

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE SALESIAN FAMILY

DON BOSCO TODAY

THE SALESIAN BULLETIN - YEAR 200 - ISSUE 1 - LENT 2011



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Oratory on
Wheels

Editorial

Dear Readers

You will notice that we have entitled this edition of Don Bosco Today as the *Lent Issue*. There are many reasons for this. The first is that Lent is traditionally a time of reflection. The Rector Major Fr Chávez is asking us to consider this year the whole area of *Vocation*, with the message from scripture of *Come and See*. He reminds us that *Life is a Vocation* – a call to great things, a response to the invitation *Come and See*. *Vocation* is not an *optional extra*, it is an *optional essential*, it is *essential* because without our response to God's call we miss out on so much that belongs to us; but it remains *optional*, because it is not forced on us - we have to *choose*. That choice is a life-long process of trying to understand what God wants of us, a process of reflection, of prayer, of trying to understand our life.

The Church offers us the season of Lent as a precious time of reflection. The articles in this Lent issue of Don Bosco Today may help us. One way which many young people today find of reflecting on life is the opportunity to be volunteers, as Mary Biddle explains in her article on *VIDES*. James Gallagher invites us to revisit our memories of the Pope's September visit, as we reflect on *Education*, all that we do for our children to help them appreciate the value of their lives, their vocations. There are two articles on *Buses*, a fascinating example of how new ways of helping young people can develop in different parts of the world but in very similar ways. The article on Catacombs reminds us of what sacrifices were made by our

ancestors in the faith. Finally in the *We Remember* pages we pay tribute to those who were an example for us.

I make no apology for the publicity we give to two new publications of which we are justly proud – Fr Michael Winstanley's *Lenten Sundays* and *A Swatch Journey through Lent*. Michael's book is a very profound reflection on the Sunday gospels – an ideal Lenten companion. Our new swatch is an attempt to help young people reflect and pray. Our first swatch book has far exceeded our expectations. I have often said that I consider each new book we produce as a *New Salesian*, because, like don Bosco, I am convinced that a good book can do an immense amount of good.

We invite feed-back, please let us know what you like and what you dislike about our books or *Don Bosco Today*. On a practical level please write your comments on our books on our website:

www.don-bosco-publications.co.uk

Other people may be encouraged to read a book if you have found it helpful.

Finally a sincere word of gratitude, for all you generous donations. Without your help the work of Don Bosco would be severely limited. Thank you.

Fr Tony Bailey SDB



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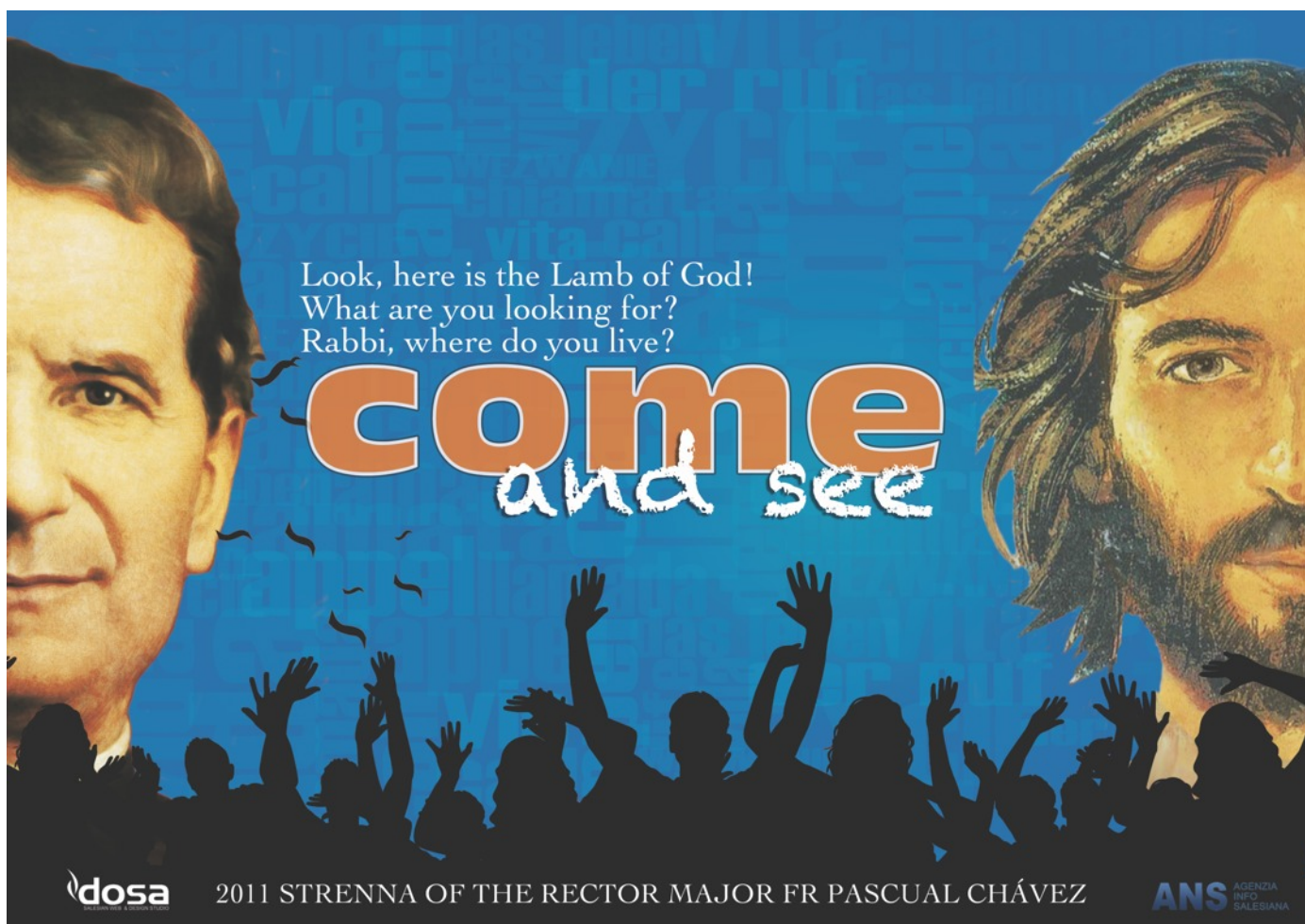
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Reaching Out

