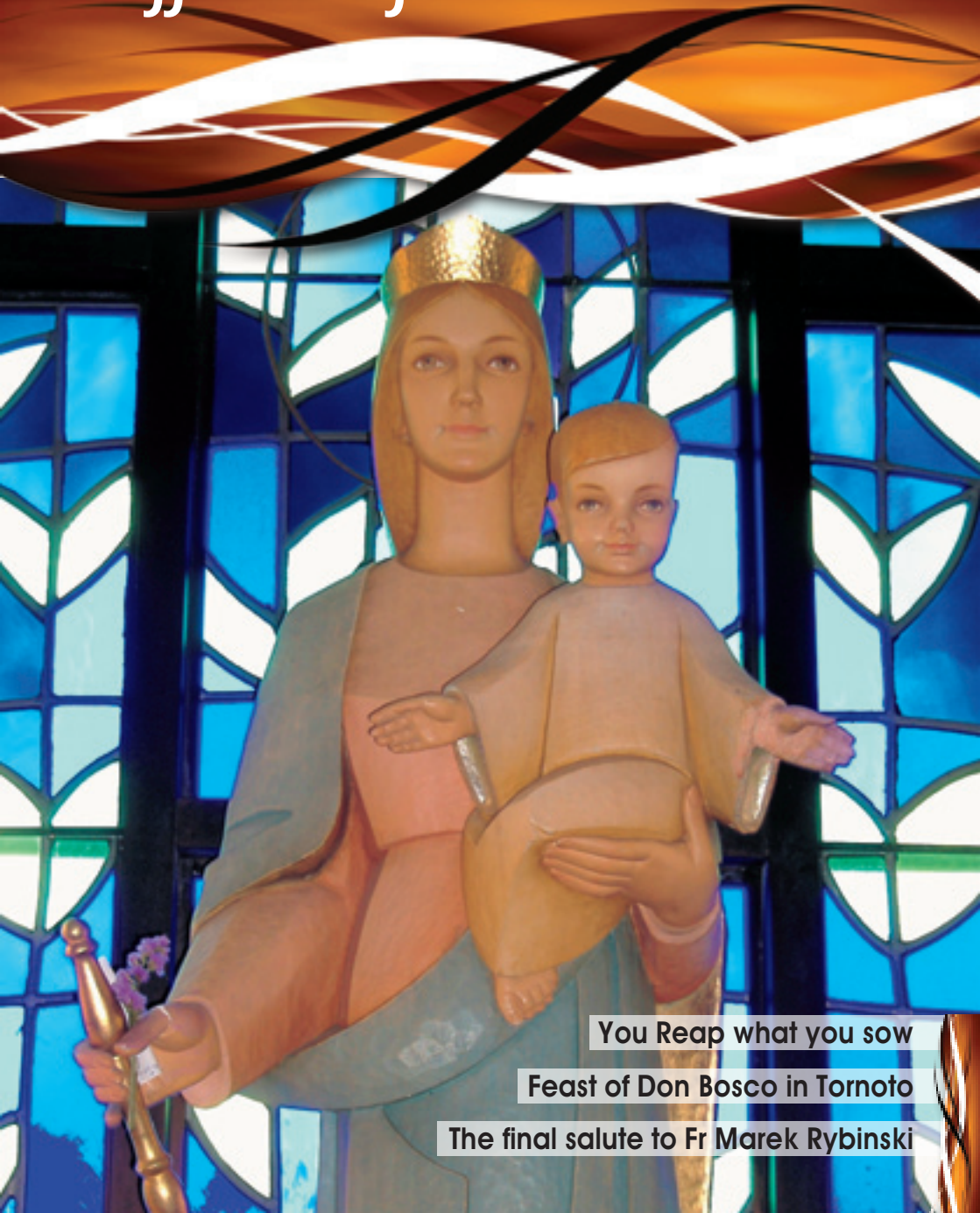


# Hajja Salesjana

MEJJU-ĠUNJU 2011  
il-220 Ħarġa



You Reap what you sow

Feast of Don Bosco in Toronto

The final salute to Fr Marek Rybinski



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



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

## Hajja Salesjana

St. Patrick's School, Triq San Ġwann Bosco,  
Sliema SLM 1925 - MALTA  
Tel. (+356) 2133 0238 / (+00356) 9986 1586  
e-mail: [hajjasal@salesiansmalta.org](mailto:hajjasal@salesiansmalta.org)

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

**Responsible:** Fr. Paul Formosa SDB  
**Director/ Editor:** Fr. Joseph Cini SDB  
**Editorial Board :** Margaret Buhagiar,  
Andre Camilleri, Matthew Borg, Josie Grech.  
**Office:** Eileen Alden, Joyce Scicluna.  
**Design & Printing:** Salesian Press, Sliema.

Tista taqra hajja Salesjana fuq il-kompjuter:  
<http://www.salesiansmalta.org>

Front Cover: *Sensiela ta' xbihat tal-Madonna.*

## Fuqix se naqraw

Blessed Gianna Beretta Molla	9
Don Bosco Around the World	12
You Reap what you sow	14
Magnificat	16
Malta Salesjana	20
Saint Mary Mazzarello (3)	22
20 km trekking f'Għawdex	25
Past Pupils ta' Savio College	26
Feast of Don Bosco in Tornoto	27
The final salute to Fr Marek Rybinski	28
Dun Bosco fis-santi	30
Salesian statistics 2010	33

Editorjal / Pedagoġija / Caledar of events /  
Something to think about / Marian Apparitions

# Dun Bosco **Bniedem ta' Alla**

**Fil-perjodu tal-Istorja li twaqqfu fondazzjonijiet kbar, isem Dun Bosco sar maghruf mad-dinja Kattolika kollha. Gazzetti ta' diversi opinjonijiet, perjodiċi, ritratti wisq imfittxija, taħdidiet u kull mezz ta' komunikazzjoni ta' dawk iż-żminijiet bi ħġarhom xerrdu aħbarijiet fuq l-opri ta' Dun Bosco.**

Ebda qaddis qatt ma kellu daqshekk pubbliċità. Is-suċċess li nkuruna x-xogħlijiet kuraġġużi tiegħu kompli jsaħħa fl-imħuh ta' xi wħud min-nies, li kien qaddis kbir u, skond oħrajn, bniedem kbir. Dun Bosco nnifsu ma kienx joqgħod lura milli jxandar l-opri tiegħu meta kien ifittex u jittallab għajnuna; dan kien jagħmlu permezz ta' ittri stampati b'diversi ilsna lil nies ta' kull xorta u f'kull pajjiż. Kien idoqq it-tanbur! Xi nies skandalizzaw ruħhom, imma kienu dawk ta' moħħ żgħir; u min fil-bidu ikkritikah, aktarx li għamel bħalu wara!

Ġudizzju miktub minn Dun Cafasso fl-1853, jiċċara ċerti fatti lil xi qassisin ta' waħda mill-iskejjel, li kellhom dubju dwar dak li kien qiegħed jagħmel Dun Bosco. Dan għandu

valur akbar miċ-ċirkustanzi li għalihom kien mifhum dakinhar. Dun Cafasso kiteb hekk:

«Kemmi tassew tafuh lil Dun Bosco? Nghid għalija, iktar ma niflih inqas nasal biex nifhmu. Jiena narah, fl-istess waqt, sempliċi u straordinarju, umli u kbir, fqir imma jidħol għal proġetti kbar li jidhru impossibli. Rajtu jħabbat wiċċu ma' ostakli u sitwazzjonijiet impossibli sabiex imbagħad jirnexxi b'mod meraviljuż f'dak kollu li jidħol għalih. Għalija Dun Bosco huwa misteru! Imma minn haġa jiena ċert: li huwa jaħdem għall-glorja ta' Alla, u li Alla jmexxi u li Alla waħdu huwa l-motiv ta' kull ma jagħmel.»

**Charles Cini, SDB**

**GHALIJA DUN BOSCO HUWA MISTERU!  
IMMA MINN HAĠA JIENA ĊERT: LI HUWA  
JAĦDEM GĦALL-GLORJA TA' ALLA, U LI  
ALLA JMEXXI U LI ALLA WAĦDU HUWA  
L-MOTIV TA' KULL MA JAGĦMEL.**



# Don Bosco **With God**

**During the period of great foundations Don Bosco's name gradually came to be known throughout the whole world. Newspapers with various points of view, illustrated booklets, and photographs were spread widely because they were much sought after.**

Lectures and other means of communication vied with one another in spreading news of his work. No other apostle had ever had so much publicity.

The success which crowned his arduous enterprises, continued to confirm in people's minds the opinion that he was, a great saint and to others, a great man. Moreover, he himself, in appealing for funds, spread news of his mission to the four winds, by means of circular letters in various languages to people of every kind and every nation. Silent modesty was not part of his approach! Some were scandalized but it was the scandal of the small-minded; his critics often felt compelled to imitate him.

