istorja ta' ħajjithom. Nista' ngħid dan għaliex ħassejt kemm huma laqgħu kliem il-Papa waqt is-sigħat li għaddejt inqarar f'El Retiro Park, f'dawk il-jiem f'Madrid.

L-aħħar punt important tal-Jum Dinji taż-Żgħażagħ ġewwa Madrid kien stedina sabiex ***immorru lura d-dar ferħana***; imma dal-ferħ ma jżommuhx magħluq ġewwa fihom, għax min ikun sab verament lil Kristu mhux sew li jżommu għalih biss. Għalhekk il-Papa talab liż-żgħażagħ sabiex ikunu xhieda fidili u ferħana – iż-żewġ modi kif wieħed jgħix il-fidi.

Għalina s-Salesjani – il-Familja Salesjana kollha - kull attività li ngħixu mat-tfal u ż-żgħażagħ għandha tkun esperjenza li timmarkalhom ħajjithom b'effett dewmieni, u mhux biss okkażjoni li tgħaddi u tintesa. Dun Bosco jistedinna nagħtuhom il-veru ferħ li jwassal għall-qdusija. U qdusija ma għandha tkun qatt kelma li ġġib mistħija, iżda qawwa!

Fr Fabio Attard SDB

GĦALINA S-SALESJANI – IL-FAMILJA SALESJANA KOLLHA – KULL ATTIVITÀ LI NGĦIXU MAT-TFAL U Ż-ŻGĦAŻAGĦ GĦANDHA TKUN ESPERJENZA LI TIMMARKALHOM ĦAJJITHOM B'EFFETT DEWMIENI, U MHUX BISS OKKAŻJONI LI TGĦADDI U TINTESA.

World Youth Day

World Youth Day in Madrid is now over in terms of an event. But what is not over are the effects this experience would have aroused in the hearts of many young people. Listening and re-reading Benedict XVI's addresses, I think there are four key terms in this celebration of faith.

The first word is one that invites young people to ***"not be afraid"***. The Pope repeatedly urged young people not to be discouraged by an environment hostile to faith, an environment which even ridicules the very choice of faith. His words were comfort, not confrontation.

The second goal the Pope indicated to young people was to ***"overcome mediocrity"*** by overcoming the culture of emptiness that people find themselves swamped by. Anyone who accepts the challenge of faith leaves the merely horizontal level behind and discovers the beauty of the mystery that gives meaning to time and history.

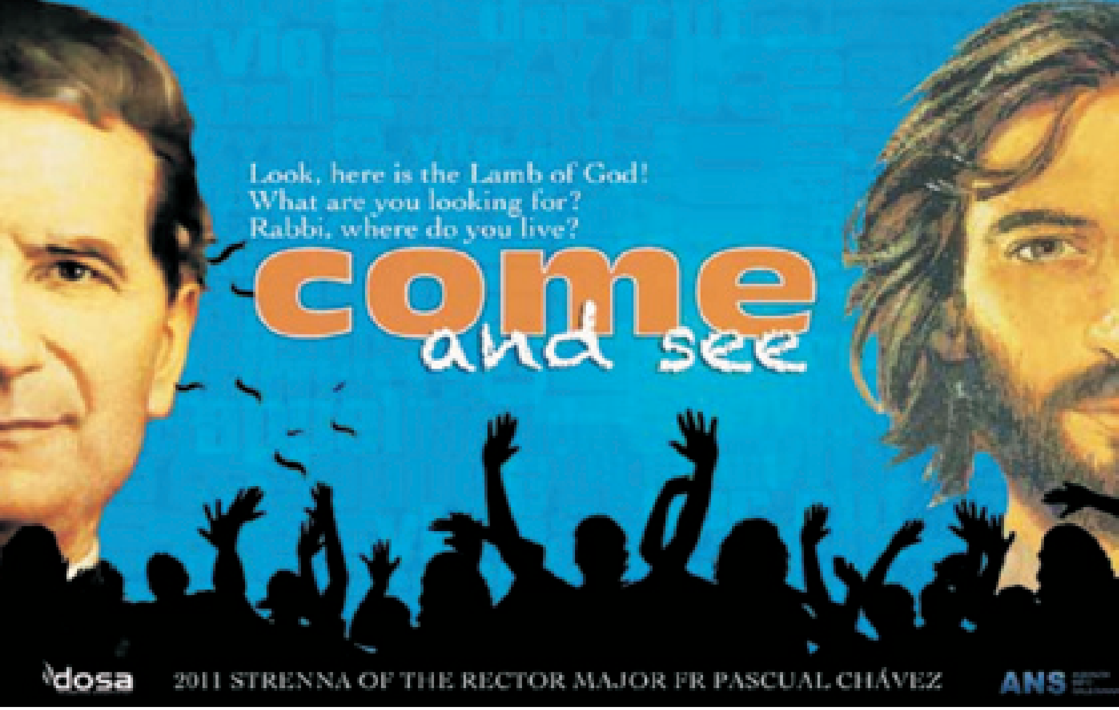
Then the Pope offered ***a third way*** forward: that of being ***anchored in Christ***, meaning to build one's own life-story on rock, steadfast in the faith. Pope Benedict's invitation does not come as something alien to young people and their personal story. Someone like me who spent several hours in the confessional at El Ritiro Park during the days in Madrid knows how young people welcomed the Pope's words.

The last key point of World Youth Day in Madrid was the Pope's invitation to them ***to go back home happy***, but not only in themselves. Someone who has encountered Christ cannot keep Him selfishly to him or herself. The Pope asked young people to be faithful and happy witnesses - the two sides of a life of faith.

For us Salesians every activity we live with the young is meant to offer them true and lasting experiences, not just events. Experiences that will mark their lives and not just entertain them for a while. Don Bosco invites us to give them the true happiness that is the path to holiness. And holiness must no longer be a word that brings shame, but only strength!

Fr Fabio Attard SDB

FOR US SALESIANS EVERY ACTIVITY WE LIVE WITH THE YOUNG IS MEANT TO OFFER THEM TRUE AND LASTING EXPERIENCES, NOT JUST EVENTS. EXPERIENCES THAT WILL MARK THEIR LIVES AND NOT JUST ENTERTAIN THEM FOR A WHILE.



Minn Pascual Chavez - Trad. Joe Cini

PEDAGOĠIJA Salesjana

Kummenti fuq li Strenna 2011 : **Ejjew u Taraw**

"IL-ĦAJJA HIJA VOKAZZJONI"

Għeżież ħbieb, qarrejja tal-Bullettin Salesjan,
Hekk kif matul is-sena li għaddiet kellimtkom fuq Ġesù tiegħi, din is-sena sejjer nikteb fuq Il-ħajja bħala vokazzjoni. U bi ħsiebni niktbilkom dwar persunaġġi li bħala bnedmin u nsara għexu l-ħajja bis-sħiħ għaliex skoprew u għexu l-vokazzjoni tagħhom.

IL-BEATU FILIPPU RINALDI (1856 - 1931)

KOPJA ĦAJJA TA' DUN BOSCO.

Il-vokazzjoni ta' żagħżugħ li kellu jilħaq Rettur Maġġur.

In-naħat ta' Lu Monferrato, fl-Italja ta' Fuq, post magħruf għall-inbid tajjeb, jistgħu jissejħu l-Għalqa tal-Mulej minħabba l-għadd ta' vokazzjonijiet li nibtu hemmhekk. L-isbaħ eżempju hu dak tal-familja Rinaldi. Il-Mulej għoġbu jsejjaħ 7 itfal minn dik il-familja: 2 bniet sorijiet Ulied Marija Għajnuna tal-

jaħdem fl-għelieqi għal 10 snin. Dun Bosco bħal baqa' jimxi miegħu u jinkuraġġih jieħu deċiżjoni. Meta mbagħad kellu 20 sena u reġa' ltaqa' ma' Dun Bosco, reġgħet ġrat l-istess ħaġa: 'Allura wiċċu ntxegħel u dawl qawwi idda, aktar mix-xemx, sakemm wara ftit mumenti wiċċu rega' lura għan-normal.' Issa Filippu kien ċert mis-sejħa tiegħu: 'Sellimt għall-aħħar darba lill-familjari tiegħi u dawwart wiċċi minn dik id-dinja li kienet serqitli l-aħjar snin ta' ħajti.'

Sar Salesjan u baqa' dejjem taħt għajnejn Dun Bosco li fdalu diversi xogħlijiet u proġetti li għalihom Filippu dejjem kien ubbidjenti u sottomess. Billi kien bniedem matur, sena biss wara l-ordinazzjoni tiegħu, fl-1883 Dun Bosco poġġieh bħala direttur spiritwali ta' Insara (Salesjani) li, mibgħuta Santo Domingo (fil-Karribew) kienu pijunieri kuraġġużi u missjunarji; u 5 subien li kollha saru Saċerdoti Salesjani. L-aktar wieħed magħruf huwa Dun Filippu Rinaldi, tielet suċċessur ta' Dun Bosco, bi storja ta' vokazzjoni straordinarja u bħala ħabrieki għall-vokazzjonijiet. Huwa kien iħobb itenni li l-fidi tal-familji ta' Lu 'Kienet fidi li tqanqal lill-ġenituri jgħidu: il-Mulej tana ulied u jekk Hu isejħilhom, aħna ma nistgħux ngħidu le!'

Dun Bosco kien fetaħ l-ewwel dar Salesjana barra minn Turin fir-raħal ta' Mirabello. Hemmhekk, Filippu kellu jiltaqa' ma' Dun Bosco u jqerr għandu u jinduna li 'wiċċ Dun Bosco xegħel f'daqqa b'mod misterjuż.' Din il-viżjoni baqgħet ma' Filippu; f'ċertu sens ġriet warajh, anke meta, wara waqaf mill-iskola, mar lura

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'Ulied Marija', dawk li mdaħħla fiż-żmien, xtaqu jsiru saċerdoti u Salesjani. Dun Bosco dejjem żamm għajnejh fuqu matul dawk il-ħames snin li dam f'Turin li matulhom Filippu kien imur iqerr għandu kull ġimgħa waqt li jirċievi minn għandu sinjali ta' fiduċja spiritwali li qawwuh bħala Saċerdot u Salesjan.