The most important aspect of VIDES is the formation of our volunteers. We want to give each of our volunteers the opportunity to grow in self belief and in their own understanding of Salesian spirituality. This thread runs through every single VIDES weekend and project, ensuring all of our volunteers have the opportunity to reflect meaningfully on their own self development. Our volunteers are central to the work we do.

Believing that volunteers are at the heart of our work, it was crucial to get the balance right as I began my full time work for VIDES. So many volunteers give of their time throughout the year, preparing and delivering projects. The new full time role had been managed so

as not to disempower any of our current volunteers; it was rather to enable VIDES to grow

and develop in ways that had previously not been possible due to time restraints.

Many volunteers in VIDES choose to commit to a management team, with each team looking after a different area of our work. For example, we have a Youth Development Team which runs our annual 'VIDES for Youth' weekend for 14-16 year olds and our annual 'come and see' weekend. Our Volunteer Development Team is responsible for writing and developing formation opportunities for all volunteers and meets many times through the year. These are only two of our five management teams. Through these teams, volunteers are encouraged to develop their own leadership skills, to develop their own ideas, bringing their own creativity to the vision and work of VIDES.

The role of the Outreach Development Worker is different to any volunteer role and really is about encouraging and enabling more young people to have the opportunity of volunteering with VIDES, as well as being about working with local communities, so that they can offer youth ministry projects in their own areas.

VIDES runs summer projects in the UK every year, which last for ten days and are planned by our UK Projects Team. The projects are run by a team of VIDES volunteers who live in community and work with local children and young people aged from 8-16. We run our summer projects in areas we are invited into and commit to an area for five years. This is so we are able to help a community develop their own youth provision and so that our work is sustainable. In the past, VIDES has been unable to commit fully to an ongoing relationship with each host community throughout the year, as our volunteers have not always had the time to be able to do this. My role has enabled me to begin to work much more closely with host communities, listening to their needs and trying to respond in the best way we can. Some of our host communities have heard little about the Salesian Family, yet they see in our volunteers a way of working with the young that is loving, patient and optimistic. We always try to explore Salesian youth work with host communities, sewing seeds that will hopefully grow in the future.

One such need that surfaced from communities was helping to train local young people, so that they can help with VIDES youth projects in their localities. We have begun to meet this need by writing and running a VIDES Youth Leadership Programme. VIDES has worked with young people in Birmingham, Runcorn, Bootle and Croxteth (Liverpool), enabling them to develop their self confidence and leadership skills. We hope to develop this programme in the near future.

