

# DON BOSCO'S MADONNA

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## CONTENTS

From The Editor's Desk  
*Open Your Eyes and See!*.....3

1 - The Rebirth of the Eagle  
- Fr. Erasto Fernandez. SSS....4

Don Bosco Found Me!  
- Fr. Edwin D'Souza sdb.....7

Searching for Jesus  
- Etienne Murphy.....8

Walking With the Church: *Where Are  
The Old Testament Saints?*  
- Fr. McNamara..... 10

Witnesses In And For Our Times:  
*Istevan Sandor:*  
- Paolo Riso..... 12

Lectio Divina: Our Father  
-Roberta Fora.....16

Quietspaces: The Man For others -  
Don Bosco  
-Serena deSouza.....18

A Touch of Death (4)  
- Tom Henderson.....20

Don Bosco's Initial Difficulties  
- Natale Cerrato.....23

NewsBits.....26

16 Steps to Greatness (Operation  
Wardrobe) 13 - Justice - 2.....28

*In a Cheerful Mood*.....15

*Loving Children to their  
Loving Mother*.....32

*The Devotion of  
the Three Hail Marys*.....33

*They Are Grateful to  
Our Lady & Don Bosco*.....34

*Thanks to Dear  
St.Dominic Savio*.....35



***"Let us ask Mary...  
to help us to see  
in the face of every  
human person,  
the Face of Christ,  
the heart of Peace."***



**Pope Benedict XVI  
1/1/2007**

**Cover: Don Bosco,  
By Crida**



## From The Editor's Desk

### Open Your Eyes and See!

To open your eyes each morning is quite a miracle, but at that early hour, who would even hazard such sublime thoughts? Just getting out of bed and getting on with the business of living is quite a feat! Even so, opening your eyes to another day when so many closed them to this world last night for the last time - is quite a sobering thought. Now imagine opening your eyes to another year and seeing 2008 for the first time. Wow! That really is a miracle! How wonderful to think that this New Year opened on the First of January with the feast of **Mary, the Mother of God**...and our Mother too!

That means as you step into this New Year you are looking into at the face of Mary the Mother of God...the same face that the infant Jesus looked at when he opened his sparkling little eyes for the first time in that damp, dark and cold cave in Bethlehem two millennia ago. How grateful ought we to be that we don't have to walk through this year alone? But, smart as we are, we might decide to do just that - like foolish and stubborn little children. In spite of our stubbornness Mary hurries behind us urging us gently to take the right path.

And because we're not on the right path we fret, worry, fear and grumble even as we have to enter this New Year thinking we are all alone. Actually, give or take a week and we will settle ourselves into this morose mindset. We probably began our journey through the first days of 2008 much like we begin any day. We grumble as we get up and get to work. We are upset that we didn't have enough time yesterday. We crib about the weather. Friends have no time for us and relations constantly sponge on us. We are irritated that people don't keep their promises and others spend their time slandering us as if they were doing us a favour. What a sorry way to begin our day! Yet, like it or not, that is probably how the New Year began. *This magazine will reach you a couple of days into the New Year* but stop for a moment and ask yourself: "in what mood did I wake up on New Year's day?" You'd probably come up with a mood from the choice list given above. I need not be a genius to know that that's how we've patterned our lives so far. Why else are we '*moaning and groaning*' in the vale of tears? We hardly believe that Mary is there at our side ...ready to help.

All these years she has been beside us and yet we grumble ungratefully. We would do well to actually take her hand and allow her to walk with us through the dismal and desperate, the joyful and exuberant moments of 2008. She's always ready to help and she constantly whispers to us: '**Do whatever he tells you!**' She says: "Don't try to act smart by getting your advice from popular books or TV shows, from ignorant friends posing as cheap know-it-alls." The secret of having a great year is to resolve to '**Do whatever Jesus tells you**'. Positively 2008 will be a wonderful year, I assure you. That is my wish for each of you... take Mary's hand, there's still time to begin 'once more,' the year is still young! Oh! It's very young and Mary is waiting.

Fr. Ian Douulton sdb

# 1. THE RE-BIRTH OF THE EAGLE

*Fr. Erasto Fernandez, sss*

**O**rnithologists, the scientists who study the habits of birds, tell us that the maximum life-span of an eagle is about seventy years. But at around age forty, its sharp beak gets bent and useless for eating, its strong talons that could otherwise effortlessly carry a full-grown sheep or goat, become brittle and incapable of holding its prey and finally its large feathers get stuck to its chest making it very difficult to fly. At this stage of its existence, the eagle has to make a big decision regarding its future. It can continue languishing in this fashion and soon die, or it can enter into a process of rebirth lasting around three months – and then emerge with a new burst of vigorous life lasting almost as long – another thirty years at least.

## **Instinct for Survival**

At the onset of this important midlife predicament, Nature itself internally programmes the eagle to fly to its nest high up in the mountains to initiate this process of rebirth. There on a lonely mountain peak it ruthlessly breaks its bent beak on the hard rock and waits patiently till the new replacement appears. No sooner does its new beak become functional than it proceeds to savagely tear out its useless talons and there follows another long wait till a brand new set grows in their place. With the help of this new set of sharp beak and claws it proceeds to meticulously pluck out its feathers one by one, no matter how severe the pain - till it is almost bald and bare. A further seemingly endless wait till it gradually begins to sport a new coat of supple feathers. It is now as good as new. The entire process takes about three agonizing months after which it is

ready to fly off and live for thirty more glorious years of a better and trouble-free existence.

