

SALESIAN BULLETIN

ISSUE NO.35 - JUNE 2023

ZMB Vice Province

Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Namibia



THE NEW ZMB PROVINCIAL

OUR FIRST LOCAL PROVINCIAL
OF ZMB VICE PROVINCE

ZMB PROVINCE UPDATES

News from the
Communities

RECTOR MAJOR'S MESSAGE

The message of the Rector
Major to all the Salesians

PORTUGAL WORLD YOUTH DAY

Preparations for the World
Youth Day 2023

SALESIAN BULLETIN

From the ZMB Vice Province of

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

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ABOUT US : The ZMB commission for Social Communication has the mandate of animating the Province in the area of Communication and media. With this department/commission we ensure that we promote the Salesian style of life in the province and act as a liaison of information between the province and the entire congregation by keeping the people informed of the happenings both in and out of our Province through news links, websites and/or any form of media available both visual and audio. We always strive to strengthen the channels of information and dialogue within and outside the congregation and the Salesian Family. (Cf. Regulations 33) and taking care of the quality of Salesian intervention and training in the field of Social Communication.

EDITORIAL

THE SALESIAN BULLETIN IN A CHANGING WORLD



Fr. Andrew Reut sdb
CHIEF EDITOR

Welcome to the first edition of the Salesian Bulletin of ZMB Vice Province in the year 2023, after extended period of silence.

In April this year I had a privilege to attend the meeting of Salesian Bulletin Directors from all over the world. The meeting was held from 22-25 April 2023 at Valdocco in Turin. The theme of the meeting was 'The Salesian Bulletin in a changing world'. Going to the meeting I had some questions on my mind: Is Salesian Bulletin still relevant in the world today? Are we still able to communicate, here and now, in the way Don Bosco did? Who even reads this anyway?

After listening to some presentations by Fr. Martoglio, Bro. Jean Paul Muller and others I was rather assured it is still very important to publish Salesian Bulletin looking at the world events through the Salesian lens, and providing a Salesian slant to what is happening around us especially in the world of the young.

Fr. Stefano Martoglio encouraged us to get young people involved in editorial work, although it may seem easier to work alone.

Bro. Jean Paul Muller in his presentation encouraged all present: "in our communication

it would be good if we adapted to those we are dealing with so that they can understand our concern including our concern for young people". We must become an extension of Don Bosco's spirit and keep our charism alive. It is through the Salesian Bulletin that we must "make people enthusiastic about Don Bosco's pastoral heart" said Fr. Martoglio. Dear members of the Salesian Family in our ZMB Vice Province let us not doubt the importance of our pastoral service to the young through the social media including our Salesian Bulletin.

We might not immediately see or perceive the good that we sow with the Salesian Bulletin and where it will bear fruit but through our perseverance and availability as instruments of God's love for the young, we will remain an inspiration to them in this rapidly changing world.

*"For you I study, for
you I work, for you I
live, for you I am ready
even to give my life".*

-St. John Bosco

.. Contents ..



6. *Installation of the ZMB New Provincial Superior*



8. *Our Salesian Charism in Southern African region*



10. *Our Ministry to the Poor in ZMB Vice Province*



12. *ZMB Community News*



14. *Don Bosco Green Club*



16. *ZMB Salesian Youth Movement*



20. *ZMB Salesian Cooperators*



22. *Online Communication*



24. *The Importance of Culture in today's lives*



26 *The Message of the Rector Major*



28. *World Communications Day 2023*



34. *World Youth Day 2023*

Adorable Memories

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW ZMB PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

“Listen to him, love him, obey him and pray for him as you would have done for me”

-Don Bosco



The Outgoing ZMB Provincial Fr. Chris Rychcik's Message before the Installation of the New Provincial Superior

Dear confreres, members of the Salesian Family, and friends of Don Bosco. Allow me to make a reference, as I am speaking to you, to the spiritual testament of St. Don Bosco, given to us at the end of his life. “Our true superior Jesus Christ will never die, He will always be our master, our guide, our model. But remember that he in his own time will also be our judge and the rewarder of our faithfulness to His service.” Now paraphrasing a bit: “Your superior is going out as the Salesian ZMB Provincial Superior but there is another one elected who will have care of you and of your eternal salvation.” Let me amplify the words of St. John Bosco: “Listen to him, love him, obey him and pray for him as you would have done for me.” At end of my term as a Provincial Superior of our ZMB Vice Province that is Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Namibia; I would like to thank God for His many graces we all have

received while fulfilling our duties of running different projects, the task of Initial Formation, which is ongoing, and many other ventures. I thank God and our mother Mary Help of Christians for the providence and trust we all have experienced in our communities, schools, parishes, oratories, and youth centers. I would like to thank God for benefactors and donors who assisted us in our different projects and developments in order to improve our pastoral educative abilities. I thank God for every and each one of you.

I also take this opportunity to thank many of our confreres; especially the Rector Major and his Council members for the trust given to me and to our ZMB Vice Province, the support that we could rely upon during my last six years in office. I thank all our ZMB confreres, members of the Salesian Family and Collaborators for your effective help and assistance in my service as ZMB Provincial Superior. Thank you very much

for all the good things you have contributed to the growth of our ZMB Vice Province, especially pastoral activities.

I give thanks to my Councilors particularly those who are present in the Provincial Council but also those who were Councilors in the past, who have helped me in the governing and animation of our ZMB Vice Province. If we are successful in one way or another, it is because of the spirit of hard work and collaboration. We wouldn't have reached where we are without the help of different Salesian Provinces outside of Africa. In this vein, I would like to express my gratitude to the Salesian Procures in Europe, USA and Asia.

Allow me also to apologize to any of the confreres that might have felt not listened to, who could have been disappointed

with some decisions that were made. I am sorry and I ask for your forgiveness and understanding.