Imbagħad intbagħat fi Spanja fejn firex il-presenza Salesjana mal-pajjiż, bil-għajnuna tas-Sorijiet Ulied Marija Għajnuna tal-Insara, u beda xogħol Salesjan f'21 skejjel u kulleġġi. Nistgħu infatti ngħidu li Dun Rinaldi huwa l-fundatur tal-opra Salesjana fi Spanja. Meta ġie lura Turin bħala Vigarju Ġenerali tal-Kongregazzjoni, ġewwa l-Bażilka ta' Marija Għajnuna tal-Insara, kien jgħaddi aktar minn sagħtejn kull filgħodu jisma l-qrar, jagħti pariri u jmexxi spiritwalment lil min kellu vokazzjoni. Dam jagħmel dan sal-4 ta' April 1922 meta ġie elett Rettur Maġġur tas-Soċjetà Salesjana. Bħala t-tielet suċċessur ta' Dun Bosco ried jadatta l-ispirtu tal-fundatur għaż-żminijiet ġodda; f'dan wera d-doni tiegħu ta' missier ħabrieki billi ħeġġeġ għall-vokazzjonijiet, fetaħ ċentri ta' assistenza spiritwali u soċjali għall-ħaddiema żgħażagħ, mexxa u saħħaħ lis-sorijiet Salesjani, ġab 'l quddiem l-Għaqda tal-Salesjani Koperaturi u waqqaf il-Federazzjoni Mondjali tal-Past Pupils.

Dun Rinaldi wera nteress ukoll fi grupp ta' nisa msejjaħ 'Zelatrici', u waqt li apprezzahom, mexxihom fuq ħajja spiritwali li wasslet sabiex tati l-frott bit-twaqqif tal-Istitut Sekulari tal-'Volontarji ta' Dun Bosco'. L-impetu li ta lill-missjonijiet Salesjani kien enormi, għaliex waqqaf Istituti Missjunarji, għaqdiet u rivisti hekk li, waqt li kien hu Rettur Maġġur, mal-1,800 Salesjan telqu lejn l-artijiet tal-missjoni fid-dinja kollha. Għas-Salesjani u għall-Ulied Marija Għajnuna tal-Insara, Dun Rinaldi huwa l-Imgħallem tal-Ispiritwalità għaliex bix-xhieda ta' ħajtu u bit-tagħlim sempliċi u prattiku tal-istil ta' ħajja Salesjana, huwa mela lill-Kongregazzjoni b'ħajja ġdida. Fi żmienu l-vokazzjonijiet għaddew minn 4000 għal 8000, u d-djar Salesjani, minn 400 għal 650!

Il-Beatifikazzjoni ta' Dun Bosco fl-1929 inkurunatlu ħajtu u offrietlu l-opportunità jerġa' jqajjem il-kariżma tal-Fundatur hekk kif kienet fil-bidu. Dun Filippu Rinaldi kien sar 'kopja ħajja ta' Dun Bosco' , u kif kien jgħid wieħed mill-ewwel Salesjani, 'kull ma kien jonqos f'Dun Rinaldi kien il-leħen ta' Dun Bosco'.

2011 CALENDAR OF SALESIAN FEASTS & EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Tue	1	**All Saints Day**
	1-3	Mid-Term school holidays at Savio College and St. Patrick's School
Wed	2	Salesian Cooperators, Sliema - monthly meeting at 6.00 p.m.
Fri	4	First Friday Devotions at St. Patrick's Church at 6.15 p.m.
Thu	10	Prayer Day for Salesian Missions
Fri	11	Exhibition and Sale of paintings by Peter Quinn in aid of St. Patrick's Boys.
Sun	13	**Bl. Artemide Zatti, a Salesian Lay Brother.** Dlood Donation Drive by Salesian Brigade, at Sliema, St. John Bosco Street - all morning.
Tue	15	**Bl. Maddalena Morano FMA.**
Sat	19	Italian Men's Choir from Valsusa (Italy) at 7.30 p.m. at St. Patrick's
Mon	21	St. Patrick's School Day Outing to celebrate 'Children's Day'
Thu	24	Commemoration of Mary Help of Christians at St. Patrick's:6.30 p.m.
Sat	26	Day of Recollection for SDB's and FMA's. Symposium for Salesian Family at Salesian Theatre, Sliema at 7.00p.m.
Sun	27	1st Sunday of Advent. Sale of Poinsettias at St. Patrick's Church- for charity

DECEMBER

Fri	2	First Friday devotions at St. Patrick's Church at 6.15 p.m.
	3 - 8	St. Patrick's Boys' Pilgrimage to Turin
Mon	5	**Bl.Philip Rinaldi,** Rector Major, 3rd Successor of St. John Bosco. Emerald Society Carols' Evening & party at St. Patrick's
Wed	7	Concert in honour of Our Lady - Savio College/ St. Patrick's School: ½ day Holiday. Salesian Cooperators, Sliema - monthly meeting at 6.00 p.m.
	7 - 11	Sale of Sicilian ceramics at St. Patrick's - Sliema.
Thu	8	**Immaculate Conception.** Public holiday
Sat	10	Prayer Day for Salesian Missions
Tue	13	Republic Day. Public holiday - Traditional Christmas Concert at St. Patrick's Church: 7.30 p.m.
Mon	19	Christmas Party and End of Term at Savio College.
Thu	22	Christmas Pageant/Mass and School Party at St. Patrick's School
Sun	25	**Christmas Day: A Happy Christmas to All our Readers.**
Sat	31	New Year's Eve. *Te Deum* Mass at St. Patrick's at 6.30 p.m. NY Eve parties at Salesian Oratory, Sliema and Savio College.

Read ħajja Salesjana on the website: www.salesiansmalta.org
Pictures of Don Bosco set to reflective music: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1dVsM9KAbw

San Martin

Nhar il-11 ta' Novembru l-Knisja tiċċelebra l-festa ta' San Martin ta' Tours. Ma' din il-festa hemm marbuta drawwiet u għajdut. Hekk, hawn Malta, għandna d-drawwa nagħtu lit-tfal borsa bi frott tal-istaġun.

Fl-antik, it-tfal kienu jdendlu borża ħdejn is-sodda biex filgħodu jsibuha mimlija b'ħelu u frott. Magħrufa minn kulħadd hija l-għanja: Ġewż, lewż, qastan, tin; min iħobbu 'l-San Martin! Imbagħad għandna l-kliem "Is-Sajf ta' San Martin" għaliex madwar dak iż-żmien soltu jkollna temp sabiħ. Ma nafx jekk dan isirx f'Malta, imma fi Sqallija, kont smajt, l-għassara jduqu l-inbid il-ġdid fil-festa ta' San Martin. Fir-raħal ċkejken tal-Baħrija, insibu knisja żgħira, ħelwa u antika, u din hija ddedikata lil San Martin. Hekk ukoll, il-knisja parrokkjali l-ġdida fil-Baħrija hija ddedikata lil San Martin u hemmhekk tiġi ċċelebrata l-festa tiegħu.

Hawn taħt, silta mill-poeżija ta' Patri Marjanu Vella li jisimha "**San Martin**"

Jekk dakinhar titħajjar tiġi s'għandi,
ġib San Martin fil-borża ta' tfulitna;
irrid ninfatam minn daż-żmien ta' issa.

U nilgħab ċiknatur bil-ġellewż mimli,
naqsam il-ġellewż imkennen f'qoxra rqiqa,
u nsoff il-benna tar-rummiena ħamra.

Il-ħobża żgħira b'kisja ġelu abjad,
il-qastan b'riħa taqsam tal-furnata,
jintrassu mal-larinġa b'werqa wieqfa.

Imbagħ'd ismagħni kelma qabel titlaq,
għax ili s-snin nissajja biex ngħidhielek;
wasal il-waqt, wasal il-ħin imbierek.

...

Jekk dakinhar titħajjar tiġi s'għandi,
tinsiex lil San Martin;
qastan u lewż, rummiena u larinġa,
ċappa marsusa tin...

Patri Marjanu (1927 - 1988) kien Franġiskan. Il-poeżija tiegħu kienet aktarx ixxaqleb lejn suġġetti reliġjużi; imma fost ix-xogħlijiet tiegħu insibu trattati wkoll xi tradizzjonijiet Maltin.

Don Bosco Around the World

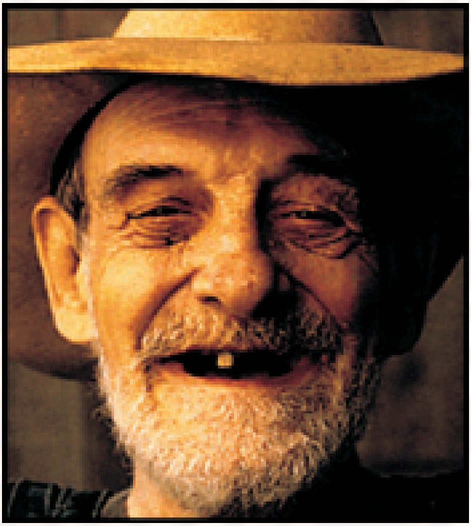
In preparation for the celebration of the Bi-Centenary of the birth of St. John Bosco (16th August 1815), the relics of the saint are going around the Salesian world. The urn contains a life-size statue of the saint, a copy of the one in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin, with some bones of the saint in it. In 2014 it will visit Malta.

THE CASKET OF DON BOSCO IN INDIA

Matunga- Mumbai - On August 16 the Casket bearing Don Bosco's relics reached this city. At the Don Bosco's Madonna Shrine, Church leaders and people of every class and creed paid homage to the saint of the young. The Salesians there had set up a full day's programme: at 6 and 7 am two Masses were celebrated in the sanctuary while at 11 am a solemn Mass of departure was celebrated. This Eucharist was attended by three bishops: Bishop Stanislaus Fernandes, Archbishop of Gandhinagar, Bishop Godfrey de Rozario, Bishop of Baroda, and Bishop Thomas Macwan, Bishop of Ahmedabad. Also present were Fr Michael Fernandes, Provincial INB, and Fr Edwin D'Souza, Rector of the Shrine at Matunga.