## **Death, the Law of Life**

This process that every eagle reportedly goes through is simply its own adapted version of the *Paschal Mystery*, a dying and rising that every eagle must go through in a very dramatic way. In fact, almost every single creature and the whole of Nature as well endures a similar process in which death at one level gives way to new life on a higher plane. An example very familiar to all is the butterfly that enters into the cocoon stage before emerging as a colourful altogether new creature: a butterfly. Jesus expressed this fundamental law of life succinctly when he said: 'Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains but a grain. But if it dies, it produces a hundredfold.' Jesus not only taught us this, but he actually lived it himself too – even from the very inception of his earthly life.

The Letter to the Philippians tells us that 'Although he was equal to God, Jesus did not cling to his equality with God. Rather, he emptied himself taking the form of a servant. And being found in human form, he became humbler yet, even to becoming obedient...unto death, death on a cross – and therefore God has highly exalted him so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father' (Phil. 2:5-11). If anyone has the moral authority to recommend this painful path as the true way to obtain new and abundant life, it would be Jesus

because 'he himself learned to obey through suffering!'

### **Daily Paschal Mystery**

As a matter of fact, every single dawning day presents each of us with its own share of the dying-rising mystery on a platter, unsolicited and often unwanted. Most of us begin our day with great plans and expectations, generally all directed towards achieving a better way of life. We set out optimistically to achieve our goals for the day, yet, no sooner do we begin than obstacles crowd our path, and one problem after another dogs our steps, upsetting and blocking all our projects: the person we wanted to meet fails to show up, or there is a sudden bus strike or maybe the usual bus/train we take gets cancelled or is delayed. On finally arriving at our destination we find that the officer who was to do our work hasn't yet arrived (because of the train delay, no doubt) and we have to wait for hours on end to get the work done. Eventually, we bring the day to a painful close with less than half our plans accomplished. A frustrating day it has turned out to be – yet pretty normal from the spiritual point of view! For if it wasn't exactly this pattern we followed, yet it would be pretty much the same progression of frustrations after frustrations – day after day! What is our habitual reaction to such an experience? Don't we most often get more and more upset and exhausted with trying to catch up with our own self-made plans? Don't we frantically try to get our bandwagon back onto its self-designated rails?

At such times what a difference would it not make if we were able to recognize the pattern of the dying-rising of Jesus, or even to recall the story of the rebirth of the Eagle. What is called for at such moments is our readiness to shed our beak,

talons and feathers (the old way of thinking and behaving), and to put on instead a new way of facing life. It is at moments such as these that we need to work together with Jesus and in accordance with his will. While giving up our plans is painful, undoubtedly, it helps tremendously if we keep our gaze fixed on the new life that this 'dying' makes possible; it would certainly enable us to hang on in faith during the most crucial moments of this trial. With our minds and hearts more calm and receptive, we would, most likely, find alternative ways of handling the situation and the outcome could be far better than merely raving and ranting over lost plans.

### **Background Requisites**

This positive approach, of course, presumes that our attitude towards life is based on the belief that every single event, and even the chance occurrences of our lives, lie in the hands of God; it is he who brings them to birth through his inspiration, sustains them all through their unfolding and brings them to a successful completion. For those who love God all things work for their good. So, if we surrender our lives into his hands out of love and then are ready to do his will in every situation, there is no reason to dread anything negative that may happen to us. "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount upon wings of eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint!"

### **Always Rejoicing**

In the Ancient Testament we have some outstanding instances of such a philosophy of life which is actually lived even by the simplest people. The prophet Habakkuk, for example, has this to say of difficult situations: "Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit grows on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no

food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls, **yet I will rejoice** in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights (Hab. 3:17-19).

A very familiar passage in a similar strain is Ps. 23 which many know by rote, even if it does not really inspire us in times of difficulty: "The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want... He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he revives my drooping spirit. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long (Psalm 23:1- 6).

Another psalm not so familiar to most Christians, but equally energizing is Ps. 91: "You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.' For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you... Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For, he will command his angels

concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot... With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation (Psalm 91:1-16).

### Life Eternal

In the New Testament, especially the Acts of the Apostles, we have numerous other examples of the Apostles letting go of their old ways (mostly Jewish patterns of thinking and acting) and performing marvels in the name of the Lord Jesus. This is the kind of power that is available to those who are prepared to 'believe' in Jesus, the risen Lord. Like Levi who when he was called, 'rose, left everything' and began following Jesus, so the Christian rises constantly to newer and greater heights on the wings of his enduring faith in the Lord. The process of believing in Jesus involves a leaving everything behind, especially all those important things, people, situations and the like that were relied upon in the past. Once we turn our backs on all these, we find ourselves capable of 'rising' to the new way of thinking and behaving characteristic of the followers of Jesus. And how long would we expect to live in this new way?

Jesus answers our question with a promise: "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them" (John 6:54-56). The life Jesus offers us begins not after we die, but right now and endures for all eternity in the bosom of a loving Father. Who would not want to acquire that kind of life? However, we cannot afford to forget the price involved in obtaining such a life! □

*"Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies..."*



## DON BOSCO FOUND ME!

by Fr. Edwin D'Souza sdb

Rector - Shrine of Don Bosco's Madonna, Matunga, Mumbai

The 22<sup>nd</sup> of December marked the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of my ordination. As I reflected on my priesthood and my call, my mind went back down memory lane. It all began as an Altar boy at Sacred Heart Parish, Igatpuri. Igatpuri is a picturesque little railway town 130 Km from Mumbai and 45 Km from Nashik. It was a town with a very vibrant Christian community. The parish run by the Spanish Jesuits and the School by the Daughters of the Cross were focal points of all activities. My vocation had its roots in 'Hero Worship.' Two Spanish Jesuits, first Fr. John Casasayas and then Fr. Xavier Mingot were my parish priests. They had a tremendous impact on my early life. Both possessed opposite temperaments but were dedicated and zealous missionaries. Their challenging life 'challenged me'. Their home visits were a real joy and their means of transport...the common man's bicycle. Images of them cycling through the streets in cassock and with a stole around their necks carrying viaticum to the sick and the dying, even in the pouring rain are still vividly etched in my memory. Their reverence at the Eucharist enraptured and captivated me. I wanted to be like them!