Dear confreres, let us keep in mind our own salvation and the salvation of the souls entrusted to us. Let us cherish our Salesian vocation, build ourselves up, both spiritually and mentally for the greater glory of God and the salvation of the young. I believe that St. John Bosco and Mary Help of Christians continue walking in the corridors of our different communities of our ZMB Vice Province, interceding for us and our young people.

Please don't forget to pray for me, and I will also pray for our Province. Thank you very much and may God bless us all.



The Outgoing ZMB Provincial Fr. Chris Rychcik (right) confiding in the new Provincial superior Fr. Michael Mbandama (left)

Fr. Alphonse Owoudu sdb the regional cancellor for Africa and Madagascar presided over the Installation Mass attended by many confreres and the salesian family from within Zambia and Malawi where Fr. Michael worked at Don Bosco Technical Cokllege in Lilongwe as a principle for the past 12 years. In his homily, he encouraged the Province to be a strong one in the region.



Fr. Louis MALAMA SDB

Holistic Evangelization

OUR CHARISM IN CENTRAL & SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Salesian charism is rooted and founded on the Biblical and Christian principles. Before it found its way in the spirituality of St. Francis De Sales, Don Bosco had already identified himself with image of Jesus the Good Shepherd {Jn. 10:1}. **This is what we see in Don Bosco's project of life and this is what he presented to his Salesians.**

It is to this God, of **JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD**, that Don Bosco addressed his heartfelt prayer; "Da mihi animas, cetera tolle". This is at the heart of the Salesian charism and it is eminently ecclesial.

Therefore, for us to understand well the Salesian charism, we need to understand and recognize the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to Don Bosco for

the mission of educating and evangelizing the young. These gifts are most of the times termed as Salesian charismatic identity.

The Salesian charism is based on Divine command. "Go and evangelize and make disciples". Therefore, a Salesian is sent on a mission to evangelize the youth especially the poor and the abandoned. When we talk of Salesian evangelization, we are talking about **Holistic evangelization** that is spiritual, physical and education. That is why our evangelization to the youth empowers them to face whatever life brings.

We inculcate in the youth the values of Integrity, Respect, Belonging, Joy and Dynamism. These values are what makes a Salesian be appreciated in the

church and among the youth.

So, when we talk of the Salesian charism, we are talking about the system of educating and evangelizing the young based on **Religion, Reason and Loving Kindness called the Preventive System.**

The Preventive System of Don Bosco, promotes love before fear, respect before fear. This is very central for a Salesian of Don Bosco. At the end I could finally say that, the Salesian Charism consists above all in the education of the young, while cultivating a relationship with God and with the community as consecrated persons summed in the motto; "**Da mihi animas, cetera tolle**".

The Salesian Charism consists above all in the education of the young, while cultivating a relationship with God and with the community as consecrated persons summed in the motto; “Da mihi animas, cetera tolle”.



Inside ZMB Province

OUR MINISTRY TO THE POOR

“Don Bosco lived his poverty in detachment of heart and generous service of others; his manner was marked by austerity, hard work and much initiative. Following his example we too live detached from all earthly goods; we participate with a spirit of enterprise in the mission of the Church and in her struggle for justice and peace, especially by educating those in need...” C.73

The words “poverty” and “poor” came from Latin pauper = “poor”, which originally came from pau- and the root of pario, i.e. “giving birth to not much” and referred to unproductive farmland or livestock. Poverty is the deprivation of common necessities such as food, clothing, shelter and safe drinking water, all of which determine our quality of life. It may also include the lack of access to opportunities such as education and employment which aid the escape from poverty or allow one to enjoy the respect of fellow citizens. This is how we can describe our poor youths. We see them from the perspective of lack of the above amenities.

While our poverty as Salesians should be viewed in the context of availability. Poverty as availability is modelled on the revelation understood as God’s gift of the self-seen through the incarnation and the cross. It is the primary gift of God’s self-disclosure. It implies condescending to the lowest level unimaginable to the human reason. For example, living comfort at home and reaching out



BR. JOSEPH NYONDO

“Our core business is educating those in need especially the poor youths with an oratorian approach of a home, school, parish and play ground in order to make them God fearing and honest citizens..”

-Br. Joseph Nyondo



to the poorest of the poor and share in their joys and sorrows is a witness of poverty. Following the example of our founder we accept ownership of the means we need for our work, and we administer them in such a way that all may realize they are being used for the service of others (C. 77). Article 78, continues by reminding us that unremitting and self-sacrificing work is a characteristic left us by Don Bosco and is a concrete expression of our poverty. The witness of our poverty, lived in a common sharing of our goods, helps the young to overcome their selfish possessive instinct and opens them to the Christian sense of sharing (C.73).

Our core business is educating those in need especially the poor youths with an oratorian approach of a home, school, parish and play ground in order to make them God fearing and honesty citizens. But how do we do this in the context of our province, where we see some youth centres that are no longer favourite places of the young and schools whose enrolments are dropping? The Rector Major is still challenging us to go to the

periphery, venture into some daring apostolate with the poor. What could be this daring apostolate with the poor in the context of our Province? Would this imply re-inventing the wheel in the manner that we open new frontiers? Would it be that we need to re-think our approach to youth ministry, in our schools and oratories? In an effort to participate with a spirit of enterprise in the mission of the church, DBTech Africa engages us to go beyond training of young people to focus on employability. This calls for innovation on our part as educators. It challenges us to push ourselves to the limits just to ensure that young people have improved livelihoods. The assurance of this fact will bring back young people to our schools. As for our Oratories, few questions to ourselves would be necessary. Are they still relevant? Are our interventions means to an end or the end itself? Is the target group critical to solve the crisis? I believe the target group still remains the poor youths? These poor youths frequent our schools, parishes and oratories. The question we need to ask

is that would an oratory in a Salesian presence with more than 500 schools going youths, count itself jobless? The challenge is that if we are stuck on the means to an end, we cannot re-invent other means. The other challenge would be that of personalizing target groups. The young people that frequent a Salesian presence belong to the community and it is the concerted effort of every community member that will ensure holistic formation of these poor youths.