Another aspect of my work is the development of the VIDES Friends Clubs. These clubs are locally run and engage children and young people in development education, as well as helping them to make new friends and grow in confidence. The children choose a VIDES project to support somewhere in the world, often a

place our volunteers have been to in the past. They learn more about how children and young people live in other parts of the world and how different their lives are. For example, our club in Runcorn is committed to a project in Tanzania. The children and young people plan and deliver fundraising events, take part in activities and help to plan the programme for their club. I believe this helps them to develop their own sense of citizenship, as well as giving young people a safe place to be themselves and have fun. We are looking forward to June, when we will hold our first national VIDES Friends residential.

I am often working in schools, or delivering presentations, introducing the work of VIDES and in some cases, introducing the Salesian way of working with young people. I have run sixth form days, encouraging young people to think about their contribution to the world, as well as delivering workshops to Year 9 pupils alongside PSHE schemes of work. It is always a privilege to see young people engaged in meaningful questions, especially when they are reflecting on our Salesian ethos.

This outreach work gives me great hope for the future. There are so many young people full of excitement and enthusiasm for the work of the Salesian Family! Our VIDES volunteers continue to work selflessly for the good of the young and their work is vital to the development of our organisation. Having a full time worker for VIDES is new and challenging, but I am so grateful for the opportunity. The Rector Major reminds us as we enter 2011 that we need to endeavour to bring young people to a greater awareness of themselves, others and God, through the invitation *Come and See*. I endeavour to hold this message close to my work as we move into a new year and I hope that my invitation to young people and communities to *come and see* the work of VIDES will be just the start of their Salesian journey.

For more information about any of our projects, please email the VIDES Office on videsoffice@videsuk.org.uk.

Mary Biddle





The Pope on Education

Broader than schooling

Catholic education is wider than and should not be identified with Catholic schooling. It is a task in which we are all involved in home, parish and school, as parents, priests and teachers. Yet our attention is to a large extent being focused on the Church's mission within our schools to the young, their families, the parishes and the wider community. The Pope during his visit praised and valued the work that is being done in Catholic education for the young here in Britain.

Can we celebrate Catholic education?

Two years after the restoration of the hierarchy in 1852 the bishops of England and Wales boldly stated 'the first necessity is a sufficient provision of education adequate for the wants of the poor...prefer the establishment of a good school to every other work. There are, of course, a number of Catholics, who may wonder if we are still true to that mission and whether our present day endeavours are worthy of celebration. There are Catholics who believe that our schools are falling short at least in the vital mission of passing on the faith to the younger generation. The youthful

presence or lack of it at Sunday Mass clearly makes many raise this question. Many others, including myself, believe that we do carry on that same mission but in a world and Church that is very different.

In his homily in Westminster cathedral the Pope referred to **contemporary culture influences today**

One of the great challenges facing us today is how to speak convincingly of the wisdom and liberating power of God's word to a world which all too often sees the Gospel as a constriction of human freedom, instead of the truth which liberates our minds and enlightens our efforts to live wisely and well, both as individuals and as members of society.

The Bigger Picture

Talking to the children and young people gathered in St. Mary's Strawberry Hill the Pope reminded them of what he called:

the bigger picture over and above the subjects you study, the different skills you learn. The life of faith needs to be the driving force behind every activity of the school, so that the Church's mission may be served effectively, and the

young people discover the joy of entering into Christ's being for others.'

We need to be careful when we speak of our schools as a community of faith. There are many in our schools who are not of the Catholic faith both among teachers and students. Yet it is essential that we see the Catholic school is an educating community inspired and challenged by the Christian faith vision concerning the dignity of each person and the wonder of God's creation of which we are the stewards. The Pope acknowledges that not everyone in the school is of the Catholic tradition yet he wished to include them since *it is only right that respect and friendship for members of other religious traditions should be among the virtues learned in a 'Catholic school'. That does happen in nearly all our schools. It points up the importance of the induction process of new staff.*

Integral Human Development

The Pope spoke of the Catholic school providing 'an integral education', 'a rounded education for the whole person'. In his latest encyclical he speaks of education for 'integral human development'. Every area of the taught curriculum is required to include the spiritual and moral dimensions, and these are looked at both by Ofsted and diocesan inspectors. The school has very real potential for providing such 'rounded education'.

