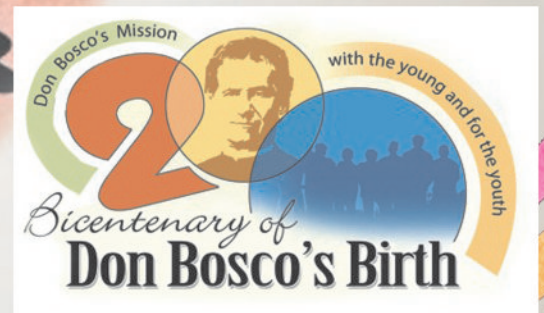




Alumni Meet

2015





A Dream turns into Reality

Dear friends (Alumni),

HAPPY FEAST OF THE BICENTINARY OF THE BIRTH OF DON BOSCO!

When Johny Bosco had a dream at the age of nine his eldest brother thought he was crazy and some of the neighbours wrote him off as a dreamer. But his saintly mother had a hunch that probably God had designs for him. Her three boys went their separate ways but Johny, the youngest, decided he would become a priest and work for deprived and abandoned youth. Soon Johny as a priest (Don Bosco), took on the establishment and set up organizations to address the youth issue.

In the 19th Century, when religious movements and Christian organizations were under scrutiny and were being suppressed by secular authority, Don Bosco, almost singlehandedly organized groups and societies that would initiate and support educational and social ventures. He founded religious Orders for men and for women and other lay organizations that would support these initiatives.

Don Bosco never forgot his roots. The loss of his father when he was only two years old, due to a severe bout of pneumonia, left a void that psychologists and sociologists believe propelled him into starting off the dynamic ventures and initiatives that made a difference to society. With no father-figure around he depended on his mother while growing up. She in turn watched over him and supported him even during his early days at the fledgling projects he started for young people. In fact she played a powerful role in shaping his personality and giving him a sense of direction.

The realization of Don Bosco's dream today (2015)

The Head of the Salesian family is the Rector Major. The present Rector Major is Father Angel Fernandez Artime, who was elected on 25th March 2014.

The Society has 94 geographical provinces each of them headed by a Provincial. The Rector Major and his General Council of Advisers have a six-year term and are chosen by representatives from all the provinces in the world who form the General Chapter. Each local community is headed by a superior who is called a Rector who is appointed for a three-year term.

The Salesians today operate shelters for homeless or at-risk youths; Universities, colleges, schools; technical, vocational, and language instruction centers for youth and adults; and boys' clubs and community centres. In some areas they run parishes. The Salesians are also active in publishing and in communication activities, and in educational-pastoral work across the world. The Salesians publish their official publication, the Salesian Bulletin, in 32 languages. In India, the Salesians started India's first Catholic University, in Guwahati, Assam: Don Bosco University.

Don Bosco established the SDBs, the FMAs the Salesian Cooperators and another worldwide group called the Past Pupils (Alumni) (of the SDB & of the FMA). The Past Pupils are men and women who as young people attended a Salesian college, school, club or parish. They bring to the workplace, the home and to society the special Salesian 'charism' of joyful service that they imbibed during their student days.

Young people today across the world stand in endless queues to enrol in a Don Bosco institution, or proudly proclaim the 'Salesian' experience they treasure. The Salesians [men and women Orders, and associate Institutes] celebrate the bicentenary of Don Bosco's birth on 16th August 2015. Dear Alumni, you are the largest group in the family of Don Bosco and we are all proud of you. We pray for you daily and bless you.

With much love and appreciation,
Your loving Father and friend,



Fr. Mathew Pulingathil SDB
Rector,
Salesian College Siliguri Campus.

GRACEFUL EXIT

The 'people's president', 'sadhu of science', a fine statesman and the face of indomitable India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has passed into the annals of history, leaving a trail of victories in the scientific and socio-cultural fields. He has no doubt ignited many minds and inflamed numerous hearts, ah yes! he won a billion hearts. What an enigmatic personality he was! He rose from humble beginnings to the highest office in the country. Yet he never lost his humility. He epitomized the maxim of 'high thinking and low living'. His life and mission are a clarion call to stop the cravings for the extraordinary and to do simple things in an extraordinary way. We have ample opportunities to carry forward the legacy of pursuit of knowledge and excellence in imitation of great humans who have made an indelible impact on humanity. In what way can we leave our footprints on the sands of time!



Fr. Dr. James C. Molekunnel SDB
Rector, Salesian College Sonada.