Inside the Province
NEWS UPDATES

| | |
|--|------------------|
| 01 | LILONGWE, MALAWI |
| Mr Valentine in pink suit and Miss valentine in blue dress celebrating their Victory at Don Bosco Centre | |
|  | |



Mr. NAMITOWA
YANJANANI
Story by Yanjanani Namitowa
Photo credit: Emmanuel Chimwamasuku Phiri

Following a highly competitive competition held at Savio Multipurpose Hall on Friday, February 17, 2023, Stuart Mbewe, a second-year student studying Community Development Management, and Mwayi Gulule, a first-year student studying Information, Communication, & Technology, were crowned Mr. and Miss. Valentine, respectively.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 02 | RUNDU, NAMIBIA |
| A Cultural dance by the youth of Don Bosco Parish during their Independence Day Celebration | |
|  | |



Ms. KAVARE
MIKTILDE
Story and Photo credit – Miktilde Kavare

Don Bosco Parish Youth in Rundu had a cultural day as they were celebrating 33rd independence Day of Namibia on the 21st of March 2023. A number of young people gathered, Salesian cooperators and as well as the Salesians were also present and the event started with mass. After mass, there was a topic that was given on the Catholic faith before the cultural dances began. It was an indeed successful event. We thank God for the Salesian presence in Namibia.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| 03 | LILONGWE, MALAWI |
| Don Bosco Youth Technical Institute won Lilongwe technical in ICAM debate | |
|  | |



Mr. NAMITOWA
YANJANANI
Story and Photo credit – Yanjanani Namitowa

Don Bosco Youth Technical Institute defeated Lilongwe Technical Institute by a score of 67 to 42 in the first round of this year's Institute of Chartered Accountants in Malawi (ICAM) - European Union Debates which was held at the Bingu International Conference Center (BICC) under the theme "A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITIES, IT START WITH YOU,"

The two colleges debated on the topic: "Innovation and Technology: Can Innovation in Digital Technology Enhance the fight Against Gender-based Violence?"

| | |
|--|------------------|
| 04 | LILONGWE, MALAWI |
| Don Bosco Youth Technical Institute celebrated the feast of its Patron St Don Bosco. | |
|  | |



Mr. PHELATU
JOSEPH
Story and Photo credit – Joseph Phelatu

"Here at Don Bosco Youth Technical Institute, our way of practice is not only to do with company law, technology, motherboard, recipe which is education and evangelism. Here you are trained to be responsible people different from the others doing the same training in other schools, to be different you have to be honest citizens and God-fearing people."

~Fr. Michael Mbandama

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The following are some of the important events that happened in the Salesian Communities across the Province. They include Parish youth programmes, Youth centres, Salesian Cooperators, Salesian Youth Movement, and Salesian Technical Schools. The Province comprise of four countries and fourteen Salesian Communities.

05

H W A N G E , Z I M B A B W E

A campaign against drugs and substance abuse



Jr. MUPANGANI
WILLIAM
Story and Photo credit – Mr. William Mupangani Jr.

On the day of African Freedom Day, the young people from the small town of Hwange, around Don Bosco area, flocked to Don Bosco Technical College where they had a seminar and different presentations on Drug and substance abuse.

They started with Mass and a reflection on the Preventive System. A criteria used by the Salesians of Don Bosco to avoid sin. They had facilitators from the government department of Drug Enforcement. The campaign was a success.

06

R U N D U , N A M I B I A

Fr. Eustace Siame (centre) with the Altar boys and girls at Don Bosco Parish, Rundu - Namibia



Ms. KAVARE
MIKTILDE
Story and Photo credit – Miktilde Kavare

Fr. Eustace Siame (centre) with some young altar boys and girls at St. Don Bosco Parish - Rundu, Namibia.

The photo was taken on the Sunday of Pentecost after Mass. The Mass was well attended and people were really inspired by the homily and the ambience of Pentecost.

“Having filled with the Holy Spirit, we ought to go out and evangelize”

07

R U N D U , N A M I B I A

Parishioners posing for a photo with their Parish Priest Fr. Louis Malama and Fr. Eustace Siame after Pentecost Mass



Mr. JOHANNES
FRANS
Story and Photo credit – Frans Johannes

Fr. Eustace Siame (left) a Salesian of Don Bosco conducted a Pentecost Novena at St. Don Bosco Parish - Rundu, Namibia. The attendance was massive and people experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, as others travelled long distances from other dioceses to come to Don Bosco Parish to experience the miracles of Pentecost.

At the centre is the Parish Priest Fr. Louis Malama sdb with some parishioners posing for a photo.

08

L I L O N G W E , M A L A W I

Don Bosco Youth dancing on stage during the feast of St. John Bosco at Don Bosco Youth Centre - Lilongwe, Malawi





DON BOSCO GREEN CLUB IN TREE PLANTING DRIVE

“We have planted 50 trees as start-up of Mtengo wanga project but as club we intend to plant 500 trees overall, of different species and protect the current trees within Don Bosco campus”

As part of a mission to raise awareness about the environment, the Don Bosco Green Club has started a project called “Mtengo wanga” (My Tree), which essentially involves urging individuals to take care of the trees.

Yotamu Mtete, a student of accountancy and the current chairperson of the green club, led the launch of the tree-planting exercise on Wednesday, 29th March that



NATURE FEELING
Miss Tiyamike, Green Club patron planting the tree

the club has planned to plant 500 trees and protect the existing ones.

“We have planted 50 trees as start-up of Mtengo wanga project but as club we intend to plant 500 trees overall, of different species and protect the current trees within Don Bosco campus”, said Yotamu. According to Ireen Matemba, a student in community development and a member of the Green Club, it is the duty of every member of

Don Bosco family to look after the newly planted trees. She emphasized that the Green Club alone cannot handle this task.