Panjim and Goa -In the second half of August the journey of Don Bosco's casket continued to the Indian Province of Panjim. At the "Don Bosco Oros", where the casket stopped on 17 August, about 5,000 faithful visited each day. Along the road between Oros and Panjim the crowd gathered spontaneously and followed the relics in procession all the way for about 10 km. At Panjim the Mass alone on the first day was attended by over 3,000 people and the faithful continued to arrive in their thousands throughout the day. In addition to the Christians, many Hindus, Muslims and members of other faiths joined the line of those venerating the relics. Then, at the south of Goa, in a mainly Catholic area, the Salesian community, the past pupils and volunteers had to keep finding new ways to accommodate the flow of pilgrims in numbers far higher than expected. Also in the Karnataka region the devotion of the faithful was expressed in their large numbers. Fr Felix Serrao, Rector of Sirsi, said that the response of the pilgrims was double that expected, and the short journey to Trasi, had to be extended further because of the crowds of faithful who gathered.

Bangalore -On 26 August, Salesians, members of the Salesian Family, Past Pupils and the faithful gathered for this occasion and began to pray. In the afternoon in the Cathedral of the city, there was a Mass to welcome the casket at which the local Archbishop Bernard Moras presided. On Sunday 28 the casket visited both Provincial Houses, SDB's and FMA's, where, in little more than an hour, about 600 people came to pray and sing. Very significant was the visit of the casket to the "Kristu Jyoti College" theological studentate. The formation community led by the Vice Rector Fr James Kadankavil, had organised a large-scale night-time procession ending with a Vigil in the Chapel of the Institute. The following days the casket visited other cities in the Province: Davangere, Hospet and Bellary. Here in the church of Christ the King there was Mass, concelebrated by 20 priests. On Saturday 3, in the city of Deodurga, the casket was welcomed enthusiastically by the school communinity, relatives of the students and the local authorities. The Centres at Yadagiri, Gulbarga and Bidar were the final stops in the Bangalore Province.



a Baby's Hug

We were the only family with children in the restaurant. I sat Erik in a high chair and noticed everyone was quietly sitting and talking. Suddenly, Erik squealed with glee and said, 'Hi.' He pounded his fat baby hands on the high chair tray. His eyes were crinkled in laughter and his mouth was bared in a toothless grin, as he wriggled and giggled with merriment.

I looked around and saw the source of his merriment. It was a man whose pants were baggy with a zipper at half-mast and his toes poked out of would-be shoes. His shirt was dirty and his hair was uncombed and unwashed. His whiskers were too short to be called a beard and his nose was so varicose it looked like a road map. We were too far from him to smell, but I was sure he smelled. His hands waved and flapped on loose wrists. 'Hi there, baby; hi there, big boy. I see ya, buster,' the man said to Erik.

My husband and I exchanged looks, "What do we do?'Erik continued to laugh and answer, 'Hi.' Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. The old geezer was creating a nuisance with my beautiful baby. Our meal came and the man began shouting from across the room, 'Do ya patty cake? Do you know peek-a-boo? Hey, look, he knows peek-a-boo.'

My husband and I were embarrassed. We ate in silence; all except for Erik, who was running through his repertoire for the admiring skid-row bum, who in turn, reciprocated with his cute comments. We finally got through the meal and headed for the door.

My husband went to pay the check and told me to meet him in the parking lot. The old man

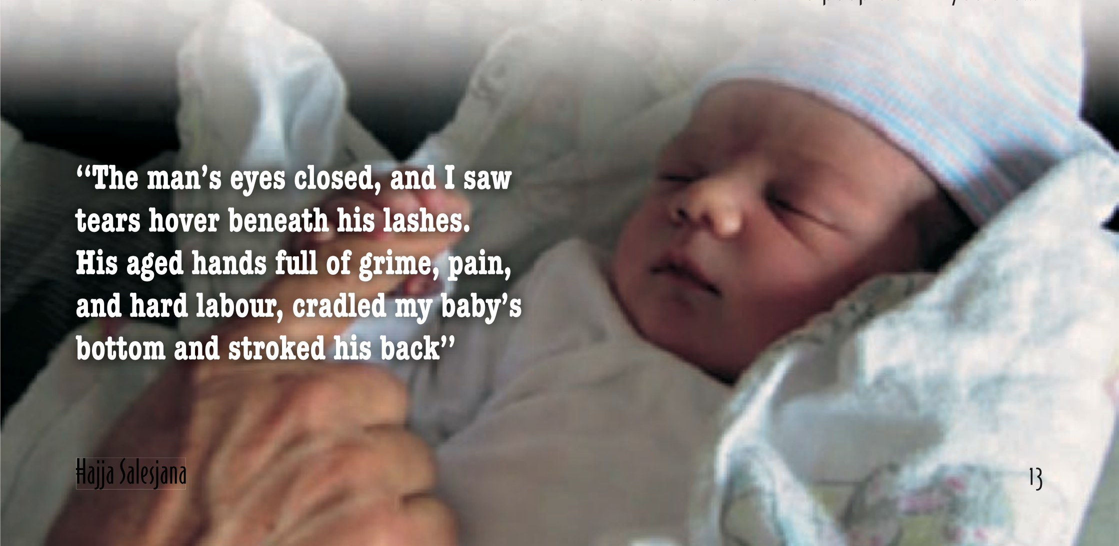
sat poised between me and the door. 'Lord, just let me out of here before he speaks to me or Erik,' I prayed. As I drew closer to the man, I turned my back trying to sidestep him. As I did, Erik leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's 'pick-me-up' position. Before I could stop him, Erik had propelled himself from my arms to the man.

Suddenly a very old, smelly man and a very young baby consummated their love and kinship. Erik in an act of total trust, love, and submission laid his tiny head upon the man's ragged shoulder. The man's eyes closed, and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. His aged hands full of grime, pain, and hard labour, cradled my baby's bottom and stroked his back. No two beings have ever loved so deeply for so short a time. I stood awestruck. The old man rocked and cradled Erik in his arms and his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, 'You take care of this baby.'

Somehow I managed, 'I will,' from a throat that contained a stone. He pried Erik from his chest, lovingly and longingly, as though he were in pain. I received my baby, and the man said, 'God bless you, ma'am, you've given me my Christmas gift.' I said nothing more than a muttered thanks.

With Erik in my arms, I ran for the car. My husband was wondering why I was crying and holding Erik so tightly, and why I was saying, 'My God, my God, forgive me.' I had just witnessed Christ's love shown through the innocence of a tiny child who saw no sin, who made no judgment; a child who saw a soul, and a mother who saw a suit of clothes. I was a Christian who was blind, holding a child who was not. I felt it was God asking, 'Are you willing to share your son for a moment?' when He shared His for all eternity. How did God feel when he put his baby in our arms 2,000 years ago?

The ragged old man, unwittingly, had reminded me that, 'To enter the Kingdom of God, we must become as little children.' Sometimes, it takes a child to remind us of what is really important. We must always remember who we are, where we came from and, most importantly, how we feel about others. The clothes on your back or the car that you drive or the house that you live in does not define you at all; it is how you treat your fellow man that identifies who you are. 'It is better to be liked for the true you, than to be loved for who people think you are...'



"The man's eyes closed, and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. His aged hands full of grime, pain, and hard labour, cradled my baby's bottom and stroked his back"

Fr.Savio Vella SDB

Knisja Żagħżugħa u Ħajja

Ħafna drabi tisma', saħansitra f'diskorsi uffiċjali, lil min ifaħħar liż-żgħażagħ, u biex jinkuraġġihom il-kelliem jgħidilhom li "Intom il-futur tal-Knisja"! Għal xi raġuni, jien dejjem ħassejt li kelli riżervi għal dan it-tifħir. Bla dubju ta' xejn huwa tifħir ġej minn konvinzjoni ġenwina tal-kelliem innifsu li ż-żgħażagħ huma forza qawwija li tħalli ħafna impatt fil-ħajja tal-Knisja.

Matul din is-sena ddedikata lill-Volontarjat, speċjalment matul is-sajf li għadda, kelli okkażjonijiet li nkun maż-żgħażagħ f'diversi attivitajiet fejn ħareġ ħafna ċar l-impenn, id-dedikazzjoni, l-altruiżmu, il-valuri sodi, u fuq kollox, l-imħabba ta' numru sew ta' żgħażagħ għal Kristu.

Matul Lulju kelli x-xorti li nkun ma' grupp ta' żgħażagħ li akkumpanjaw żgħażagħ oħrajn b'diżabbiltà għal kamp internazzjonali organizzat mill-Ordni ta' Malta f'Lignano, l-Italja ta' fuq. Kienet ġimgħa fejn mal-400 żagħżugħ u żagħżugħa b'diżabbiltà minn

madwar id-dinja jiġu mistiedna u akkumpanjati sabiex jieħdu sehem f'attivitajiet li jħossuhom li huma kapaċi għalihom, mingħajr xkiel tad-diżabbiltà tagħhom. Ġimgħa eċċezzjonali fejn kelli x-xorti nara żgħażagħ ġenerużi, kuraġġużi u determinati li jagħtu minnhom infushom għal xulxin. Żgħażagħ b'diżabbiltà jgħinu lill-oħrajn u viċi-versa. Ġimgħa ta' ferħ ġenwin fejn għamilna esperjenża ta' Kristu fil-prattika.

Ftit ġimgħat wara kont ma' grupp imdaqqas ta' żgħażagħ li telgħu Spanja għal World Youth Day. Kważi żewġ miljun żagħżugħ jagħtu xhieda tal-imħabba tagħhom għal Kristu u għal Knisja. Kien hemm inċidenti żgħar ta' sfida għalihom ukoll meta xi wħud ġew wiċċ imb'wiċċ ma' persuni antiklerikali u anti-Papa u r-risposta taż-żgħażagħ kienet skiet, rispett u talb. Kellhom mumenti sbieħ ta' talb, tagħlim u esperjenzi li saħħewhom fil-fidi tagħhom.

F'Settembru akkumpanjajt grupp ta' adulti żgħażagħ li fittxew li jitwarrbu, u filwaqt li jgħinu fl-organizzazzjoni tal-ħidma li ssir Lourdes, kellhom ukoll ħin għar-riflessjoni personali u talb flimkien; żgħażagħ li jemmnu bis-sħiħ fit-talb u fl-impenn ta' servizz għall-oħrajn.

