



Dear Confreres,

Greetings for the New Year 2018! January, being the month of Don Bosco, naturally brings to our minds the ultimate aim of his Mission – YOUTH! Therefore, we are happy to dedicate this issue of INTERCOM towards the main focus of our Mission – YOUTH!

In all our institutions, youth focus is prevalent and very relevant too. In recent times, youth power and youth empowerment are rapidly on the rise. Therefore, we the need to reinvigorate our emphasis and concentration on the youth entrusted to our care.

Don Bosco's pastoral concern found expression in a process of humanization that sought to develop a young person's full personality and create a society that was more just and human. **"We educate and evangelize according to a plan for the total well-being of the human person directed to Christ, the perfect Human Being.** Faithful to the intentions of our Founder, our purpose is to form 'upright citizens and good Christians'" (Const. 31).

What was traditionally said about The Oratory must also be said about every Salesian community and institution with regard to our approach with the young:

It is a place, an attitude and a method.

It is a home where young people can feel welcome, safe and peaceful.

It is a school where life skills are learned.

It is a church, a place of prayer and spiritual development.

It is a playground where fun and joy celebrate life.

Salesian Youth Ministry is a ministry which educates for life in the cultural and social

environment of the young person. It evangelizes by educating and educates by evangelizing. It centers on the Body of Christ and brings young people into that living community of faith where their gifts and their journey are given direction and support. It is in this context that the young discover their place in God's plan and are thus called to transform the world into the image and likeness of Christ.

Our Province has pioneered the thrust towards a priority for marginalized youth. This spirit should strengthen each and every one of us, where ever we may be. Every Salesian should find meaning in his consecrated religious life because of the youth. Every Salesian is a youth worker. Every Salesian should seek to serve youth. Every Salesian should be able to say with Don Bosco: For me, living means, being here with you! Let us continue to imitate our Father's love for the young in our own places of ministry so that we will be recognized as his true sons! Happy Feast of Don Bosco!

Yours truly in Don Bosco,

Fr. Dominic Matthews SDB

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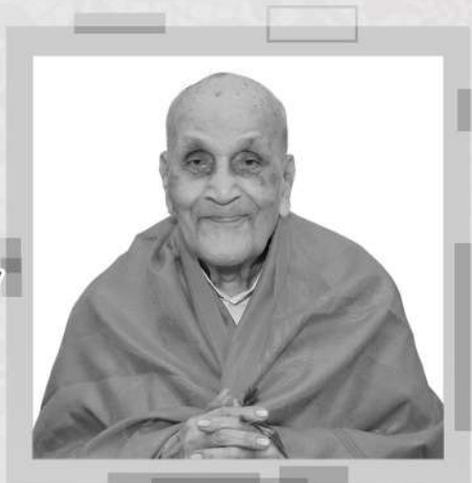
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FR. BOUT

Celebrating a

CENTURY



Fr. Bellarmine SDB

On his 100th Birthday, with much joy and happiness I greet him. How blessed is he! Blessed be God. For the gift of this life and the reaching this landmark of longevity, we glorify and thank God. May he be abundantly blessed with peace and good health.

Fr. Bout is a wonderful example of a community person, in his punctuality, presence in community prayer, meals and above all love for duty. This characteristic asceticism is sine qua non for living the consecrated life and community mission. Thank you Fr. Bout. Let the new generation take note of that.

Fr. Anthony Christy SDB

Growing old naughtily is what I find as an highlight in Fr. Bout. I have lived in the same community with him for seven years now!

I have seen him growing ... first he would complain a lot about things that we do not sufficiently prioritise in salesian religious life. But gradually I found him becoming more and more restrained and in the recent times he stops with a smile!

I have seen him growing old ... yes, you know after 80 growing old is growing young! You should see the twinkle in his eyes when he gets a box of chocolates from the Rector, or a cup of ice cream... the twinkle of a child! And the broad smile he would sport when he tries to deceive

us with a puffed up empty chocolate wrapper and we fall for it. We prefer to be deceived any number of times, just to see that smile on his face!

I have seen him growing old naughtily ... he has considerably reduced his speaking. But when he talks, in private or in a smaller circle, he is a typical prankster! He would pass a witty comment and destabilise you completely. A man with sharp observation and admirable memory.

Fr. Bout is truly an inspiration... who stands testimony for the fact that Salesian life consists more of being a salesian than doing all that you do!

Fr. Jayapalan SDB

Thank you Fr. Bout, the Centurion!

We rejoice and praise the Lord with Fr. Cedric Bout on reaching the 100th birth day. Amazing are the ways of God in his life and his response to His love. As he reaches a record breaking century, becoming the 'oldest Salesian in India' ever, I express my joy and admiration for the wonder of his being. Since 25 years (1992) I have known him, living close to him in citadel campus. It is not how long he lives but how he has lived. It is not just getting old but growing old gracefully. It is unique and he has been unique in many ways.

During his 77 years of Salesian life, he has served the province in several capacities and thus contributed to what the province is today: leader of the communities, effective educator, able administrator, propaganda in-charge, confessor etc.

The qualities I have been admiring in him are: his deep-rooted God-centeredness; a man afire with love for God, love for Jesus Christ, Mother Mary, Don Bosco, our spiritual father and love for souls. "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." True to the words of the Gospel, the life of Fr. Bout is a shining light through his good works and glorifying God.

The second outstanding trait of this true and faithful son of Don Bosco is hard work and disciplined life. Work and Temperance is the hall mark of a Salesian. Don Bosco, in a conversation with Pope Pius IX said: "One who does not work is not a Salesian." His work was also an expression of a great sense of belonging to the community and the province.

The third eminent quality of this extraordinary son of Don Bosco was his remarkable spirit of detachment and simplicity of life seen in his living ambience, clothes and food habits. The word 'comfort' has no place in his dictionary. Fr. Bout's simplicity of life was coupled with the sensitivity towards the poorest. Albert Einstein said, "A life lived for others is life lived well." He is a Salesian who loves the poorest people.

The fourth notable quality is his attention to Evangelization, bringing God's love to people. "The best way to proclaim, is a way of being; The best way of teaching is a life of witness." He has been spreading message of God's love through pictures, medals and leaflets during his walks and visits to people around the citadel campus.

I have just singled out these four traits of w



you for not only what you have contributed to the Salesian mission but also for what you are and for your inspiration to us in so many ways to follow Don Bosco, our saintly Father and guide. May you enjoy your long life with health and inner serenity! Love you. Bless me always.

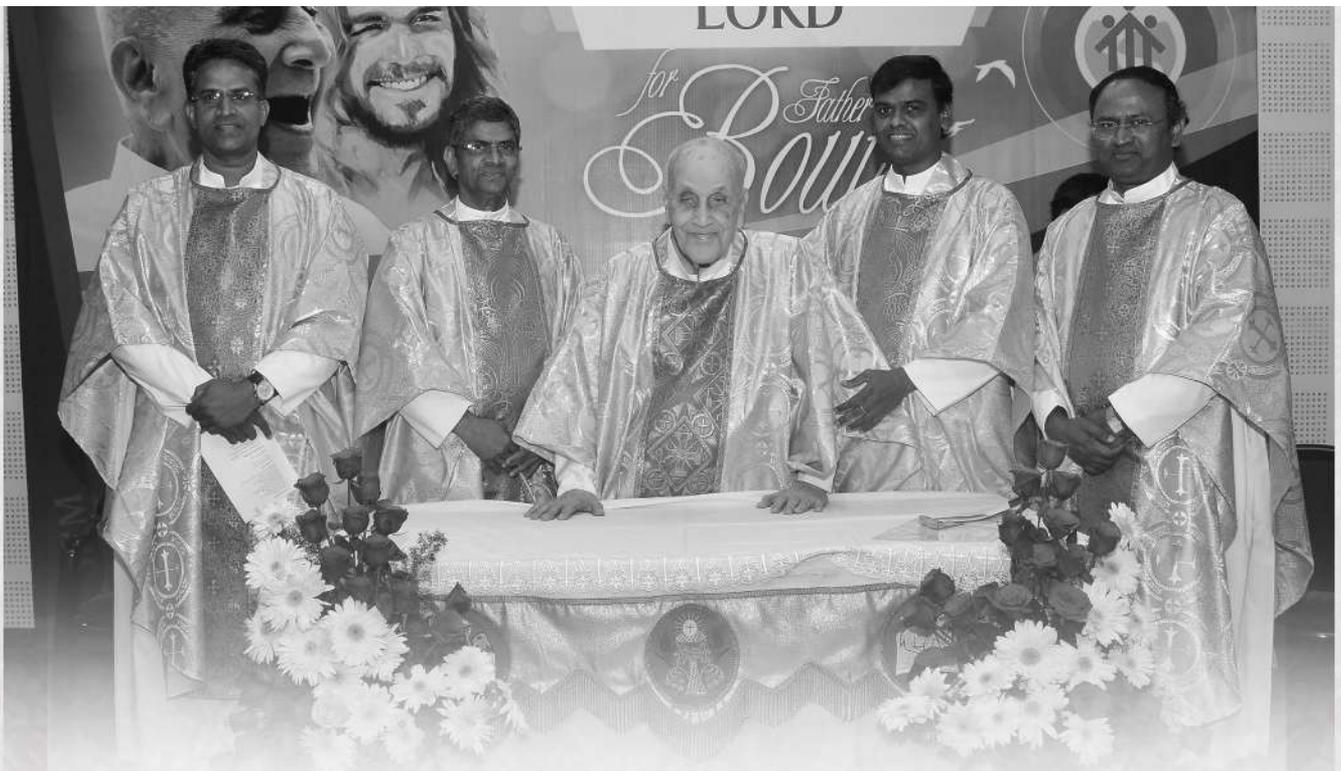
Fr. Stan SDB

The most mischievous Salesian I have come across! In the positive sense!

At the outset, I would like to congratulate him for hitting a century, a very rare feat among the salesians of India. I thank God together with him and with you all for the length of life he received from Him. God has been good to him!

A Man of Prayer

I had seen him praying long hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament kneeling. He would make a quick way of the cross in the Citadel Chapel. He would never miss the daily Mass. He had a special devotion to our Blessed Mother and he would inculcate that in others. He would be the first one attending the monthly recollections and he was never tired of hearing confessions. Look at those little prayers he has in his breviary. It will take half an hour to complete those prayers daily!



A Man who is poor and for the Poor

Those who have had the opportunity to be in his room will vouch for the fact that he had nothing valuable. Whatever he thought was valuable he gave them away. He is the longest pension holder in our province and very faithfully he would bring the passbook to the Rector to draw the money for province needs. He was very critical of putting expensive curtains for the windows which he considered as superfluous spending of money of the poor. He was very conscientious spending the money for the poor when he was in charge of propaganda.

When Citadel was still inward looking, he took upon himself the mission of visiting the neighbourhood and made the community come closer to the poor students. He would help the children to pay their fees and buy their books. We used to celebrate Christmas with them.

A sense of belonging

Though old, he would know the names of several of the confreres and where they work, except for the last one year when he started mixing up things. He had a keen

sense of observation which shows his sense of belonging to the community. He would take a round to put off the lights. Anything out of place would attract his attention and he report to the Administrator.