In addition to the Mtengo wanga project, the club continues to run the “Keep Don Bosco Clean” campaign with various other environmental awareness initiatives planned for implementation during the 2023 academic year.



The Ministry of the
**SALESIAN YOUTH
 MOVEMENT**



Ms. Bridget U. NDHLOVU
*Salesian Youth Movement
 Provincial Coordinator*

The Salesian youth Movement (SYM) in ZMB Vice Province helps the youth to be formed in the salesian style. It is focused on the youth; taking the leading role in the animation while accompanied by the Salesians of St. John Bosco. The involvement of youth in moral and spiritual Formation has brought up responsible and moral upright young citizens. We see working class youth finding a role in animating their fellow youth as St. John Bosco envisaged when he asked Dominic Savio to be the animator of the fellow youth in the oratory. The salesian youth apostolate is now beyond just offering games and music to the youth, but rather getting them animated holistically. The Movement is bringing unity among youth groups in the Parishes and Youth Centers. It is also creating a youthful, joyful and educative environment for

“The Salesian Youth Movement is a movement of communion of different groups and youth associations integrated in the Salesian Youth Ministry, sharing the educational and evangelical proposal inspired by the spirit and style of Saint John Bosco and Saint Mary Domenica Mazzarello.”

the youth which is making them feel at home.

The youth in our province are actively taking part in the Salesian Spiritual Moments and events such as Novenas, Don Bosco feasts, studying and understanding of the Salesian Strenna, Mary Help of Christians feast, and an Oratory day.

The SYM leader, accompanied by the SYM Provincial Coordinator and the Provincial Youth Delegate, meet to plan and evaluate youth activities in the province every year.

With the restructuring of SYM in the Province, we have seen young people in our centers taking a lot of initiatives in the areas of education and evangelization, ecclesiastical life; encouraging active involvement of youths in the church’s life, voluntary services, social – political involvement, and communication and sharing faith and life experiences.

The Salesian Youth Movement is using social media platform such as Whatsapp to share experiences of their centers and also having meetings of leaders from different countries within the province. Our Salesian Youth Movement is linked with the English zonal, Africa region and the world as we take part in meetings through representations.

The Salesian Youth Movement reaches out to other youth and adults through outreach programs and charity works respectively. For example in NkhotaKota Centre; every month the youth meet the last week of each month. The Youth leaders from the Secondary Schools within the parish are also invited to participate in all SYM spiritual, formative and social programs. Last year we had a charity work, and we helped the aged in one of the outstations of our parish. The youths from Hwange took part in SYM program of taking care of the Environment campaign as a new initiative to the youth ministry.

Finally, there is an ongoing preparation for the International Salesian Youth Rally to be held in

Chingola, Zambia (14th – 19th August, 2023) . Each centre is asked to have a delegation of about thirty youth. Meantime young people are requested to prepare in view of the event with the help of Salesian Cooperators. Some of the items they need to prepare are:

- Strenna presentation in form of a play, e.t.c.
- Cultural dances
- Poetry
- Making a human statue in line with the theme
- Choosing one of the five SYM Elements and put it into reality.

The Youth are encouraged to pray in their respective centres over this upcoming International Youth Rally.

**The SALESIAN
YOUTH
MOVEMENT
forms part of
the vast Salesian
movement
whose main goal
is to form young
people into
“Good Christians
and Upright
Citizens”**

SYM PRAYER

God our Father you inspired St John Bosco to be the father, teacher and friend of the youths. Bless the Salesians of Don Bosco, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and the Salesians Cooperators. May the spirit that is working towards the salvation of the young people be always alive in them. We pray through the intercessions of St John Bosco, Mary Mazarello and Mary Help of Christians that we may have a fruitful Salesian Youth Movement which will bring unity among us and deepen our faith, love and our commitment to the church. Grant us the vision and energy of transforming the society by caring for the creation and make us available to be instruments of evangelisation in our families, in the church and the whole world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*L. Jesus Mary and Joseph
P. Help me to save my soul
Hail Mary...*

*L. Jesus, Mary and Joseph
P. Help me to save my soul
Hail Mary...*

*L. Jesus , Mary and Joseph
P. Help me to save my soul
Hail Mary...
Glory be...*



Salesian Youth Movement - Kazembe, Zambia during the celebration of the feast of Mary help of christians



An initiative by the Salesian Youth Movement from Hwange, Under Laudato si "A healthy mind in a healthy body"



Salesian Youth Movement in Nkhotakota had a career talk and motivation from different professionals

**Salesian
Youth
Movement
Anti-Litter
Campaign
in Hwange
- Zimbabwe**



Inside ZMB Province

SALESIAN COOPERATORS



Lusaka Cooperators during their recollection at St. Joseph's Community - Bauleni



Rundu Cooperators serving food to the youth on Independence Day at St. Don Bosco Parish