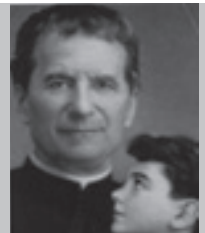
We have a statement made by Don Cafasso in 1853 to clarify things for some learned

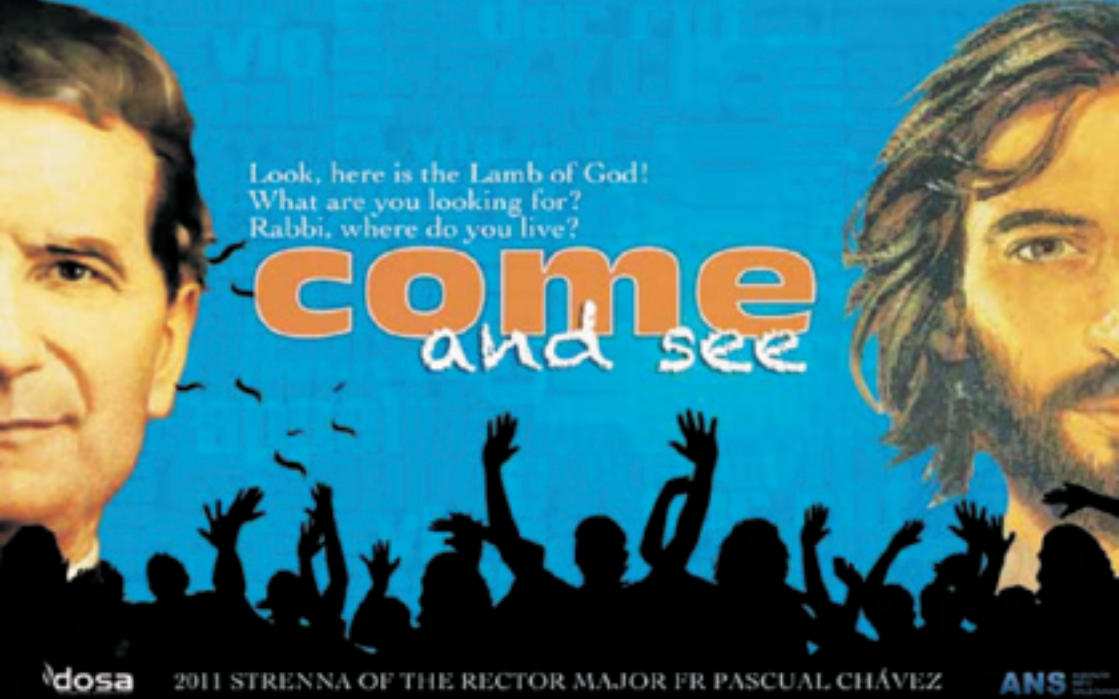
clerics who had some doubts with regard to Don Bosco. Its value goes far beyond the petty scope for which it was first given. In it Don Cafasso said:

"How well do you know Don Bosco? For me, the more I study him, the less I understand him. I see him as both simple and extraordinary, humble and great, poor and yet undertaking huge projects that seem impossible. I have seen obstacles in his way and his situation impossible, and yet he succeeds splendidly in whatever he undertakes. For me, Don Bosco is a mystery! I am certain, however, that he is working for the glory of God, that God alone is his guide and that God alone is the motive for all his actions."

**Charles Cini, SDB**

**FOR ME, DON BOSCO IS A MYSTERY! I AM CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS WORKING FOR THE GLORY OF GOD, THAT GOD ALONE IS HIS GUIDE AND THAT GOD ALONE IS THE MOTIVE FOR ALL HIS ACTIONS."**





Look, here is the Lamb of God!  
What are you looking for?  
Rabbi, where do you live?

come  
and see

dosa

2011 STRENNA OF THE RECTOR MAJOR FR PASCUAL CHÁVEZ

ANS

Minn Pascual Chavez - Trad. Joe Cini

# PEDAGOĠIJA

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

# *Salesjana*

## “IL-HAJJA HIJA VOKAZZJONI”

Għezież ħbieb, qarreja tal-Bullettin Salesjan. Hekk kif matul is-sena li għaddiet kellimtkom fuq Ġesù tiegħi, din is-sena sejjer nikteb fuq l-hajja bhala vokazzjoni. U bi ħsiebni niktbilkom dwar persunaġġi li bhala bnedmin u nsara għexu l-hajja bis-shiħ għaliex skoprew u għexu l-vokazzjoni tagħhom.

## IL-BEATU AUGUSTU CZARTORYSKI (1858-1893)

Iż-żagħżuġh għani li qal ‘iva’ lil Ġesù Il-vokazzjoni ta’ Prinċep li sar Salesjan It-twelid ta’ Augustu f’Pariġi nhar it-2 ta’ Awwissu 1858, l-ewwel tarbija ta’ familja nobbli u illustri Pollakka, kien sinjal ta’ tama: dan kellu jjeħu t-tron ta’ San Każimiro u fuqu waqgħu wkoll it-tamiet kollha ta’ dawk li kienu joħolmu qawmien ġdid għall-Polonja.



Imma Alla kellu pjanijiet oħra. Daż-żagħżuġh, marradi bit-tuberkolosi mit-tfulija, minflok postijiet fejn seta' jfiq, għamel tfittxija oħra: dik tal-vokazzjoni. Induna li ma kienx magħmul għall-ħajja fil-palazzi: 'Ikolli nistqarr li din iddejjaqni; dan il-passatemp isewwidli qalbi.' L-għalliem tiegħu, Joseph Kalinowski, issa qaddis Karmelitan, mexxa lil Augustu fit-tfittxija tal-vokazzjoni billi ssuġġerilu bħala mudelli l-qaddis San Lwigi Gonzaġa, 'li fetahu ħajtu għal għaqda spiritwali eħfef ma' Alla' u tal-Pollakk San Satanislaw Kostka, li tiegħu Augustu ha l-klieħ Ad maiora natus sum.

Il-mument deċiżiv fit-tfittxija tiegħu u f'ħajtu kienet il-laqqgħa ma' Dun Bosco, li

għrat f'Pariġi f'Mejju 1883. 'Ili ħafna nixtieq niltaqa' miegħek!' qallu Dun Bosco. Minn dak inhar Augustu ra f'dan l-edukatur qaddis il-missier tar-ruħ tiegħu u l-gwida lejn il-gejjieni tiegħu. Wara din il-laqqgħa ma' Dun Bosco, mhux biss ħassu jissafhaħ fil-vokazzjoni lejn ħajja religjuża, imma ħassu konvint li kien imsejjaħ isir Salesjan: 'Jekk dan hu li Alla jrid, kollox jirnexxi; Huwa jneħhi kull ostaklu. Imma jekk Alla ma jridx dan, anqas ma rridu jiena.' Minħabba fil-pożizzjoni soċjali u l-istat ta' saħħet Augustu, Dun Bosco kien żamm attitudni kawta u riċervata qabel ma aċċettah fil-Kongregazzjoni. Kien il-Papa personalment, Ljuni XIII, li neħhielu kull dubju: 'Mur għid lil Dun Bosco li l-Papa jixtiequ jaċċettak fost is-Salesjani.' U Dun Bosco wieġbu minnufih, 'Jiena naċċettak bil-qalb. Minn issa 'l quddiem inti membru tas-Socjetà Salesjana tagħna, u tibqa' fiha sakemm tmut.'

Qrib l-aħħar ta' Ġunju 1887, wara li rrinunzja il-pożizzjoni tiegħu favur hutu, telaq għan-novizzjat, fejn kellu jadatta ruħu għal tibdil sħiħ ta' ħafna modi li kien imdorri fihom: hinijiet strambi, ikel fqir, irqad, ħajja fil-komunità. Kellu wkoll jissara ma' tentattivi mill-familjari tiegħu li ma kinux kuntenti bl-għażla tiegħu; saħansitra missieru mar jarah u pprova jbidillu fehmtu. Nhar l-24 ta' Novembru 1887 għamel il-vestizzjoni fil-Bażilka ta' Marija Awziljatriċi minn idejn Dun Bosco. 'Kuraġġ, prinċep tiegħi', il-qaddis

pespes f'widnejn iż-żagħżuġh. 'Illum irbaġna rebħa mill-isbaħ. Imma b'ferħ kbir nista' ngħidlek ukoll li għad jasal il-jum meta ssir qassis u bir-rieda ta' Alla gġib ħafna barkiet fuq pajjiżek.'

Imma l-marda tiegħu reġgħet feġġet u niesu reġgħu pprovaw ibiddlulu fehmtu u jinsistu li jikkonsulta t-tobba. Kiteb hekk lill-Kardinal Parocchi li kien mitlub juża 'l pożizzjoni tiegħu biex Augustu jorhoġ minn Salesjan, 'Kienet volontà tiegħi u bl-akbar libertà li nieħu l-voti u dan għamiltu b'ferħ kbir ta' qalbi. Mindu qiegħed fis-Socjetà Salesjana għandi paċi kbira u niżzi ħajr lil Alla li għeni nagħraf is-Socjetà Salesjana u li sejjahli biex ngħix fiha.'

Il-ħajja ta' Dun Augustu fis-sacerdozju bilkemm damet sena. Hekku, kif il-Cardinal Cagliero, Salesjan, jiddeskrivi dan il-perjodu qasir ta' ħajtu : 'Ma kienx aktar ta' did-dinja! L-għaqda tiegħu ma' Alla, l-unjoni perfetta mar-Rieda Divina waqt il-marda serja tiegħu, ix-xewqa li jimita lil Ġesù Kristu fit-tbatijiet u niket tiegħu għamlu minnu eroj fil-paċenzja, fil-paċi tar-ruħ u fli ma jċedix, aktar milli għall-

uġiġh, għall-imħabba ta' Alla.' Miet fid-dar Salesjana ta' Alassio nhar is-Sibt 8 ta' April 1893, waqt l-Ottava tal-Għid il-Kbir, bilqiegħda fuq sigġu li kien uża Dun Bosco. 'Xi ġmiel ta' Għid il-Kbir !' kien qal nhar it-Tnejn ta' qabel lis-Salesjan li kien jieħu ħsiebu, mingħajr ma basar li dalwaqt kien ser jiċċelebraħ fis-sema.