A Man who felt at home with young and old He knew how to play tricks on young people and old people. Those who have lived with him at Citadel would know the fun we used to have during meals time.

A Man who dared to correct

In the area of Liturgy, he was very meticulous till he could move around freely. If you have failed to keep the Memoria or Feast, you would get a message during the breakfast. People coming late in those days would receive a subtle message from him.

Dear Fr. Bou,

So nice that you would be turning 100 in a couple of days! I thank God for that and for all that He has achieved through you for the province and for the poor. May you continue to enjoy His protection and the love and support of the confreres.

Centenarian Salesian priest at Chennai



Fr. Cedric Anthony Bout celebrated his 100th birthday amongst his fellow priests and brothers, as well as the faithful and well-wishers, in his familiar surroundings at The Citadel, Chennai, on November 11, 2017.

"The just will flourish like the palm tree, and grow like the Lebanon cedar....., still bearing fruit when they are old." (Ps 92:12-14).

A hundred years sit lightly on the broad but slightly drooping shoulders of Fr. Cedric Anthony Bout SDB of the Salesian Province of Chennai. On his 100th birthday on November 11, 2017, Fr. Bout was his usual mischievous self, cracking wits of wisdom and where words cannot flow easily through his toothless grin, gesticulating wildly with his hands.

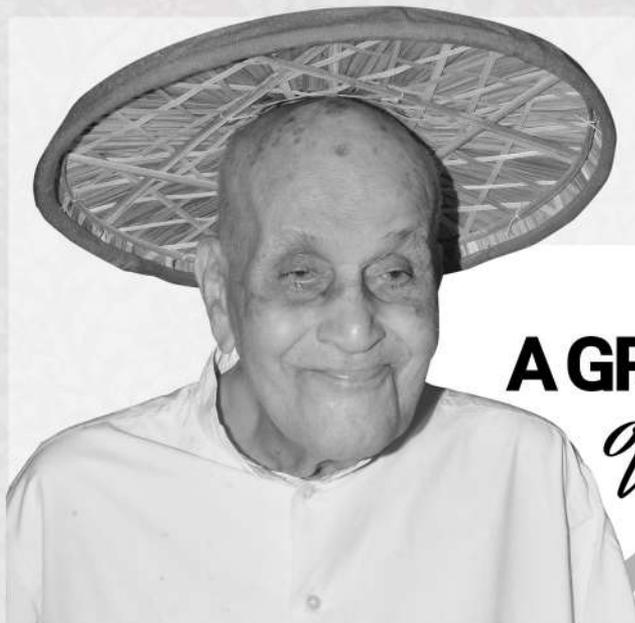
In the history of the Salesians in India, Fr. Bout is the oldest ever priest and continues to be an active member of the Salesian community at the Provincial House, Citadel in Chennai. Hailing from an Anglo-Indian family from Tangasseri (Quilon) in Kerala and son of John Henry Bout, Cedric was born on November 11, 1918, a historic day on which the First World War ended with the Armistice. Cedric

is the fourth of six children and his eldest sister Mary Bout is a Salesian Sister (FMA).

Cedric did his schooling at Presentation Sisters and St. Joseph's, both in Vepery and completed his school education at St. Mary's European High School in George Town. He then went on to do his B. A. in Science from Loyola College where he was drawn towards a religious life. The then Parish Priest Fr. Theodore introduced Cedric to Fr. Joseph Carreno SDB, the Rector of the Salesian House in Tirupattur who invited him to spend a few days to experience the Salesian way of life before making up his mind.

Cedric Bout was ordained a Priest by Archbishop Louis Mathias SDB on April 2, 1949 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Madras. The rest, as they say, is history, which continues to be written in the life and times of Fr. Cedric Bout, even as he enjoys celebrating his 100th birthday, with all his faculties still active, save for a hearing loss.

The Salesians and the faithful of the community wish Fr. Bout a very healthy and peaceful long life.



A GRACEFUL PICTURE *of serenity and joy*

"Our span is seventy years or eighty for those who are strong," says the Psalmist. But on November 11, 2017, Fr. Cedric Bout SDB of the Salesian Province of Chennai gracefully crossed these milestones and stepped into his 100th year, a privilege not given to many. In fact, in the 111-year-old history of the Salesians in India he is the oldest ever and the first to touch 100.

11 November 1918-Birth of Cedric.

1938-Graduated in Science, Loyola College.

8 December 1940-First religious profession.

2 April 1949-Ordained a priest.

11 November 2017-100th Birthday.

Seeking God's will was the surest way to happiness in life...in prayer daily and trusting Him always.

Felicitating the centenarian, Salesian Provincial Fr. Jose Kochamkunnel described him as "a picture of serenity and joy, always lucid in mind and full of wit and wisdom" even at this enviably advanced age. In fact, he enjoys good health and moves about in the community, "full of years", teasing the younger ones in the community for their lack of age.

The highpoint of the day was the solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by the centenarian in which over 100 priests concelebrated. In his 19-minute homily, Fr. Bout said, seeking God's will was the surest way to happiness in life. He exhorted the assembled congregation to seek God's will in prayer daily and to trust Him always. Recalling the saint of the day, Martin of Tours, he said, we need to be like the saint who, on meeting a poor man shivering in the cold, didn't hesitate to cut his coat in half and share it with him.

The presence of a good number of his family members, spanning three generations and from places as diverse as Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Kerala, and Australia added to his joy and delight. A large number of people from different walks of life came to greet the centenarian and receive his blessing and to thank God for his hundred years of life. Earlier in the day, as a birthday special, Fr. Bout visited the nearby Mercy Home, a home for the aged and the destitute run by the SMMI Sisters, and had lunch with them.

After the Eucharistic celebration, the Salesians and members of the Salesian Family gathered around Fr. Bout to felicitate him and to express their affection and

gratitude to him. Mrs. Patricia Vaz, Fr. Bout's niece from Mumbai, spoke on behalf of the family, recalling how a cousin in Australia came to know of Fr. Bout's 100th birthday from Facebook and had alerted her relatives in Mumbai, even before the formal invitation from Chennai reached them. She appreciated the Salesian community in Chennai for looking after Father and reminisced about the good times they used to have whenever Fr. Cedric used to go home for vacations. The event concluded with a homely dinner in honour of the centenarian.

Fr. Cedric Bout hails from an Anglo-Indian family in Tangasseri, Quilon, in Kerala. In British India, his father John Henry Bout was an engineer under the Directorate General of Lighthouses, and was in charge of all the lighthouses in India, Burma and Ceylon, with its headquarters in Madras. For a time, he was stationed in Kaup, a picturesque little coastal town near Mangalore, which is famous for its lighthouse. It was there that Cedric was born on 11 November 1918, the historic day on which World War I officially ended with the Armistice. Soon after his birth the family shifted to Madras. After completing his schooling in St. Mary's European School

(now, St. Mary's Anglo-Indian School), run by the Salesians of Don Bosco, Cedric graduated in Science from Loyola College in 1938. The next thing he thought of was to join the Madras Medical College to become a doctor. But deep down in his heart he felt called for something bigger – priesthood. One fine day he spoke about it to his parish priest who put him in touch with a Salesian priest who invited him to spend a few days with the Salesians in Tirupattur. A week with the Salesians dispelled all thoughts of medical studies from his mind and he decided to join them and become a priest. He made his novitiate there and made his first profession as a Salesian on 8 December 1940. Nine years later he was ordained a priest on 2 April 1949.

Most of his active years he spent in educational ministry as teacher and Headmaster in our schools in Vellore, Mumbai, Chennai and Kerala. His past pupils are found all across the country and in all the continents. They remember him with great affection and esteem. After retiring from school ministry, he served in many parishes and institutions. For the past 31 years he has been at the Provincial House in Chennai.

- Fr. K. J. Louis SDB





BEHAVIOUR

Trust and authenticity – prerequisites for social media usage - By Nikhil Raghavan

In his Editorial in Business Economics (November 1-15, 2017), Dr. H. P. Kanoria, Editor-in-Chief says, "The Internet has become the friend of about 53% of Indians, whereas the global average of Internet users is 51%. While the Internet has its positives like connecting people, self-expression, sharing opinions with others, easy access to services, making online purchases, it also has its negatives like online gaming, gambling, pornography, rumour-mongering, addiction to the Net that result in reduced creativity, poor memory, disrupted sleep pattern, restlessness, aggressive social media behavior, etc."

It is the last-mentioned aspect that we will deal with, in this article. We have, very often, seen media reports of celebrities and politicians tweeting some personal remark or comment, obviously done in the spur of

the moment, in response to something they have seen, heard, read or encountered. There have been several instances when such, off-the-cuff remarks on social media have back-fired and the person in question has had to retract the comment or tender an apology.

This is the outcome of using the social media in an irresponsible manner. In an age where distances have been drastically cut short by the world wide web, and social media applications like FaceBook, Twitter, Telegram, Instagram etc. are tools at the tip of one's fingers, itching to type a cryptic or caustic message on the smartphone, is a tempting thing to do. Therefore, it has become a paramount necessity to exercise self-control and self-discipline whilst using the social media.

Where once there was a draconian law - Section 66A of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 which prohibited the sending of offensive messages through a communication device (i.e. through an online medium), the freedom of expression for the Indian citizen has been given due importance when the Supreme Court struck it down.

"It is clear that Section 66A arbitrarily, excessively and disproportionately invades the right of free speech and upsets the balance between such right and the reasonable restrictions that may be imposed on such right," said a Bench of Justices J. Chelameswar and Rohinton F. Nariman. The definition of offences under the provision was "open-ended and undefined", it said.

But, that doesn't mean that we have the freedom to use the Internet and the several social media applications that rides on it, in an irresponsible manner. It is typical human nature to misuse a freedom given to us. This is vastly attributed to the restrictive and protective environment that most of us grew up in.