Lusaka Cooperators with the Rector Major at Makeni Post - Novitiate - Lusaka

66
**PEOPLE
WHO WISH
TO DEVOTE
THEMSELVES
TO WORKS
OF MERCY IN
A SPECIFIC
RATHER
THAN A
GENERAL
WAY.**

99

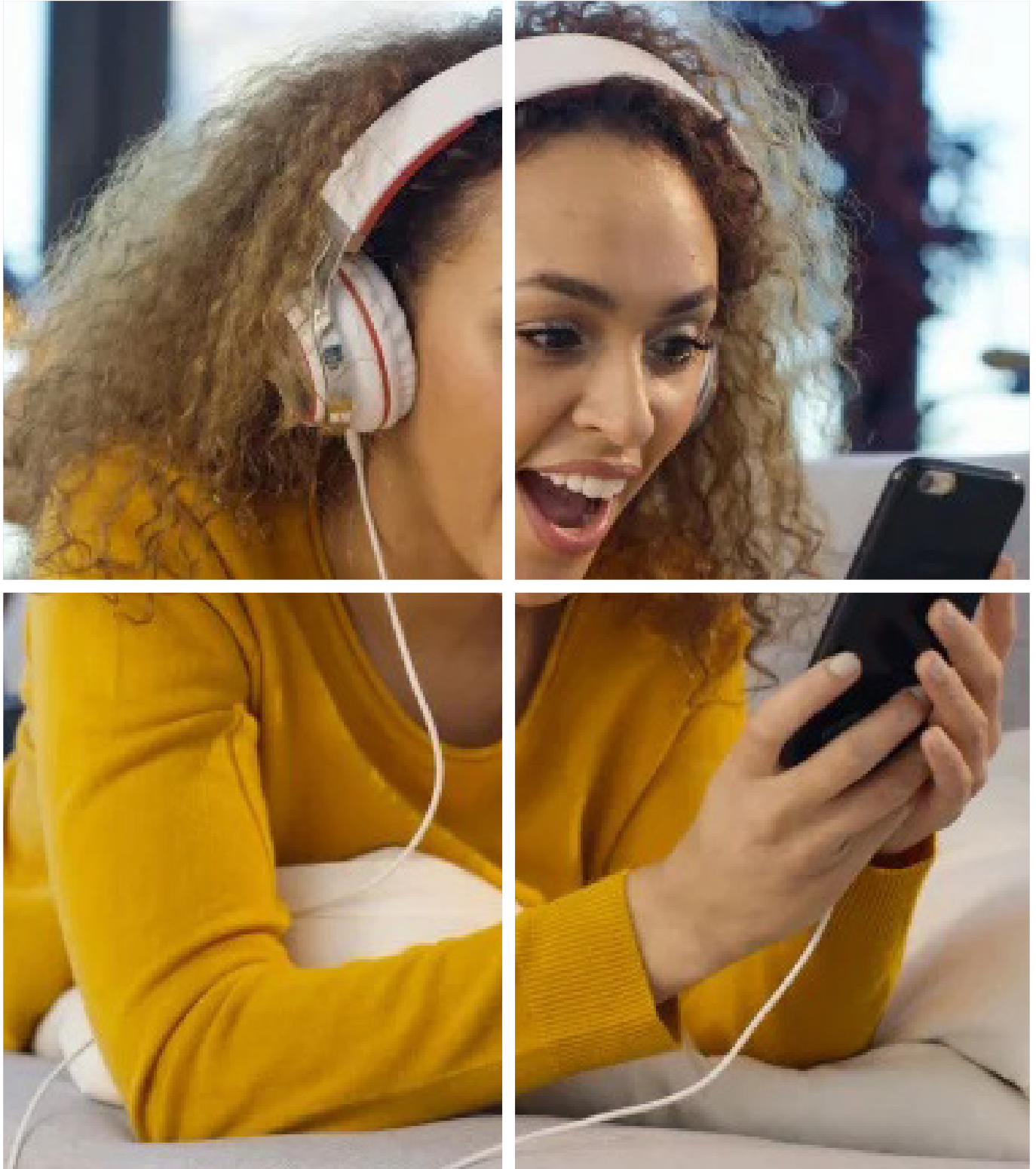
- ST. JOHN BOSCO



Hwange and Harare Cooperators with the Rector Major at Don Bosco Technical College - Hwange

ONLINE COMMUNICATION

Young People And the World of Social Media



Online communication has evolved rapidly over the past two decades, especially since the implementation of web technology. As social media and direct messaging platforms became more widespread, and technology becomes more mobile, the way we communicate with friends, family and colleagues becomes more diverse. The distinction between the on- and off-line worlds is more ambiguous. Technology allows us to communicate with members of our social network using a selection of digital tools. With an increasing range of communication platforms offering different affordances, young people are very often misled.

Social media platforms used by most young people in urban areas of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Namibia include Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, Skype, YouTube and many more. Social media has further proved to be the most effective medium of communication on these urban societies with its potential to attract a cross section of societies by using various means which include mobile phones, computers,

and tablets among others. Most of the young people who frequent our oratories, parishes, schools, colleges and youth centers; subscribe to these social media platforms which is a world on its own. Therefore, as Salesians, we are also sent to this world of social media because that's where young people are found. We need to walk with them and guide them through the challenges of this world in order to help them overcome cyber challenges such as crime, bullying, addictions and human trafficking etc. In this Province of Mary Help of Christians, some young people from all the Salesian Community Centers have come together to be part of the ZMB Social Communications team in order to reach out to their fellow young people through radio programs and Youtube. I henceforth encourage all the Salesian Family and the readers, to embrace our charism and administer the Preventive System to social media in order to help the young people who are going astray in the world of technology.

66

**THEREFORE, AS
SALESIANS, WE ARE
ALSO SENT TO THIS
WORLD OF SOCIAL
MEDIA BECAUSE THAT'S
WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE
ARE FOUND.**

- Fr. Christopher Kunda sdb

99



EMMANUEL MWILA
Lusaka, Zambia



JOSEPH PHELATU
Lilongwe, Malawi



MIKTILDE KAVARE
Rundu, Namibia



TINASHE GOMO
Hwange, Zimbabwe



YANJANANI NAMITOWA
Lilongwe, Malawi



FRANS JOHANNES
Rundu, Namibia



WILLIAM MUPANGANI
Hwange, Zimbabwe



EMMANUEL DUBE
Hwange, Zimbabwe

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING ONE'S CULTURE IN THE CHANGING WORLD

Culture plays a very important part in the life of a person and society at large. It acts as a means of accumulation, storage and transmission of human experience.