Alumni and the College in Post-Platinum Years

-George Thadathil sdb



It was a pleasant task to have accepted the commitment to join the stakeholders' conference at DBTI, Port Moresby, PNG, from 9-11 July 15. Thanks to the generous invitation by the Rector, Principal and the high commission in Delhi I was able to reach there on 8th afternoon after a 32 hours of travel time and 16 hours of flight time. The most unexpected surprise on landing at Jackson field airport in Port Moresby was the welcome granted by two past students of Salesian college. The first impression they had on me was confirmed in the three days of interactions that followed. Robinson Parappilly (1990 batch) and Pankaj Xalxo (1999 batch?) have been in the country of Papua New Guinea for over ten years and conveyed the feeling that they were at home performing their task as volunteer educators in a foreign land: one as the head of a technical school, highly praised by the government officials who participated in the conference and the other heading the formation of the new candidates to Salesian way of life. Both mastered the pidgin that the local people speak to communicate among themselves beside their dialect and the English which is more the mode of communication by the educated.

Don Bosco having its worldwide presence invites its members to volunteer for short duration of two-to-ten years, or for life, in other locations (countries) than one's own home city or country. This invitation to work abroad as volunteers encouraged Robinson and Pankaj to opt for the missions as called in catholic terminology and thus they landed in PNG. It is indeed an adventurous and meaningful challenge, to understand a new context, learn a new language, and, engage with a new people and culture to define and promote their welfare. The stakeholders' conference was precisely such an attempt to discern the nature of salesian (Don Bosco) presence in PNG and its institutional growth as a result. The active participation and engagement from Robinson and Pankaj in this exercise itself showed their insertion into their work world and the contentment and satisfaction they themselves were deriving there from. The situation is not without challenge. Though a smaller country yet it is heavily dependent on Australia economically and since independence 35 years ago are marking their new bearings.

The constitution of the country though developed taking from the best in many other newly formed countries does not provide for a strong police force and thus has resulted in occasional 'rascalism' (the tendency of young people to waylay vehicular traffic in some corners of the city and elsewhere on highways) and the frequent law and order problems associated with the 'settlement colonies'. The government authorities and representatives who were present at the conference showed great admiration for Don Bosco's work and were looking forward to a much more expanded and strengthened Don Bosco Technological Institute (something along the line of the IITs in India) in order to put technical education in the country itself on a stronger foothold.

Besides the conference time of discussions and conversations, Pankaj and Robinson took me around and showed different parts of Port Moresby, other Don Bosco institutions in the city (especially schools) and their national heritage: the orchids, beautifully displayed in their parliament house; the bird of paradise, in the nature museum and park; the war cemetery; the catholic theological institute, where I met other Indians of other orders and regions of India doing similar volunteering work; the city centre with its mega mall. Wishing them goodbye after four days of being in the country and intense reconnection after years, was indeed emotionally moving. *to be continued*





The Kite-flyer

Diganta Ray

He is a little boy among a heap of adults
Walking everywhere with their brown briefcases
And neckties with restrained formality of colours.
But the little boy is in his dirty shorts
And with a patchwork-coloured kite in his hand
Looking up at the grandfatherly high rise buildings
That have lost their love for him.
It is a city and the boy wants his kite to fly.
There is indeed a wind that makes it fly in his hand,
A good enough encouragement,
But the smoke of the polished car
Purchased from the new showroom in the city over the weekends
Will not smile to encourage the kite to fly;
The smoke does not pull it down either, it's indifferent.
The sky is grey,
The kite is coloured,
The buildings are grey,
The kite is coloured,
The evening is grey,
The kite is coloured,
The faces of busy people are busy,
And so is our kite-flyer's,
Only that they have built a sufficiently long network of roads
To commute with a look of seriousness
That earns them money,
But our kite-flyer looks around,
His leisure being made busy
By having to look around and search for too long,
A wind strong enough to push his kite,
A road short enough to serve as a path for him to run
and launch



SAINT JOHN BOSCO

Father of Youth

Sayak Moitra

(An alumnus of SCS)

"Do you want to do a good deed ?

Teach the young !

Do you want to perform a holyact ?

Teach the young !"

- Don Bosco.



2015 is the year of Bicentenary of St. John Bosco, a man so pious, religious and true servant of God. Pius XI said of Don Bosco, "In the life of this Servant of God, the supernatural became as the natural and the extraordinary appeared ordinary." Being a true son of God, he dedicated his life for the cause of uplifting the degraded boys- both mentally and physically and founded a new congregation, the Salesian. St. John Bosco was born in a poor suburb of Turin, Italy on 16 August, 1815

Educating youth is very vital since they are the future of society and nation. Education should not be only academic but molded with moral values. Moral values motivate youth towards the pious and religious life. Don Bosco understood the importance of moral education in uplifting the life of youth and throughout his life he worked for them.