Dan huwa dak li għaddejt minnu jien personalment fis-sajf li għadda. Xi ngħidu għan-numru kbir ieħor ta' żgħażagħ li kienu impenjati fil-volontarjat barra minn pajjiżna, fis-summer schools tagħna, f' 'Bosco Fest' li ġie organizzat fid-dar tagħna f'Ħad-Dingli, fil-ħidma filantropika u ta' għajnuna għal min fil-bżonn f'pajjiżna stess, fil-ħidma ta' evanġelizzazzjoni b'kull mod u f'ħidma ta' tħejjija pastorali għal matul ix-xitwa li deħlin fiha!

Naħseb li għandi raġun niddarras meta nisma' min isejjaħ liż-żgħażagħ "Il-futur tal-Knisja". Għalija, iż-żgħażagħ huma verament il-preżent tal-Knisja, huma il-protagonisti (kif isejħilhom id-dokument tas-Sinodu), kif jinkuraġġihom li jkunu l-Arċisqof tagħna Pawlu Cremona, kif ifaħħarhom u jmexxihom biex ikunu l-Papa Benedettu XVI.

Grazzi Mulej għaż-żgħażagħ tagħna. Grazzi għall-Knisja ħajja, żagħżugħa, u kuraġġuża.

ARTICLE BY CLINT RIZZO

boscofest reaching out 2011

Dingli- a tiny, rural village known for its scenic landscapes and peaceful quiet. But during the hot summer months of August and July, a project took place at Savio College-Dingli, that brought with it all the spirit and energy of youth from all over the island to this small town. It was an experience which is now synonymous to 'incredible', 'life-changing' and 'unforgettable' to the young people involved. It was the experience of Boscofest.

WHAT IS BOSCOFEST?

Boscofest knows its origins in 2005, when founder Fr. Louis Grech SDB organised a summer-long project for young people to prepare a small production of the musical 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame', a project involving around 80 teenagers. From then on, Boscofest exploded, growing in number of participants and scale and changing its format with almost every edition.

The aim of the Boscofest experience is to help the participant express himself through the media of music, drama and other performing arts while providing him or her with a socially and spiritually formative experience.

THE INITIAL STAGES

This year, Fr. Louis along with his team of about 40 animators decided to give Boscofest a different dimension. While in previous years we were accustomed to sharing our talents and joy to the somewhat limited audiences who came to watch our shows, this year we decided to abandon our comfort zones within the walls of Savio College and go perform in other locations, hence the term 'reaching out'. Furthermore, in this year dedicated to voluntary work, we chose to not only reach out, but to reach out to those people in our society which are most in need of care and affection.

Hence, while the month of July was dedicated to weekly rehearsals and a four-day live-in experience to which previous Boscofest participants were already accustomed, the first two weeks of August were devoted to an adventure entirely new to all of us: the outreach experience, which took place in Id-Dar tal-Providenza, St. Vincent de Paul Residence and Dar Sagra Familja.

During the rehearsals and live-ins, the Boscofest group, consisting of more than 200 young people, had the opportunity to not only prepare our items, rehearse and develop our artistic talents, but also to bond with each other and as a group. We were able to cultivate a culture of love and acceptance in which education occurs with the same loving passion passed on from St. John Bosco, the founder of the Salesian family, from whom the name 'Boscofest is derived'.

THE EXPERIENCE

The outreach experience, however, allowed us to build on all of this by passing on the joy between us to others. All the energy that was built between us during our preparations exploded and radiated to the individuals we met in the residences we visited. Every smile that was created on the faces of these residents was reflected by ours, making this experience unique and enriching. We became aware of our duty to be altruistic to those who are not afforded certain comforts. During the six days of the outreach, we did not just perform for the residents, but we shared our time completely for the entire day. We talked to them, ate with them and did our best to entertain them and give them the best time possible.

That said, I must admit it wasn't an entirely easy experience. Some of the realities we faced shocked us and shook us to our core. However, rather than allowing these emotions to dampen our experience, we persevered towards our goal, making the days of our outreach uplifting and memorable ones. In the words of Fr. Louis himself, "When you give, you end up receiving much, much more."

Of course, we also upheld our tradition of holding final nights at Savio College so as to share our experiences with our loved ones and the Salesian family. While these events were not the focus of the entire experience, they still were spectacular and outstanding nights filled with sketches, mimes, dance, animation and live music while also giving our audiences a taste of Boscofest using documentaries that chronicled the previous two months.

CHRIST AT THE HEART

What makes the experience of Boscofest truly unique is that while it celebrates art and culture, at no point do these become the main stake of the project. Rather, Boscofest's intention remains focused on giving the participant a personally and spiritually formative journey. In each rehearsal, each day of the live-in and each day of outreach, space was given to Holy Mass, formation sessions and moments of reflection and prayer.

All this allowed us to discover the love of Christ within ourselves, so that when we came face to face with the residents during our outreach, we were able to share it through our actions. Boscofest therefore, gave us not only the opportunity to find hope in those around us, but also gave us the chance to discover ourselves and all that makes us special in the first place.

MANY THANKS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who made Boscofest 2011 possible. I would like to thank the Salesian Community for their help and support. I would like to thank all Boscofest participants, including my fellow animators, for making this summer unique with their energetic presence. I would like to thank David and Rita Bezzina, for their patience and sacrifice and of course, I would like to thank Fr. Louis, for his vision and passion towards this project.

But more than anyone else, I would like to thank God, without whose grace and love Boscofest would not exist. Boscofest 2011 has been an inspiring adventure; a celebration of life and the value of charity; a journey of love.

Something
to think about...

The strength of a nation!

The strength of a Nation is not found in the blind commitment to a political party.
It is found in the undying devotion to one's family and country.

The strength of a nation is not found in the celebration of the rich and the famous.
It is found in the acknowledgment and assistance of its poor and forgotten.

The strength of a nation is not found in the symbolic ceremonial praise of God.
It is found in each individual's dedication to God's word and law.

The strength of a nation is not found in banks, stores, safes, boardrooms,
and conventions.
It is found in homes, in schools, and in the heart of each individual willing
to make a difference.

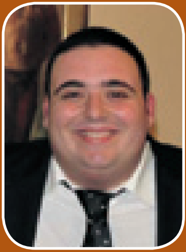
The strength of a nation is not found in the ability to wage war or keep peace.
It is found in the wisdom and purity that sees no need for either.

The strength of a nation is not found on a flag or in its written history.
It is found in the love, compassion, kindness, and generosity of each of its citizens.

Author: Steve Maraboli

Malta Salesjana

NOVIZZ ĠDID Din is-sena wkoll il-Mulej Alla ried jagħti rigal lis-Salesjani ta' Malta fiż-żagħżugħ Paul Spiteri li din is-sena ser jagħmel in-novizzjat tiegħu. Huwa telaq lejn Turin (Pinerolo) u beda s-sena li twasslu għall-ewwel professjoni nhar it-8 ta' Settembru tas-sena d-dieħla. Paul digà ggradwa bħala Perit mill-Università ta' Malta. Il-Familja Salesjana tifraħ u ssegwih bit-talb sabiex iħejji ruħu sewwa għall-ħajja tiegħu bħala Salesjan, mimli bl-ispirtu ta' Ġesù, fuq il-passi ta' Dun Bosco. L-isbaħ xewqat.



ŻEWĠ SALESJANI ĠODDA Nilqgħu fostna liż-żewġ żgħażagħ Bro. Pierre Bonnici u Bro. Jake Mamo li għadhom kemm ġew lura minn Turin fejn kienu għas-sena tan-Novizzjat tagħhom. Huma pprofessaw fil-Kongregazzjoni Salesjana nhar it-8 ta' Settembru li għadda. Biex imexxi din iċ-ċerimonja kien hemm is-Superjur Ġenerali tagħna inkarigat mid-dinja taż-żgħażagħ, Fr Fabio Attard. Dawn issa jibdew l-istudji tagħhom fil-filosofija fl-Università ta' Malta. Nifirħulhom u nwegħduhom it-talb tagħna.

STUDJI F'RUMA Mistieden mis-Superjuri tagħna, Fr Manwel Camilleri ser ikompli l-istudji tiegħu li jwasslu għad-dottorat fl-Ispiritwalità Salesjana. Għaldaqstant huwa issa jinsab Ruma, fl-Università Pontifiċja Salesjana. Fr Manwel ħadem bis-sħiħ fost it-tfal ta' St. Patrick - Sliema, kien maħbub minn ħafna ex-studenti ta' San Alwiġi - Birkirkara, fejn għallem għal xi snin, u kien apprezzat ħafna għall-priedki tiegħu. Waqt li nixtiequlu l-akbar suċċess fl-istudji tiegħu, lilu wkoll nakkumpanjawh bit-talb tagħna.

IL-KOMUNITÀ TAS-SORIJIET Konna semmejna li hawn Malta kienet qiegħda tiġi mwaqqfa komunità ta' Sorijiet Salesjani (Ulied Marija Għajnuna tal-Insara FMA). Għadda ż-żmien u dan il-proġett kien għadu ma seħħx. Imma dan l-aħħar tlett sorijiet FMA ġew flimkien u ffurmaw l-ewwel komunità li ġiet imsejħa: San Ġwann Bosco. Is-Superjura hija Sr. Theresa Curmi, li kienet ġiet hawn Malta sa mill-bidu nett, espressament sabiex dan iseħħ. Sr Theresa għandha ħafna esperjenza għaliex kienet għal xi snin waħda mis-Superjuri Ġenerali. Inbierku lill-Mulej għal dan ir-rigal ieħor li għoġbu jagħti lill-Familja Salesjana f'Malta.

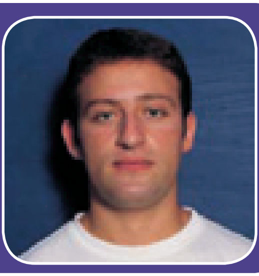
GRAZZI FR ERIC Wara 6 snin bħala Direttur tal-Youth Centre f'Tas-Sliema kif ukoll Bursar fil-Komunità ta' San Alfonsu - Sliema, Fr Eric Cachia mexa għal Savio College-Dingli. Hemmhekk , għalissa, huwa ser ikun Deputy Headmaster, ser jibqa wkoll Bursar tad-Delegazzjoni tagħna u jibqa wkoll imexxi il-BOSCO crew li hu kien ħoloq. Fr. Eric huwa bniedem ta' enerġija u ta' ideat li hu ċertament ser iġorr miegħu fil-kariga ġdida li ngħatatlu. Il-ħidma t-tajba lil Fr. Eric.