'Kemm hi għażiża d-dar tiegħek, Mulej tal-eżerċiti! Tixxennaq u tinfena ruħi għat-tempju tal-Mulej... Jum wieħed fit-tempju tiegħek aħjar minn elf jum f'post ieħor' (Ps.83/84). Dawn il-kliem mis-salm, Augustu Czartoryski kien kitibhom fuq is-santa tal-ewwel quddiesja tiegħu. Fihom jintlemħu l-għażliet li jridu jsiru minn min ifittex ir-rieda ta' Alla u jrid iwettaqha. Augustu, il-prinċep żagħżuġh, kien għaraf isib mod kif jifli l-pjanijiet ta' Alla għalih. Fit-talb kien joffri lil Alla il-problemi u mistoqsijiet tiegħu, imbagħad, fi spirtu ta' ubbidjenza kien jimxi fuq il-pariri tal-mexxejja spiritwali tiegħu. B'dan il-mod fehem il-vokazzjoni tiegħu li jidħol għal ħajja ta' faqar sabiex iservi liż-żgħar. Dan l-istess mod għenu matul ħajtu sabiex jieħu deċiżjonijiet li llum nistgħu ngħidu wettaq fihom il-Pjan Divin b'mod tal-għaġġeb

**'KEMM HI GHAŻIŻA D-DAR TIEGHEK, MULEJ  
TAL-EŻERĊITI! TIXXENNAQ U TINFENA RUHI GHAT-  
TEMPJU TAL-MULEJ... JUM WIEHED FIT-TEMPJU  
TIEGHEK AHJAR MINN ELF JUM F'POST IEHOR'**

(PS.83/84)

2011

## CALENDAR OF SALESIAN

## FEASTS &amp; EVENTS

MAY

Sun	1	<b>Divine Mercy Sunday.</b> Devotions at St. Patrick's Church at 5.00 p.m. Past Pupils of St. Patrick's Committee Meeting
Mon	2	Start of School Term
Wed	4	Sliema Salesian Cooperators monthly meeting at 6.00 p.m.
Fri	6	<b>St. Dominic Savio</b> (a pupil of St. John Bosco). Festivities in Salesian Schools. First Friday
Sun	8	Car Wash - by Past Pupils, in St. Patrick's grounds
Tue	10	Prayer Day for Salesian Missions
Fri	13	<b>St. Mary D Mazzarello</b> (With Don Bosco she founded the Salesian Sisters=FMA) Celebrations by FMA in Gozo.
	21 - 22	Comedy by <i>Atturi Salesjani</i> at Salesian Theatre, Sliema
Sun	22	St. Patrick's Past Pupils day trip to Gozo
Tue	24	<b>Mary Help of Christians</b> (Principal Patroness of the Salesian Congregation) Sports Day at St. Patrick's School; <i>Akkademja</i> at Savio College. Solemn Mass and Enrollment of Devotees at St. Patrick's at 6.30 p.m.
Sun	29	<b>Bl. Joseph Kowalski</b> (Polish Martyr in Auschwitz in 1942). <b>Procession of Mary Help of Christians in Sliema at 6.00 p.m.</b>
Tue	31	<i>Environment Day</i> at St. Patrick's School

JUNE

Wed	1	Salesian Cooperators' monthly meeting. Schools go to 1/2 day Programme.
Fri	3	First Friday of the Month. Devotions and Mass at St. Patrick's at 6.15 p.m.
Sun	5	St. Patrick's Past Pupils Committee Meeting
Fri	10	Prayer Day for Salesian Missions
Sun	12	<b>Bl. Francis Kety and Companions</b> (Polish Oratory Youths martyred under the Nazis in 1942).
Thu	16	Start of Annual Exams at Savio College
Sun	19	St. Patrick's Past Pupils Football Match
Fri	24	<b>Feast of the Rector Major.</b> Commemoration of Mary Help of Christians.
Tue	28	Last day of school. 'Mnarja Night' at Savio College and Sliema Oratory.
Wed	29	<b>Imnarja</b>

JULY

Thu	7	<b>Bl. Maria Romero Meneses FMA</b>
Sun	10	Prayer Day for Salesian Missions
Wed	13	Sliema Cooperators' monthly meeting: outdoor activity.
Mon	25	Commemoration of Mary Help of Christians at St. Patrick's at 6.30 p.m.

Read hajja Salesjana on the website: [www.salesiansmalta.org](http://www.salesiansmalta.org)

Pictures of Don Bosco set to reflective music: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1dVsM9KAbw>



# *Blessed Gianna Beretta Molla*

## *Mother and Martyr*

**Everyone remembers the beautiful dark-haired woman with a strong honest face, warm smile and cheerful personality. Gianna Beretta Molla, a wife, mother and a doctor who specialized in working with poor families died on 28th April 1962, at the age of thirty-nine, after giving birth to her fourth child which doctors had advised her to abort. On 24th April 1994 this child, Gianna Emanuela, now thirty-two years old, attended a ceremony at St. Peter's Square in Rome, in which her mother was beatified by Pope John Paul II.**



The story of this twentieth-century saint began in Magenta (Milan), Italy, on 4 October 1922 when Gianna was born, the tenth of the thirteen children of Alberto and Maria Beretta. Five children died young, two became priests, one became a nun and doctor, two more became doctors (including Gianna), one an engineer and one a pharmacist. The Beretta family were very devout, praying together each day. From her earliest childhood Gianna was very committed to her faith, and as a schoolgirl joined Catholic Action, as well as

studying, praying, and socializing together. In the spring of 1938 when she was fifteen, Gianna attended a retreat organized around the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius. In one of her prayers she wrote: 'I promise you Jesus, to submit myself to all that you permit to happen to me. Let me know your will.' She also made a series of resolutions, promising to pray each day, morning and night, and offering her entire life to God. For Gianna, prayer was the practical dedication of every moment to God.

Gianna was a very bright student and after high school she went to the University of Pavia where she obtained a medical degree in surgery with honours. Three years later she earned an additional degree in paediatrics. During her college years in Milan and in Pavia, Gianna always attended daily morning Mass, and prayed the Rosary after dinner. If she had a spare moment, she would drop in to church for a quiet prayer in between classes. After qualifying, she worked with her brother, Dr. Fernando Beretta, in the family GP practice. Many of their patients came from the poorest parts of town and they often treated people without charge. Gianna also reflected on her vocation. In 1954, she went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes with a group of sick people and prayed regarding what she should do with her life. Soon afterwards she met Pietro Molla, an engineer and industrial director of the Safa of Milan.

The couple were soon engaged. She told Pietro: I want a really Christian home, where God is like one of the family; a little cenaculum where he can reign in our hearts, enlighten our decisions and guide our programmes.' They were married on 24th September 1955 in St. Martin's Basilica in Magenta. Their first child, Pierluigi, was born in 1956. Maria Zita arrived in 1957 and Laura was born in 1959. After their baptism, each child was entrusted to the special protection of Our Lady of Good Counsel. As well as running a home and working as a busy doctor, Gianna found time to help her local church's St. Vincent de Paul Society. If one became sick and was unable to work, she would help them find a less tiring job. She often gave people money. Colleagues remember that she was always

very approachable and a good listener. Women patients particularly used to wait to see her, to discuss their troubles.

Gianna used to say: 'One earns Paradise with one's daily tasks...I have always been taught that the secret of happiness is living moment by moment and to thank God for everything that in his goodness he sends us, day after day.'

In the summer of 1961, Gianna became pregnant for the fourth time. She and Pietro were delighted as they had always wanted a large family. But two months into the pregnancy the doctors discovered that she had developed a painful life-threatening uterine tumour or fibroma. They were advised that the safest option for Gianna was to remove the fibroma, terminating the pregnancy, but leaving open the possibility of future pregnancies or to remove the fibroma in such a way that would not interrupt the pregnancy. But they were warned this could put Gianna's life in great danger. Gianna chose the last option. After the operation she made a good recovery, went back to work and the pregnancy continued normally. But she was always concerned for the baby's health, and told the doctor repeatedly: 'If you must choose between me and the baby, no hesitation: choose - and I demand it - the baby; save him!'

Her labour began on Good Friday, 20th April 1962. The medical examination revealed a large, healthy baby but also a life-threatening septic peritonitis. She gave birth on 21st April, but then began to suffer tremendously as the peritonitis took hold. Gianna was very distressed at the thought of leaving her children orphaned. She prayed constantly but refused pain medication, as she said she did not feel it would be right to



appear before the Lord without much suffering. On 26th and 27th April, Gianna could not receive Holy Communion because she could not swallow. Gianna begged that the Sacred Host at least be placed on her lips. She repeatedly continuously, 'Jesus I love you.' Gianna was finally returned home by ambulance. She died there on Saturday April 28th 1962 at 8.00 a.m.

On 6th July 1991, Pope John Paul II issued a decree of Heroicity of Virtue for her, on 21st December 1992 the decree of the miracle was proclaimed, and on the 24th April 1994, during the Year of the Family Pope John Paul II beatified Gianna Beretta Molla at St. Peter's Square in Rome.

Many members of Gianna's family attended

the ceremony. After greeting the family, during his homily the Pope said: 'Blessed Gianna had the grace of a united family, rich in faith and love... In the dramatic choice between saving her life and that of the child which she carried in her womb, she did not hesitate to sacrifice herself. What a heroic witness... in violent contrast with a certain mentality pervasive today! May her sacrifice infuse courage in all those who participate personally or communally in the Movement for Life and in other similar organisations...'

After the beatification ceremony, Pietro Molla told reporters how joyful, loving and caring his wife had been, 'But', he said, 'in the seven years I lived with her, I never realized I had been living with a saint!'



# Don Bosco Around the World

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



## **JAPAN**

The arrival of Don Bosco's relics in Japan in February, had a novel feature about it: for the veneration of the faithful rather than the casket there is a statue of the saint. At the request of the Salesian Provincial in Japan, Fr Aldo Cipri-

ani, a second relic of Don Bosco, a kneecap, has also been sent from Turin. Unlike the forearm, however, this is not inside the statue but is kept in a separate reliquary so as to allow the faithful and those who wish to see the relic as they venerate it. Some examples of documents handwritten by Don Bosco have also accompanied the journey of the relics in the Japanese Province. The choice of the statue in place of the casket made so that the faithful may express their devotion according to their traditional culture, was not simply the decision of the Salesian community. In fact before asking for the statue to be sent Fr Cipriani consulted Archbishop Peter Takeo Okada of Tokyo.



### AUSTRALIA (MELBOURNE)

**In March,** Don Bosco's relics were travelling around Australia. The Aboriginal, Salesian and student communities have welcomed the saint of youth. On Tuesday 8 March the statue of Don Bosco, with the right forearm of the saint, was received by the Australian Aboriginal Community, which presented a specially prepared traditional Message Stick – "The Message Stick, is a sign of welcome and of hope that the passage of the Relic through the various areas of Australia will be safe and bring blessings" it said.