"Without confidence and love, there can be no true education", said Don Bosco to his boys. He believed that confidence and love are two pillars of success. A man cannot achieve anything without having confidence over himself and also must have faith on Almighty. Even love is another most vital aspect of life. If we want to be loved, we must love ourselves and make others feel that we love them. Through love the kingdom of God can be formed.

Don Bosco used to say his youth the motivating words, "If one is to do good, he must have little courage, be ready for sacrifice, deal affably with all and never slight anybody." This words inspired the youths for leading a significantly successful life.

The life of Don Bosco is highly significant which in the sense requires elaborate study. He was a man who dedicated his life for the service of God and youth. It is unimaginative to see the statue of Don Bosco without accompanied by young boys. Being restrained by the constrain of time and space and my little knowledge in using proper diction, I would like to conclude the piece about the patron Saint of Youth with the famous lines of H.W. Longfellow from the poem "Psalm of life"-

"Lives of great men all reminds us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."



A NUMBER OF EVENTS MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW SESSION FOR SALESIAN COLLEGE, SILIGURI



-Rochelle Ann Lepcha



Fr. George Thadathil the Principal of Salesian college is welcoming the freshers of Siliguri campus

SDB, Rector, Salesian College. This was followed by a common orientation in the campus auditorium where the College Management and the Heads of the various departments welcomed the new entrants and introduced their departments. A short video presentation titled "Salesian in the Himalayas" apprised the students of the rich history of the Salesians and of their growth over the years in the North Bengal region. The common orientation also had a speech by Mr. Jacob Arpan Subba (Third year Political Science Hons) who presented the student's perspective.

The second and third day of the orientation programme concentrated on departmental interaction where the students participated in various ice breaking games, team building exercises and self introduction. The new students were also briefed on the rules and regulations of the college, familiarized with the Handbook & Calendar, syllabus and the subject professors.

On the final day of the Freshers Orientation Programme, there was a screening of the film "Mission to Love" based on the life of St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesian society. The film based on the real life events of St. John Bosco acquainted the students with the vision of the Salesian society and helped them gain a clearer understanding of the endeavors of the Salesian College to excel in the preparation of noble citizens and leaders who are intellectually competent, socially sensitive, morally upright and emotionally balanced.

On the occasion of its Foundation Day, Salesian College, Siliguri released a journal titled "Indigenous Management" edited by Mr. Patrick Johnson (Assistant Professor and Campus Co-ordinator) and Mr. Anirban Ghosh (Assistant Professor). Fr. (Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil, SDB, Rector, Salesian College presented the first copy of the journal to 'the first two pillars of the campus' namely Mr. Pawan Prasad (Assistant Professor) and Mr. Sandeep Singh (Assistant Professor) who have been associated with Salesian College, Siliguri since its inauguration on 9th July, 2009.

Sparkle, the annual college magazine was also released on 3rd July by Fr. Mathew Pulingathil SDB, Rector and the first copy was handed to Senior Alumni, Chanchal Agarwal by him. The magazine was edited by Ms. Kasturi Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Department of English.



Freshers performing



Fr. Mathew Pulingathil SDB is releasing the college magazine of Siliguri campus 'Sparkle'



Journal 'Indigenous management' by Fr. Mathew Pulingathil, Rector, Salesian College Siliguri



Fr. Mathew Pulingathil is presenting the 1st copy of journal to Mr. Pawan Prasad (Asst Professor)



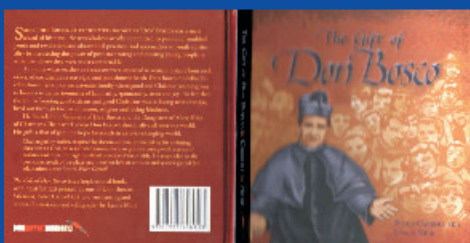
1st copy of 'Sparkle' is being presented to Chanchal Agarwal the Sr. Alumni of Siliguri campus

The book '**Stolen Sights**' by *Diganta Ray* an alumnus of Salesian College, Siliguri was released by *Prof Indrajit Ray* the former VC of North Bengal University on 25th July, 2015



REVIEW

-Priyamrita Chatterjee



"His gift was to provide Out ofalmost nothing Everything he considered Necessary for the Material and spiritual Well-being of those boys"

"The Gift of Don Bosco" a book by *Peter Carroll SDB*, who is a Salesian priest of the Australia – Pacific Province. It is published in Australia by John Garratt Publishing. The book is based on the life and work of Don Bosco. The author has very avidly described Don Bosco's love for the young and his stance towards life's education.

As he says "His gift to his boys and followers was not simply to educate them but to call them to such a full engagement with life and God that they too should be gifted to become saints/(exceptionally good human being)" The book is adorned with very eye catching illustrations and calligraphy by Lynne Muir.