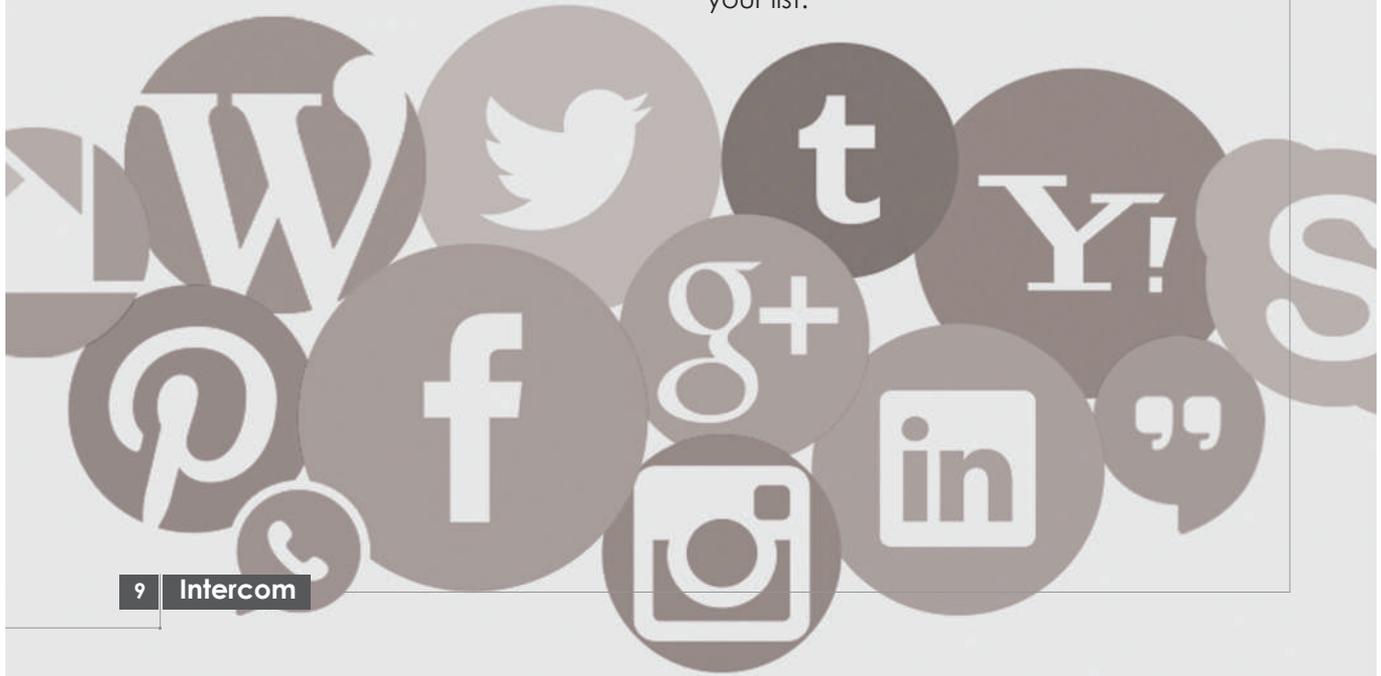
Just as in a classroom where the student must give proper respect and acknowledgement to the teacher, and in a dining room where the food and the

manner it is dealt with is by observing proper etiquettes, one's behaviour on the Internet, otherwise termed as 'Social Media Behaviour', has to be an integral part of one's psyche.

It is easy to get upset, influenced, motivated or insulting over the social media. After all, there is no face to face confrontation, you would say. But, remember, a reputation once damaged is difficult to repair in a short term. Also, repercussions from aggrieved parties, individuals and even corporations have sometimes resulted in destructive consequences to the person who has posted a cryptic or offensive comment.

Exercising restraint and refraining from commenting on issues which do not affect you, will, to a large extent avoid unpleasantness. If you do feel strongly about a particular issue raised by someone on the social media, it is advisable to write your thoughts on a separate document, read through it several times and, when you feel that impulsive quips and comments are eliminated, then is the right time to post it.

Finally, the online medium is new to most of us, but there is little difference in the way you connect with people face to face or over the Internet. The same basic tenets hold true. Trust and authenticity should remain high on your list.



Youth as our CENTRE



Youth focus is not merely one of the priorities of our Province; rather it is the primary reason for our existence as it is enshrined in the formula of our Salesian profession - 'to devote all my strength to those to whom you will send me, especially to young people who are poorer (Const. 24).' Salesian constitution No. 26 reaffirms that "The Lord made clear to Don Bosco that he was to direct his mission first and foremost to the young, especially to those who are poorer.... with Don Bosco we reaffirm our preference for the young 'who are poor, abandoned and in danger', those who have greater need of love and evangelization... we work especially in areas of greatest poverty." Speaking about the parish ministry, Salesian Regulation No. 25 would reiterate that we carry out our mission also in parishes, in those areas which offer us adequate scope for service to the young and to the poor.

Pope Francis would say that one cannot speak of Don Bosco today without seeing him surrounded by many young people and he appreciates the Salesians for offering young people an integral educational experience, firmly based on religious dimension that affects the mind, emotions, and the whole

person (June 21, 2015- Pastoral visit to Turin).

The Skewed Reality of our times:

- Many of our institutions are filled with young people, but lacking personal contact between the youth and the Salesians as most of us are too busy with coordination, administration and organizational building up.
- It is also a sad plight to see that most of our parishes/institutions do not have vibrant youth groups and even in those who have, it is of minimal membership and very cursory attention is given to youth.
- As Pope Francis points out young people often fail to find responses to their concerns, needs, problems and hurts in the usual structures. As adults, we find it hard to listen patiently to them, to appreciate their concerns, demands, and to speak to them in a language they can understand.

Attitudinal Change as Way forward:

- We cannot anymore address the youth as 'them', relegated to a corner or portion of our institution or time table; rather they are the visible nerve centre of our day to day lives. The concluding message of the Vatican II documents would clearly say: "It is to you, young men and women of the world that the council wishes to address its final message. For it is you who are to receive the torch from the hands of your elders and transform the society; you are to form the society of tomorrow in imitation of Christ who is eternally young. The church looks to you with confidence and with love."
- Every Salesian needs to have a mindset to continuously learn to accept the youth as they are and to facilitate them to grow as God wants them to become. Pope Francis would say: "Much more than the promotion of a series of activities for young people, this ministry consists in walking with them, accompanying them personally in the complex and at times difficult contexts in which they are immersed."
- The style of our youth accompaniment should facilitate Individual and group growth of the young people based on Gospel values and sound societal values. We need to continuously train them to insert themselves into two larger families, namely, the Church and the Society.
- Presence, Passion/compassion, Process should become the Salesian Mantra in realigning our focus on youth. Quality, effective and physical presence with the young sets the tone for our entire youth ministry. Ardent love coupled with compassion for the youth is the key to fruitfulness in youth ministry. Declining consciously from the 'Programme / Accomplishment' mania and paying more attention to the 'Purity of intention and grace-filled Process' of all our enterprises pays lasting fruits in our efforts

to reach the hearts and minds of the young people.

Tools for Enhancing Youth Ministry

- Effective, educative and salutary presence of the lay collaborators as part of the youth ministry team in any setting.
- A robust core team (office bearers) is the biggest strength for making a group active, alive and kicking.
- A workable plan of processes and programmes as emerging from a series of discussion with the young people (Short term as well as long term).
- The plan of processes and programmes should involve the following five important components.

1.Worship: Experience of faith and worship as a group and with the entire family of believers. This would implicate liturgy, drama for the Sunday school or some feasts, banner making, worship workshops, choir, prayer services, Eucharistic adoration, Confessions etc.

2.Study: The exploration of topics and issues on various subjects. It would mean insight films, mini courses on youth problems, Bible class, Social awareness, Christian ethics etc.

3.Ministry within the campus: All that the youth do with and for older and younger members of the campus. It could be a sports day for the catechism children, fun night for the elders, fancy fete, decorations etc.

4.Service to the neighborhood: Youth being of service to those outside their own campus. Youth work should cross the narrow boundaries of statistics and activities and make the youth reach out to others, to become agents of positive change in the church and society. Ecological concerns, water issues, Social causes, political awareness and involvement, cleaning up of the area outside, doing errand services to the sick and the elderly etc. should be



become part and parcel of any youth group.

5. Fellowship: Everything else like recreation, games, sports, cycle picnic, competitions, get-togethers, socials, trips, group building, eating out, retreats etc.

- Documentation of the success stories and pitfalls is always a big help for evaluation and continuity of any youth group. Statistical information and data base about the members help to know and embrace each other both in joyful and difficult moments. Recording of important events with visuals always help to relive the experiences and to learn from them.

At the centenary of Don Bosco's death, late Pope Saint John Paul II wrote a very special encyclical entitled 'Iventus Pater' in which he proclaimed Don Bosco as Father and Teacher of the young. Remembering this loving Don Bosco, let us be close to the youth. As loving sons of Don Bosco, every Salesian is called to become an attractive model for the young.

■ BIS CORRESPONDENTS MEETING ■

“You leave your footprints everywhere and anyone can trace you anytime, even after your death.”

The Internet is a powerful medium for communication. Riding on this vast, global network are several social media applications like the most popular FaceBook, YouTube, WhatsApp and Instagram.

Irresponsible utilisation of the social media platforms often bring about controversies, riots, hot exchange of words and enmity. With a view to exercise self-control and responsible usage of such powerful communication tools, a workshop for INM BIS Reporters was held at SIGA, Chennai on November 25, 2017

Salesian reporters and lay representatives from four Commissions and Departments of the Don Bosco Chennai Province gathered for a day to participate in a new strategy at work in lobbying for the poor and marginalized youth of Tamil Nadu including Gypsies, Dalits and Turumber communities.

The workshop was kick-started by Fr. Xavier Packiam, Economist and coordinated by Fr. Dominic, INM Province Secretary and Fr. P.T Joseph the Webmaster of the trending Don Bosco Chennai Website www.donboscochennai.org. Thirty participants

from various provinces of DB Chennai, were invited to register themselves in the reserved area of the portal which will enable them to post news and photographs directly, on a real time basis, as and when programmes and events take place in their regions.

Fr. Joaquim, Delegate of BOSCOM-India from Mumbai addressed the Chennai BIS special correspondents on the urgency and importance of sharing and dissemination of information. He outlined the branding of Don Bosco India and insisted on the need to amplify the success stories of our targeted youth on the local, province and national websites.

Mr. Nikhil Raghavan, with his seasoned journalistic style, is now on board with DB Chennai. His advice on the netiquette brought forth his 20 year experience with a leading national english newspaper. Fr. Dominic elaborated the topic from a congregational perspective and Fr. PT Joseph from a technical side. All three shared the same points of view : “Not to hurt the sentiments of any person and speak the truth. Be alert and responsible as you click the ‘likes’ and post items on social media. For you leave your footprints everywhere and anyone can trace you anytime, even after your death.”

Youth & Social Responsibility

Youth must spearhead social reforms -By Nikhil Raghavan

The society is where we belong, and which nurtures us to be responsible citizens. Similarly, we as individuals are also responsible to our society and all our actions reflect on the well-being of our society that we belong to. Hence, a very integral part of our upbringing is the social responsibility that we adopt which has a bearing on our own social behavior.

Since we live in colonies or apartments or localities which are inhabited by our own kind, unlike animals which live in a multi-species environment, our social behavior towards our neighbours and friends must be such that it does not disrupt the peace and tranquility of life in general.

Social responsibility primarily means taking ownership of the needs of the people around you and ensuring that these are met with the least amount of resistance or difficulty. If there are hardships and obstacles within the environment that dislocates the peace and harmony of the people in the neighbourhood, taking charge of such problems, and adopting means to try and solve as much as possible within a short time frame, is the primary meaning of social responsibility.

If the haves can help the have-nots, if the downtrodden is given a helping hand to uplift their lives, if the illiterate are given basic education so that their lives can become more meaningful, if a sense of spirituality is instilled in them to become God-fearing individuals, then, it can be said that the

individual who adopts a sense of such social responsibility has indeed succeeded in his endeavor.

There is always strength in numbers and it is easier to disseminate information, advice, education and social awareness, to a gathering of motivated people from a given neighborhood, rather than try to seek out individuals for such work. When groups within a society or colony or residential complex is brought together, there is already a sense of camaraderie. For the youth who spearheads such an initiative, there is a sense of achievement and responsibility and he feels that his work is taken seriously. For instance, let's say that out of a 100, only 95 persons are tuned towards the suggested action. The indifferent 5 will eventually fall in line with the others when they see the benefits of such social actions.