MERĦBA Iva, merħba lil Sr Geogina Grech li ngħaqdet mal-Komunità tas-Sorijiet ġewwa tas-Sliema. Hekk, hija, flimkien ma' Sr. Ines Bonello, li kienet giet hawn sa mill-bidu ma' Sr. Theresa Curmi (Ġunju 2009), issa tifforma parti mill-komunità l-ġdida tas-Sorijiet FMA. Bħala soru, Sr. Georgina ħadmet Għawdex, l-Ingilterra u l-Italja. Għandha ħafna esperjenza u, ċertament, bħas-sorijiet l-oħrajn sħaba, hija ser iġġib spirtu pożittiv u formattiv fost iż-żgħażagħ: dan qiegħed jidher sewwa fil-Youth Centre - Sliema, fejn is-sorijiet jitħalltu sew maż-żgħażagħ, it-tfal u l-familji.

ĦABIB TAT-TFAL Wara l-odinazzjoni saċerdotali (Lulju), Fr Jeremy Vella ser jibda l-ħidma tiegħu ġewwa St. Patrick - Sliema, fejn gie mitlub jieħu ħsieb it-tfal bħala Assistant Head of Care. Dan huwa xogħol verament impenjattiv, imma billi Fr Jeremy kien digà ħadem mat-tfal ġewwa St. Patrick's, mhux ser jaqta' qalbu! Għandu esperjenza, entużjażmu u mħabba kbira lejn it-tfal, li hu jaf jeduka u jifforma l-karattru tagħhom, eżatt bħal ma kien għamel Dun Bosco mat-tfal fil-bżonn. Il-ħidma t-tajba!

RIGAL IEĦOR Rigal ieħor li l-Mulej tana u li issa ser ikun hu rigal għaż-żgħażagħ tal-Youth Centre-Sliema, huwa Fr Gerald Mangion. Infatti Fr Gerald ser jieħu post Fr Eric bħala Direttur hemmhekk, waqt li wkoll jakkumpanja lis-Salesian Brigade bħala l-Kappillan tagħhom. Jekk dan mhux biżżejjed, Fr Gerald ser ikun ukoll il-Bursar tal-Komunità tal-Oratorju (San Alfonsu). Fr Gerald għadu żgħir (!) u mimli ħeġġa u enerġija, b'wiċċ daħkan u dħuli ma' kulħadd: l-aħjar kwalitajiet biex taħdem f'post fejn nies ta' kull età jinġabru kulljum f'attivitajiet formattivi.

JIBDA L-ĦIDMA Wara s-sena tan-Novizzjat u sentejn studju tal-filosofija (formazzjoni), Bro. Kenneth Micallef irid jgħaddi sentejn oħra f'ħidma prattika Salesjana (Practical Training). L-Oratorju Salesjan ta' Tas-Sliema huwa xxurtjat li ser ikollu wkoll lil Bro. Kenneth jaħdem hemm fost it-tfal u ż-żgħażagħ. Huwa ser ikollu f'idejh liż-żgħar (Pre-teens). Flimkien ma' Bro. Robert Falzon u ma' Fr Gerald, dan ix-xogħol Salesjan għat-tfal u żgħażagħ għandu jimxi 'l quddiem sew, jikbru l-attivitajiet kif ukoll il-formazzjoni ċivili u spiritwali tal-membri kollha. Nifirħu u nawguraw lil Bro. Kenneth



Saint Mary Mazzarello

5

This is the story of a "woman with a backbone," as Pope Pius XI called her. The story of a soul who passed through a life of hunger, toil and contradiction. The story of a leader, a foundress, a saint.

Come, Bride of Christ

Mother Mazzarello sat perfectly still, her head bowed, her hands folded on her lap. Now she looked up at Don Bosco, smiling at his delicate handling of a difficult task. The priest arose; he had not been mistaken when he had chosen her years ago to be the cornerstone of the new Community of Sisters. Now, as then, she was still the guileless, humble, self-effacing peasant who considered it her greatest privilege to be God's little girl, to do the lowliest tasks for Him, and to rest confident in His all-embracing love. He blessed her, knowing that from her, too, a blessing flowed into him and into the house that sheltered her. Slowly he turned around and left the room. Mother Mazzarello was still smiling, fingering her Rosary.

Exhausted and feverish, Mary Mazzarello arrived at Mornese in early April. After a few days' rest in her invigorating native air, she felt much stronger and got up from bed, maintaining that she was no exception in the house and had to do her work along with the other Sisters. For several days she stubbornly followed the routine of the community till, finally, her resistance broke down and she collapsed. The doctor analysed it as a relapse into pleurisy and recommended absolute rest.

But Mother Mazzarello knew her days were numbered. There was little time to lose now, and she used every moment in prayers or in the care of Sisters, the needs of the houses, and the individual problems of those who daily came to her with their troubles. To all, she was ever the considerate, sympathetic mother, hiding her own pain in solicitous regard for her daughters, giving her undivided attention to every detail. But, toward the end of April, she steadily grew worse. No remedies brought her relief. Her only comfort in the long days and nights of pain was the thought of Our Blessed Lady, to whom she

would pray aloud or even sing hymns in a soft undertone. She asked for the Last Sacraments and followed the ceremony and prayers attentively. At the end, she looked at the priest and asked cheerfully, "Now that all my papers are in order, I suppose I may leave at any time at all?"

But for three more weeks she lingered on, often in pain, always in prayer. One particular evening she became so weak that she thought it was the end and called the superiors of the Congregation to her. Grasping for a few painful breaths of air, she whispered her last counsels: "I am afraid jealousies will crop up among you after my death, envy of a younger Sister who may be placed as Superior. Remember that Our Lady is Superior of this Congregation. Always obey the one who receives the task of commanding. And, secondly, always help each other, but let your spiritual guidance be in the hands of the one appointed for that purpose." Finally in a soft undertone, she sighed. "The Sisters must not leave the world only to build up a new one of their own in the Congregation! And then they say they desire Christ! Dear Lord, if they only knew You as I know You now!"

The few days remaining of her earthly life Mother Mazzarello passed in prayer and final words of counsel. As she lay on her deathbed, her resoluteness was so reminiscent of the hardy peasant girl of Mornese who persisted in her stubborn determination never to yield to any one or to any thing! Not even illness or death! But if her sickness was marked by an enviable calm, the last hour of her life was tortured. It was three o'clock in the morning of May 14, as the mountain ridges outside her window were scarcely outlined against the first haze of a spring sky, that Mother Mazzarello entered her purgatory of spiritual agony. She moaned and tossed about, uttering prayers to Our Lady, trying to boost her trust in God.

"Don't give in, Mary," she pleaded with herself. "Where is your courage? Tomorrow you are going to begin the Novena to Mary Help of Christians. You must not give in! Take heart! Come, sing Mary's praises!" Then straining every nerve and muscle, in a feeble broken voice she painfully sang a hymn to Our Lady. With that, the struggle was over. As the hymn died away on her lips, she sank back in restful sleep. The priests and sisters about her began the Church's prayers for the dying. As they neared the end, she feebly raised her hand and whispered, "Good-bye. I am going now. I will see you in heaven." With the names of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph on her lips, she paid her last tribute of obedience to the Divine Will, in utter confidence of His limitless mercy.

At the age of forty-four, she had lived a complete life, had carried out all the work God had assigned to her and was ready to return to her Divine Master.

The peasant girl of Mornese became the Mother of a Congregation of Sisters that today covers the globe and numbers thousands. On that religious body of self-sacrificing souls is stamped the indelible character of Mother Mazzarello's humility and in each one of the Sisters she lives again and continues her apostolate for the souls of girls. Thus, St. Mary Mazzarello walks today in the broad streets of European and American cities, in the jungle paths of the Amazon, on the sun-drenched deserts of Africa, in the mudflats of India, in the mountain recesses of the Andes. She lives a Citizen of the World, for there is no death for God's Saints.

End

Tradizzjoni għażiża tal-Avvent

tra i oni tant sa i a u a i a u li an a ru so i ik li a na a il i
i il stu l- r s u innu fi ara l- sta tal- akulata un i oni is o
i ti u i u a ari a a k il- i an u i ta a l a t i l in a s-

L-għemil tal-presepju ġewwa d-dar jista' jservi ta' mod sempliċi imma effettiv ta' kif wieħed jippreżenta t-twemmin tagħna lil uliedna. Il-presepju jgħina nikkontemplaw il-misteru tal-imħabba ta' Alla li tintwera fil-faqar u fis-sempliċità tal-għar ta' Betlehem.

San Franġisk ta' Assisi tant kien mimli mħabba lejn il-misteru tal-Iben ta' Alla magħmul bniedem, li ried jurih lin-nies fil-presepju ħaj li ħejja fil-grotta ta' Greccio. Minn dak il-fatt ħarġet id-drawwa popolari li sal-lum għad għandha l-qawwa li tgħallem il-vanġelu.

Tassew, il-presepju jista' jgħinna nifhmu is-sigriet tal-veru Milied, għaliex jitkellem u juri l-umiltà u t-tjieba ħanina ta' Kristu, li 'għalkemm kien għani għamel lilu nnifsu fqir' proprju għalina. Il-faqar tiegħu jagħni lil dawk li jħaddnu din il-kundizzjoni, u l-Milied iġib ferħ u sliem lil dawk kollha li, bħar-rgħajja ta' Betlehem, jilqgħu f'qalbhom il-kliem tal-anġlu: 'Bħala sinjal ikollkom dan:issibu tarbija mfisqija u mimduda f'maxtura'.

Dan għadu sal-lum is-sinjal għalina wkoll, irġiel u nisa tat-tielet millenju. Ma hemmx Milied mod ieħor.