Mr. Christopher E. PHIRI
Youth Leader - Bauleni Parish

“We recognize the fundamental value of the youth center as a setting where the gospel throws light on culture and provides an effective integration of the process of education and the process of evangelization. This integration makes it an important educative alternative in today’s pluralistic society”

Culture is the sum total of the given society’s way of life. It has aspects such as festivals, values, beliefs, traditions, clothes, types of houses, technology, music, dances, symbols and their meaning. The ideas of beauty, economic activities, education system, not forgetting the spiritual beliefs, intellectual and emotional aspects. When all these are put together, they make and define Culture. Culture is learnt and shared. It is also cumulative, it can be comprehensive and mostly, it is based on symbols.

It plays an important part in the life of a person and society at large. It acts as a means of accumulation, storage and transmission of human experience. As people gain knowledge of different things like learning languages, symbols, values, norms, customs and tradition, it is Culture that shapes them into who they are.

Losing Culture is something that can disturb the upcoming generations in such a way that people will lose self-respect and respect for others. Although it is already observed that Culture is slowly fading away from people's lives, especially among the youth and young adults; parents and elders must ensure to educate their children on the importance of culture and values.

On Africa Freedom Day, May 25th of 2023, the Youth of St Mathias Mulumba Bauleni Catholic Church came together to present on stage, the different cultures of different traditions. These performances were done and executed by Small Christian Communities (SCC). Different Small Christian Communities were asked to present a certain traditional

ceremony, explaining the type of food found there, their traditional dance and a short drama (play).

On this day, ten (10) Small Christian Communities presented and performed on stage. The following are some of the traditional ceremonies that were presented and performed.

1. ***Ukusefya pa ng'wena*** by the Bemba of Northern Zambia
2. ***Shimunenga*** by the Ila people of Central Zambia
3. ***Kuomboka*** by the Lozi of Western Zambia
4. ***Lwindi Gonde*** by the Tonga people of Southern Zambia
5. ***Likumbi Iya Mize*** by the Luvale of North-Western Zambia
6. ***Chakwela Makumbi*** by the Soli people of Central Zambia
7. ***Malaila*** by the Mambwe of Northern Zambia
8. ***N'cwala*** by the Ngoni of Eastern Zambia

The whole event, including the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the very beginning, helped to learn about many traditions, and the importance of preserving **Culture** and **Family Values**.



THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR
Don Ángel Fernández Artime, SDB

EDUCATION'S HEART OF GOLD

Why devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
is in the DNA of the Salesian Congregation



This June I wish to present to you the reality of the meaning of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome (Sacro Cuore). It is a church with a very great history – one that has its roots in Don Bosco himself – for at the Pope's request he spent the last years of his life, as well as his last energies and strength, on the construction of this beloved church.

The Sacred Heart, and every church and devotion in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, speaks of the Love of that Divine Heart, the Heart of the Son of God, for each one of His sons and daughters in the entire human race. It also speaks of suffering and of the Love we receive from God, which is not always reciprocated.

Today I wish to add one more aspect: I think it also speaks of the pain that Jesus our Lord feels in the face of the suffering of many people: rejection, immigration without a place to go, loneliness, and the

violence done to many. I think it can be said that He speaks of all this, too, and without a doubt at the same time blesses everything that is done on behalf of those less fortunate, just as Jesus Himself did when traveling the roads of Judea and Galilee.

Very many silver hearts

One joyful reality that undoubtedly makes the very Heart of God rejoice is what I myself saw being carried out in the Don Bosco Salesian Foundation on the islands of Tenerife and Grand Canary. I was there in these past weeks. Among the many things experienced, I was able to witness the work of 140 educators who carry forward the various projects of the Foundation, including the reception of those in need and their housing, work training, and subsequent placement in the working world.

I also had an encounter with another group

of a hundred adolescents and young adults who have been blessed to have received this service that Don Bosco gives to the least. At the end of our precious meeting, they gave me a gift. In a small, heart-shaped cardboard box, they had placed more than a hundred hearts, bearing the names of Nain, Rocío, Armiche, Mustapha, Xousef, Ainoha, Desirée, Abdjalil, Beatriz and Ibrahim, Yone, and Mohamed, and a hundred others, each with a message written on it. These messages expressed something simple, and in a simple way, but still something which sprang from the heart. These are some examples of the precious statements:

- Thank you for making all this possible
- Thank you for the second chance you have given me in my life
- I'm still fighting. It's easier to do so with your help
- Thank you because you have restored my joy
- Thank you for helping me believe that I can do everything I set out to do
- Thank you for the food and a home
- Thank you from the bottom of my heart
- Thank you for having helped me
- Thank you for this opportunity to grow
- Thank you for believing in us young people despite the situation in which we live

There were a hundred others,



The islands of Tenerife and Grand Canary

just like these, addressed to Don Bosco and to the educators who are at their side every day in Don Bosco's name.

I listened to all they shared with me. I heard some of their stories – many of them filled with pain; I saw the look in their eyes and their smiles. I was very proud to be a Salesian and to belong to a family of such splendid brothers, educators, and young people.

I thought, yet again, that Don Bosco is as timely as ever – and more necessary than ever. I also thought how great is the educational delicacy with which we accompany these young people along their path, taking each one where he or she is and not where we would like them to be.

Together we said a prayer addressed to the God who loves us all, to the God who blesses His sons and daughters, using words that made Christians, Muslims, and Hindus feel comfortable. No doubt, the Spirit of God



assisted us all.

I was happy because just as Don Bosco himself welcomed his first boys to Valdocco, the same thing is experienced today in so many "Valdoccos" around the world.

I have no doubt that the Sacred Heart of Jesus is full of the Love that manifests itself in the many wounds healed in each one of these boys and girls because, we well know, Love heals and cures.

Blessed Solemnity of the Sacred Heart,
Don Angel



Heart speaks to Heart

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Each year on the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists, the Vatican releases a message from the Holy Father for World Communications Day (also called World Day of Social Communications).

The 57th World Communications Day was celebrated on Sunday, May 21, 2023. This year's theme is "Speaking with the heart."