For the youth of today, besides their regular education in schools and colleges and their participation in sports and athletics, involvement in society at the grass root level provides them with more knowledge, experience and a sense of satisfaction that he has been able to contribute to society from where he has emerged. Change, as they say, is the only constant, but societal change happens gradually.

While it may not always be possible to see radical changes over night, for the youth of today, the satisfaction must come from the fact that he or she has involved themselves wholeheartedly for the purpose of influencing better social practices in the

community. Social work is a work in progress and once the person implementing it takes on a serious responsibility, then, the beneficiary will imbibe it better and faster. The results, sometimes, will show benefits immediately and sometimes as time goes by, but, we cannot postpone the work that needs to be done today.

The youth of today must remember that, while the society he is involved in shows such societal change and benefits now or later, he will be witness to seeing the fruits of his labour blossom and bloom. If such marked change happens in society, we can clearly say that the youth of today has indeed done a remarkable job of taking on a social responsibility. They can well revel in the knowledge that they have been a catalyst for change in the society that needs constant upgradation as life itself goes through changes that needs constant upgradation as life itself goes through changes.

Moving forward as **QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS**



Ten candidates were awarded with Diplomas in Material Testing after passing out successfully from the Zwick/Roell Academy in the Don Bosco Technical Campus, Basin Bridge. This is the first graduation of the Campus. The institution has benefited a lot from several industrial tie-ups and the students who pass out from it meet the demands of several companies served by Zwick/Roell of Germany.

The Zwick Roell Group is one of the world's leading suppliers of materials and component testing systems. They supply tailor-made solutions for the most demanding requirements – in both R&D and quality assurance, and in more than 20 industry sectors.

Fr. Jose Kochamkunnel, Provincial, Fr. Xavier Packia, Economer, Fr. Ashok Amaladoss, Principal and dignitaries from German were present for this special moment.



Focus on youth



A meeting was organised under the leadership of Fr. Don Bosco, Vice Provincial of Chennai Province, for young priests in their first five years of ordination (Quinquennium). Thirty-three young priests attended this meet on August 7 and 8, 2017 at The Citadel, Chennai.

Fr. K. M. Jose, the Provincial, Fr. Maria Charles and Fr. Simon Robert were present at the inaugural session. In his opening address, the Provincial reflected and shared with the young priests on the resolutions of Don Bosco, that he had taken on his ordination. Fr. Economist gave some insight on accounting and the importance of it. In particular, he said, "A new paradigm is in financial management".

Fr. Maria Charles and Fr. Robert Simon, were the designated animators for both days. Fr. Simon, referring to the present scenario of youth around the world and particularly in India and Tamilnadu asked the priests to write about the positive and negative qualities of young people of today. The presentation was with lots of statistical information and research on status of youth in today's life.

After this session, the whole group was divided into four and were asked to prepare

a chart stating the three major problems of the young people, which was followed by a short discussion. In the next session Fr. Charles explained and clarified the text book on "The Youth Ministry: A frame of reference".

There was an interesting programme called 'Youth talk', wherein the past pupils of the institutions were called to share their experiences on the contribution of the 'present youngsters' to the society and their achievements. Mr. Kumar, Mr. Prakash (Nammal Mudium) and Mr. Murali from Basin Bridge Youth Center were all grateful to the Salesians who were instrumental in bringing out their talents and helping them when they were in need. After having learnt from the Salesians, they work for the poor young people in the society and fighting for their causes through various means.

In the second day's session Fr. Charles animated the group with a game called 'Blind fold'. Later he continued the discussion on 'Youth Ministry' and emphasized the importance of 'planning' which is very much in need for the effective functioning of the Youth Ministry at each sector, province, community and individual. It was further explained in detail that, with the format of EPP & SEPP, it will enable every Salesian to focus in one direction and to achieve the goal, which is, to evangelize and to educate the youth through 'a planned and a systematic youth ministry.'



Bringing the YOUTH CENTRE back to STAGE



Deepavali, the festival of lights, was an ideal occasion to conduct a high level meeting of INM Rectors and Leaders on the appropriate theme - Light and Harmony. Rev. Fr. K. M. Jose, the Provincial urged the Rectors and Leaders to be Good Shepherds of their flock.

The Provincial said, "A leader should not demand respect but should earn it by the life he lives and not by just his words. Leaders should learn to be more like Jesus in exercising authority. Sometimes, there may be a need to sacrifice their own egos and ideas just for the sake of bringing about peace and harmony for the common good of the mission. A good leader takes into confidence each single member of the community, valuing their individual gifts and talents. Only then the community can grow and become a witness in the neighbourhood." This was followed by an interactive session with the leaders, clarifying their doubts and anxieties about

how to be a good Rector and effective leader.

The same day, the members gathered together again for a sharing information on the Youth Services. All the Parish priests and the Youth Center Directors shared their views on the very important issue of the way they work with the youth in the Parishes and Youth Centers.

In general, it was felt that much more has to be done to bring the youth back to the centerstage of the Mission, especially in most of the parish settings. Discussion also followed on how the Salesian institutions could put into better use the various departments of the Province: Deepagam, DBICA, Niraivagam, Kalvisolai, DBYES, Vazhikatti and DBSARC.

There was almost 100% attendance for the INM Rectors & Leaders Meeting held at the Salesian Provincial House, The Citadel, on October 18, 2017.

Youth AWAKE



A retreat, refreshes and revitalises and gives the opportunity to spend more time in prayer, to contemplate and rekindle one's relationship with God: with that note we started our **'Youth Awake 2017 - Season 2'**

We have started this spiritual journey to educate faith of the young, through night vigils commenced on 25th Feb 2017 and continued the series every last Saturday of the month until 28th Oct 2017. This season of Youth Awake revolved around the theme 'Family and Love'. Each month a diverse Biblical character was handpicked from Abraham of Old Testament to Cornelius of New Testament for us to reflect. We have not only reflected on these heroic biblical icons but we have applied them to our daily life.

Youngsters from various parishes used to gather in one of the Salesian parishes in Chennai region. We usually start at 10.00 pm and wide up at 5.00 am on the next day. We start with praise and worship in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and conclude with benediction. Then the chosen biblical character of the month will be disseminated with a deeper understanding in line with the theme. Following this session, we draft the practical application of the learnt Biblical icons to our day to day life. Finally we conclude the Youth Awake with the meaningful Confession, Spiritual Guidance and Holy Eucharist.

After completing nine consecutive night vigils, we have culminated, with the full

day retreat at Lourdes Shrine, Perambur. 327 youngsters from various parishes and institutions (Perambur, Vyasarpadi, Sathyamoorthi Nagar, Ayanavaram, Thiruvalluvar Nagar, Broadway, Puzhal, Sagayathoottam, Metha Nagar, Chetpet and Thiruvotriur) participated in this spiritual renewal. There were 20 confessors and spiritual lay counsellors were assisting the youngsters and many of them have benefited by the sacrament of reconciliation during this retreat. The entire praise and worship session was done by Don Bosco Voices (DBV) and Bosco Brass Band (BBB). Many youngsters gave their testimony in the afternoon session and it was a great help for others to grow strong in Catholic faith. The Retreat was animated by Fr. Parthiban SDB, Fr. David SDB and Fr. Mani Lazar SDB. The Place, food and other logistics were done by Fr. Deva Joe SDB, Fr. Pappuraj SDB, Fr. Thama SDB and Fr. Jamesraj SDB.

This well planned night vigil series of 'Youth Awake – Season 2' has come to a beautiful end for this year 2017. More than 50 youngsters voiced their wish to continue this night Vigil in the coming year 2018 too. So, we will be resuming this Youth Awake – Season 3 from February 2018. This Youth Awake is a collective effort of the Youth Pastoral departments of Chennai Province namely; Deepagam, Niraivagam and DBYES. This spiritual accompaniment of the young has yielded several testimonies. Through this spiritual exercise, we try to.

CBT WORKSHOP

Niraivagam

On 11th & 12th November 2017, Niraivagam – Don Bosco Institute of Psychological Services (DBIPS) hosted a two day workshop entitled “APPLICATION OF COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY (CBT)” at DBICA hall in “The Citadel”. The workshop was part of the CPD (Continuing Professional Development) course level II beginning and it was conducted as a run up for the “Niraivagam Day 2017”.

The Inaugural ceremony of CBT Workshop commenced with the lighting of lamp by a group of dignitaries: Rev. Fr. Edwin George - the Rector, Fr. Paul Raj - Director of Niraivagam, Fr. Babu Pushparaj - Prof. of Don Bosco College, Ms. Preenu Ashok of NPS (Network of Professional Social Workers) and Ms. Veena from University of Madras.

The Inaugural program was followed by introductory words by Fr. Paul Raj, Director of Niraivagam, who presented an overview of the two days workshop. He motivated everyone to actively participate in the workshop and get trained to apply CBT in specific issues in their counseling and therapeutic settings. The keynote speech was delivered by Rev. Fr. Edwin George, Rector – Chennai Province who emphasized the importance of the workshop.

After the Inauguration, the Sessions were handled by Mr. Thaddeus Alfonso, Assistant Director of Niraivagam for the whole two days. The workshop focused on CBT in Anxiety and Depression and themes like Cognitive distortion, Cognitive Technique where explored through Role Plays and



case studies. The 45 participants who attended the workshop were a good mixture of Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Doctorate in Psychology, Research Scholars and Counselors from all parts of Tamil Nadu.

At the end of the second day Dr. Ranganathan, Founder President, “Family Society for Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services” delivered a lecture on the importance of psychological service in today’s world.

All the participants were given certificate of participation in the ‘Niraivagam Day 2017 and Award Ceremony.’



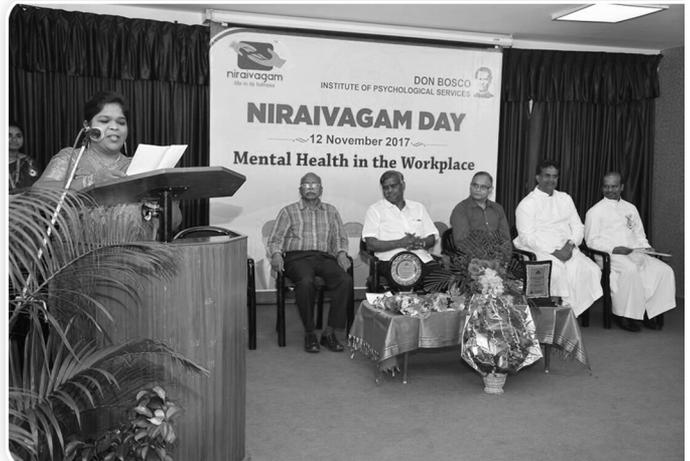
NIRAIVAGAM DAY AND AWARD CEREMONY 2017

Niraivagam Day 2017 and Award Ceremony was held on 12th November 2017 in the DB College Premises at The Citadel, Chennai. It was presided by the Chief Guest Dr. S. Karunanidhi, Prof. Head, Dept of Psychology, University of Madras.