The first stop on the pilgrimage was Chadstone, a suburb of Melbourne, where the Relic was placed in the Salesian Community Chapel. That evening there was the first public event attended by distinguished guests, local Members of Parliament, Parish Priests, Religious as well as parents and many people from the local area. On 10 March, two Masses were said: one for the 1000 College students and later one open to everyone at which the Salesian auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne Tim Costelloe presided. On Sunday 13

March Don Bosco's relics were welcomed in various parishes in the city and then in the religious centre at Monash University. The young people recited the rosary led by the Dominican chaplain of the University Fr Laurie Foote, who also gave reflections on the life of Don Bosco. Here too Bishop Costelloe presided at Mass attended by over 200 students and members of the Catholic Community at the University.

The statue of Don Bosco was later transferred to the Salesian parish of St Margaret Mary in North Brunswick from where it spent the following week visiting Salesian Centres around the Western and Northern part of the city.



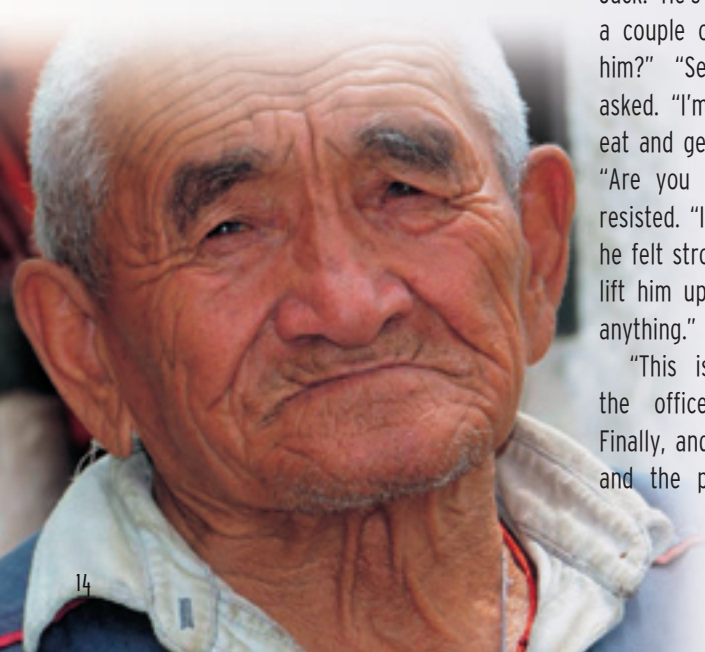
# You Reap What You Sow

**“Good morning,” said a woman as she walked up to the man sitting on ground. The man slowly looked up. This was a woman clearly accustomed to the finer things of life. She looked like she had never missed a meal in her life.**

His first thought was that she wanted to make fun of him, like so many others had done before... “Leave me alone,” he growled.

To his amazement, the woman continued standing. She was smiling. “Are you hungry?” she asked. “No,” he answered sarcastically. “I’ve just come from dining with the president. Now go away.” The woman’s smile became even broader. Suddenly the man felt a gentle hand under his arm. “What are you doing, lady?” the man asked angrily. “I said to leave me alone.” Just then a policeman came up. “Is there any problem, ma’am?” he asked. “No problem here, officer,” the woman answered. “I’m just trying to get this man to his feet. Will you help me?” The officer scratched his head. “That’s old Jack. He’s been a fixture around here for a couple of years. What do you want with him?” “See that cafeteria over there?” she asked. “I’m going to get him something to eat and get him out of the cold for awhile.” “Are you crazy, lady?” the homeless man resisted. “I don’t want to go in there!” Then he felt strong hands grab his other arm and lift him up. “Let me go, officer. I didn’t do anything.”

“This is a good deal for you, Jack” the officer answered. “Don’t blow it.” Finally, and with some difficulty, the woman and the police officer got Jack into the



cafeteria. It was the middle of the morning, so most of the breakfast crowd had already left. The manager strode across the cafeteria and stood by their table. "What's going on here, officer?" he asked. "What is all this, is this man in trouble?" "This lady brought this man in here to be fed," the policeman answered. "Not in here!" the manager replied angrily. "Having a person like that here is bad for business." Old Jack smiled a toothless grin. "See, lady. I told you so. Now if you'll let me go. I didn't want to come here in the first place."

The woman turned to the cafeteria manager and smiled. "Sir, are you familiar with *Eddy and Associates*, the banking firm down the street?" "Of course I am," the manager answered impatiently. "They hold their weekly meetings in one of my banquet rooms." "And do you make a goodly amount of money providing food at these weekly meetings?" "What business is that of yours?" "I, sir, am Penelope Eddy, President and CEO of the company." The woman smiled again. "I thought that might make a difference." She sat down at the table across from her amazed dinner guest. She stared at him intently. "Jack, do you remember me?" Old Jack searched her face with his old, rheumy eyes. "I think so. I mean you do look familiar." "I'm a little older perhaps," she said. "Maybe I've even filled out more than in my younger days when you worked here, and I came through that very door, cold and hungry. I was just out of college," the woman began. "I had come to the city looking for a job, but I couldn't find anything. I walked the streets for days. It was February and I was cold and nearly starving. I saw this place

and walked in on the off chance that I could get something to eat."

Jack lit up with a smile. "Now I remember," he said. "I was behind the serving counter. You came up and asked me if you could work for something to eat. I said that it was against company policy."

"I know," the woman continued. "Then you made me the biggest roast beef sandwich that I had ever seen, gave me a cup of coffee, and told me to go over to a corner table and enjoy it. Then, when I looked over, I saw you put the price of my food in the cash register." "So you started your own business?" Old Jack said.

"I got a job that very afternoon. I worked my way up. Eventually I started my own business that, with the help of God, prospered." She opened her purse and pulled out a business card. "When you are finished here, I want you to pay a visit to a Mr. Lyons. He's the personnel director of my company. I'll go talk to him now and I'm certain he'll find something for you to do around the office." She smiled. "I think he might even find the funds to give you a little advance so that you can buy some clothes and get a place to live until you get on your feet. If you ever need anything, my door is always open to you." "How can I ever thank you?" he said.

"Don't thank me," the woman answered. "To God goes the glory. Thank Jesus. He led me to you." Outside the cafeteria, the officer and the woman paused at the entrance before going their separate ways. "Thank you for all your help, officer," she said.

"On the contrary, Ms. Eddy," he answered. "Thank you. I saw a miracle today, something that I will never forget."

# MAGNIFICAT

## IL-KLIEM U S-SKIET TAL-MADONNA

*Marija qalet: "Ruhi tfaħħar il-kobor tal-Mulej  
U l-ispirtu tiegħi jifrah f'Alla s-Salvatur tiegħi  
Għax hu xehet għajnejh fuq iċ-ċokon tal-qaddejja  
tiegħu.*

*Iva, minn issa 'l quddiem kull nisel jibda jsejjahli  
hienja, Għax is-setgħani għamel miegħi hwejjeġ  
kbar;*

*Qaddis hu l-isem tiegħu.*

*Il-ħniena tiegħu tinfirex f'kull żmien fuq dawk li  
jibzghu minnu.*

*Hu wera l-qawwa ta' driegħu,*

*Xerred lil dawk li huma mkabbra f'qalbhom.*

*Niżżel is-setgħana minn fuq it-tron tagħhom u  
għolla ċ-ċekjknin.*

*Mela b'kull ġid lil min hu bil-ġuħ,*

*U l-ghonja baġħathom 'il barra b'xejn.*

*Ha ħsieb Iżrael qaddej tiegħu*

*għax ftakar fil-ħniena tiegħu*

*bħalma wiegħed lil missirijietna*

*b'riżq Abraham u nislu għal dejjem." (Lq 1: 46-55)*

### IT-TALB TAGHNA KIF INHU?

Xi wħud jgħidu li t-talb ta' filgħodu u ta' filgħaxija ma jhalluh qatt. Din tista' tkun drawwa fil-familja li wieħed ikun imdorri jagħmel minn ċkunitu. Li tilbes il-piġama qabel torqod jew li tiekol xi haġa meta tqum kull filgħodu, huma wkoll drawwiet.

Oħrajn jgħidu li jitolbu meta jħossu l-bżonn u jużaw kliem li johroġ minn qalbhom f'dak il-ħin. Mhux dejjem l-aħjar li titlob skond dak li tħoss f'qalbek. Ta' spiss l-għażliet li nagħmlu fil-ħajja jeħtieġu ħsieb u attenzjoni.

Kultant tiltaqa' ma' nies li jitolbu biss meta jkollhom bżonn ta' xi haġa u mbagħad jilmentaw li

Alla ma jismagħhomx. Imma Alla mhuwiex hemm biex isodd it-toqob jew għal meta jaqblilna.

Ejjew nagħmlu prova fuq kif inhu t-talb tagħna u nwiegħbu għal xi mistoqsijiet bl-akbar sinċerità.

META ? Il-ħin eżatt li fih , matul il-ġurnata, jiena nagħmel it-talb tiegħi.

KEMM? Il-ħin bl-arloġġ, li bi ħsiebni nagħti għat-talb.

FEJN? Liema hu l-ambjent u l-post fejn jien bi ħsiebni nqatta' l-ħin tat-talb.

KIF? Fit-talb tiegħi, kemm attenzjoni se nagħti biex niżzi ħajr 'l Alla, biex nitlob maħfra, u biex nitlob hwejjeġ oħra.

MA' MIN? Waħdi, mal-komunità, ma' sħabi... ?

U FIL-HAJJA TIEGħI? X'importanza għandu t-talb fil-ħajja tiegħi biex ħajti ma tkunx vojta u t-talb ma jkunx biered?

### GRAZZI LIL ALLA

Inħarsu lejn il-Madonna li fil-Magnificat tagħtina f'idejna talba l-ġmiel tagħha u ma jonqosha xejn. Hija talba ta' ringrazzjament lil Alla għal kull ma għamel magħha. Ukoll qabel ma talbitu hi. Waqt li hija tibqa' dejjem tħossha fqira u fil-bżonn tal-imħabba.