Sense of Community

One of the experiences that young people who attended the various events with the Pope spoke most enthusiastically about was being together with so many other young people and people of all ages. The community dimension of school is much appreciated by students. They speak highly of their companionship with other students and of the helpful and friendly relationships with many teachers. When talking to students in the course of inspections they frequently highlight this aspect – 'It is like a family' is a frequent remark. In his address to the young people in Strawberry Hill the Pope said

indeed, the life of faith can only be effectively nurtured when the prevailing atmosphere is one of respectful and affectionate trust. I pray that this will continue to be as a hallmark of schools in this country'.

I believe it is a hallmark of most of our schools and one we should not overlook. In our schools students are also given the opportunity to take on all sorts of

responsibilities in the school: as members of the School Council, as prefects and mentor to younger students and as members of anti-bullying campaign.

We are made to receive love; we are made to give love

Outside Westminster cathedral he eloquently reminded the young people that 'we are made for love...we were made to receive love and we have from all those people in our lives who have helped us to realise how precious we are in their eyes and in the eyes of God'. And he enumerated a number of such people including friends, parents, teachers and others. He then went on to say that 'we are made to give love. Every day we have to choose love and this requires help'. Such help is given by many teachers who enable students to fulfil their unique potential and to find their true place in life, to fulfil that 'definite service' or 'mission' that God has in mind for each one. The Pope urged young people to respond to God's love 'by reflecting something of his infinite goodness'. He spelt out some ways that they could do this:

- Avoiding destructive and dangerous tendencies that cause suffering and damage,
- Feeling compassion for people in difficulties, being ready to help,
- Coming to the aid of the poor and hungry.

One of the most impressive aspects of Catholic schools today is the great amount of fund raising for various charitable causes locally and globally. The students not only give a good deal but are very aware of why they do so. While they thus try to enrich the life of others, they enrich their own. This is an important dimension of our Christian faith which the young in our schools are very much engaged.

Time for Silence and Reflection

The Pope reminded the young people that this 'requires moments of silence...because it is in silence that we find God and in silence we discover ourselves'. The young find silence difficult. They are constantly bombarded by noise, noisy music; they are forever on their phones and all the other technical machines they carry around. Silence is in short supply! Yet in my experience the good Catholic school addresses this call of the Pope. There are well prepared and creative acts

of collective worship which allow for prayer and silence as they reflect on issues that are topical and speak to the young. Most schools now have a chapel or quiet room and chaplains often introduce them to various forms of meditation and prayer. The liturgical year is marked by special services. In form time each day there is the opportunity for a brief reflective prayer and silence. This is, of course, something which heads, chaplains and advisers need to oversee and ensure that it takes place.

Help to Families

The Pope did not really mention this feature of school life during his visit. However, he has stressed the need to support families in many of his talks. He certainly stressed it forcefully to the Salesians gathered in Rome for our recent General Chapter. He urged us in our youth ministry not overlook the needs of families which ‘frequently have difficulty in facing the challenges of education; they are often unable to make their contribution or are absent’. The document *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the New Millennium* praises schools ‘for the unpretentious yet caring and sensitive help offered in those cases, more and more numerous above all in wealthy nations, of families which are fragile or have broken up’. Our schools have close links with families, are aware of problems and seek to offer sensitive care. We need only ask Headteachers.

The Pope’s Tone and Language

Throughout the visit the Pope addressed his advice and challenges to the young and their educators by way of invitation, not in a judgemental or overly negative tone. He addressed their aspirations and ideals. Young people turned out in their thousands, many schools sending a large delegation of students to the various events. They were deeply impressed and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We can, however, be fairly sure that not all turn up every Sunday at Mass. Yet we can hardly call the visit a failure. The Pope inspired many, made them think seriously about what they are doing with their lives and challenged them to live the Gospel and try to follow the way of Christ. Our Catholic schools in addressing the many needs of the young in difficult circumstances and in the context of the constant initiatives of Governments seek to do the same. Bishop Brian Noble spoke of ‘keeping alive the rumour of God’. In many ways that is what we do in our schools and we should not be too negative or judgemental of what we see as their success. They staff and students could do with our praise and encouragement.

Recall the Parable of the Sower

We must respect the freedom of the person and we must acknowledge the cultural and religious environment in which our young are growing up. There are many strong influences upon them in their search for meaning and for that *definite mission* which is theirs and to which they will try to commit themselves. We could do well to recall the parable of the Sower with the different results of the sowing. A possibly better title for the parable would be that of *The Seed that Struggles to Grow*. Matthew tells us that when the seed fell on good ground *in one case it yielded a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty*. We too often want a hundredfold and are not content with or wish to celebrate a reasonable partial harvest of sixty or thirty fold.

Jim Gallagher SDB



BEAR FACTS

Hello children and hello Spring!