The Programme commenced with the Invocation Dance by Miss. Irene which brought in feeling of divine inspiration and presence. This was followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries. Then Fr. Paul Raj, Director of Niraivagam delivered welcome address. He also presented the Theme Song of the Institute and the overview of activities of the year, through a video presentation.

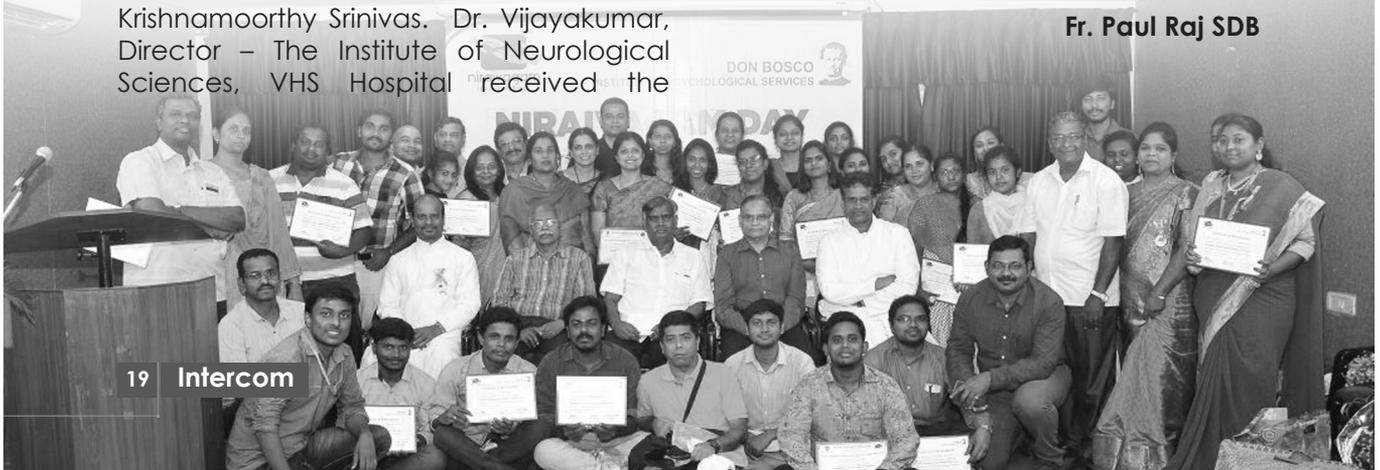
The Special Address was given by Vice-provincial, Chennai Province, Rev. Fr. Don Bosco Lourdasamy SDB who highlighted the contribution of the Niraivagam, Don Bosco Institute of Psychological Services to the Salesian Province of Chennai to other educational institutions. After that Dr. Prof. Karunanidhi delivered the keynote address on Mental health in Workplaces.

Niraivagam was privileged and honoured as the Vice provincial Fr. Don Bosco gave away the award for Life time contribution to Mental Health to Late. Dr. Prof. Krishnamoorthy Srinivas. Dr. Vijayakumar, Director – The Institute of Neurological Sciences, VHS Hospital received the



award on behalf of the late veteran. Dr. M. Ranganathan, Founder President, Family Fellowship Society for Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services received the award for Excellence in Mental Health Service. The awardees in their responses were much appreciative of Salesians to start an institute that caters specifically to psychological needs of the young.

The program concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony for CPD participants for completing their Level I successfully and CBT participants for participation in two day workshop that was conducted by Niraivagam.



ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS OF THE YOUTH

Fr. Sebastian Vanathayan SDB, Parish Priest, conducted the Vicariate Level Youth Meeting at Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Polur on October 2, 2017, where 120 youngsters attended. Divided into three sessions, the resource person for the first one was Mr. Vinayagam. The caste system was given emphasis during this session which was also an orientation for the youth on the present political and economic situation.

Fr. Mani Lazer, the Youth Director for the Salesian Province of Chennai was the resource person for the second session.

He spoke about the common problems that are prevailing in the society, such as NEET exams, Hydro Carbon extraction in Tamil Nadu, GST etc. He emphasized on the lack of knowledge among the young people and urged them to acquire such knowledge.

The third session was panel discussion regarding the action plans for each Parish. Here Fr. Mani Lazer SDB, Fr. Gnana Sekar, the Youth Director of Vellore diocese and Mr Stephen Raj, the coordinator of the DBSARC were the panel members for the discussion.



EFFECTIVE TEACHING METHODS

*at Don Bosco Tribal Development Society,
Jawadhi Hills on September 30, 2017,*

- Animated by Mr Stephen Raj

The training for the night school teachers of Don Bosco Tribal Development Society, Jawadhi Hills was divided into three different sessions. First session was about '5 reasons to be an effective teacher'. The second was '4 effective teaching methods' and the last session was group discussion and presentation. The first two sessions were interactive. The trainees were given opportunity to share their views and opinions. During second session, four methods were taught to them and a demo for each method was given by the trainer.

The third session was a group discussion and presentation. Here they were divided into 6 groups. Each group had chosen a teaching method and at the end of each presentation it was evaluated by others.



THE NEED FOR CONDUCTING OF NIGHT SCHOOLS

Night schools are independent bodies through which the needed changes of education can be made. The night school staff of Vellore, Tirupattur, Yelagiri and Dharmapuri were the participants of the animation by Fr. Andrew SDB and Mr. Stephen Raj on November 11, 2017.

The first session was taken by Fr. Andrew SDB, where he emphasized more on what are the ways and means to bring societal changes by changing the student's' lifestyle and introducing new habits for those students. Many tips that Fr. Andrew gave were practical and inspiring.

The second session was on "how to conduct night school", which included, how to maintain records, the methodology to be followed and the ways to show care and love to the students.

The third was sharing session, where many of the staff, shared the difficulties that they face in conducting night school, the new ideas that they have introduced in their centre such as children's court.

HOW TO MAINTAIN *Industrial Safety and Health*



Most of the employees getting into an industry do not know that they have a right for being safe and healthy in the given environment; Industrial safety and health is every employee's right. The animation for the 42 ITI students who participated in the Training and Animation by Mr. Stephen Raj at DBSARC, was purely based on the Factories Act 1948.

The health and safety provisions in the Act were discussed with the students and the concept was simplified according to the level of the ITI students. Many practical tips for the students were given - for instance, when they meet with an accident, what is the role of an organisation in helping that particular person, the safety materials that all the employees should have in the organization, the responsible persons both in the industry and in the society for their health and safety. All these and the ways and means to contact such people were discussed in the animation.

MOTIVATION *for social action*

Social action is required in a community or a state where there is injustice and inequality. It is to resolve this injustice and inequality, that an animation for 160 students of Don Bosco Hr. Sec. School, Gedilam was held on November 11, 2017, with the motive of encouraging them to know more about the subject.

The topics discussed during this session were: The constitutional right to be treated as equal; The structure of the society; The

poor farmers who are abandoned both by the people and by the government; The government policies that are not in favour of the people.

The intention of the animation was to motivate students to be more involved in the society. Being the group of younger students, some of these concepts were too heavy for them to understand. But it served as an introduction to the need for social action.

ONLY GOOD INITIATIVES *will change society*



Social media is a powerful tool which everyone can access and use for social change. The animation on Social Media for Social Change for the students of class 11 of Dominic Savio Hr. Sec. School, Tirupattur was conducted on October 17, 2017 by Mr. Stephen Raj.

During the interactive session with 203 students, many participated and shared their views on several social issues. A few major social issues, like the Sagarmala hydrocarbon project, were discussed with the students. Hearing of the threats that are coming up in our society, the students asked what they could do in order to stop such social evils. There were a lot of opinions and suggestions that were given by them. In summary, the conclusion was drawn that life has to be self-sustaining. Being hopeful of political parties and political leaders to change things will never happen. There has to be good initiatives from the people for social change.

- Fr. Valan SDB

Orientation for Bosco Outreach

Bosco Outreach programme is one of the important activities of the Don Bosco College, Yelagiri. During this year's three-day Outreach programme, Orientation was the subject for the first day. The importance of the Outreach programme, participatory rural appraisal, and the several stages of a rural camp which includes planning, implementation, summing up, evaluation and follow-up were discussed. The objectives of the rural camp was to implement Resource mapping, Social mapping and format for documentation.

In the next session Prof, Arockia Raj from the Department of Social Work of Sacred Heart College, addressed the students for motivating them to participate in the camp with full spirit. He was emphasizing more on the motivation that every student should have for the camp and for their life. The participation of the students was good.

UNDERSTANDING THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL GROWTH

It is very important for the teenagers to understand their Psycho-social growth. Twelve students from classes 3 to 6 of Thurambar Village, Aarani and Thurambar Development Centre, Gingee were taught basic English grammar. To make it easier, the teaching was based on activity and it was found that many students were showing interest and picked up the lessons very easily.

The second session was for the boys and girls of class 7-11. The children were made to understand certain behaviours of theirs in the family, school and in the society. Related questions were asked, in order to get the right answers from them for their behaviour.



The Holy Order of **PRIESTHOOD** CONFERRED ON EIGHT NEW PRIESTS



The Salesian Province of Chennai (INM) celebrated the Priestly Ordination of eight of her sons on December 27 2017. The Holy Order of Priesthood was conferred on them by Most Rev. Dr. George Antonysamy, DD, Archbishop of Madras - Mylapore at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Perambur, Chennai.

The eight Priests who were ordained are Fr. Anbu Francis, Fr. Anto Jegadish Kunaseelan, Fr. Anto Sagayaraj, Fr. Arulanand Mariadass, Fr. Jayaraj Masilamani, Fr. Joseph John, Fr. Sagayaraj Periyanyagam and Fr. Williams Paulraj.

 Anbu FRANCIS <i>Lead, fill me with Your Spirit</i> 28 th Dec. 2017 (Thursday) 06.00 p.m. St. Antony's Church Sathyanaglam, Villupuram	 Anto Jegadish KUNASEELAN <i>Take God, do keep His Commandments</i> 28 th Dec. 2017 (Thursday) 10.30 a.m. Our Lady of Lourdes Church Madayakkan, Chennai	 Anto SAGAYARAJ <i>The Lord is my shepherd.</i> 28 th Dec. 2017 (Thursday) 06.00 p.m. Infant Jesus Church Chinnaya Nagar, Chennai	 Arulanand MARIADASS <i>Made in My Love</i> 28 th Dec. 2017 (Thursday) 6.00 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Church Zamin Gadbore, Tiruvannamalai	 Jayaraj MASILAMANI <i>Jesus was My Love</i> 29 th Dec. 2017 (Friday) 5.30 p.m. Arockia Madha Church Oghur, Tiruvannamalai	 Joseph JOHN <i>With You, Oh Lord, I'm Glad</i> 29 th Dec. 2017 (Friday) 10.00 a.m. Periyanyagi Annal Kalayam Velikunanguruchi, Cuddalore	 Sagayaraj PERIYANYAGAM <i>So hard to say small dream</i> 30 th Dec. 2017 (Saturday) 5.30 p.m. Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Kanakkuppam, Villupuram	 Williams PAULRAJ <i>Jesus, Please</i> 28 th Dec. 2017 (Thursday) 10.30 a.m. Christ the King Church Nellyankulam, Tiruvannamalai
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CHILDREN'S

SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2017



Don Bosco Institute of Communication Arts (DBICA), organized its 9th children short film festival titled "Celebrate Childhood" on 9th December 2017. The festival focused on promoting short films that enhanced the phenomenon of child rearing through the realms of socio-cultural, eco-political, financial and self-empowering economy of an environment.