Mela biex nitolbu, niringrazzjaw lil Alla ta' dak kollu li jagħtina ta' kuljum u nitolbuh maħfra talli m'għarafniex u ma nringrazzjajniex tal-ħniena kbira tiegħu. Imbagħad fl-aħħar nistgħu nitolbuh dak li nixtiequ għalina. Jekk ix-xewqat tagħna jixbhu lil dawk li għalihom il-Madonna tirringrazzja lil Alla fil-Magnificat, nistgħu nkunu żguri li t-talb tagħna jiġi mismuġh.

U fuq kollox, jirnexxilna nagħmlu t-talb parti



mill-ħajja tagħna, bħal Madonna, li wara li farrġet lil Alla, damet tiitt xhur taqdi lil qariba tagħha Eliżabetta.

Ruħi tfaħħar lil Alla u tixtieq tgħarraf lil kulhadd il-ferħ li jiena nemmen fih, Għaliex iħobbni hekk kif jien, bid dghufija kollha tiegħi.

Sewwa sew għalhekk 'il quddiem għad jiftakru fija.

Alla kien wisq ħanin miegħi u għalhekk jiena nsemmi ismu bl-akbar qima,

Waqt li l-għonja sabu ruħhom b'idejhom vojta u ħajjithom spicċat fix-xejn.

Il-Mulej qiegħed qrib il-Knisja tiegħu,

Jiġifieri mal-Komunità miġbura madwaru mal-lben u mal-Ispirtu s-Santu.

B'hekk juri l-ħila kbira tiegħu li jħobb u jaħfer lil kulhadd u dejjem,

Kif kien wiegħed fl-imġhoddi lil Abraham u lill-poplu Lhudi,

Lill-Appostli u lid-Dixxipli fi żmien Ġesù.

Alla jħobbni

Kif taraw, din hija t-talba tal-Magnificat bil-kliem tagħna ta' kuljum.

1 Alla jħobbni u jħobb il-ġrajja ta' ħajti, dgħajfa u bla ebda sigurtà...

Tassew hekk hu: jiena nafda l-ġejjieni kollu tiegħi fuq il-Kelma tiegħu.

Alla kien ġeneruż ħafna miegħi u ma' dawk kollha li emmnu fih!

Jiena nfaħħar dejjem l-imħabba tiegħu fit-talb tiegħi.

2 Barra milli hu tajjeb, Alla juri l-qawwa tiegħu ma' dawk li jitkabburu,

Jekk tafda ħajtek fuq il-kapaċità tiegħek u fuq l-għana,

Issib ruħek b'idejk vojta jew mimlijin b'dak li ma jiswa xejn.

Il-ħobż ta' kuljum u l-veru sens tal-ħajja, dawn Alla jagħtik dejjem.

3 Alla gje jiltaqa' mal-Knisja b'idej mimlija maħfra u mħabba:

Din hija l-wegħda li hu għamel lil min jemmen u lil dawk kollha li jimxu wara Kristu.

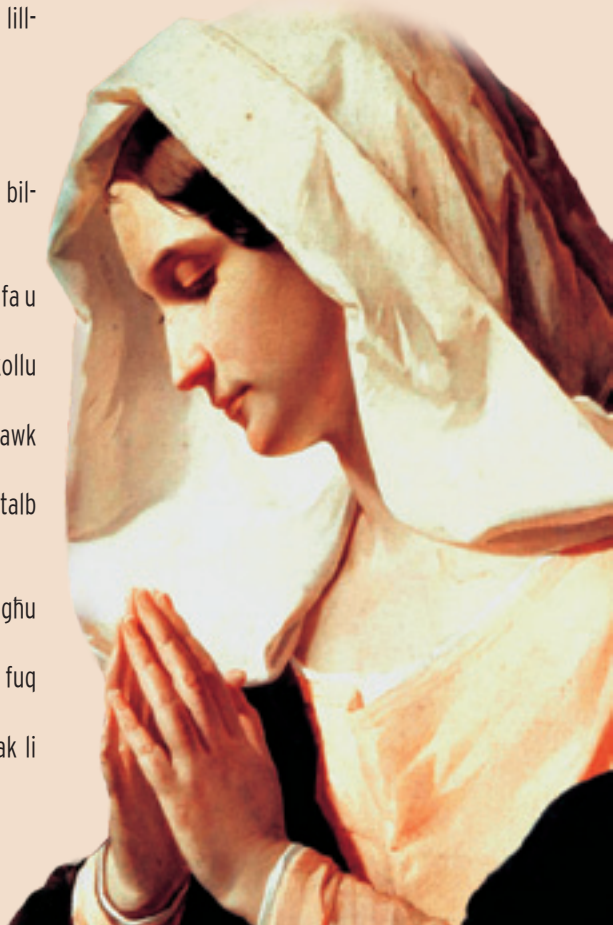
Għal dawn id-doni jiena nfaħħar lil Mulej! Lil Alla Missier, grazzi li tana lil lbnu :

Hu li jagħtina l-Ispirtu s-Santu, għajn tal-ħajja ta' dejjem.

Bħal Marija qalbna tifraħ għax nemmnu, inħobbu u nittamaw fih.

Magnificat! Magnificat! Magnificat!

### Don Giorgio Chatrian



A wooden pier extends from the bottom center towards the horizon, flanked by several vertical wooden posts. The pier is made of horizontal wooden planks. The ocean is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is serene and contemplative.

Something  
to think about...

# Learn to LIVE

**Enjoy life, it is not a rehearsal.**

**Live each day in the present and make it beautiful.**

**If you love life, life will love you back.**

**Believe that your life is worth living and your beliefs will help create the fact.**

**Don't fear pressure, for pressure is what turns rough stones into diamonds.**

**Don't count the days, make your days count.**

**The world is like a mirror, if you face it smiling, it smiles back at you.**

**Happiness is not having what you want; it's wanting what you have.**

**Learn to listen. Opportunity sometimes knocks softly.**

**Good times may become good memories. Bad times may become good lessons.**

**People are lonely because they build walls instead of bridges.**

**Wherever you go take your heart along.**

# Malta Salesjana



## LI KELLNA U LI SER IKOLLNA

Fr John Horan, is-Superjur Provinċjali taġhna (Irlanda u Malta) ġie jagħmel iż-żjara kanonika ta' kull sena matul l-aħħar ġimagħtejn ta' Marzu. Huwa żar l-erba' komunitajiet taġhna f'Malta (2 f'Tas-Sliema, Had-Dingli u l-Isla) u ltaqa' mas-Salesjani, anke mat-tnejn ta' Tunes li ġew Malta proprju għalhekk. Din kienet l-aħħar żjara uffiċjali ta' Fr John għalix huwa ser jispicċa minn Provinċjal. Ahna niżżuh hajr tad-dedikazzjoni fit-twettiq tad-dover tiegħu matul dawn l-aħħar 6 snin.

Nhar il-Ġimgħa 1 ta' April, wasal Malta għal żjara qasira Fr Michael Casey li ser ikun il-Provinċjal il-ġdid taġhna. Huwa iltqa' mal-Kunsill tad-Delegazzjoni Salesjana ta'

Malta u żar id-Djar Salesjani. Nilqgħu lil Fr Michael, li jlehu r-riedni f'idejh f'Awwissu li ġej, u nawgurawlu.

## JUM ST. PATRICK F'TAS-SLIEMA

Wieħed mil-modi kif jiġi ċelebrat Jum St. Patrick huwa li ssir quddies għal dawk l-Irlandiżi Kattoliċi li jgħixu Malta u jixtiequ jiltaqgħu. Flimkien ma' Irlandiżi oħrajn li jaqraw l-avviż fil-gazzetti, ikollhom quddies solenni fil-Kappella taġhna. Hemm waħda anzjana li ta' kull sena ġġib ix-shamrock mill-Irlanda u tqassam lil kulhadd. Preżenti għal din l-okkażjoni, din is-sena, kien hemm ukoll l-Ambaxxatur Irlandiż u s-sinjura tiegħu. Waqt il-quddies jittkantaw innijiet Irlandiżi li jfakkru lill-Qaddis San Patrizju.

Kien Fr. Charlie Said li mexxa l-quddies, flimkien ma' Frs. Antoine Farrugia u Joe Cini. Wara l-quddies kien hemm kafè jew tè għal kulhadd flimkien ma' gallettini u cake.

Din l-okkażjoni issa saret tradizzjoni għalix ilha ssir hafna snin wara xulxin, u n-numru ta' dawk li jiġu għaliha dejjem jikber!



## LAQGH TAL-EŻEKUTTIV DBYN

Is-Salesian Youth Pastoral Service (SPYS) kien irrappreżentat minn wieħed mill-membri tiegħu, Ivor Muscat, fil-Laqgħa tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv Ġenerali tad-Don Bosco Youth Net

(DBYN) li sar fi Krakovja, il-Polonja, f'Marzu li għadda. Malta ġiet għal darb'ohra eletta fil-Bord Amministrattiv għat-tlett snin li ġejjin. Id-DBYN tiġbor fiha għaqdiet Salesjani ta' żgħażaġh minn 13-il pajjiż tal-Ewropa. Malta, flimkien mal-Ġermanja, Polonja, Belġju u r-Renju Unit hadmet sabiex jissafihah dan in-network ta' għaqdiet u movimenti Salesjani taż-żgħażaġh fl-Ewropa. Matul din il-laqgħa ġie elett il-President il-ġdid tad-DBYN, Leive van Aerschoot, għat-tlett snin li ġejjin.



## IS-SORIJET SALESJANI TA' TUNES

Wara l-qtil tas-qassis Pollakk li ġara fid-Dar Salesjana tal-Manouba, intweriet simpatija lejn is-Salesjani b'haġna modi. Ftit jiem wara li seħh dan id-delitt, is-Sorijiet Salesjani miż-żewġ komunitajiet li hemm fit-Tuneżija (f'Menzel Bourguiba u f'Tunis Medina) marru jżuru lill-Fathers Salesjani sabiex jgħaddu xi ftit hin magħhom. Hemm disa' sorijiet f'dawn iż-żewġ komunitajiet. Dawk minnhom li setgħu jmorru għand il-Fathers qagħdu jiehdu t-te magħhom u jitkellmu fuq dak li qiegħed jiġri fil-pajjiż. Kienet serata' ta' vera hiberija.