World Communications Day was established by Pope Paul VI in 1967 as an annual celebration that encourages us to reflect on the opportunities and challenges that the modern means of social communication (the press, motions pictures, radio, television and the internet) afford the Church to communicate the gospel message.

The Communications message of

POPE FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
After having reflected in past years on the verbs “to go and see” and “to listen” as conditions for good communication, with this Message for the LVII World Day of Social Communications, I would like to focus on “speaking with the heart”. It is the heart that spurred us to go, to see and to listen, and it is the heart that moves us towards an open and welcoming way of communicating. Once we have practised listening, which demands waiting and patience, as well as foregoing the assertion of our point of view in

a prejudicial way, we can enter into the dynamic of dialogue and sharing, which is precisely that of communicating in a cordial way. After listening to the other with a pure heart, we will also be able to speak following the truth in love (cf. Eph 4:15). We should not be afraid of proclaiming the truth, even if it is at times uncomfortable, but of doing so without charity, without heart. Because “the Christian’s

programme” – as Benedict XVI wrote – “is ‘a heart which sees’”.

1. A heart that reveals the truth of our being with its beat and that, for this reason, should be listened to. This leads those who listen to attune themselves to the same wave length, to the point of being able to hear within their heart also the heartbeat of the other. Then the miracle of encounter can take place, which makes us look at one another with compassion, welcoming our mutual frailties with respect rather than judging by hearsay and sowing discord and division.

Jesus warns us that every tree is known by its fruit (cf. Lk 6:44): “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure produces evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks” (v. 45). This is why, in order to communicate truth with charity, it is necessary to purify one’s heart. Only by listening and speaking with a pure heart can we see beyond appearances and overcome the vague din which, also in the field of information, does not help us discern in the complicated world in which we live. The call to speak with the heart radically challenges the times in which we are living, which are so inclined towards indifference and indignation, at times even on the basis of disinformation which falsifies and exploits the truth.

“Communicating heart to heart: “In order to speak well, it is enough to love well”

Communicating cordially

Communicating in a cordial manner means that those who read or listen to us are led to welcome our participation in the joys, fears, hopes and suffering of the women and men of our time. Those who speak in this way love the other because they care and protect their freedom without violating it. We can see this style in the mysterious wayfarer who dialogues with the disciples headed to Emmaus, after the tragedy that took place at Golgotha. The Risen Jesus speaks to them with the heart, accompanying the journey of their suffering with respect, proposing himself and not imposing himself, lovingly opening their minds to understand the profound meaning of what had happened. Indeed, they can joyfully exclaim that their hearts burned within them as he spoke to them on the road and explained the Scriptures to them (cf. Lk 24:32).

In a historical period marked by polarizations and contrasts – to which unfortunately not even the ecclesial community is immune – the commitment to communicating “with open heart and arms” does not pertain exclusively to those in the field of communications; it is everyone’s responsibility. We are all called to seek and to speak the truth and to do so with charity. We Christians

in particular are continually urged to keep our tongue from evil (cf. Ps 34:13), because as Scripture teaches us, with the same tongue we can bless the Lord and curse men and women who were made in the likeness of God (cf. Jas 3:9). No evil word should come from our mouths, but rather “only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear” (Eph 4:29).

Sometimes friendly conversations can open a breach even in the most hardened of hearts. We also have evidence of this in literature. I am thinking of that memorable page in

Chapter XXI of *The Betrothed* in which Lucia speaks with the heart to the Innominato [the Unnamed] until he, disarmed and afflicted by a healthy inner crisis, gives in to the gentle strength of love. We experience this in society, where kindness is not only a question of “etiquette” but a genuine antidote to cruelty, which unfortunately can poison hearts and make relationships toxic. We need it in the field of media, so that communication does not foment acrimony that exasperates, creates rage and

leads to clashes, but helps people peacefully reflect and interpret with a critical yet always respectful spirit, the reality in which they live.

Communicating heart to heart: “In order to speak well, it is enough to love well”

One of the brightest and still fascinating examples of “speaking with the heart” is



offered by Saint Francis de Sales, a Doctor of the Church, whom I wrote about in the Apostolic Letter, *Totum Amoris Est*, 400 years after his death. In addition to this important anniversary, I would like to mention another anniversary that takes place in 2023: the centenary of his proclamation as patron of Catholic journalists by Pius XI with the Encyclical, *Rerum Omnium Perturbationem*. A brilliant intellectual, fruitful writer and profound theologian, Francis de

Sales was Bishop of Geneva at the beginning of the XVII century during difficult years marked by heated disputes with Calvinists. His meek attitude, humanity and willingness to dialogue patiently with everyone, especially with those who disagreed with him, made him an extraordinary witness of God’s merciful love. One could say about him:

“A pleasant voice multiplies friends, and a gracious tongue multiplies courtesies” (Sir 6:5). After all, one of his most famous statements, “heart speaks to heart”, inspired generations of faithful, among them Saint John Henry Newman, who

chose it as his motto, *Cor ad cor loquitur*. One of his convictions was, “In order to speak well, it is enough to love well”. It shows that for him communication should never be reduced to something artificial, to a marketing strategy, as we might say nowadays, but is rather a reflection of the soul, the visible surface of a nucleus of love that is invisible to the eye. For Saint Francis de Sales, precisely “in the heart and through the heart, there comes about a subtle, intense and unifying process in

which we come to know God”.

2. By “loving well”, Saint Francis succeeded in communicating with Martin, the deaf-mute, becoming his friend. This is why he is also known as the protector of people with impairments in communicating.

It is from this “criterion of love”

his diocese and still endures to this day. His writings, Saint Paul VI observed, provide for a “highly enjoyable, instructive and moving” reading.

3. If we look today at the field of communications, are these not precisely the characteristics that an article, a report, a

gift we can offer each other”.