500 children were invited from different child care centres in and around Chennai as audience.

The programme began at 10.30 am and concluded at 5.00 pm. The inaugural ceremony was hoisted by Director GopiNainar of Aram, Tamil Feature Film

Director Lenin Bharathi of MerkuToadarchiMalai, Tamil Feature Film

AnandKumaresan of KakkaaMuttai, Tamil Feature Film

Poet. Uma Devi, Aram Tamil Feature Film presided over the event as chief guests of the day.

Rev. Fr. Xavier Packia the province Economer and Rev.Fr. Edwin George, the Rector of Citadel were present and graced the event as the guest of honor.

They universally said that contribution towards children oriented short films or feature films area rare and required choice. Among the received short films 15 short films we selected for screening

'My name is Sitha' directed by P. Hari Raj won the first prize

'Karb' directed by Junaid Imam Shaikh awarded second

'Identity' directed by S. Raja took the third place

The total cash award was 1,00,000/-. We thank the benefactors, sponsors who benevolently contributed for the success of the day by way of meeting the expenses for food, transport and LED screening. DBICA salutes each and every one who made the day a grand success.

Br. Arun Raj SDB
Festival Director,
DBICA



Towards encouraging **ENTREPRENEURSHIP** and improving skill development

Don Bosco Technical Institutions are all out to re-energise their activities in line with the mission of Prime Minister to make India the skill capital of the world. The process of strategic thinking, strategic planning, with objectives and their work plans were outlined by Dr. Thaddeus, the Chennai Provincial Councillor of Don Bosco Technical Education in the presence of two high profile personnel from the Advance Training Institute, ATI Chennai under the aegis of the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship, Government of India.

Fr. PT Joseph, the head of the Technical Education Council, organized the event at The Citadel, Province HQ on 18 November 2017. He said, "This Annual General Body Meeting of Don Bosco Technical Institutions is a maiden event of the third millennium synergizing all the technical centres and services within the province."

Mr Senthil Kumar, Director, ATI Chennai, invited as the chief resource person of the day thanked Fr. Don Bosco, Vice Provincial of Chennai Province for the service rendered to the less privileged youth of Tamil Nadu and invited the Directors and Principals to step up the skilling of youth in their 15 institutions by tapping various resources available at Government and in corporate sectors for the benefit of the students.

"More importantly, adequate training for trainers should be provided, with the support of the ATI. We do not mind organising a separate programme for DBTEI. Besides your current industry tie ups, you should also explore tie ups with



industrial associations. Another interesting development is our Distance Learning Project which is ISRO supported through their satellite interactive terminal. This will help us to offer mobile App based training, too," informed Senthil Kumar.

Towards Don Bosco Technical Council's dream of a Skill University, Mr Senthil Kumar expressed his views by saying that, "It would be a good idea to have such a centre for offering end to end levels of training and qualification to empower the candidates with sufficient skills for any industry-related skills." The Additional Director of ATI Chennai, Mr Yuvaraj and Mr Charles, the private consultant presented the mission of ATI and showed how the engineers and diploma students fine tune their skills within two weeks at ATI. The latter moderated the discussions based on SWOT analysis of each institution.

Fr. James Bernard, Fr. Soundardass and Fr. Andrews Stephen coordinated the presentations of the 3 Polytechnic colleges, 5 ITIs and multiple VTCs respectively.

A RECOGNITION OF QUALITY OF EDUCATION AT SIGA POLYTECHNIC



The National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), located at Taramani, Chennai is conducting a training programme titled Advanced Certificate Course on Curriculum Design and Instructional Material Development from November 29, 2017 to January 23, 2018. Sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, the current batch has 18 participants from 12 countries, consisting of teachers in colleges, officers of curriculum development centres and officials of ministry of education.

The eight-week programme is designed to give the participants a good exposure to curriculum design practices, instructional material development concepts and vocational education practices.

Dr. S. Dhanapal, Course Coordinator organised for the delegation of participants to visit SIGA Polytechnic College on December 6, 2017, mentioning that, "Since your institute offers several successful non-formal training programmes and a diploma

programme with proven curriculum and instructional methods, it is felt that the participants will benefit by an exposure to your practices as well as through interaction with your faculty."

After the visit of the delegation, Dr. Dhanapal remarked, "The participants gave very good feedback about the Diploma program in Printing Technology and the non formal program you are offering. The dedication and commitment of your staff in their work caught their attention in their very first visit and they were appreciative of the same. They were also mentioning the excellent and modern infrastructure you have in the laboratories."

This is a shot in the arm to SIGA Polytechnic College which has been striving hard to become a centre of excellence in their chosen field.

- Fr. PT Joseph SDB

To make SIGA a Centre of Excellence

During the Second Technical Education Council meeting, Fr. P. T. Joseph said that a preliminary study of the situation of SIGA was done. He then presented a plan to the house council for further review by the Technical Council. This is in line with the chapter deliberation to make SIGA the Centre of Excellence in Printing Technology.

1. SIGA has placed an application to the Government of India, to make the non-formal courses and SDC programme recognized under The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Benefit: This will permit SDC students access the Advanced Training Government Certification, available at ATI, Chennai.
2. SIGA Polytechnic College is run by SISS, and SIGA and SIGA Press by SIGA society. It is advisable to show SIGA as a separate institute with separate account books that runs the SDC Benefit: This may ensure the continuity of the Press within city limits.
3. SIGA is to be identified and recognized as the non-formal skill training centre, by Government of India under the same ministry. Benefit: To avail financial

assistance available under Government Schemes. This will also exempt GST for the fees of the SDC courses.

4. Upto now, at least 3 companies have come forward to train our students within our campus, under their brand name. Trail training and job work including drafting of MoU are in progress. Benefit: Job and company oriented training will prepare our students with higher employability skills. High paid jobs at MNC assured. Stipend and LEAP fundraiser is under discussion

The Second Technical Education Council of Chennai Province meet held on September 16, 2017 at Don Bosco Polytechnic College, Basin Bridge



A MEANINGFUL CELEBRATION WITH THE CHILDREN



For the poor and slum children of Kilpauk, Chennai, it was a day of joy and celebrations when the Don Bosco Youth Centre of Rinaldi Juniorate (SIGA) community gathered them all to observe the World Day of the Poor, as declared by the Holy Father. On November 26, 2017, nearly 400 children from the local government schools, slums and neighbouring oratories were brought to the SIGA campus grounds to participate in a fancy fete, games, fusion dances and songs.

The Don Bosco oratory youth members along with the Bosco hostel boys meticulously planned and organized the day for the poor children. There were more than 15 fancy fete games organized by the Brothers Baptison, Thomas, Johannes

and Satheesh Paul along with the oratory members, in a creative way attracting the children and motivating them to play cheerfully. All those who won in the fancy fete games received very attractive prizes also.

At the end of the fancy fete games, all the children gathered in the hall for an orientation speech by Fr. John Christy, the Rector of SIGA and Fr. Kasi Sagayaraj, the Director of DBYC. A short video presentation on Don Bosco was screened to motivate them to become better children of the country. A sumptuous lunch also was arranged for them. The program concluded with lunch and the teachers accompanied the children back to their homes.

OBSERVING THE WORLD DAY OF THE POOR



The Social Service Club (SSC) and Spiritual Club (SC) of Don Bosco Agro Tech, Polur visited AIM Seva NGO and Physically Challenged School on the occasion of World Day of the Poor, on November 24, 2017. At AIM Seva, the students of Don Bosco Agro Tech distributed food to the orphan children, while, at the Physically Challenged school, they distributed games and sweets.

Fr. Rector Sebastian Francis accompanied the teachers and students of DB Agro Tech, to both these institutions, on this occasion.



Experiences of priests TO ENCOURAGE MISSIONARY ASPIRANTS



The annual Salesian Mission Day 2017 of Chennai Province was held at Don Bosco Missionary Aspirantate, Perambur, on November 26, 2017. Several houses and centres participated in the function which comprised of cultural programmes, panel discussion and exhibition. ‘

These were: Full community of Novitiate, Full community of Don Bosco Aspirantate, Tirupattur, Becchi - Don Bosco Theologate, Fatima School of FMA at Kodambakkam, Don Bosco Beatitudes, Vyasarpadi, DB short stay home, Mathur, the family members of our missionary aspirants from all over the state and all the priests, religious and lay people.

“This year the subject of the panel discussion was about the experiences of some priests in foreign locations like America and Africa. The theme of the Day was ‘Initial Proclamation and the Indigenous Peoples of America’, as suggested by the Generalate,” said Fr. Arokiaswamy Arputharaj, Vice Rector, Don Bosco Missionary Aspirantate.

The main celebrant for the concluding mass was Fr. Xavier Packiam, Economer, who stood in for the Provincial.

- Fr. Arokiaswamy Arputharaj SDB

THE CHALLENGES OF THE PRIESTLY VOCATION

The Gift of the Priestly Vocation (Revised RATIO for priestly formation) was the topic of an appropriate presentation by Fr. Jerome Vallabaraj, which set the right tone for the meeting of formation houses at Becchi Don Bosco Theological centre. This was followed by a discussion among the 25 members - 5 from Don Bosco Thirupattur, 6 from Don Bosco Perambur, 3 from Novitiate, 8 from the Theologate, 2 Formation Commission members and Fr. Provincial.

What makes us happy as we read this? What, in this document, is strengthening us in what we are already doing? What is this document challenging us? What changes

are expected of us? These questions were pondered over and discussed at length by those who participated in the meeting.

Fr. Bellarmine Fernando presented a draft of The Formation Directory of the Chennai Province (Revised), and the group discussed this with an emphasis on:

Concerns of the various formation houses

Quality of formators

Ongoing formation

Curatorium for joint formation houses

The meeting ended with the Provincial of Chennai Fr. K. M. Jose's address.

- Bro. Simolin Ferk SDB



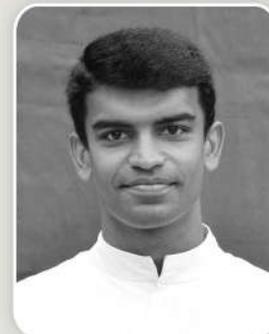
THE BOOK PRESENTATION IN DBTC

■ Kavarapettai On 29.11.17 ■

“CHRIST OUR JOY”

The author **Msgr. Joseph Murphy** is a native of Ireland, received his S.T.L. degree from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. The book spotlights on Pope Benedict XVI who constantly emphasizes that Joy presupposes goodness, love and truth. He teaches that true joy can be found only in knowing and loving the God of truth, who alone satisfies the human longing for meaning and enduring happiness. Christianity is a religion of joy. It begins with the angel's greeting to Mary: “Rejoice”. The truth is discovered in encountering with the One who alone is Truth, leads to authentic and unfailing Joy.