Lighter nights mean going out more.

Sometimes we go running round Lake Glass.

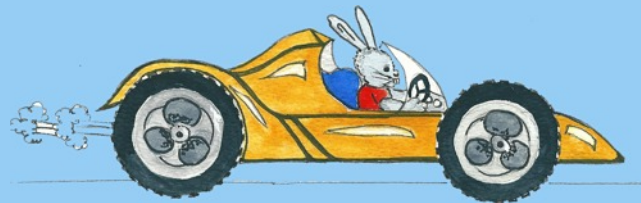


A world record?

Well, Darkwood Forest record. We also feed the ducks in the lake. They make me laugh with their little legs going like the clappers to get to a piece of bread before the others. There are swans and geese there too and sometimes some pesky seagulls fly in.

Rio says he cant wait till he's old enough to drive a sports car: he'd like to be Lewis Hamilton! When he's in a car he makes noises like bruuummmbruuummm and meeee...amm. I'm not sure Id feel safe in a car with him!

We have bikes and scooters and skates. We even like walking. I have a friend who used to do hill-walking with his brother.



ARE YOU LISTENING?

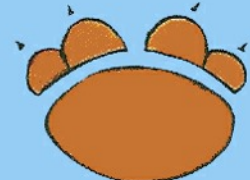
Most people are good at talking. I am! However, some people talk about themselves all the time which can be very boring. Have you ever tried LISTENING to OTHER people? You can learn a lot; you will definitely learn that people are not all the same; they're different and that's fine. Everyone isn't the same as you.

One of the things that can make people different is where they come from.

Some people are born in large towns and cities. They live with cars, buses, trams, trains, shops, markets, cafes, restaurants, cinemas, theatres, noise and lots of other people.

Some people come from small towns and villages in the countryside; they live with trees, streams, hills, animals, the wind on your face, the sky, grass and quiet. They often work on their own.

Bosco Bear



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19									

Across

Down

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Crucify means to die on what? (5) | 2. What Jesus did after dying. (4) |
| 4. Laid on floor for Jesus (4) | 3. Short for 'saint'. (2) |
| 6. Wednesday at start of Lent (3) | 4. Roman Governor. (6) |
| 8. Lent is a time to think less about who? (2) | 5. Name of 2 women at crucifixion. (4) |
| 9. Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. (4) | 6. The end. (4) |

NAME: AGE: ADDRESS:

Please send your entry to Don Bosco Publications; Thornleigh House; Sharples Park; Bolton. BL1 6PQ

AUTUMN 2010 COMPETITION WINNERS.

STORM CLOUDS.

The winners of the Competition are CLAIRE from Bolton : BETH from Darlington and HANNAH from Coatbridge. They will each receive a book from Don Bosco Publications as their prize. The whole of Claire's class sent an entry so we have sent her school a book for the class library.

Beth is 6 years' old and we thought you'd like to read her entry.

STORM CLOUDS:

Oratory on wheels



As part of his efforts to save souls, Don Bosco was ready to adopt a wide variety of means and equipment, including some of the most avant-garde for his time. This gift for seeking new ways and possibilities for reaching out to the young and helping them to be at ease with one another, society and God, is something that Salesians have in their blood. A modest indication of the seeking of new approaches to reach young people of today's streets is the Minibus Veselja project, or the Fun Minibus.

The initiative started out in the Slovenia Province a decade ago as part of the **Skala Project** (in Slovenian, the rock). It tackles the problem of young people at risk, especially those on the street. The idea of the minibus begins from the same assumption that Don Bosco made: *we need to go out looking for young people where they are to be found*. This is why we have an oratory on wheels, going around the streets of the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, especially in the suburbs where immigration, from the Balkan regions in particular, leaves its mark with all the consequences this implies: problems of education, schooling, integration, and employment.

The vehicle, especially adapted for this kind of street work, has three *educational* spaces: a *chat room* in the front, a *games room* in the back and a *Veranda* attached externally, under an awning. The project has a social and educational structure split into three sessions: there are psycho social and guidance activities, creative, educational and spiritual ones, and then finally sports and entertainment. The first aim of this mobile youth centre is to gather street children together (those with the least opportunities in life) in a setting which offers them the stimulus, as desired by the Preventive System of St John Bosco. Besides prevention we can also intervene in some of the most difficult cases (secondary prevention) which require support from specialised agencies.

The Minibus programme takes place three times a week, and in summer and autumn holidays, daily, where it is also known as the Street Oratory. This way holidays for these youngsters are an experience of active, fruitful free time and being together.