## BOSCOFEST 2011

L-avveniment ta' kull sena li jkun organizzat f'Savio College, ġie mniedi nhar il-Hadd 6 ta' Marzu ġewwa Savio College stess. Wara quddiesa għal daqs 240 żgħażaġh li attendew, ilkoll msejja permezz tal-Facebook, tqassmu l-applikazzjonijiet. Ġiet immedija wkoll website għal dan l-avveniment [www.boscofest.org](http://www.boscofest.org) Fr. Louis Grech li huwa l-organizzatur, spjega kemm l-għan kif ukoll il-motto "Reaching Out" li jixtieq li jintlaħqu din is-sena. Din ser tkun il-Hames sena li ser issir il-Boscofest, lejn l-aħħar ta' Awwissu, u bħal ta' qabilha diġà qajmet entużjażmu kbir fost dawk li jhobbu d-drama, il-mużika, il-kant, iż-żfin u l-animazzjoni. "Reaching Out" tistieden liż-żgħażaġh iħarsu madwarhom lejn min hu fil-bżonn: għalhekk ser isiru zjarat fid-Dar tal-Providenza, f'St. Vincent de Paul u Dar Sagra Familja. Ĉertament, din is-sena wkoll, Boscofest ser tkun esperjenza mill-isbaħ għaż-żgħażaġh li jieħdu sehem.





# Saint 3 Mary Mazzarello

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

## **DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS**

And thus the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians had their lowly beginning: a handful of young peasant girls, living together in rudimentary religious life, sharing a small cottage which they proudly called “The Immaculate Conception House” taking in small village girls to teach them their religious and domestic duties. Even begging was necessary for the Sisters in those hard beginnings. Through those crucial days, only one thing kept the new community together and that was the love of God. It served them as fuel, nourishment, and comfort.

The first rules of the new community were drawn up by Don Bosco in 1867. Mary

Mazzarello, then thirty years old, was considered the natural Superior or Mother. Sister Petronilla, who had grown up with Mary in the fields asserts very resolutely that most of the community’s good humour, patience, fortitude and absolute trust in God came from Mary.

July 31, 1872: a day that would make the town of Mornese famous. In the chapel of the new school built by Father Pestarino fifteen young women knelt in anxious anticipation before the altar. This was to be the day of their mystic espousal with Christ. In the sanctuary sat the Bishop of the diocese; near him stood Don Bosco, who had steered the new congregation through troublesome beginnings. Mary Mazzarello, her face radiant

with joy, went first to the Bishop's chair. He placed upon her the new habit which she herself had devised and upon her head he placed the veil of the Sisterhood. And she arose - Sister Mary Mazzarello. One by one, the other heroic young women stepped forth to receive the habit. Then Mary Mazzarello and her companions, uttered vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. The promise she had made to God at her First Communion was now complete!

The new Sisters received their official name of "The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians." Their work was clearly outlined for them by Don Bosco: they were to consider themselves as the complement of the work of the Salesian Fathers and Brothers, and what the Salesians were doing for the boys they would do for the girls. Before leaving, Don Bosco asked Mary Mazzarello to assume temporary charge - to the joy of the Sisters and her own embarrassment. She objected, alleging her ignorance as an excuse, but, on the Saint's reassurance that it would be only for a while, she humbly acceded to his wishes and became Mother Mary Mazzarello.

The temporary job lasted two years. And then, in the first elections of the Congregation, Mother Mary Mazzarello was chosen to be the first Superior General by a unanimous vote!

## **MOTHER GENERAL**

Mother Mary Mazzarello remained Mother General till death. In those seven years she

endeared herself to her sisters by a genuine, deep-seated humility and extraordinary sense of motherly understanding. The conviction that she was a peasant girl, fit only to do the humblest task, never left her and gave her every work and action an attractive pleasantness that took the barb out of correction, sweetened even a gentle reprimand, and won all hearts to her. The little incidents of her life, when looked upon as a whole, form a marvelous portrait of a woman who had the heart of a mother and the soul of an angel. One day a postulant ran into her room. On the verge of tears, she exclaimed: "Mother I have to go home - today!"

Gradually the story came in bits between sobs, a combination of homesickness, childish worry, and an attempt or two of the devil to ruin a religious vocation. Mother explained it all to her.

"Well now, there is no sense of dashing off before you even know your own mind. Why don't you stay with us for a month on vacation? Then we'll pray together, and if you want to return home after that, I'll go with you myself. How's that?" The girl agreed and became a wonderful Salesian sister!

A novice, Catherine, had happily gone through her period of novitiate and was ready for her religious profession when a storm of doubts overwhelmed her. She consulted her superior and spiritual director, a Salesian priest.

"Go ask Mother Mazzarello," was the

answer. She did. Mother analysed the problem and unquestionably told Catherine it was all a temptation. "Take your vows Catherine," she concluded.

But Catherine went to her superior again and once more manifested her doubts. The Sister tried repeatedly to assure Catherine, to no avail. The temptation was grave and the girl was evidently suffering. Just then the spiritual director of the house entered and told her: "Mother Mazzarello gave me a message for you this morning: *'Tell Catherine that she is to receive the habit and make her vows. God has called her to do a great deal of good.'* Well Catherine, now you know God's Will. The decision is up to you."

"Yes Father," the girl answered slowly. "I'll do as Mother says."

Seven years later, Catherine Daghero was elected Superior General to succeed Mother Mazzarello on her death. Her life of

profound holiness was rivaled only by that of her canonised predecessor.

## LIFE AT MORNESE

Wash day was not a private affair in Mornese; everyone did her laundry in public at the mountain brook that skirted the village. It was a rather noisy event. But at the end of the chattering line of women, one could see a small group of the new sisters washing the community laundry, and in the group Mother Mazzarello, the superior, industriously banging away at the soiled clothing, chatting amiably with her companions.

"But, Mother," one Sister complained, "you shouldn't be scrubbing clothes like the rest of us. Look everyone is pointing at you."

Mother smiled. "Now child, don't be so curious as to see who's pointing at us. And what if they do? Am I any better than you or the other sisters? I am just a peasant, and there is no sense in my putting on airs."

*(to continue...)*



# 20 kilometru trekking f'Għawdex

Is-Salesian Brigade għal darb'ohra organizza trekking mal-punent tal-gżira Għawdxija nhar il-5 u 6 ta' Marzu 2011. Il-grupp immexxi minn Joe Camilleri u Jesmond Cassar imxew u gawdex il-kampanja sabiha fin-naħat tax-Xatt l-Aħmar, Imġarr ix-Xini, Ta' Ċenċ, Kerċem u f'Santa Luċija, fil-limiti ta' Għajn Abdul, kielu u raqdu fl-għerien preistorici li jġibu l-veduta imponenti tal-ġebli tal-Ġeneral.

Il-grupp armat sa' snien bil-*haversacks* fuq daru, ġarr l-ikel kollu ta' jumejn u anke l-affarijiet personali tiegħu, f'riħ kiesaħ iżda

bla xita. L-ikel issajjar fuq *stoves* u *barBQ* u kulhadd naddaf, talab u raqad għas-sħana tal-*sleeping bag*.

L-għada l-mixja kompliet għas-Sannat fejn il-grupp reġa' pprepara x'jiekol qabel qabad tal-linja għall-Imġarr.

L-iskop ewlieni ta' dal-mixjiet pjuttost iebes huwa li ż-żgħażaġh tal-Brigade jitgħallmu japprezzaw in-natura, jeżerċitaw ruħhom, jaħdmu fi grupp, isajru u jnaddfu, jinterpretaw mappa, jieħdu pjaċir u fuq kolloxx bi preparamenti għall-spedizzjonijiet tal-President's Award Scheme.

Joe Camilleri





# Past Pupils ta' Savio College

Xi drabi, Past Pupils ta' Savio College, jiltaqgħu bejniethom. Dawn soltu jkunu l-hbieb antiki tal-klassi tagħhom. Kemm-il darba wasliti ahbar ta' dawn il-laqgħat. Ftit ilu rċevejt messaġġ u ritratti bl- e-mail mingħand Giovanni Barbaro Sant. Hekku dak li kitibli.

«Dan l-ahħar kont id-dar tal-Mamà, il-Mosta, u ġie f'idejja l-Hajja Salesjana ta' Jannar-Frar 2011 u ġieni l-hsieb li nwassallek ahbar...

Dan l-ahħar, preċiżament fit- 8 ta' Jannar saret laqgħa (re-union) ta' daww li konna Form 5 fl-1979 f'Savio College. Din saret fuq inizzjattiva mibdiya minn Martin Abela (ta' Had-Dingli) u Paul Vella (hu Fr. Savio) li fassal il-programm u ħabbar bosta kuntatti, u jien tajt sehmi ukoll. Wara 32 sena, erġajna ltqajna għall-Quddiesa mmexxija minn (Fr.) Joe Mamo OFM Conv, li saret fil-kappella tal-Knisja ta' San Franġisk u wara iklta għand Margo's fi Triq ir-Repubblika.

Avveniment li rnexxa tista' tqhid għal kollux. L-akbar parteċipazzjoni vokali waqt il-quddiesa kienet proprju l-Innu f'ġieħ Dun Bosco

Ulied Malta ġew jifirhulek...Mill-klassi ta' aktar minn 30 ruħ, kien hemm neqsin biss, Joe Bonello (li sfortunatament ħalliena xi sentejn ilu), Victor Cuschieri li ma irnexxilniex nikkuntattjawn u Anthony Rossi li sfortunatament ma setax jattendi.

Qed nehmez xi ritratti...tlieta ta' dakinhar u iehor aktarx meħud meta konna F4, b'Fr. Francis Żammit fuq quddiem. Hemm ħafna aktar ritratti... il-hsieb hu li dawn għandhom jinġabru u jiġu ċċirkolati bejn daww li attendew. Nahseb li jekk jiġi ppubblikat dan ir-ritratt tagħna, għandu jservi ta' inkoraġġiment lil ex-studenti oħrajn biex jorganizzaw 're-unions' bħal dawn... x'tahseb? - Tislijiet - Giovanni (gbs@go.net.mt)»

Malli rċevejt dan il-messaġġ, weġibt lil Giovanni u wegħidtu li nippubblika kull ma bghatli f'Hajja Salesjana. Nittama li jkun hemm gruppi oħra ta' Past Pupils li jiltaqgħu u jibagħtuli ritratti u deskrizzjoni tal-laqgħat tagħhom.