4. Listening without prejudice, attentively and openly, gives rise to speaking according to God’s style, nurtured by closeness, compassion and tenderness. We have a pressing need in the Church for communication that kindles hearts, that is balm on wounds and that shines light on the journey of our brothers and sisters. I dream of an ecclesial communication that knows how to let itself be guided by the Holy Spirit, gentle and at the same time, prophetic, that knows how to find new ways and means for the wonderful proclamation it is called to deliver in the third millennium. A communication which puts the relationship with God and one’s neighbour, especially the neediest, at the centre and which knows how to light the fire of faith rather than preserve the ashes of a self-referential identity. A form of communication founded on humility in listening and parrhesia in speaking, which never separates truth from charity.

Disarming souls by promoting a language of peace

“A soft tongue will break a bone”, says the book of Proverbs (25:15). Today more than ever, speaking with the heart is essential to foster a culture of peace in places where there is war; to open paths



that, through his writings and witness of life, the saintly Bishop of Geneva reminds us that “we are what we communicate”. This goes against the grain today, at a time when – as we experience especially on social media – communication is often exploited so that the world may see us as we would like to be and not as we are. Saint Francis de Sales disseminated many copies of his writings among the Geneva community. This “journalistic” intuition earned him a reputation that quickly went beyond the confines of

television or radio programme or a social media post should include? May people who work in communications feel inspired by this saint of tenderness, seeking and telling the truth with courage and freedom and rejecting the temptation to use sensational and combative expressions.

Speaking with the heart in the synodal process

As I have emphasised, “In the Church, too, there is a great need to listen to and to hear one another. It is the most precious and life-giving

that allow for dialogue and reconciliation in places where hatred and enmity rage. In the dramatic context of the global conflict we are experiencing, it is urgent to maintain a form of communication that is not hostile. It is necessary to overcome the tendency to “discredit and insult opponents from the outset [rather] than to open a respectful dialogue”.

5. We need communicators who are open to dialogue, engaged in promoting integral disarmament and committed to undoing the belligerent psychosis that nests in our hearts, as Saint John XXIII prophetically urged in the Encyclical *Pacem In Terris*: “True peace can only be built in mutual trust” (No. 113). A trust which has no need of sheltered or closed communicators but bold and creative ones who are ready to take risks to find common ground on which to meet. As was the case sixty years ago, we are now also living in a dark hour in which humanity fears an escalation of war that must be stopped as soon as possible, also at the level of communication. It is terrifying to hear how easily words calling for the destruction of people and territories are spoken. Words, unfortunately, that often turn into warlike actions of heinous violence. This is why all belligerent rhetoric must be rejected,

as well as every form of propaganda that manipulates the truth, disfiguring it for ideological ends. Instead, what must be promoted is a form of communication that helps create the conditions to resolve controversies between peoples.



“ We have a pressing need in the Church for **communication that kindles hearts**, that is **balm on wounds** and that **shines light** on the journey of our brothers and sisters. ”

As Christians, we know that the destiny of peace is decided by conversion of hearts, since the virus of war comes from within the human heart.

6. From the heart come the right words to dispel the shadows of a closed and divided world and to build a civilization which is better than the one we have received. Each of us is asked to engage in this effort, but it is one that especially appeals to the sense of responsibility of those working in the field

of communications so that they may carry out their profession as a mission.

May the Lord Jesus, the pure Word poured out from the heart of the Father, help us to make our communication clear, open and heartfelt.

May the Lord Jesus, the

Word made flesh, help us listen to the beating of hearts, to rediscover ourselves as brothers and sisters, and to disarm the hostility that divides.

May the Lord Jesus, the Word of truth and love, help us speak the truth in charity, so that we may feel like protectors of one another.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 24 January 2023,
Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales.*



WORLD YOUTH DAY, PORTUGAL

World Youth Day 2023 will be a Catholic festival held in Lisbon, Portugal, and was originally scheduled to be celebrated in summer 2022. This was announced by Pope Francis and Bishop Kevin Farrell at the end of the closing Mass of World Youth Day 2019 in Panama City, Panama. It will start from Tuesday August 1st to Sunday August 6th. Young people from all over the world will gather in Lisbon in August 2023 to share moments of prayer and leisure together over a week with the blessing of Pope Francis. The Pope will join the celebrations, taking part in the welcoming and opening ceremony, the Way of the Cross, the vigil and the event's closing mass



*Mary arose and went with haste
(Lk 1:39)*

THEME: *MARY AROSE AND WENT WITH HASTE...*

Mary's haste is thus a sign of her desire to serve, to proclaim her joy, to respond without hesitation to the grace of the Holy Spirit. Mary was motivated by the needs of her elderly cousin. She did not hold back, or remain indifferent. She thought more of others than of herself.



Official Prayer for World Youth Day 2023

Our Lady of the Visitation, you who left in haste towards the mountain to meet Elizabeth, lead us also to meet all those who await us to deliver them the living Gospel: Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord! We will go in a hurry, with no distraction or delay, but with readiness and joy. We will go peacefully, because those who take Christ take peace, and well doing is the best wellbeing. Our Lady of the Visitation, with your inspiration, this World Youth Day will be the mutual celebration of the Christ we take, as You once did. Make it a time of testimony and sharing, fraternization, and giving thanks, each of us looking for the others who always wait. With you, we will continue on this path of gathering, so that our world will gather as well, in fraternity, justice and peace. Help us, Our Lady of the Visitation, to bring Christ to everyone, obeying the Father, in the love of the Spirit!



Mary Help Of Christians

John was devoted to Mary under any title though at various times of his life there was greater emphasis placed on one or the other. His favourite title was Mary Help of Christians.



“Trust all things to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to Mary Help of Christians, and you will see what miracles are”

-Don Bosco



PROVINCE
OF
MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

ZAMBIA • MALAWI • ZIMBABWE • NAMIBIA



ZAMBIA * MALAWI * ZIMBABWE * NAMIBIA

Salesian Bulletin

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