The school at Igatpuri closed (was it Providence?). That brought me to Don Bosco's Matunga. I was just nine years old. From a little parish church in the hills of Igatpuri to the majestic Shrine of Don Bosco's Madonna WOW! It was under the



mantle of our Blessed Mother that the little 'Jesuit altar boy' took his first steps the 'Salesian way'.

The turning point came at the first retreat I made while I was in std. V. It was action-packed and animated by our preacher **Fr. Cajetan Lobo SDB**, popularly known as '**Jimmu**'. It was during that retreat that I found Don Bosco or better DON BOSCO FOUND ME! In the years that followed in the boarding and later at the aspirantate in Lonavla I got to know more about Don Bosco and I fell head over heels for him. Opting for the Salesian novitiate was not a difficult choice, and from then on it has been...ALWAYS WITH DON BOSCO!

God's ways are wonderful. The path that he traces out for our lives is unimaginable. God has a plan for each and every one of us. All he wants to hear from us is '**Here I am Lord...**' Two thousand years ago he walked by the shores of the sea of Galilee and called Peter, James and John. He is still walking our streets... searching...FOR YOU!☐

*If you feel the call to be a Don Bosco Priest or Brother, we could help: **Contact us at [frbrian@rediffmail.com](mailto:frbrian@rediffmail.com)***

# SEARCHING FOR JESUS

by Etienne Murphy

**W**hom do you seek?' (*Jn 1:38*). Three times in the Gospel that question was posed by Jesus. They recall three special moments of revelation of the divine drama of salvation – the *call*, the *combat*, and the *victory*. Can we relive those moments in his presence, listening to his voice, gentle and appealing, echoing from the depths of his heart?

## A Drama Unfolds

For two men walking along the bank of the Jordan one evening the shadow of Jesus crossed their path for the first time. A drama began to unfold in which every detail has importance. John the Baptist sent Andrew and his companion (probably John) on a quest that would shape their lives. 'John looked at Jesus as he walked, and said to them, "Behold the Lamb of God". The two disciples heard this and they followed Jesus' (*Jn 1, 36-37*) Their search was already beginning. "They followed Jesus". As yet they could not define the curiosity that was stirring in their hearts.

## The Call

There followed on of the shortest and most decisive dialogues of the whole Gospel. 'Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "Where are you staying?"' (*Jn 1: 39*). 'Jesus turned' and, for the first time in their lives, they saw him face-to-face. They allowed themselves to be looked at by him.

Archbishop Goodier aptly described that moment. 'As a

stranger who speaks to a stranger in a lonely place, the loneliness making them companions, he turned about and accosted them'. The words of Jesus were more than a question. Coming from his heart they were already resounding in their hearts, imperceptibly drawing them towards him.

## Moment of Destiny

Arousing and rewarding their curiosity, Jesus gave them an invitation, 'Come and see' (*Jn 1:39*). For those two men it was the moment of destiny, an invitation that changed their lives. Without a moment's hesitation they responded. 'they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day' (*Jn 1:39*).

We cannot piece the curtain of that evening encounter; the marvel of that 'staying' with Jesus, when heart spoke to heart. What we do know is that by the time morning and come they belonged to him; he had made them his own. A moment when history was made, the marvel of that evening was indelibly imprinted on their memory. Writing years later, John could still remember the very hour when they first met Jesus. 'It was about the tenth hour' (*Jn 1:39*).

"They saw where he was staying' (*Jn 1:39*). They saw in that reposeful contemplation the one in whose company they would want to stay forever.

'Come.' They could not keep that joy locked up in their hearts. They had to tell the world, 'We have found the messiah' (*Jn 1:41*).

## The Combat

The scene changed. In the

darkness of the night of betrayal, Jesus for the second time asked 'Whom do you seek?' (*Jn 18:4*). His question was addressed, not to those who approached him in order to love him, but to a crowd with evil in their hearts. A band of soldiers, with lanterns and torches and weapons, came to seize him.

'Whom do you seek?' For one brief moment the majesty of his presence terrified them. 'They drew back and fell to the ground' (*Jn 18:6*). But it was their hour and the hour of darkness, and he allowed himself to be taken. They 'seized Jesus and bound him' (*Jn 18:12*).

### **The Victory**

From the Garden of Gethsemane to the Garden of Easter. Gone the dark night of betrayal. Now, on this splendid Easter dawn, Magdalene, the great lover, sought her beloved. Through her tears she did not recognize her risen Lord. And then, just as Andrew and his companion had 'turned', 'she turned round and saw Jesus standing', but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?' (*Jn 20:14*).

'He asked her why she wept in order to increase her desire to see him,' said St Augustine. Enough for her to hear his voice, calling her name.

### **My Seeking**

Dear Lord, may I ask you to help me to relive those Gospel moments. Make me realize that every day you turn towards me and ask me, 'Whom do you seek?'

If I can keep rekindling the divine curiosity of your apostles, and the ardent search of Mary Magdalene to find you, then, each day becomes a

new adventure, seeking you whom I have found.

If only, with an open heart, I can respond to your invitation 'Come', then you will allow me to see where you live and to enjoy the intimacy of your company. My life becomes an unending and joyful seeking and finding.

I remember the words of Pascal, 'We would not go on seeking him if we had not found him'. I make my own the closing words of the book of Pope John Paul II, *Crossing the threshold of Hope* - 'It is important to cross the threshold of hope, not to stop before it, but to let oneself be led.'