Papa Benedittu VXI

From Vietnam to Japan

Five short stories:

>> I am John Le Pham Nghia Phu. I was a Salesian aspirant in Vietnam and my four years with the Salesians and especially the contact with the ethnic minorities in K'long in Vietnam, lie behind my missionary vocation. Being with the young and speaking of God's love to them helps me to be a better person. The Japanese language is difficult. I am doing my best to get to know Japanese society and culture.

>> I am Joseph Nguyen Giao Hoa and before coming to Japan five years ago I studied some Japanese, thinking to become a Salesian priest in my newly adopted country. It was during my experience working with young people at the oratory that I discovered my vocation to be a missionary. The example of my Japanese confreres has helped me a lot and in a particular way the missionaries. A serious difficult I feel is that Christianity does not attract the Japanese.

>> My name is Joseph Nguyen Khac Diep, a post-novice studying philosophy. Before coming to Japan as an aspirant to Salesian life perhaps it was more the spirit of adventure than the missionary vocation that attracted me. During the pre-novitiate I found myself in crisis but then came to understand more clearly that being in this country means being a missionary with the task of spreading the Gospel of Jesus. However for now I am but a missionary in formation.

>> My name is Andrew Tran Minh Hai and I must be honest and say that when I came to Japan as a Salesian aspirant my missionary vocation, if indeed it existed, was weak and insecure. It was towards the end of the novitiate that I felt myself called to share with others the graces received and the spirit of the Gospel, and I owe this to the exemplary lives of the missionaries I have met. Living in Japan and assimilating the culture is not easy. St Paul's words here are a help to me: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me".

>> I am Joseph Nguyen Duy Hun, and arrived in Japan four years ago as an aspirant after two years of preparation in my native land, Vietnam. I have to admit that my vocation to be a missionary began here. It was a discovery more than something which came about naturally. In fact, working with youngsters at the oratory, almost none of whom were Christians, I discovered that I was being called to be a missionary for their sake. My fellow Vietnamese have been an important source of support for me and of course the help of Mary our Mother. Japan is very much a developed nation and it is difficult to spread the Gospel.

Ix-Xitla tal-Ponsjetta

Din hi xitla li tikber fil-klima sħuna tal-Messiku u l-Amerika Ċentrali. L-isem botaniku tagħha hu Euphorbia pulcherrima. Il-kelma pulcherrima tfisser l-iżjed sabiħa.

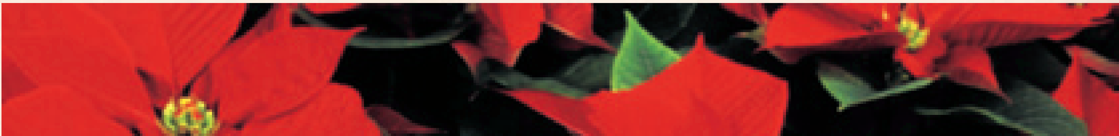
Fil-Messiku u fil-Guatemala jsejħulha Noch Buena, il-Fjura tal-Lejl Qaddis (il-Milied). Fi Spanja dil-fjura hija magħrufa bħala Flor de Pascua, li tfisser Fjura tal-Għid. Kemm fiċ-Ċile u fil-Perù hija bdiet tissejjaħ Kuruna tal-Andes. Tikber u titwal anke sa sular, bħalma naraw f'xi ġonna privati, imma b'kimika apposta, il-pjanta tinżamm żgħira u tikber biss sa xi tletin ċentimetru.

Leġġenda ħelwa tgħid li tfajla Messikana kienet ħdejn knisja, lejliet il-Milied, tara n-nies deħlin bir-rigali jpoġġuhom quddiem Ġesù' Bambin. Minħabba l-faqar tagħha ma kellhiex x'toffri lil Ġesù u bdiet tibki. Anġlu tas-sema deherilha u qalilha biex tmur taqta' xi ħaxix ħażin u tippreżentah bħala l-offerta tagħha lill-Bambin. Sakemm waslet il-weraq tal-bukkett ħaxix sar aħmar bellusi, u hi kollha ferħana poġġiethom quddiem il-Bambin. Minn dakinhar 'l-quddiem il-weraq ta' din il-pjanta selvaġġa jsir aħmar meta jkun qorob żmien il-Milied. Hekk tawha l-isem tal-Fjura tal-Lejl Qaddis. Fis-seklu 17 il-patrijiet Franġiskani tal-Messiku bdew jużaw dawn il-pjanti fit-tiżjin tal-Milied.

Dix-xitla xterdet mal-Amerika ta' fuq u mbagħad ma' Lvant Nofsani kif ukoll mal-Ewropa b'dan il-mod. Fl-1828, l-Ambaxxatur Amerikan għall-Messiku, Joel R. Poinsett, dilettant tal-botanika, ħa pjanta ħamra u ħadra mill-Messiku għall-Amerika. Din il-pjanta, li ssemmiet ponsjetta għal Poinsett, bdiet tidher fis-serer mis-snin 1830. Fl-1870, il-ħwienet fi New York bdew ibigħuha wkoll matul il-Milied, u sas-sena 1900 saret simbolu universali ta' din il-festa. Il-popolarità ta' din il-pjanta kompliet tikber tant li fl-Istati Uniti biż-żmien ħolqulha wkoll jum nazzjonali - it-12 ta' Diċembru, jum il-mewt ta' Poinsett. Il-ponsjetta hija wkoll imkabbra fl-Eġittu sa mill-1860. Kien ġabha hemm l-istess Amerikan Joel Poinsett, u

hemmhekk hija magħrufa bħala Bent El Consul, li tfisser It-tifla tal-konslu. Fit-Turkija, fejn dix-xitla tikber ukoll, tissejjaħ Il-fjura ta' Ataturk, waqt illi fl-Italja, il-ponsettja tissejjaħ Stella di Natale, li tfisser Kewkba tal-Milied.

Għalkemm il-kulur tal-ponsettja hu aħmar, il-lum għandek issib ukoll ponsjetti roża u bojod. Wieħed jieħu kura tagħha billi jqiegħda f'post imdawwal u sħun, f'temperatura ta' bejn l-10 u l-20 grad Celsius. Għanda tissaqa biss meta l-ħamrija tkun kważi xotta. Jekk tara li l-weraq qed jitbiel, saqqi mill-ewwel. Qatt ma għandek issaqqi ħafna iżda kemm kemm iżżomm il-ħamrija niedja. Din il-xitla tista' tibqa' tgħix sa xhur wara l-Milied.



PONSJETTA

Poeżija ta' Lina Brockdorff

Fi ġnien ċkejken rajtha tikber,
fi ġnien ċkejken tal-ġirien,
bdiet titbissem u tinbixni
l-akbar warda f'dak il-ġnien.

Kienet għadha ħadra u dgħajfa,
kienet għadha żgħira sew,
issa kibret, l-aħmar libset,
tperper l-hena sa hawn ġew.

Tgħid lid-dinja ta' madwarha
biex titħejja għall-Milied,
tgħid lill-għonja, tgħid lill-foqra
biex jinsew twehir u ġlied.

L-aħmar tagħha mħabba jixhed,
l-aħmar lewn is-slaten kbar;
l-aħbar jgħid "ibqa' ittama,
insa kollox dak li mar."

Għandha wkoll ftit tikki sofor,
qalb tad-deheb mill-aktar fin,
tgħallem dejjem it-tjubija,
tferraħ, thenni qlub safjin.

Ftit jiem oħra tkun telqitni
il-ponsjetta kollha nar,
ftit jiem oħra zokk biss jibqa'
jkun qatagħha dak il-ġar.

Għax il-ġar ser jarma grotta,
għal ulied ta' nies fqajrin
u madwar il-grotta jarma
ħafna laned, mhux deheb fin.

F'dawn il-laned bil-ġulbiena,
hemm il-qamħ, ix-xgħir ukoll,
f'nofshom sewwa sjuna kbira
bil-ponsjetta lewn il-qroll.

Fi ġnien ċkejken taħt it-tieqa,
il-ponsjetta m'għadhiex hemm.
Il-Bambin qed jitbissimilha
lilu twennes sa tintemm!

Milied '78

Minn Václav Klement SDB

Id-Dun Bosco ta' TONJ

Nhar l-24 ta' Ġunju 2011 saret konferenza fuq "Dun Bosco - Tonj : il-ħajja u l-ispiritwalità ta' Dun John Lee Taeseok». Din il-konferenza kienet organizzata mis-Salesjani ta' Seoul, fil-Korea t'Isfel proprju sena u nofs wara l-mewt ta' dal-missjunarju maħbub.

Dun Lee kien mar missjunarju s-Sudan, fil-komunità Salesjana ta' Tonj, ftit wara li kien ordna Saċerdot, nhar l-24 ta' Ġunju 2001. Huwa kien tabib, mużiċista, għalliem, Salesjan. Għix ħajja ddedikata imma sempliċi u miet fl-età żgħira ta' 47 sena, f'Seoul, nhar l-14 ta' Jannar 2010, wara 13-il xahar jikkumbatti mal-marda tal-kanċer.

John kien żagħżugħ Salesjan b'ħafna talenti. Meta kien għadu għalliem fil-Komunità ta' Dae Rim Dong, fdawlu tmenin żagħżugħ diffiċli sabiex jieħu ħsiebhom. Huwa għamel użu għaqli tal-mużika kemm fil-bitħa u kemm fil-klassi. Immaġinaw 80 minnhom ta' madwar 18-il sena li għadhom qed jitgħallmu jiktbu l-alfabet Korean! Imma dawn l-istess żgħażagħ, kull nhar ta' Ħadd filgħaxija, kienu jkantaw it-Tantum Ergo bil-Latin fil-kappella, fuq mużika kemxejn Pop miktuba minn Bro. John Lee.

Wara dawn is-sentejn, John ġie mibgħut l-Università Salesjana ta' Ruma sabiex jistudja t-teoloġija (1997). Meta mbagħad ordna Djaknu, talab li jmur l-Afrika matul is-sajf sabiex jara jsibx post fejn jista' jaħdem bħala Saċerdot. Bil-għajnuna ta' Alla u tal-Provinċjal Fr James Pulickal, John Lee wasal is-Sudan t'Isfel li dak iż-żmien kien fi gwerra mas-Sudan ta' Fuq. Qatta xi jiem fil-Komunità ta' Tonj, u l-laqgħa tiegħu mal-lebbrużi li jgħixu fl-inħawi rebħitlu qalbu! Wara li ordna Saċerdot, mar lura f'Tonj u għix ħajja ta' Salesjan, saċerdot u tabib sabiex jista' jikkura lil-lebbrużi bħallikieku lil Ġesù.