BRO. ASHLEY



“REACHING OUT”

BRO. PREM



Henri Jozef Machiel Nouwen, was a Dutch Catholic priest. His interests were rooted primarily in psychology, pastoral ministry, spirituality, social justice and community. This book speaks about three types of moving out. They are 1. Reaching Out to Our Innermost Self: First movement from Loneliness to Solitude. 2. Reaching Out to our Fellow Human Beings: Second movement: From Hostility to Hospitality. In this step we create space for Hospitality for the Host. 3. Reaching Out to Our God: Third Movement: From Illusion to Prayer. The author concludes by saying Live each and every moment of life joyfully. Don't deny loneliness, hostilities & illusion. Instead, allow, understand, confess them, in order that they may be converted in to solitude, hospitality and prayer and the crucified Jesus will help us in this process.

“EGO: THE WORST ENEMY AND THE BEST FRIEND”

The author **Shammi Sukh** is an Indian. The book builds upon the most gnawing and incessant human hunger called Ego. It is a desire to be great. The term Ego means “the sense of individuality” or “self-worth”. A certain degree of ego is essential for maintaining good mental health and making progress in life. The better position is to be to something with the ego position of “I am Priceless and you are Priceless”. The author goes beyond ego and gives two states. They are Fused and Diffused Ego states. “Diffused Ego State” is the one, when one gets “fused” to everyone and one's ego gets “spread” or “diffused” over a large number of people, so that the person “loses” the sense of individuality for the sake of humanity.

BRO. SIMOLIN



OPEN DAY

AT THE HOMES OF STUDENTS

Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Sagayathottam is in Vellore Dt. It is situated at the border of three districts, namely Vellore, Tiruvallore and Kancheepuram. The school is from Grade 6 to 12. Tamil is the medium of language.

The school reaches out to the poor children around Sagayathottam. It is in existence since 1990. It's an unaided school. It has managed to cater to many thousands of students and has illumined their lives.

This year it has set history by taking the open day to the homes of its students. On 06-01-18, the staff and the headmaster visited the homes of 550 students to interact with the parents and present the academic progress of their children. It has paved way for a conducive atmosphere to build a better rapport between the school and different stakeholders.

Following is the process undertaken to carryout this initiative.

PREPARATION BEFORE THE OPEN DAY

- Every student in the school has a test file each wherein all the exam answer scripts have been filed.
- Every class teacher maintains a class remark note book wherein all the remarks related to leaves taken, general behaviour, interaction with parents, their academic performance throughout the year etc... are registered
- our 550 students hail from 47 villages. We clustered them into 19 groups depending on the numbers so as to facilitate easy route for the 19 staff members including the headmaster.
- With the cumulative mark sheet of each class, the marks were entered into excel



sheets and sorted out village wise. An excel sheet was prepared teacher wise.

- The marks were also entered in the school handbook of each student.
- The teachers collected the individual remarks from the note book maintained by the class teachers.
- The test files were sorted village wise.
- Each of the teachers had a short meeting with their respective groups on the previous evening to ascertain the route map, timings and to appoint students who would accompany the staff.
- The parents were already intimated through the students. As an alternative way, a reliable student each was chosen from every village to go around communicating the news to the parents.

HOME VISIT DAY

- Staff members set out to their respective villages at 8.30 am
- The student representatives were waiting for the teachers.

- The teachers visited the homes as per the route map and interacted with parents.
- They spent about 10 minutes in each of the houses.
- They briefed the parents of the progress of their wards. They counselled them, listened to their stories.
- They actually saw the living conditions of the children.
- They concluded their visit at about 4.00 pm.

THE GENERAL FINDINGS

- Parents of 544 students were present.
- 90% of parents were illiterate
- About 95% of parents were agriculture based coolies as their area is predominantly agrarian in nature.
- As their living area is just 80 kilometers from Chennai, it's slowly becoming industrial area. Some parents have started going to work in factories for menial jobs.
- Some students go to work before and after coming to school. (Weaving, Collecting jasmine flowers or roses in the fields or grazing cattle)
- Technology is slowly replacing people in agricultural sector.
- 85% of houses lacked toilet facility
- TV and use of mobile phones have a big impact on them
- Most of the houses lacked suitable lightning condition.

FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS

- They were delighted about this move of having open house in their homes
- They felt that the school was with them
- They expressed that they couldn't believe having staff members visiting their houses.

- They complained that their wards were not spending sufficient time for studies. They waste away their time for playing marbles or cricket.
- Most of the villages that had schools up-to primary level have been upgraded up-to elementary level. They complain that the local government schools wouldn't give them transfer certificates after grade 5 to join at Don Bosco. Those school fear lacking strength in their respective schools. They neither teach well nor allow their children to join Don Bosco school. This seems to be the reason why their children find it difficult to cope up with studies when they reach grade 9.

FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

- Initially, they were perturbed about this home visit.
- Some of them did not communicate about this visit to their parents.
- They took time to clean their houses which made the parents happy.
- As this event gained momentum, more students accompanied the teachers and it became a celebration.
- They themselves started enjoying the visit of teachers. Many expressed that they were very happy about teachers coming to their homes.
- They started having high regard for the school and teachers.
- They became more hospitable and receptive.
- They felt that they received individual attention.
- They did not fear the staff members any more. They felt very comfortable with them.

FEEDBACK FROM NEIGHBOURS

- They were very curious.
- They initially thought that the staff had

come to take census.

- They were in a state of wonder how such visits were possible
- Some of them expressed that they preferred to bring their children to our school as there is personal care for children.
- It became the talk of the village that day.

FEEDBACK FROM STAF MEMBERS:

- Each of the class teachers conducted an evaluation in their respective classes.
- A evaluation meeting was held for the staff members
- They shared their experiences in the villages.
- Initially feared how this was going to be.
- They were cooperative from the start.
- They felt that since proper preparation was done, the execution became very easy.
- Some teachers started the visits on the previous day itself. Some completed their visit only at 7 pm.
- A few teachers, when they did not find the parents at home, went to the fields where they were working.
- Since they have seen the living conditions of the students, they said that they could understand them better and work for them more.
- They felt that they could understand the parents better.
- They could now sense why certain students were under performing.
- They felt that it was a God given opportunity to work in this school to reach out to these deserving students.

FOLLOW UP WORK

- Each teacher would write a report of their visit.



- They will continue to monitor the students allotted for each of them.
- They will maintain a note book for each group to note down their interactions, progress of students, further home visits, details of telephonic conversations, etc...
- They will interact with other teachers to see how they can help the students of their group.
- They will continue to meet the students of their respective groups frequently and counsel them.
- They will visit the homes of the late achievers of their group
- This homely open day will be carried out every year.
- This homely open day will be conducted at the end of first term, at the beginning of October from the following year(2018), in order to follow up for a longer duration of the academic year.
- The success story of our school will be shared with other school in order to carry forth these good practices in other schools.
- Guidance will be provided to other schools to carry forth this practice.
- This good practice could be published in news papers or magazines.
- A report will be sent to the chief Educational officer
- A report will be sent to the province magazine and web news.

Ulayor THAMIZHAR THIRUVIZHA.



A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots. It is a one of the finest thoughts of Marcus Garvey. Keeping this thought as a guideline the Salesian Province of Chennai organized its Youth Fest 2018 titled as **Ulayor Thamizhar Thiruvizha**. Youngsters from various Salesian houses of Chennai region have gathered big in number to remind the richness of their culture and to celebrate it with joy and optimism. The province youth council have planed this event long back with Fr. Mani Lazar SDB, the province youth director and executed it with minute details. It took place at DBYC – Rinaldi grounds. There were more than 450 youngsters with 24 Salesians participated in this fest. Fr. John Bosco SDB the Youth Pastoral Delegate inaugurated this fest and gave the need and reasons to celebrate this fest. To crown this celebration, Fr. Cedric Bout SDB the centenarian came over here and graced this event. There were 19 youth groups participated in the fest and among them two were non Salesian Youth groups.

The fest highlighted three major nuances of **Tamzh** Culture; namely Traditional sports, food and folk arts of the soil. Folk artists from Tanjavur, Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur came over here and exhibited the rich folk arts of our soil. The youngsters expressed their bravery by participating in the traditional games throughout the day. Sumptuous traditional lunch was served to all the participants during lunch. The entire place was decorated with in a traditional manner by the youngsters of Rinaldi Oratory and our sincere thanks to all the members and to its Director Fr. Kasi Sagayaraj SDB and to the Rector Fr. John Christy SDB.



Our Sincere thanks to all the youth ministry coordinators for sending their youngsters for this fest.

Culture makes people understand each other better. And if they understand each other better in their soul, it is easier to overcome the economic and political barriers. But first they have to understand that their neighbour is, in the end, just like them, with the same problems, the same questions. – Paulo Coelho. Though the festival is a harvest and thanks giving festival, we spent a qualitative time to reflect the plight of the fisher folk of Kumari and Kerela during the recent Ockhi Cyclone. We took a resolution that we will protect our formers and fisher folks who feed us every day with great sacrifice. The day was ended very meaningfully, and the youngsters went back home with the greater responsibility to safeguard their culture and their people by knowing its rich cultural nuances. At the same time we reminded ourselves, that we live in a multicultural society and we will not reject the culture of the other, but we will prepare to listen, to see, to dialogue and, in the final analysis, to possibly accept the other's culture without compromising our culture. We have taken the watch word for all us that "Be rooted in your culture and be open to the culture of the other too"

A Quarterly Visit to **ST. ANTHONY'S, S.M. NAGAR**

(September – November 2017)

Bible Month 2017: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom" Colossians 3:16), was the theme for the Bible month that was observed in September 2017. The ever permeating breath of the word of God was agog in all the families, Anbiyams and campus of St. Anthony's church, S.M. Nagar throughout the Bible month. There was an active and lively participation of one and all in the following events organized in view of the Bible month.

Daily prayer and action plan based on Scripture	At Family level
Coronation of the Word of God	At Family level
Biblical Meditation	At Parish level
Biblical Rosary	At Parish level
weekly Bible Quiz	At Family level
Weekly Bible Classes (Gospel of St. Luke, st. John, Introduction to Old Testament books and Pauline Letters)	At Parish level
Proclamation of the Word of God to evening study children	By the Zones
Bible competitions at parish level	For Catechism Children and Youth
Inter Parish Bible Drama competition	At Perambur Vicariate level
Talk on "Mary in the Scriptures"	At Parish level
Bible Exhibition	By the Anbiyams
Bible Sunday celebration	At Parish level
Gospel Convention (Three days)	At Parish level
Bible Quiz	At Diocesan level

Annual day of the Legion of Mary: The parish is well supported by the prayers and services of the 4 presidiums of Legion of Mary that are functioning in the parish with 100 memberships. They had their annual day celebration on 29th September in the afternoon hours. It was a confluence of all the good-minded people under the powerful banner of Mother Mary. The proceedings of the day went on very well with a debate as the characteristic event.

Zonal level Anbiyam meetings: The month of October was a memorable one for all the members of the parish as it witnessed a special coming together of people at Zonal level. There are 20 Anbiyams in the parish and they have the monthly anbiyam



meeting in their area. The parish jurisdiction is divided into four prophetic zones, namely, Jeremiah Zone, Ezekiel Zone, Isaiah Zone and Daniel Zone. Each zone comprises of a few Anbiyams. For the first time, we had the zonal level anbiyam meetings during which there was a healthy interaction between the families of different Anbiyams.