The Catacombs of St Callistus

In 1930 Pope Pius XI, invited the Salesians to look after, on behalf of the Holy See, one of the most precious relics of the early Church, a piece of land blessed with saints and martyrs, and the goal of many pilgrimages. Fascination for this *martyrs' plot of land* has attracted pilgrims throughout the centuries and they continue to come, from all parts of the world, today. A large number of these pilgrims, some hundreds of thousands every year, are young people. The Catacombs of St Callistus in Rome, according to Pope John XXIII *the most august and celebrated of the Roman Catacombs*.

Today, after 80 years of continuous service by the Salesians, the Catacombs of St Callistus are served by a community of 30 Salesians from 14 nations.

The Catacombs of St Callistus are the most ancient collection of burial places, and the best preserved, on the Via Appia. This huge burial area, belonging to the Church, dates from the end of the second century. These catacombs took their name from Deacon Callistus who was asked to administer the area by Pope Zephyrinus. When he, in turn, became Pope, he



enlarged the complex and it became the burial place for sixteen Roman Pontiff's from the 3rd century (Crypt of the Popes).

You enter the catacombs by a steep staircase, which leads to the Crypt of the Popes, here there is a small chamber with the tomb of St Cecilia. On the walls you can see paintings going back to the 5th and 6th centuries, amongst them the oldest extant image of the saint in an attitude of prayer. It was from here, in 1821, that Pope Pasqual I brought the ecilia's sarcophagus to the Church which bears her name in Trastevere.

Once you leave St Cecilia's crypt, you go further along to an ossuary¹, with layer upon layer of tombs stretching to around four metres high, and then along a gallery opening onto a series of cubicles known as the *Sacraments* on account of

the paintings alluding to baptism and the Eucharist. After visiting the huge sarcophagus of Pope Milziade, the path leads off into other areas dedicated to Saints Gaius and Eusebius in what is known as the *Liberiana* because of three inscriptions said to belong to Pope Liberius (352–366), where the archways are painted with scenes from the Old and New Testaments.

¹ A site for the final resting place of human skeletal remains.



Continuing on, you come to a primitive area known as the *Lucina Crypts*, housing the tomb of Pope Cornelius decorated in Byzantine style and, nearby, two frescoes, one with The Good Shepherd, the other depicting two fish and two baskets of bread and a glass filled with wine, evidently symbols of the Eucharist.

For organisational and security reasons visitors and pilgrims may only visit a small section of the catacombs, but this already leaves an unforgettable impression. Just knowing that you are in touch with places where some 56 martyrs in 18 saints are buried can be a powerful spiritual experience. No wonder then that you see so many groups of young people, scouts and students coming from all over the world to the catacombs to be inspired by the relics of the Early Church.

Salesians and Lay Guides serve in the Catacombs

Visitors are led by guides who speak their language for a thirty-minute tour with a detailed explanation which is more than just history and culture. Each visit becomes a lesson in Church history which many people find quite moving. To make the visit more meaningful there is the opportunity of celebrating Mass down there. There are dozens of Masses every day in many languages, in various parts of the catacombs, a prayerful experience as pilgrims join the early saints of the Church in prayer.

The catacombs of St Callistus attract Salesians from all over the world who, acting as guides, give part of their life to this service. Some have been working here for more than 50 years while others come to St Callistus catacombs just for a brief period of service. There is no lack of young volunteer guides, either, especially in summer, who benefit from this powerful relic age of the Early Church.

Fr Tadeusz SDB





Freetown - Sierra Leone

Archbishop Edward Tamba Charles, of Freetown, has blessed the *Don Bosco Mobil*, a bus which will provide street children with medical first aid, food, clothes and teaching. Through it, the *Don Bosco Fambul*,

an NGO which is directing the Salesian project for street children, will be present in the more marginalised places of Freetown with professional social services, youth ministry initiatives, nurses and legal aid for children.

The bus is well-equipped with various things from first aid kits, sports and games material and a film projector and is aimed at the children and youngsters most at risk providing them with access to health care, information about hygiene and safeguarding their health (HIV/AIDS...), as well as social and pastoral activities.

Social and pastoral workers are also collaborating with other aspects of the work of the *Don Bosco Fambul* as well as organisations such as the hospitals and the Union of Family Support (under the Police of Sierra Leone). Each day the bus will visit five of the most deprived areas: Susan`s Bay, Cline Town, Mabella, Hagan Street, Guardia Street.