Grant me the grace 'to be led' to you as were your first apostles on that blessed evening.

### **A Home in Our Hearts**

And just one final thought for my pleading, so beautifully expressed by St Augustine - 'What a blessed night! Let us, therefore, build a home for him in our hearts where he may come and teach us.' □





# walking with the Church



## **Where are the Old Testament Saints? Sign of Peace**

by Fr. McNamara

**Q.** *Why is it that we never invoke or ask intercession of the “holy ones” from the Old Testament in the prayers of the Mass, nor do we have feast days to honour them?*

*I am thinking of those such as Elijah, Hannah, Samuel, Ruth, King David, or Isaiah, to name a few. Though we may refer to them, no feast day appears on the Roman calendar, nor any mention when praying in the Eucharistic prayers to be united with the saints in heaven.*

J.K. Portland, Oregon USA

**A.** The reason that there are no feasts to Old Testament saints in the Church’s universal calendar is probably due to the historical process in which the calendar was formed. At first, only martyrs for Christ were remembered on their anniversaries, and shortly afterward the Blessed Virgin was also honoured with feast days.

St. Martin of Tours (died 397) was probably the first non-martyr remembered with a feast. But the tradition has generally been that the saints in the calendar have been heroic examples of the life in Christ.

This does not mean that Old Testament saints were not recognized or that their intercession could not be sought.

The Roman Martyrology, a liturgical book first published in

the 1600, collects all of the saints and blessed officially recognized by the Church and organized according to their feast day. Those classified as saints in this book may be celebrated on their feast days, provided that the day is free of any other obligatory celebration.

Most of these saints, who far outnumber those of the general calendar, have no specific Mass formulas. Whenever they are celebrated, the most appropriate formulas are chosen from the common of saints.

Among the great saints of the Old Testament traditionally remembered in the Martyrology are the Prophet Habakkuk, celebrated on Jan 15; Isaiah, July 6; Daniel and Elias, July 20 and 21; the Seven Maccabees and their mother, August 17; Abraham, Oct 9; and King David, Dec. 29.

There are also other occasions when the intercession of the Old Testament saints is invoked in some way or another, for example:

- Every time the litanies of the saints are prayed they are invoked in generic terms: “All holy patriarchs and prophets, pray for us.”

- Abel, Abraham and Melchizedek are referred to in the

Roman Canon as examples of true devotion to God.

- Abel and Abraham used also to be specifically invoked in the brief litany in the rite recommending a departing soul, but this has now been replaced with a generic term.

- In the *Libera* (Deliver etc), which follows shortly after, many Old Testament names still appear, for example: "Free your servant, Lord, as you freed Daniel from the den of lions." (*Zenit.org*)

### The Proper Sign of Peace

**Q** *What is the proper "sign of peace" that should be given at each Mass? Is kissing appropriate? Should it be just a handshake or a nod? No one has really ever explained this to me.*

**A** The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) states: "As for the sign of peace to be given, the manner is to be established by Conferences of Bishops in accordance with the culture and customs of the peoples. It is, however, appropriate that each person offer the sign of peace only to those who are nearest and in a sober manner" (no. 82).

Later, the GIRM indicates that the priest celebrant offers a sign of peace only to those near him in the sanctuary except on special occasions, such as a wedding or funeral. In those situations it may be appropriate to extend a sign of peace and greeting to those near the sanctuary (see no. 154).

A close reading of the GIRM reveals that the "sign of peace" is not mandatory, but is left up to the discretion of the celebrant. A handshake is certainly appropriate and customary in many cultures; a friendly kiss between people who are familiar with one another, such as family members

or couples who are engaged, might also be appropriate.

A more formal sign of peace sometimes exchanged by concelebrants is the ancient hands-on-the-shoulders, hands-under-the-elbows, double-cheek kiss. It's sort of European or, more properly speaking, Roman in origin and is rarely seen elsewhere, but it's nevertheless appropriate.

In India it is a bow of the head with folded hands.



A nod would be fine, too. Or a friendly smile and wave to someone on the other side of the aisle would also be acceptable. In the absence of any specific indication from the bishops, common sense should dictate how you express your peace with your neighbour.

*(Courtesy: Petrus, October 2007)*

# Witnesses in & for Our Times



## SUFFERED UNDER STALIN ISTEVAN SANDOR

*by Paolo Risso*

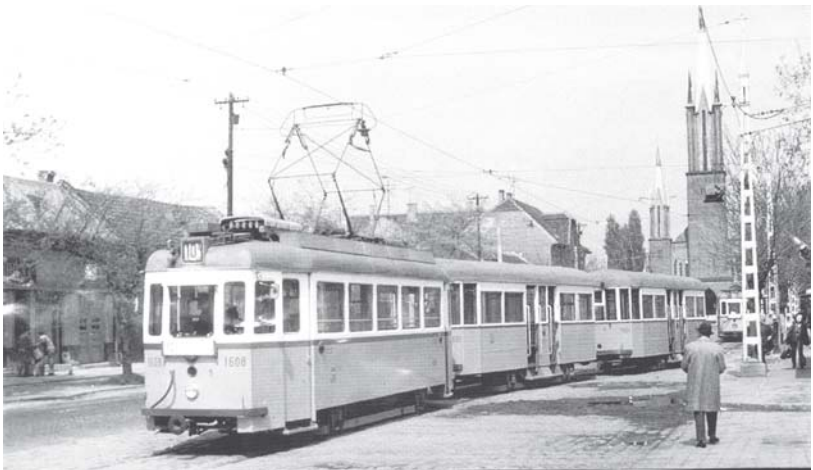
**H**is father was an engine driver, his mother, a housewife. They came from the Hungarian nobility and were deeply Catholic. They had three children: Stephen, John and Ladislaus and they brought the light of Christ wherever they were, at school, at play or at study.