The Procedure for the zonal meetings was as follows: Rosary - Ice breaking games - Sharing about families - Holy mass during which there was scripture sharing & praying for each other - Evaluation of parish events & information regarding upcoming events - Food sharing.

Mission Sunday & Month of Rosary: A Church that is not visionary and missionary chooses its own slow death. Propelled by the Word of God, the parishioners of SM Nagar went all out to celebrate their annual mission Sunday through a well planned and executed Fancy Fete and the Mission Sunday celebration on October 22nd. The forenoon of the whole day was spent as a family in the church campus. The day began with a solemn Holy Mass officiated by Fr. Bernard Lawrence, the Director of the Arch-diocesan Pastoral Centre. It was followed the fancy fete that was characterized by a lot of eatery stalls, games booths, auctioneering and a lot of fun-filled events that kept the parish community united in action for the missionary cause.

Mother Mary always remains the first and the best missionary by bringing forth Jesus the Saviour into the world through her active collaboration with the Father. Her guidance and intercession was sought in a special way by renewing the salutary practice of praying the Rosary at family level. At Anbiyam level, people went from house to house praying the Rosary as a group throughout the month of October that brought about special protection of the Blessed Mother to our area.

Sacramental Catechism: 'To know more is to love more.' In order to grow in the knowledge of the sacraments, monthly catechesis on the various sacraments has been planned for all the parishioners. To start with, there was a catechesis on the sacrament of Baptism on 5th November after the Sunday Mass. Mr. Santo from Deepagam was the apt resource person to handle the session. Around 200 comprising of children, youth, Parish council members, Anbiyam leaders, Legion of Mary members, took an active part in the programme. The participants were happy to receive scriptural, theological and practical knowledge about the sacrament of Baptism.

Children's Day 2017: 'To become like little children may be lifelong effort; but being with children brings a lot of joy and freshness.' The Parish Community relived its commitment to being with the children through a meaningful celebration of

Children's day on 12th November 2017 with the timeline 'Goodness of God and the Happiness of Children'.

The special Blessing of the Eucharistic Lord to each child at the end of the Holy Mass was a soul-chilling experience for both the children and the parents. It was followed by a half day of animation cum fun and frolic together. Special sessions on "How to be a Better Media User" by Bro.Oswald Sdb and another session on "Role models in Faith Journey" by Bro.Britto Sdb turned out to be the real stuff for the day. These sessions interspersed with a lot of games, yells, dances, visuals and food sharing made the day an enjoyable one for the children.

A special skit by the catechism teachers was the punch of the day. While all the children enjoyed the day thoroughly, they also carried a nice bag each filled with lots of love and happiness. Special thanks goes to Bro.Anto Sagayaraj Sdb who meticulously planned the day in collaboration with the catechism staff and made it a memorable one for all the children.

Sunday of the Poor & Job Fair: Heeding to the call of Pope Francis, the parish community planned for the celebrations of the first World Day of the Poor on 19th November 2017 which was the 33rd Sunday of the ordinary time. There was a special Holy Mass with special liturgy. Children dressed up as six saints of the Poor - Damien, Martin of Tours, Margaret of Scotland, Elizabeth of Hungary and Mother Teresa - on the stage made it more touching and enlivening.

The powerful sermon by Deacon Anto Sagayaraj sdb enkindled the listeners to a sincere soul searching. 14 people were given monetary assistance for various urgent and essential needs (medicine, education help, flooring, roofing etc.) to the tune of Ra.60,000/- through the generous contribution of the Parishioners.

To mark the occasion of the World Day of the Poor, a Job Fair in collaboration with Rotary club of Chennai Towers and Equitas Trust was conducted on the same day from 10 am to 2 pm so as to enhance the economic viability of the families. In all, 28 companies took part in the Job Fair and 200 candidates registered themselves of which 20 were given appointment letters and 80 were short-listed.

Children's Day 2017 celebrated at S.M. Nagar

'To become like little children may be lifelong effort; but being with children brings a lot of joy and freshness.' The Parish Community at S.M. Nagar, relived its commitment to being with the children through a meaningful celebration of Children's day on November 12, 2017 with the timeline 'Goodness of God and the Happiness of Children'.

The special Blessing of the Eucharistic Lord to each child at the end of the Holy Mass was a soul-chilling experience for both the children and the parents. It was followed by a half day of animation-cum-fun and frolic together. Special sessions on "How

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THE JOY OF SHARING, CARING AND GIVING



There is a chillness in the air announcing that Christmas is near. And what is Christmas without sharing and caring for the poor?

The Good Samaritan Week Reach-out programme that St. Mary's A-I. Hr. Sec. School organises year after year since 1996, is all about sharing and caring for the less fortunate brethren. It is also to instill the habit of sharing and to make them experience the joy of giving among the students, that have been the focus of the reach-out programme for the past 21 years.

Every day starting from Nov. 20th this year, students were motivated on sharing, through skits and motivational talks, in the morning assembly. The reach-out programme culminated with the Christmas programme on December 4, 2017.

When it comes to giving generously, St.

Mary's students are unbeatable. It is the combined and collective effort of the Management, Class Teachers, House Masters, Salesian co-operators and the students that they were able to collect more than Rs. 5 lakhs by way of cash and more than Rs. 50 thousand worth articles such as toothpaste, soap etc. this year, which were distributed to various orphanages, old age homes and other charitable organisations.

Perhaps inspired by this noble practice of reaching out to the poor and making them experience the joy of giving, the Department of Education, has started introducing the 'Joy of Giving week' in other schools, too. As pioneers in organising these reach-out programmes St Mary's make their students socially conscious and morally responsible citizens of tomorrow.

- Mr. Benny Fernandez

Yellagiri Hills - DBC



Promoting and spreading the Salesian charism around the villages in Yelagiri is a student-oriented activity of the Don Bosco College. As an extension activity based on the university paper, 252 students, divided into six groups, participated; this allows the students to study the socio-cultural environment in the neighbourhood villages.

The Bosco Reach-Out (village/rural) camp was undertaken by the 2nd year students of Don Bosco College from November 30 to December 2, 2017. On the first day, in an orientation programme, the students were taught how to serve people. Each of the six groups was assisted by three professors and the students stayed in the villages. They mainly focused on abandoned people, Dengue awareness, conducted street plays and promoted cleanliness.



Enabling youth **TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY**

The youth of today have to study, reflect and contribute to the society by listening and debating with many experts from various fields of social work. To facilitate this, youngsters with social interest, from various Don Bosco Institutions decided to come together on every 3rd Sunday of the month.

"We have titled this forum as Bosco Karuthu Kalam (BKK) with the tagline of Vithaithu Kondaieru... Mulaithal Maram Madinthal Uram. We began the first session on the World Day of the Poor, November 19, 2017 at DBICA Hall, Taylors Road, Chennai," informs Fr. Mani Lazar SDB, INM Province Youth Director.

Professor Andrews Raja SDB came as a resource person and gave a lecture on Social Analysis. His talk made the participants to think sharply and they



came out with many reflective questions. Answering all questions he guided them to formulate a few action plans for this month. It was well begun with an active participation of many youngsters. "We will be meeting again on December 17 to reflect on theme 'Media Politics'," informs Fr. Lazar.

BKK: BOSCO KARUTHU KALAM

Youngsters with social interest, from various Don Bosco Institutions decided to come together on every 3rd Sunday of the month from 4pm to 7pm. It is for the youngsters to know study, reflect and contribute to the society by listening and debating with many experts from various fields of Social Work. We have titled this forum as Bosco Karuthu Kalam (BKK) with the tag line of Vithaithu Kondaieru... Mulaithal Maram Madinthal Uram. We began the first session on the world day of the Poor, 19th November 2017 at DBICA Hall, Taylors Road, Chennai. Professor Andrews Raja SDB came here as a resource person and gave a lecture on social Analysis. His talk made

the participants to think sharply, and they came out with many reflective questions. He was answering all the questions and also guided them to formulate few action plans for this month. It was well begun with an active participation of many youngsters. We will be meeting again on 17th December to reflect on theme 'Media Politics'.

Yours in Don Bosco,

Fr. Mani Lazar SDB

INM Province Youth Director

SPREADING GOOD NEWS Through Music

Music is a means to spread important messages, for, there is tremendous energy in the power of melody. With the holistic aim to spread the Good News through this medium, the **DBYES** of the Province of Chennai formed BBB - Bosco Brass Band, which is all set to showcase their dynamism in music.

BBB comprises of a power house of talent among 24 youngsters under Band Master Titus and assisted by Rakesh, Jerry and Fr. Mani Lazar. BBB has been practicing with their heart and soul to render rocking performances moving beyond the usual high life tunes with their trumpets, cornets, slide trombone, euphonium, sousaphone, French horn, tenor drum, side drum, bass drum, etc. The band is gearing up to have their maiden stage performance on the 100th birthday of Fr. Cedric Bout SDB at Citadel on November 11, 2017,"



A wonderful achievement

Master Lohith Aksha of Std.12C, Don Bosco School, Egmore has won the National Title in Lawn Tennis for School Students, Under 19 Category, at Delhi in the Finals held on December 9, 2017.

At the felicitation function held in the school, Rev. Fr. Dr. Arul Raja SDB, Principal congratulated Lohith Aksha on his achievement. Lohith was accompanied by his mother



Good Samaritan Day

Proverb 19: 17 says, "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done." Charity shown to the poor and needy will definitely bring us closer to God and to one another. To imbibe the value of sharing in the young minds, Good Samaritan Day, an excellent initiative taken by Rev. Fr. Philip Louie, which embraces and enriches the vision of our patron saint John Bosco, was held on December 9, 2017. The chief guests, Sr. Regina Roselin Mary, Director of Bishop Aellen Home, Egmore, Mrs. Barbara Thyab Ali and Rev. Fr. Leo Joseph SDB, The Rector of Don Bosco Anbu Illam, added splendor to this outreach programme. Old people from the neighboring localities, the sick, the lame, the blind and the neglected street wanderers were identified and recognized through sharing the Christmas gifts contributed by magnanimous parents

who handed over the gifts along with their children, to the needy. It was indeed a touching sight to watch the tear-filled eyes as they received the help rendered with the grateful hearts.



YACHTING CHAMPION *of* Don Bosco School of Excellence, Egmore

Master R. Neelanand has been making waves on the sailing circuit winning trophies and medals galore, year after year. In most of the competitions he happens to be the youngest participant. His dedication and determination to the sport have paid him rich dividends. In the YAI's (Yachting Association of India) Youth National Championship held on December 26th, 2017. This young lad won gold in the Optimist class. Don Bosco School Of Excellence, Egmore is proud of this amazing youngster.

It was published in the News Paper that Tamil Nadu's Neelanand won gold in the optimist class of the YAI youth national sailing championship which concluded at the Krishnapatnam Port in Nellore. He also participated in the International sailing championship conducted at the same venue from December 27 to 31, 2017. The school management encourages this promising champion to go higher in his feat in the field of Yachting.