There are four stages in the over-all project: assistance for individuals, family care, pastoral work and networking with other institutions (police, hospitals and other bodies). It will almost certainly be integrated into the basic social services or the services provided by the Catholic Church which the Government in Sierra Leone is developing in collaboration

with UNICEF and the Catholic missions. Already the current programme of *Don Bosco Fambul* offers important and successful activities: a street children project, with vocational training, a youth centre, youth ministry and accompaniment at times of difficulty.

An internal needs assessment of Don Bosco Fambul revealed that many street children in the slum area, particularly girls, are physically and socially isolated from appropriate provision and facilities of Don Bosco Fambul that could meet their crisis needs. Don Bosco Fambul set up an innovative pilot project for Sierra Leone to reach better the street children in the different slum areas of Freetown through a *Don Bosco MOBIL* with professional social workers, nurses and legal advisers for the kids.

The bus carries appropriate materials and equipment for first aid, counseling and recreation (games, etc.). Further a cinema inside the bus helps to educate the youngsters through helpful movies. The implementation of the project will give vulnerable children and teenager access to medical care, individual counselling and advice, information about hygienic, health (HIV/AIDS,

etc.) and social education. The qualified and professional street social workers are cooperating in partnership with other departments of Don Bosco Fambul and organizations like hospitals and the Family Support Union (Sierra Leone Police). The bus will reach daily five slum area: Susan's Bay, Cline Town, Mabella, Hagan Street, Guard Street.

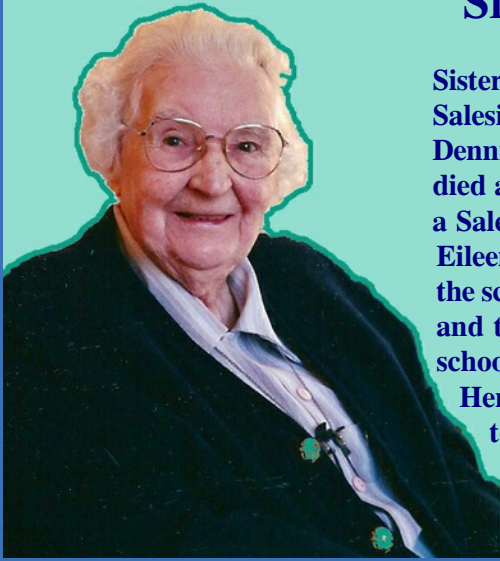
The concept focus on four activities: individual aid, family tracing, community work and networking (with police, hospitals and other stakeholders). This action will have strong potential to be integrated in the basic package for social welfare services, implemented by the government of Sierra Leone in partnership with UNICEF and various NGOs. Moreover, the current existing program at Don Bosco

Fambul offers significant complementary and ensuing measures (a 10 month street children program, skill training, youth centre, and crisis line).



We Remember

SISTER EILEEN CAVANAGH FMA 1913 - 2010



Sister Eileen was born in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland. She came to know the Salesian Sisters through the Salesian Bulletin sent home by younger brother Dennis who was then studying at the Salesian aspirantate at Shrigley, he subsequently died a Salesian missionary in Shillong, shortly before he was due to be ordained a Salesian priest.

Eileen entered the Sisters at Chertsey in September 1933 and began teaching in the school there. For the next forty years, Sister Eileen would dedicate her energies and talents to the young people in our schools and in other Catholic secondary schools.

Her colleagues noted not only her academic ability but, above all, her devotion to the young. She was firm but gentle; who lead by example.

She was able, wrote one headteacher, to transform casual youngsters into hard-working, enthusiastic students who took great pride in their work and achievements.

Death

Faith sheds on death

a soft and gentle light,
reminding us of its positive and
consoling aspects.

For a Christian,

death is not the end

but the beginning;

it is the beginning

of true life,

the gate

which opens onto eternity.

It is like hearing

from behind

the barbed wire

of the concentration camp

the longed-for announcement:

A Salesian Provincial declared, *Sister Eileen is outstanding in her ability as a teacher she has the natural gift for leadership; she is painstaking and most efficient in work and exercises that kind gentle influence which is most effective in its results.*

Perhaps the most touching testament to Sister Eileen's true Salesian educational presence among the young teenagers is found in a letter, respectfully addressed to the Provincial by the students of Sister Eileen's class at St William of York Secondary School, when they were dismayed to learn of her forthcoming transfer to our secondary school in Chertsey. They recognised not only her role in their personal and scholastic development but above all the religious and moral values she imparted to them, *We need her guiding hand which she has so willingly given to each of us by her religious example, from which we have learned to love our faith and all it means.* The love and gratitude she inspired in generations of young people is borne out by the continued affectionate contact with her past pupils.