Issa Fr John kien parti mill-Komunità li fiha kien hemm Salesjani minn diversi pajjiżi. Il-ħidma

tagħhom kienet pjuttost li jerġgħu jibnu l-komunità nisranija, l-Oratorju, l-iskejjel u l-missjonijiet f'ħafna villaġġi. Minħabba l-karattru ferrieħi tiegħu u l-ħbiberija tiegħu speċjalment maż-żgħażagħ, Fr John kien imsejjaħ "Fr Jolly". Bil-għajnuna ta' ħafna nies, irnexxielu jwaqqaf klinika żgħira u ankè jakkwista strumenti għall-banda! Kien beda Radio Station li issa beda jxandar taħt l-isem ta' Don Bosco Radio 91. F'Tonj qiegħda wkoll tinbena skola sekondarja u ġew stampati u mqassma ż-żewġ kotba li Fr John kiteb fit-tmin snin li dam f'Tonj: The Rays of the Sun in Africa Are Still Sad, Will You Be My Friend ?

Waqt dawn it-tmin snin ukoll, l-istazzjon tat-TV Korean KBS ġie u ffilmja dokumentarju fuq kull ma kien qiegħed isir f'Tonj. Anke l-Isqof Mons. Paul Choi ta' Suwon (Korea) ġie sabiex jara lil dan il-missjunarju tabib Salesjan.

Il-figura u l-kariżma ta' John Lee, li għex il-vokazzjoni tiegħu bil-ferħ, ottimiżmu, ħafna mħabba u spirtu ta' familja, ġibdu madwar 30,000 ruħ lejn il-John Lee Foundation li tgħin ix-xogħol missjunarju Salesjan fis-Sudan.

IL-GVERN TAL-KOREA JONORA LIL FR JOHN LEE

Il-figura ta' Fr John Lee qiegħda dejjem aktar tkun magħrufa fil-Korea. F'Ġunju li għadda, fil-gazzetta tal-gvern, ħarġet stqarrija mill-Ministeru tal-Amministrazzjoni Pubblika u Sigurtà, li kienet tgħid hekk:

Qassis Kattoliku Korean li miet sena ilu wara 8 snin ta' ħidma volontarja fis-Sudan sejjer jircievi onoranza rikmandata mill-pubbliku.

Il-Ministeru tal-Amministrazzjoni Pubblika u Sigurtà ħabbar lista ta' 24 ċittadin li sejrin jircievu ġieħ, mitlub miċ-ċittadini, f'nofs Lulju li ġej.

Dan il-ġieħ jiġi mogħti lil nies li kkontribwew lejn is-soċjetà permezz ta' ħidma volontarja, donazzjonijiet jew azzjoni qalbenija f'xi diffikultà. Mibdi fi Frar, din l-onorifiċenza hija ntiża sabiex iċ-ċittadini ordinarji jistgħu jagħżlu u jippremjaw lill-eroj tagħhom.

Fr John Lee Taeseok li miet dan l-aħħar ser jiġi mogħti l-għola midalja tal-Ordini Mugunghwa. Lee ġie magħruf mill-pubbliku mid-dokumentarju "Don't Cry For My Sudan", muri fis-swali taċ-ċinema f'Settembru li għadda, fejn dehret id-dedikazzjoni tiegħu lejn il-Poplu Sudaniż. Lee miet bil-kanċer f'Jannar 2010 fl-età ta' 47 sena.

L-Ordni ta' Mugunghwa, imsemmi għall-Warda ta' Sharon, il-warda nazzjonali tal-Korea, huwa l-ġieħ Ċivili l-aktar għoli. Dan soltu jiġi mogħti lill-Presidenti u ċittadini tal-għola grad tas-soċjetà Koreana li jkunu kkontribwew għat-titjib u s-sigurtà tan-nazzjon. (Fittxu Don't Cry for me Tonj jew John Lee Taeseok fuq internet)

minn Renè Sacco

Dun Bosco fis-santi u kartolini

L-Għaxar parti

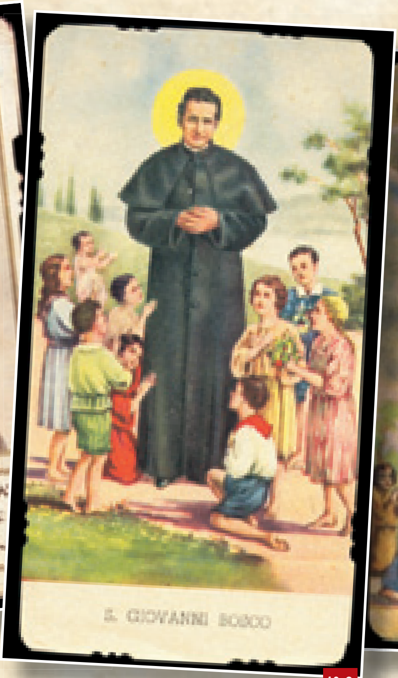
Wara l-waqfa għall-istaġun tas-sajf, wasalna għall-għaxar parti tas-sensiela tagħna. Għaddew sentejn minn meta nidejna dan il-proġett, u bi qbil mal-editur, Fr. Joe Cini SDB, ġie deċiż li din tkun l-aħħar parti tas-sensiela kif inhi. Qiegħed ngħid hekk għaliex mhux eskluż li fil-ġejjieni jkun hemm kitbiet simili, iżda mhux li jiffurmaw parti minn din is-sensiela. Meta nħarsu lura wieħed iħoss ċertu sodisfazzjon, kemm għall-interess li qajmet din is-sensiela, kif ukoll għall-materjal (jiġifieri s-santi u kartolini) li diversi individwi għoġobhom jibagħtuli. Ta' dan nirringrazzjahom mill-qalb u bil- quddiem għal xi donazzjonijiet oħrajn.

Kellna ħsieb li għal din il-parti, nittrattaw xi santi moderni jew kontemporanji, iżda wara qtajnieha li nkomplu bl-antiki, anke biex is-serjè tibqa' omoġenja, u l-moderni jiġu ttrattati fil-futur f'kitbiet għalihom.

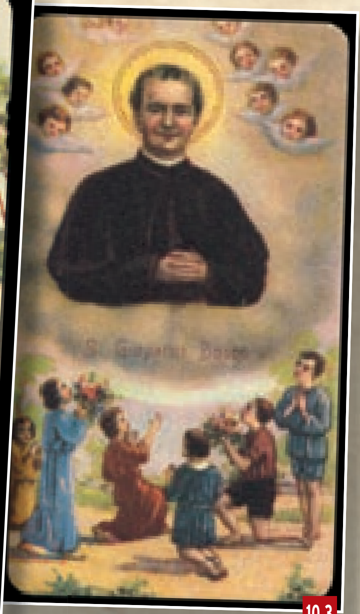
Mela niġu għas-santi tal-lum. Fil-grupp ta' santi li qed jidhru ma' dan l-artiklu, bl-eċċezzjoni tal-ewwel waħda, Dun Bosco jidher mdawwar bit-tfal li jidhru ta' età pjuttost tenera. Dawn l-immaġni aktarx li kienu jiġu mpinġija u riprodotti f'santi biex aktar tiżdied il-promozzjoni għad-dehra ta' Dun Bosco bħala protettur tat-tfal u żgħażagħ. Ta' nteress kemm xejn aktar mill-oħrajn hija s-santa Nru 10.5 u dan għaliex il-grupp tat-fal mdawra ma' Dun Bosco huma kollha bniet. L-unika raġuni għal dan li stajna naħsbu fija hija li din ġiet ippubblikata minn xi kommunità ta' sorijiet Salesjani. Hi x'inhi, din is-santa hija antika ġmielha u l-għamla u d-disinn

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.***

10.1



10.2


10.3

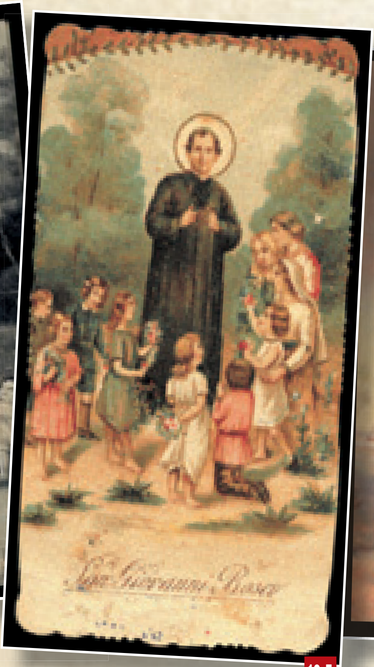
tagħha jagħtuk x'tifhem li kienet teżisti qabel il-kanonizzazzjoni ta' Dun Bosco, u bil-kliem 'San Giovanni Bosco' stampati wara li Dun Bosco kien ġie ddikjarat qaddis. Fil-fatt fil-kollezzjoni għandi kopja oħra ta' din is-santa bil-kliem 'Beato Don Bosco – educatore della gioventù.' Is-santa hija stampata bil-proċess użat fl-imgħoddi msejjaħ 'kromolitografija' u l-bordura tagħha għanda disinn maqtugħ permezz ta' 'die-cut'.

Xi ftit tal-kurżità tista' wkoll tqum dwar is-santa Nru.10.6. F'din is-santa, it-tfal jidhru libsin speċi ta' bluża dritta li tasal sa taħt l-irkoppa jew aktar, b'kuluri ċari ħafna. L-istess hawn, ma għandniex spejgazzjoni definita, iżda wieħed jista jassumi li dan jista' jkun qed jissimbolizza l-innoċenza, il-purezza tal-qalb u l-ħsieb tat-tfal li Dun Bosco proprju ddedika ħajtu biex jipprotieġi.