Stephen (Istevan, in Hungarian) possessed a pleasant and generous nature. He was always eager to assist his companions at games or at school. He entertained

them on walks, with games, little skits and beautiful stories.

He attended the parish of Szolnok, his birthplace, and he loved the liturgical celebrations especially the Holy Mass. He was an altar boy and a member of the youth group of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The priests of the parish noticed his good qualities and advised him to join the Salesians. As he





grew up he yearned to dedicate himself totally to the education of youngsters, teaching them to love Jesus.

At this time he began to read the "Salesian Bulletin" with growing interest and in it he discovered the person of Don Bosco, his works and how he gave himself to God for the sake of young people. Soon the person of Don Bosco began to draw him like a magnet and he yearned to live that kind of life and to give himself to the Salesian Educative project.

### **The Young Salesian**

He began to work in the railways like his father but he soon realized that his ideal was drawing him in another direction: to become a Salesian in order to follow Christ in the footsteps of Don Bosco.

In February 1936 he entered the aspirantate at the Salesian

printing school of Rakospalota and in a matter of just a few days this model youngster impressed the Salesians so that within a month he was admitted to the novitiate.

When Istevan turned 20 years old he was repeatedly called up by the army until the year 1941. During the Second World War Hungary receded into obscurity with the other countries in Eastern Europe as they succumbed to the advance of communism. Even so, Istevan succeeded in completing his novitiate and dedicating himself to God through his religious profession as a Salesian Coadjutor.

He was summoned by the army once more but this time he was captured by the Americans who then occupied Germany. Only after his release in 1945 did he return to the Salesian community in Hungary. All through his military service he remained an exemplary Salesian. The barracks and even the trenches became his oratory. Wherever he could, he helped and served his companions. He succeeded in imbuing his conversations and his activity with thoughts of Christ and the Gospel even though that was difficult.

He finally returned to Rakospalota and to his community of confreres. He became a printing instructor and was entrusted with the formation of the clerics. The oratory too was his responsibility. The boys and the youngsters looked on him as their model. He was always kind and brave in times of difficulty.



reduced to living in hiding disguised as farmers, porters and casual labourers.

### **Martyr for Jesus**

Istevan had to leave not only his printing press but his community too. Through all this he never gave up his religious vows. He wanted to remain faithful to Jesus Christ to the point of death.

For some months he went about under a false name and succeeded in finding employment as a worker in a detergent factory in Budapest. Being extremely generous he fearlessly he sought out new forms of apostolate. But he was constantly aware that what he was doing was forbidden by his atheistic persecutors of the state.

Through his happy demeanour he was able to bring Christ to these youngsters.

During this time Hungary began to be suppressed into submission under the communist rule of Stalin. In 1949, in a monumental abuse of power, Stalin's pro-consul to Hungary, Matyas Rakosi, confiscated the property of the Church and nationalized the schools.

Istevan tried to save at least some printing machines and some furniture at the cost of great sacrifice. Sudden all the religious found themselves with nothing. Everything belonged to the state. They had been deprived of all their belongings. They were now

One day in the middle of July 1952 the police arrested him at the factory where he worked. He was incarcerated for almost a year. After this at a farcical trial he was condemned to death for subversive activity. In reality his "subversion" was his fidelity to Christ, to Don Bosco and to his apostolate. That was his Catholic identity.

On the evening of June 8<sup>th</sup> 1953 Istevan Sandor was hanged. It was only after the fall of the Communist regime in Hungary, in 1990, that the news of his execution was officially communicated. He suffered under Stalin for love to Jesus Christ: A Salesian and martyr only for Him.

Today his cause of beatification has been introduced. □

# IN A CHEERFUL MOOD

## **Impenetrable Defence**

An officer in the army was giving a talk to his soldiers before going into war. This was one of the first things he said to them: "Now, you must be very careful, because the enemy has a new weapon which can pierce one inch of wood, so keep your heads down!"

## **Equine Positives**

Photography is a strange business," mused the young man.

"Because it develops negatives, I presume?" queried the young woman, with a queer accent on the word 'negative.'

"Not exactly, that. But, as an example, the other day I had my picture taken in my riding-clothes - not on a horse, you understand, but just standing in my riding outfit, with my whip in my hand. And today I received a letter from the photographer, stating that the pictures are all mounted and ready for me!"

## **Class Clarity**

The teacher was more than disappointed, she was annoyed. Not a boy in the class could name the two birds she had drawn on the blackboard. "Come now," she pleaded, in a final effort, "one of them is a robin and the other is a thrush. Can any boy tell me which is the robin?"

A voice droned up from the last boy in the back row: "The one beside the thrush, miss!"

## **Horticultural Charity**

A rather stupid young fellow saw a sign which read: "Ring the bell for the gardener." He walked up

and pulled the cord. A red faced man soon appeared and inquired what he wanted. "Are you the gardener?" asked the young man.

"Yes. What do you want?"

"I saw the sign there, so I rang the bell and now I'd like to know why you can't ring the bell yourself?"

## **Hair-raising Guarantee**

Client: "Do you give a guarantee with this hair-restorer?"

Barber: "Guarantee, sir? Why, we give a comb free with every bottle."

## **Tools of the Trade**

The family and their guest had just seated themselves at table.

"Susie?" said the mother, "why didn't you put a knife and fork at Mr. McKlunk's place?"

"He don't need any, mother," replied Susie. "You said he eats like a horse."

## **Air of Confidence**

Pilot: (after landing in a tree) "Sorry, but I was trying to make a new air record."

Farm Hand: "Well, you certainly did; you're the first person to climb down that tree without climbing it!"