Fr Joe Cini



# Feast of Don Bosco in Toronto

by Fr. Joe Fenech

(Saturday 29th January 2011) Here in the city of Toronto, at the Salesian Parish of St. Benedict, we celebrated with due solemnity the feast of St. John Bosco, our Patron Saint.

This occasion is held every year from the moment we organized ourselves as Past Pupils of the Don Bosco Oratory in Victoria, Gozo. The Oratory, as many of you know, was run by the Salesians for a number of years (1946 - 1965). There I had the good fortune to work and serve affectionately for over 2 years (1959 - 1962). After that I had come to New York and then to Canada to join my family.

All the Past Pupils joined in the festivities which consisted of a Solemn Mass and reception during which we chatted and had a good time meeting each other. We felt quite happy to meet

with the Salesian Pastor, Fr Mike Pace sdb, who hails from Qormi, Malta, and who was so delighted to see us. It was a rainy day, it's true, but all came to share the good time and to recall the past happy moments and the great feast of Don Bosco we used to have at Victoria. We sure missed the fireworks display freely given to us by Mr. Cilia (RIP).

I am very thankful to the organising committee over here, headed by Mr. Ignatius (Nazinu) Saliba and Mr. Achille Attard, and to their many friends, some of whom are seen in the picture here. With us is Fr. Mike Pace and myself.

We sure look forward to keep meeting again, to celebrate Don Bosco once again and to see our good friends of old, remembering our happy days in Victoria, Gozo.



## The final salute

# Fr Marek Rybinski

*Family members, friends, Salesians, but also religious and Sisters, young people and faithful from throughout Poland gathered together on Wednesday 2 March in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Warsaw for the funeral Mass of Fr Marek Rybinski.*

Fr Rybinski's body had left Tunisia, on 28 February and arrived in Poland on Tuesday 1 March. On arrival the body was taken to the Missionary House of the Salesians in Warsaw where there was an all-night vigil. Family, friends, members of the Salesian "Saruel" Youth Movement, volunteers from the Don Bosco International Voluntary Service and Salesians, all took part. At midnight about 30 priests concelebrated a Mass of suffrage.

On Wednesday, Archbishop Józef Michalik of Przemyśl and President of the Polish Bishops' Conference presided at Mass at which about 250 priests, religious and diocesan concelebrated.

Also present were some representatives of the Salesians in Ireland and Malta - on which the Salesian community of Manouba depends- and the Consul of Tunisia in Poland.

Fr Slawomir Lubian, Provincial of Warsaw gave the homily. At the end of Mass Mons. Wiktor Skworc, President of the Commission for the Mission of the Polish Bishops read a tribute to Fr Rybinski. Then in the name of the Councillor for the Salesian Missions, Fr Stanislaw Rafalko spoke, quoting some phrases written by Fr Rybinski: "I don't have a missionary vocation but I have not stopped praying for one." Fr John Horan,

Provincial of Ireland said that Fr Rybinski knew what it meant to give one's life for the missions. Bishop Hoser, saying the final prayer declared that Fr Rybinski was added to the list of the first martyrs of the Church who in that country had given their lives for Christ: Saints Cyprian, Perpetua and Felicity. The body of Fr Marek Rybinski was then buried in the Salesian plot in the cemetery of Warsaw Brudno.

• • •

Fr Marek Rybinski, a young Polish missionary in Manouba, Tunisia, was found killed on the morning of the 18th February in the Salesian school at Manouba, near Tunis. Tragically his body was found in a store room with his throat cut. At 9.30 the day before Fr Rybinski had spoken on the phone to Sr Ewa Siuda, at the Mission Office in Warsaw, and asked her to send a fax confirming that a sum of money had been transferred.

Fr. Rybinski, only 33 years of age, originally from the Warsaw Province in Poland, was ordained priest in May 2005. In September 2007 he arrived in Manouba where he became community bursar. "Marek was extremely efficient and through his contacts with the Polish Missions Office he was able to finance various projects for the good of the school," Fr. Lawrence Essery said. Fr. Marek had also been appointed chaplain to the Polish community by the archbishop of Tunisia and had spent a lot of time preparing the youngsters for Confirmation.

On 28 February, in the Cathedral of Tunis, Archbishop Maroun Elias Nimeh Lahham of Tunisia presided at a Mass for Fr Marek Rybinski. Many people of different nationalities and religions attended the funeral. The Cathedral was packed. The concelebrants were the Salesians Fr Mario Mulè Stagno, Director of the Salesian School in Manouba and Fr Laurence Essery, Rector of the

Salesian community and about thirty other diocesan priests. Among those present at the Mass were the Polish Ambassador in Tunisia accompanied by his wife, the Ambassador of Malta and the Consul, and representatives of the Muslim and Jewish communities in Tunisia. The teachers from the school, all Muslims, were present in force together with the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians from their communities in Menzel Bourguiba and the city of Tunis.

The readings and intercessions at Mass were in Polish, French and Arabic respecting the various cultures represented and involved in the tragic episode. The Archbishop gave his homily first in French and then in Arabic. Some moments in the service were particularly moving. At the offertory procession some teachers brought the work some of the pupils from the infant school had done in memory of Fr Rybinski. After communion a priest from Jordan sang in Arabic a prayer of abandonment by Blessed Charles de Foucauld and then the Polish community sang a hymn to Our Lady in their language.

May the Lord give eternal reward to Fr. Marek Rybinski, a blessing to the Salesian School at Manouba and peace to the land of Tunisia.



# *Dun Bosco*

## *fis-santi u kartolini*

### it-tmien parti

Propriu biex tkun taqbel ma' dan iż-żmien tas-sena (Mejju - Ġunju), hsibna li din il-parti tassensjela tagħna niddedikawha lid-devozzjoni li kellu Dun Bosco lejn il-Madonna, partikolarment bit-titolu ta' Ġhajjnuna tal-Insara. L-invokazzjoni ta' Maria Ġhajjnuna tal-Insara (Auxilium Christianorum) tmur lura fiż-żmien bikri ħafna u jingħad li l-ewwel persuna li użat dan it-titolu kien San Ġwann Krisostmu fis-sena 345 wara Kristu. Id-devozzjoni lejn Maria Ġhajjnuna tal-Insara xterdet mal-Ewropa kollha madwar is-sena 1571, is-sena li fiha seħħet il-battalja ta' Lepanto bejn il-qawwiet Kristjani u dawk Islamiċi ta' l-imperu Ottoman. Il-Papa Piu V kien heġġeġ l-insara biex f'dak iż-żmien diffiċli għall-Kristjaneżmu jgħidu r-rużarju u jitolbu lil Maria għall-ġhajjnuna.

Fis-sena 1809, imbagħad, il-forzi ta' Napuljun daħlu għol-Vatican u arrestaw il-Papa Piju VII u ħaduh Fountainbleau fejn inżamm fil-ħabs għall-ħames snin. Il-Papa Piju VII għamel wiegħda li jekk jerġa' lura għall-Vatican jistabbilixxi festa speċjali għad-unur ta' Maria. Napuljun kien kostrett jehles

lill-Papa li, nhar l-24 ta' Mejju 1814, daħal lura Ruma trijonfalment. Sena wara dan il-Papa ħareg digriet biex il-festa ta' Maria Ġhajjnuna tal-Insara tkun iċċelebrata fl-24 ta' Mejju.

Fl-isfond ta' dan kollu nistgħu ngħidu b'wiċċna minn quddiem li l-akbar kontribut lejn id-devozzjoni ta' Maria Ġhajjnuna tal-Insara taha l-qaddis patrún tagħna Dun Bosco. F'kitba dwar il-Kongregazzjoni Salesjana, Dun Bosco jistqarr li fost l-oġġettivi principali ta' din il-Kongregazzjoni hemm il-venerazzjoni ta' Ġesù Sagramentat u d-devozzjoni lejn Maria Ġhajjnuna tal-Insara.

Tant kienet kbira d-devozzjoni li kellu Don Bosco lejn Maria Ġhajjnuna tal-Insara, li ddedika s-santwarju maestuż ġewwa Valdocco lill-Madonna taht dan it-titolu. F'dan is-santwarju hemm kwadru titolari grandjuż li tpitter mill-artist ċelebri Tommaso Andrea Lorenzone fuq xewqa u kuncett persunali ta' Dun Bosco. F'dan il-kwadru, Marija tidher wieqfa fuq shaba bit-tfajjel Ġesù f'dirgħajha u l-Ispirtu is-Santu fuq rasha. Fin-naħa ta' fuq tal-kwadru jidhru qtajja' ta' anġli, u iżjed l-isfel naraw

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



S. IOANNES BOSCO

8.1



San Juan Bosco presenta la escuadrilla de sus niños en la devoción a María Auxiliadora

8.2



SAN GIOVANNI BOSCO E MARIA AUSILIATRICE  
nello Scendo della Canonizzazione

8.3

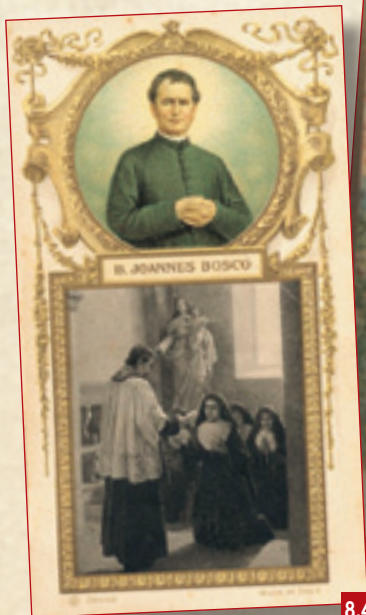
I-apostli u l-evangelisti. F'naqra spazju bejn il-figuri tidher il-belt ta' Turin u l-istess santwarju bl-isfond tal-gholja ta' Superga. Min meta ġie inawgurat dan il-kwadru, din l-immaġni partikulari tal-Madonna, inkurunata u bix-xettru f'idejha l-lemnija u Ġesù fuq dirġhajha x-xellugija, it-tnejn libsin ilbies irjali b'kuluri sinifikattivi, baqa' jiġi assoċjat ma' Dun Bosco, u hafna jirreferu għaliha bħala l-Madonna ta' Dun Bosco.