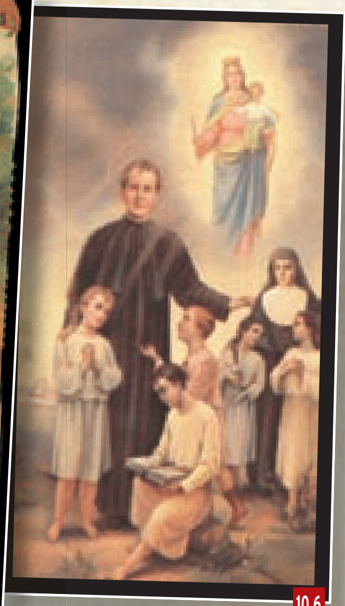
It-tlett santi l-oħra, Nru. 10.2, .3 u .4, aktarx kienu stampati fis-snin ħamsin, huma semplici, b'messaġġ devozzjonali dirett, kif għidna aktar qabel. Dawn is-santi għalkemm mhux neċessarjament ta' xi livell artistiku għoli, jixhdu il-popolarità ta' Dun Bosco u d-devozzjoni lejh.

Is-santa bin-Nru 10.1 qed inħallieha għall-aħħar għax għalija hija ta' nteress kbir. Din is-santa waslet għandi dan l-aħħar u saret waħda mill-aktar għal qalbi fil-kollezzjoni. Apparti l-antikità tagħha, għax ġejja miż-żmien meta Dun Bosco kien għadu venerabbli (A.D.1907), għanda xbieha ta' Dun Bosco tajba ħafna, aktarx meħuda minn inċizjoni. Biex ikompli jżid mal-interess ta' din is-santa, taħt ix-xbieha

10.4



10.5



10.6

tal-qaddis, hemm kitba li tgħid 'Alla jbierek u jirrikompensa l-benefatturi kollha tagħna', kopja ta' sentenza miktuba u ffirmata minn id Dun Bosco. Barra l-istatwa ta' Maria għajnuna tal-Insara, fis-santa tidher ukoll plakka taħt il-kurċifiss bil-motto ta' Dun Bosco ' da mihi animas caetera tolle'. Fuq wara tas-santa hemm biografija qasira ta' Dun Bosco b'aċċenn partikulari għas-santwarji li Dun Bosco rrnexxielu jibni ma' tul ħajtu.

Għalissa nieqfu hawn, nispera li ħadtu gost taraw u taqraw dwar 'Dun Bosco fis-santi u l-kartolini'. Sinċerament inħoss li l-iskop li xi ftit santi joħorġu mill-album biex igawduhom aktar nies intlaħaq. Min ikun jixtieq jara l-kollezzjoni, nitolbu jikkuntatjani.

Nixtieq qabel nagħlaq, nirringrazzja b'mod speċjali lil Fr. Joe Cini SDB, l-editur ta' dan il-Bullettin li mill-ewwel emmen f'dan il-proġett u tani support u inkoraġġiment kontinwu. Nerġa' nirringrazzja li dawk kollha li għaddewli kummenti favorevoli u speċjalment li dawk li tawni xi materjal għall-kollezjoni. Inselli għal kulħadd u j'Alla l-ħarsa u l-barka ta' Dun Bosco u Maria Għajnuna tal-Insara jibqgħu fuqna tul ħajjitna.

Nota ta' l-awtur: Nixtieq nirreferi għall-artiklu ta' qabel dan, jiġifieri parti 9, fejn naħseb li hemm punt li jrid jiġi ċċarat aktar. Il-kliem ' ex indumentis' u 'ex capsa' li jidhru fuq santi li jkollhom relikwa, jfissru li dik in-nitfa material mwaħħla fis-santa bħala relikwa ġiet MINSUSA jew ma' xi ilbies (indumentis) tal-qaddis, jew mal-kaxxa/tebut (capsa) bil-fdalijiet tiegħu, u mhux ġejja direttament minn dawn kif wieħed seta' fehem.

Il-Premju Nobel lil **Isqof Salesjan**

Dawn l-aħħar jiem żdied in-numru ta' dawk li qegħdin iressqu l-kandidatura ta' Mons. Thomas Menamparampil SDB għall-Premju Nobel għall-Paċi. Konferma ta' dan ġiet mill-kelliem f'isem il-Konferenza Episkopali tal-Isqfijiet tal-Indja (CBCI) Fr Joseph Karakombil, kif ikkwotat mill-Agenzija Fides.

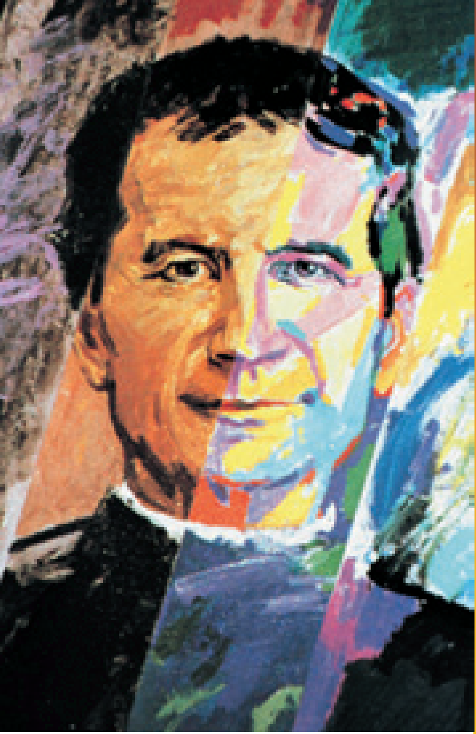
"Dan ikun ġieħ xieraq u rikonoxximent tal-ħidma tiegħu dawn l-aħħar 25 sena sabiex iġib il-paċi u l-qbil. Għal ħafna snin l-Arċisqof Menamparampil ħadem bis-sħiħ għall-paċi, qbil u stabbilità fit- Tramuntana Lvant tal-Indja. Din in-naħa tal-pajjiż kien hemm ġlied kontinwu rigward territorju u bejn xi tribujiet. Il-ħidma tal-Isqof hija mfaħħra mill-mexxejja ċivili u reliġjużi tal-post u rikonoxxuta u apprezzata madwar l-Indja u l-Asja kollha. Paċi u qbil, f'isem il-Vanġelu, hija l-missjoni li għalija huwa ddedika ħajtu. Għaldaqstant l-Isqfijiet tal-Indja, bil-qalb kollha juru x-xewqa tagħhom li ismu jiġi mressaq għall-Premju Nobel għall-Paċi."

Bħalissa l-Arċisqof Menamparampil huwa l-President tal-Konferenza Episkopali tat-Tramuntana Lvant tal-Indja kif ukoll tal-Kummissjoni għall-Edukazzjoni u Kultura tal-Konferenza tal-Isqfijiet tal-Indja (CBCI). Barra minn dan jagħmel ħidma fuq livell kontinentali fil-Federazzjoni tal-Isqfijiet tal-Asja (FABC) u huwa 'chairman' tal-Kummissjoni għat-Tixrid tal-Vanġelu. Il-ħidma tiegħu hija apprezzata mill-Isqfijiet kollha tal-kontinent.

L-idea li huwa jiġi msemmi għall-Premju Nobel bdiet minn artiklu li nkiteb fil-Bullettin Salesjan Taljan fil-ħarġa ta' Ġunju li għadda. Dan l-artiku ddedikat lilu kien intitulat "Un Vescovo da Premio Nobel".

Ma hemm ebda dubju dwar il-ħidma wtieqa tal-Arċisqof ta' Gawhati favur il-paċi, stabbilità u progress fit-Tramuntana Lvant tal-Indja, fejn huwa ndaħal personalment sabiex tinstab soluzzjoni għad-diversi nuqqasijiet ta' qbil bejn it-tribu tal-Bodo u tal-Adivasi (1996); bejn dik tal-Kuki u tal-Paite (1998); bejn id-Dimasa u l-Hmar (2003); bejn Karabi u Kuki (2003); bejn id-Dimasa u l-Karbi (2004); bejn il-Bodo u l-Misilmin ta' Udalguri (2010) u dan l-aħħar bejn it-tribujiet Rabha u Garo (2011).

l-Arċisqof Thomas Menamparampil stess jiddeskrivi l-metodu tiegħu meta jgħid li huwa "jħalli l-Kelma ta' Alla ssib postha fil-qlub u fil-ħajja tan-nies u tal-gruppi li jkunu miġġielda. Wara dan il-paċi tinbet weħida."



"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?

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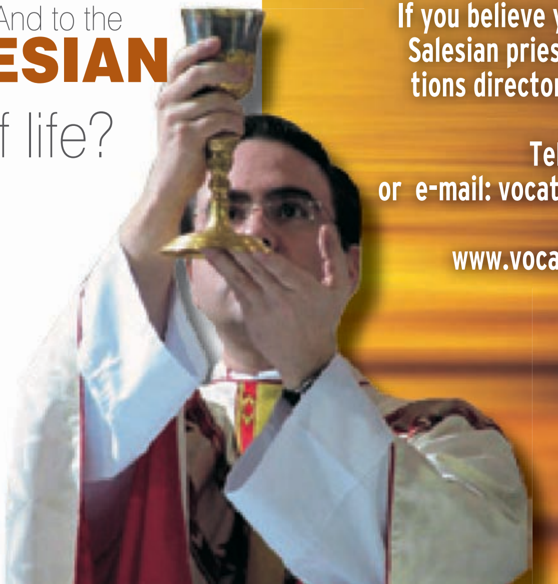

Borża ta' Studju

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

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

Għin il-ħidma Salesjana

Dawk li huma l-iżjed fil-periklu l-aktar jiħtieġu 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.

Ċempel lil Fr Eric Cachia SDB fuq 21 331 447

Tibżgħux, għax araw,
qiegħed inħabbrilkom ferħ kbir…
Illum, fil-belt ta' David, twildilkom Salvatur,
li hu l-Messija, il-Mulej.
U bħala sinjal ikollkom dan:
issibu tarbija mfisqija u minduda f'maxtura.
(Luqa: 2, 10-12)

Dawk kollha li jaħdmu sabiex jitlesta u jaslilkom Ħajja Salesjana jixtiequ lil qarrejja, ħbieb u benefatturi tagħhom kull risq, hena u barka fil-ġranet tal-Milied li ġejjin, u s-Sena t-Tajba wkoll.

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