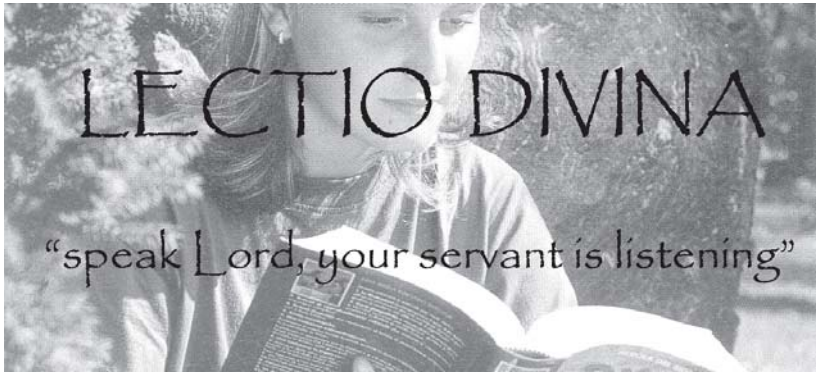
## **Celestial Therapy**

A pianist, who was undergoing an operation, asked the doctor if he would be able to play the piano when he had recovered.

Doctor: I won't guarantee you that.

Pianist: Why?

Doctor: Because the last fellow that went under this operation was playing the harp twenty-four hours later! □



## ***The Our Father***

*by Roberta Fora*

**I**t is truly wonderful to become aware that we have a “Father in heaven.” He never abandons us. He is with us in all our joys and sorrows.

He is my dad and he is tender, loving and faithful. He is a Father to all of us, not only to those who are happy and serene but he is Father even to those who are sad and desperate. He is Father of those who may have lost all hope, those who do not have the strength to look forward to what another day may bring.

This is the infinite and inexplicable mystery of God’s immense love for us. He has chosen to love us as a kind and merciful Father who is ready to “lure” us to Himself.

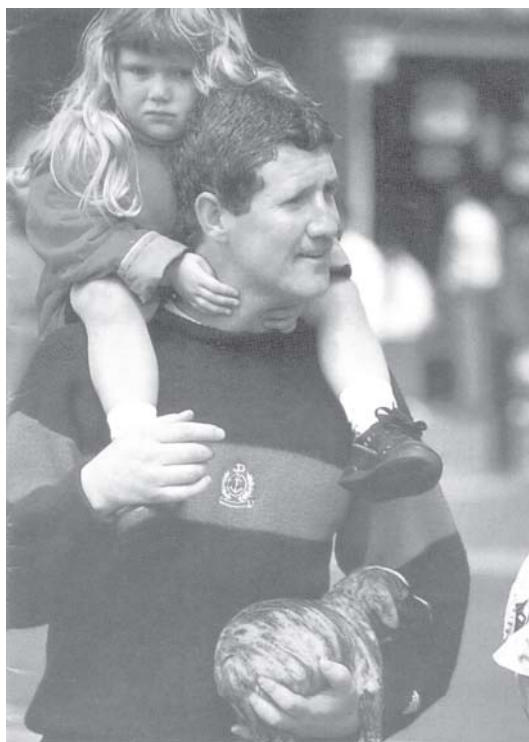
In teaching Catechism it is not always easy to introduce the figure of God as a Father to his children. God loves us as a father. He is one who simply lavishes his children with his love. This example, by itself, can give us only a vague idea but in some cases

even this idea risks becoming inconceivable and incomprehensible especially for children who have had totally negative experiences of their fathers. How many fathers are unable to assume such a dedicated role and so they have deprived their children of a serene and joyful relationship with them? These men prefer living presumptuous and arrogant roles of men centred on pampering only themselves.

We are familiar with this hard reality but nevertheless we are invited to reflect and to pray this prayer - The Our Father.

Whether we gather at Sunday Mass, in the warmth of our own homes or the privacy of our own rooms to pray the “Our Father,” we should never forget our earthly fathers, the ones we may have never had, because we were orphans, or because of the daily negative experiences through which we are presently living.

We pray for children in every corner of the world who yearn for



surrender ourselves together with all God's creatures to Him who is "Our Father and theirs." If it is true that His love is infinite and that prayer has immense and marvelous power, then something certainly will happen when we pray. Our world will gradually change .

We demonstrate to our children - our dear ones, and those we meet in our everyday lives - the Father's discreet yet sublime presence that silently guides and watches over us as we journey through life in the warmth of His love. This will be our small but irreplaceably valuable contribution that will help change our surroundings thus

a little love because they receive only receive physical and psychological abuse from those who claim to be their fathers.

giving these unfortunate children a deep sense of living life more intensely.

These statements truly sadden us and in the face of such situations we feel 'insignificant and helpless.' Therefore, let us

Imagine waking up at dawn and knowing that we can place our day in the hands of an "affectionate and thoughtful Dad!" This cannot but make us immensely happy and serene. □

### **BENEDICT XVI** *on the Our Father*



"The Our Father is itself a prayer uttered in the first person plural, and it is only by becoming part of the "we" of God's children that we can reach up to him beyond the limits of this world in the first place. And yet this "we" awakens the inmost core of the person; in the act of prayer the totally personal and the communal must always pervade each other."

*(Jesus of Nazareth, pg. 129)*



**DEDICATED TO  
DON BOSCO**

Quiet

## THE MAN FOR OTHERS

by Serena

**T**his is the story of Don Bosco,  
He touched hearts so long ago,  
To whom humility came naturally,  
In spite of which he left us a legacy,  
That reached our Indian shores,  
More that one hundred years ago.

**H**e sought out young lads,  
More often than not, ill clad,  
Gathering them into his fold,  
With fun and games galore.  
Exploding with energy he found  
This stick of dynamite called 'youth!'