On retiring from school, Sister Eileen took a theology course at Maynooth and then for the next four years served as a Religious Adviser to secondary schools, first in Paisley and then in the Glasgow Archdiocese. Advancing years finally caught up with her and she moved to London for the remaining years, taking part in community life for as long as she was able.

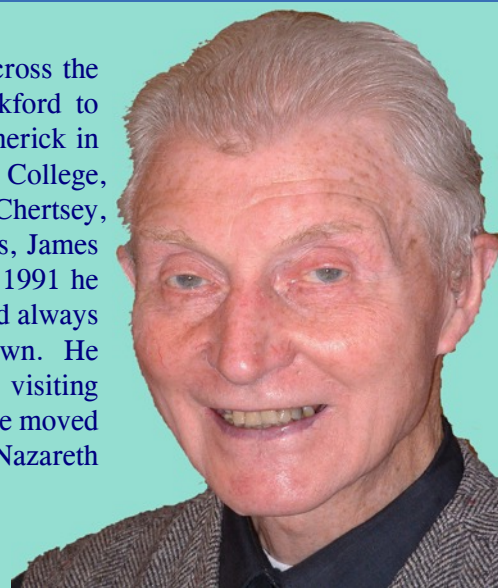
Sister Eileen died on the 11th December 2010 in St Thomas' Hospital in London.

While we pray for her, we ask her to obtain for our province enthusiastic vocations of her calibre.

Sister Pauline FMA
Provincial

FR JAMES WALSH SDB 1918 - 2010

James was born in Belleek, in Northern Ireland. At the age of 13 he travelled across the Irish Sea to begin his aspirantate at Shrigley Park. In 1936 he moved to Beckford to commence his novitiate year. James was ordained a priest at Pallaskenry, Co Limerick in July 1947. For the next 40 years, except for one year of studies at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, James was a teacher at our Salesian schools in Battersea and Chertsey, Farnborough and Cowley. Besides teaching geography and other academic subjects, James also shared with many youngsters his great love of sport, especially athletics. In 1991 he moved up to Glasgow, there his kindness and practical concern for others which had always characterized his approach to those entrusted to his care, really came in to their own. He was especially devoted to the sick and to the house-bound and spent many hours visiting those who were in hospital. Eventually in May 2009, and almost into his 91st year he moved to St Joseph's, Bolton where he remained until just a few weeks before his death at Nazareth House, Prestwich, Manchester on 17th December 2010.



James' Christian faith was a simple, uncomplicated faith, a faith that enabled him to accept and overcome the difficulties and challenges that are inevitably part of our daily lives. That was especially true of the last months of his life. His increasing frailty, his almost total deafness must have caused him much frustration, yet never once did he grumble and complain. His patient acceptance of the burdens and limitations of old age spoke eloquently of his childlike trust in Jesus and Mary. It is our hope and prayer that they have already welcomed him into the joys of heaven.

FR TERRENCE AYLWARD SDB 1923-2011

Terry was born in Maesteg, South Wales, and throughout his life he was always proud of his Welsh roots.

In 1940, at the age of 17, Terry entered the Salesian aspirantate at Shrigley Park and three years later, even though his overriding desire was to become a Salesian priest, he generously volunteered to serve his country as a soldier in the Royal Artillery. Military service followed in France, Belgium and Holland during the last two years of World War II and then in Germany during the first year of peace. Demobilisation came in the summer of 1946 and within six weeks he had entered the Salesian Novitiate.

During his years of priestly training the word that was applied most frequently to him was *earnest* and it underlined his burning desire to become a good and faithful Salesian. Terry's Salesian life was centred on Bolton, firstly at Thornleigh where he taught from 1956 to 1985 and then at St Joseph's where he returned in retirement in 2000 after 10 years in parish ministry and retirement in Bootle. During those years Terry's influence was great but perhaps much of it went unnoticed and was not very spectacular at the time.

This year (2011) the Rector Major's strenna focuses on the need to develop a vocations ministry and culture. Over thirty years ago Terry was quietly doing just that, as he strove to encourage vocations to the priesthood and the religious life among his pupils. He formed a Vocations Group which met, after school, on a Friday and from that group six are now priests whilst several others joined religious life or attended seminary for a time.





Easter Joy