L-ewwel kartolina li għandna (nru.8.1), turi pittura tal-artist Crida li ġgib id-data ta' 1934. Dan l-artist, kif rajna iżjed kmieni f'din is-sensiela, kien wettaq diversi xoghlijiet ta' pittura li għandhom x'jaqsmu ma' Dun Bosco. F'dan il-kwadru Dun Bosco jidher għarkubbejh quddiem statwa ta' Maria Għajnuna tal-Insara. Simili hafna ta' dan il-kwadru hija pittura oħra tal-artist Rollini. Infatti, fiż-żewġ kwadri l-figura ta' Dun Bosco hija tista' tghid identika. Id-differenza prinċipali bejniethom qiegħda fil-kolonna jew pedestal ta' taħt l-istatwa

u fil-isfond. Fil-każ ta' Rollini dan tħalla vojtt. Maż-żmjem jidher li din it-tema ġiet ripetuta u varjata, fejn naraw jiżdiestu anġli, kerubini u tiżjin iehor madwar is-sugġett. Il-kartolina ġiet stampata l-ltalja mis-'Società Editrice Internazionale'

It-tieni santa (nru 8.2) turi pittura tal-Professor Morgari. Il-kwadru juri lil Dun Bosco mdawwar biż-żgħażaġh fejn qiegħed iheġġiġhom ikunu devoti ta' Maria Għajnuna tal-Insara. Dan il-kwadru sabih jinsab fuq l-altar ta' Dun Bosco fil-knisja tas-Sagra Familja ġewwa Ancona. Is-santa għandha kitba bil-lingwa Spanjola u fuq il-faċċata ta' wara hemm bijografija qasira ta' Santa Maria Domenica Mazzarello, li kienet għadha beata meta ġiet stampata din is-santa.

It-tielet stampa (nru 8.3) hija waħda minn sett ta' tmienja li harġu bħala rikordju ufficjali tal-kanonizzazzjoni ta' Dun Bosco. Dan kien forma ta' ktejjeb b'erba' folji mwahħlin flimkien forma ta' koncertina. Kull folja għandha immaġni



8.4



8.5



8.6

fuq quddiem u fuq wara. Din li qegħdin naraw turi l-istandard ufficjali tal-kanonizzazzjoni ta' Dun Bosco. Il-figura ta' Dun Bosco tidher li hi l-istess jew simili ħafna għal dik fl-ewwel kartolina li rajna. Taħt is-sħaba li fuqha jidher Dun Bosco u Maria Awżiljatriċi jidher kumpless ta' bini li wiq probabbli huwa Valdocco. Dan l-istandard ukoll huwa xogħol l-artist Crida, u sar fl-1934, l-istess żmien tal-kwadru li rajna fl-ewwel kartolina. (nru 8.1)

Ir-raba' stampa (nru 8.4) hija santa (preċiżament nru 23) mill-famuż sett dwar il-ħajja ta' Dun Bosco li dwaru tkellimna fir-raba' parti ta' din is-serjè. F'dan l-episodju mill-ħajja ta' Dun Bosco naraw lill-Madre Mazzarello tirċievi r-regoli tat-Tieni Familja Salesjana, dik tas-sorijiet, msejġha 'Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice'. Dun Bosco ried jissigilla l-opra tiegħu billi jifforma l-fergħa tas-sorijiet Salesjani biex jiehdu hsieb il-bżonnijiet spiritwali u soċjali taż-żgħażaġ nisa. (Hawnhekk nixtieq ngħid li s-sett li għandi fil-kollezzjoni, jonqsu n-numru 8 biex ikun komplut).

Santa ħelwa ħafna (nru 8.5) turina xena ġo

ġnien bi statwa ta' Maria Awżiljatriċi taħt siġra kollha żahar tal-frott u mdawra bil-ward. Dun Bosco jidher qiegħed iressaq ġuvnott lejn il-Madonna kif l-istess qiegħeda tagħmel is-soru (Maria Domenica Mazzarello?) lit-tfajla żgħira. Din l-immaġni tissimbolizza żewg friegħi tal-Opra Salesjana, dik tal-qassisin għax-xogħol fost il-ġuvintur u dik tas-sorijiet għal dak li jirrigwarda lit-tfajliet. Is-santa tal-epoka tas-snin erbghin hija kromolitografija fuq materjal li jixbah id-drapp. Is-santa tidher li hi parti minn serjè, għax hija nnumerata.

L-aħħar santa għal din it-taqsim, bħal ta' qabilha hija ta' żmien l-erbghinijiet u stampata bl-istess proċess. Ix-xena tohodna ġo bitha tipika tal-Oratorji Salesjani, fejn żgħażaġ jidhru qiegħdin jilagħbu u jirrikrejaw ruħhom. Dun Bosco jidher mdawwar bi grupp ta' tfal żgħar li hu qegħed jintroduċihom minn ċkunithom għad-devozzjoni lejn il-Madonna Għajnuna tal-Insara.

Nota: Mas-soltu materjal minn barra, dan l-aħħar kelli ukoll donazzjoni ta' xi santi minghand is-Sur John Formosa, ex-superjur Ġenerali tal-M.U.S.E.U.M. Grazi.



# Salesian statistics for 2010



**(ANS - Rome)** - At the end of the winter plenary session of the General Council the statistics regarding the Salesian Congregation were presented.

On 31st December 2010, there were 15,763 Salesians in the world. This is 190 less than in 2009. In detail: 15,161 professed, 481 Novices and 121 bishops and cardinals. Salesian priests are 10,507, Brothers 1,915. The number of countries in which the Sons of Don Bosco are working is unchanged at 130. The number of Provinces and Vice Provinces has fallen from 92 to 89, as in 2010 the 5 Provinces of Argentina became two. In the Regions, the number of Salesians has fallen. In Italy-Middle

East to 2,356 (-78), North Europe to 2,459 (-24), West Europe to 1,502 (-52), America South Cone to 1,569 (-71), America North to 2,090 (-44), whereas it has increased in Africa-Madagascar to 1,432 (+35), in East Asia-Oceania to 1,438 (+30) and in South Asia to 2,584 (+12).

The Province of Vietnam has the most Novices: 38. India, with 10 Provinces, is the country with most Salesian houses (337 of which 53 have not yet been canonically erected) and the most Salesians (2,504 of which 2,378 are professed and 126 are Novices). With regard to the number of professed, Italy with its 6 Provinces is in the lead with 2,395 to which can be added 16 Novices.





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

Cardinal Cormac Murphy – O’Connor

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

Are you  
to the being called  
**PRIESTHOOD**

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

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

Tel. 21 454546 / 21 456251  
or e-mail: [vocations@salesiansmalta.org](mailto:vocations@salesiansmalta.org)  
for more information  
[www.vocations.salesiansmalta.org](http://www.vocations.salesiansmalta.org)



# Borża ta' Studju

## X'INHI BORŻA TA' STUDJU?

Hija somma ta' flus li tghinna biex inhallsu parti mill-formazzjoni ta' żagħżuġh li qed ihejji ruhu biex isir saċerdot Salesjan.

## KEMM TRID TAGHTI BIEX TWAQQAF BORŻA TA' STUDJU?

Kapital ta' €600

## JEHTIEĠ LI BILFORS TAGHTI S-SOMMA F'DAQQA?

Le. Wieheċ jista' jagħtiha biċċa biċċa, tant fix-xhar jew tant fis-sena.

## JEHTIEĠ LI BILFORS IS-SOMMA TKUN MOGHTIJA MINN WIEHEĊ BISS?

Le. Jistgħu jiftehmu flimkien iktar minn persuna wahda u kulhadd jagħti sehm. Iżda min johroġ wahdu s-somma kollha, ikun fundatur ta' dik il-Borża.

## JISTÀ WIEHEĊ IHALLI L-BORŻA BHALA LEGAT WARA MEWTU?

Jistà. U min jagħmel hekk, jistà jikteb fit-testment: "Inhalli bħala legat lis-Salesjani ta' Don Bosco, is-somma ta'  għall-formazzjoni ta' żagħżuġh Malti fl-Istess Soċjetà.

# Għin il-hidma Salesjana

Dawk li huma l-iżjed fil-periklu l-aktar jihtieġu għajnuna. Dawk li m'għandhomx lehen jehtieġu xi hadd jiddefendihom. San Ġwann Bosco kien jafu dan. Hu hadem f'hajtu kollha għaž-żgħažgħ, għall-foqra u għal dawk li huma l-aktar fil-bżonn.

Huwa fatt ta' swied il-qalb li llum hafna żgħažgħ huma:

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

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

Ċempel lil Fr Eric Cachia SDB fuq 21 331 447

# Apparitions of Our Lady

## Our Lady of Medjugorje



Everyday, since June 24 1981, in the small town of Medjugorje, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Virgin Mary has been appearing to six visionaries: Ivan, Jakov, Marija, Mirjana, Vicka, and Ivanka. She is venerated as "Our Lady of Peace" because her message is mostly about love, peace, and conversion. She said: "I have come to tell the world that God exists: He is the fullness of life, and to enjoy this fullness and peace, you must return to God." Many messages are warnings against Satan who is prowling

the world for man's eternal damnation. Mary said that as God gave David five stones to defeat Goliath, so our Lord is giving five weapons to defeat Satan, Namely: Daily Rosary, Fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays, Daily Bible Reading, Monthly Confession, and Holy Communion. Presently, the Church permits pilgrimages to Medjugorje, as long as they are conducted privately and are not regarded as an authentication of the apparitions.