**A**mama's boy he surely was,  
For at Mamma Margaret's lap,  
He first learnt to love Jesus and Mary  
And wholeheartedly pledged himself,  
To work for their glory.

**W**ith fervour so real,  
He preached to youngsters  
God's message of love and charity,  
That - he believed is the essence of Christianity,  
And worked tirelessly to establish  
shrines, schools and shelters,  
Where every young life is cared for and nurtured.

## HERS - DON BOSCO

*a de Souza*

**H**e left no stone unturned,  
To preach God's holy Word,  
And reverence for the Holy Eucharist,  
Together with the daily recitation of the Rosary,  
To express his devotion to our dear mother Mary.



**E**ach day in the confessional he sat,  
Eager to bring hope to a young repentant soul,  
For God himself promised,  
“Though your sins be as scarlet,  
I will make them white as snow.

**H**e inspired young lads,  
To be priests and brothers,  
To love as he did the youth of the world  
And for them he found the Salesian Order.  
To his last breath he gave his life,  
That his boys may know the Love of the Saviour,  
And pass it on to others in need. □

## EPISODE FOUR

# A Touch of Death

by Tom Henderson

### **The story so far:**

Father Redmond and his niece Sara Nelson, the romantic novelist, are attending a local Literary Weekend at which Sara is to present the prizes in a short story competition. Father Redmond has a reputation as a detective and at the opening ceremony he speaks with John Ross, a leading murder/mystery writer, who tells him he has a sensational idea for his next novel which is sure to be a bestseller and has invited his publisher to the weekend to show it to him. He also remarks, jokingly, that the idea would be almost worth killing for.

As they speak, the hotel manager, Vincent Moore, asks Sara Nelson to autograph her latest novel. He also asks John Ross to autograph his. Soon afterwards Ross collapses and dies. Father Redmond is troubled by Ross's earlier remark and begins to wonder if Ross was, in fact, murdered. Later, he speaks with Ross's wife, Mary, and learns that her husband had a heart condition. His doctor, Peter Knowles, confirms this and thinks that Ross's heart attack was brought on by the excitement of his new storyline.

Still troubled, Father Redmond meets Michael Bradley, another murder mystery writer and rival of John Ross, who specialises in stories involving death by poisoning. Father Redmond asks if a particular poison could induce a heart attack, and Bradley becomes angry and agitated, seeming to think that he is suspected of poisoning Ross.

The following day Ross's publisher reveals that John Ross would have had detailed notes on his planned novel and that it would be possible for another writer to complete the novel with these notes. Now thinking that someone is planning to steal Ross's idea and pass it off as their own, Father Redmond sees Mrs Ross and Michael Bradley in deep conversation.

**T**he Literary Weekend, although over-shadowed by the sudden death of John Ross, was proving to be a success. Several poets gave readings of their poetry to great acclaim, and it was generally felt that the overall standard had improved on the previous year. Sara Nelson had sat through the readings with part of her mind focused on the disturbing questions her uncle Charles had placed in her mind.

Had someone murdered John Ross with the intention of stealing the idea for his new novel? If that was true, how was it done? Father Redmond had raised the question of something being added to Ross's drink to bring on a heart attack. She supposed that was possible and tried to remember what John Ross had been drinking just before his death. Someone had handed him a drink - who was it? She couldn't remember. She had been signing her novel for Vincent Moore at that time.

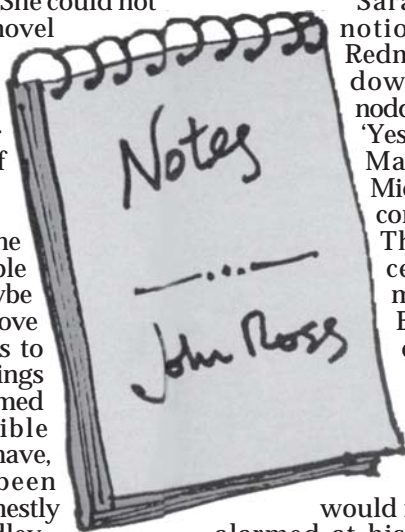
She considered the possibility of someone trying to steal his new story line and could see no logical way that could be handled. He had shown the idea to no one and it had been locked in his room. The only person with access to it was his wife, Mary, and why would she wish to steal something that was hers anyway, following her husband's death? She could not hope to write the novel herself, but could give it to Moran Tessington, who might find another writer capable of doing it.

It was true that the novel was a possible bestseller, and maybe she decided to remove her husband so as to have all of its earnings for herself. That seemed the only feasible motive she might have, and she had been speaking very earnestly with Michael Bradley...

Bradley was a good murder mystery writer; not as good as Ross, but good enough to produce a viable novel if equipped with Ross's notes. Sara had once visited John Ross at his home and he had shown her his plan for the novel he had been working on at the time. She had been impressed. The chapter notes had been extremely detailed; so much so that she had felt she could have written it herself if she was so inclined.

It was certainly true that any writer with a good grasp of the

fundamentals of writing would have been able to put together something worthwhile from the draft. Bradley certainly could. Was it possible that he and Mary Ross were scheming together? Now that her husband's idea belonged to her, she could give it to whoever she wished.



Sara relayed this notion to Father Redmond as they sat down for tea. He nodded his agreement. 'Yes, it is possible that Mary Ross and Michael Bradley are consorting on this.

There would certainly be a motive and, as Bradley is an expert on poisons, he would have the means. If John Ross had not passed that remark to me I

would not have been so alarmed at his death so soon afterwards. It is true that, being a writer of murder novels, John Ross would have made such a remark only in jest; but I find his death so coincidental.'

Sara looked distressed. 'You could be totally wrong. John Ross did have a heart condition and his doctor says that the excitement could have triggered his fatal attack.' The priest sighed. 'Yes, I could be wrong and hope that I am. We can only wait to see what develops next.'



After tea they attended a book

launch and on leaving the function rooms saw Mary Ross standing in the lobby. She had a suitcase by her and greeted them with a wan smile. 'I'm going home,' she said. 'I'm finding it impossible to get a taxi.'

'I'll drive you,' Sara offered. Mary Ross thanked her and Fr. Redmond decided to accompany them. On the journey Mrs Ross revealed that her husband's key to the house was missing from his key ring. 'He must have lost it,' she said. 'He was so absentminded these last few days...' She told them that cardiac arrest had been cited as the cause of her husband's death. She also mentioned that she had given the outline of John Ross's new storyline to his publisher, Moran Tessington. 'He asked to see it,' she explained. 'I don't know what he has in mind.'



When they arrived at Ross's home some fifteen miles away, Mary, Ross offered them tea and showed them into the room in which John Ross had worked. While she was out of the room, Father Redmond quickly browsed through the pile of papers next to Ross's typewriter on the writing desk. He turned to Sara. 'Can you see any copy of his new idea?' he asked.

Sara shook her head. 'No, and that's odd. I know he kept his carbon copies in the top drawer of his desk, but there are only copies of old storylines in it now.'

'And the chapter notes?'

'No sign of them either. I wonder where they are...?'

'Where indeed?' said Father Redmond with puzzled eyes.

Mary Ross returned with the tea and informed them of the funeral arrangements for her husband. She said that her sister was coming to spend a few days with her. 'I'm going to miss John so much!' she cried, suddenly bursting into tears. Sara went to comfort her, glancing at Father Redmond and noticing that he was studying Mary Ross intently.



As Sara drove them back to the hotel she remarked to her uncle that Mary Ross's grief seemed completely sincere. Father Redmond murmured something vague and closed his eyes.

'I wonder where that copy is,' Sara remarked. 'Perhaps he brought it with him to the hotel?'

Father Redmond opened his eyes and when he spoke his voice was calm and measured. 'Or perhaps someone took the key to his house from his key ring and removed the copy and the chapter notes.'

Sara swung to look at him 'I didn't see Michael Bradley at the book launch', she said. 'Do you think...?' Father Redmond closed his eyes again. 'At the moment I am not sure what to think. For now we can only wait and see what Moran Tessington has to say about John Ross's new storyline...' □

*To be continued*

# *Don Bosco: The Times, The Man, The Facts*

## DON BOSCO'S INITIAL DIFFICULTIES

by Natale Cerrato (T/A:ID)

**I**n the third volume of the *Historical-Geographical-Statistical and Commercial Dictionary of the States of His Majesty the King of Sardinia*, compiled and edited by Prof Fr. Goffredo Casalis (Turin 1871), we find on pg. 714-718, an article entitled: *The Don Bosco Institute* and we are told, among other things, that when Don Bosco returned to Valdocco from Becchi after his convalescence in the summer of 1846 he had no means of sustenance. "He was so discouraged that he would have almost given up this work had it not been for Dr. 'Borelli' the theologian, who encouraged him to trust in the help of God. The city of Turin could not afford to lose an institute such as his that would be a tremendous advantage to it and to the society in general. He, together with Fr. 'Cafassi' (spelt that way by Don Bosco himself) from Castelnuovo d'Asti, who was heir to a huge patrimony left by Fr. Guala and would be his successor as Rector of The Convitto Ecclesiastico of St. Francis of Assisi, undertook to spend a notable



sum annually to help Don Bosco exclusively in his work."

But Don Bosco on returning to Turin from Becchi knew very well that he did not want to give up his work but he earnestly strove to persuade his mother to come with him to Turin.

### The Real Facts

Among other things it was true that Fr. Cafasso helped Don Bosco. In a *Memoir of the Oratory* compiled by Fr. Borel, there are records of expenses and contributions received from 1844-1849. In fact, there were generous donations from Fr. Cafasso (cf. ASC 123 Borel-FDB p. 164, N. 552, it E 4).

In 1844 Don Bosco had a mysterious dream concerning his Oratory's future. (MO 239ff) He realized later that it was true he would be in serious difficulty for two years. He would have a





Fr. Borel

'wandering Oratory,' from the Refuge (of Marchioness Barolo), to the church of St. Peter in Chains, later to the Dora Mills and after that to the Moretta house and finally to the meadow of the Filippi brothers from where he was asked to leave with no other place to go to. He then prayed to the Lord: "Dear Lord, why don't you show me a clear location where I can gather these youngsters? Or tell me what I ought to do" (MO 255).

Fr. Borel advised Don Bosco: "Let us cut our losses now and salvage what we can. Let us send away all the youngsters except for about twenty of the youngest. While we continue to teach them catechism, God will open the way and the opportunity to do more."

"There's no need to wait for another opportunity," said Don Bosco, "The site's ready: a spacious courtyard, a house with many children, a portico, a church, priests, clerics, all at our disposal."

"But where are these things?" Dr. Borrelli (Fr. Borel) broke in.

"I don't know where they are, but they do exist and they are ours."

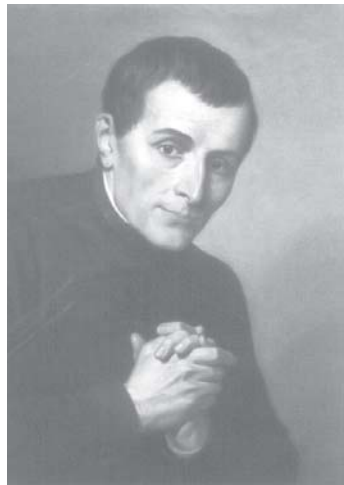
At this Dr. Borrelli (Fr. Borel) burst into tears, "Poor Don Bosco!" he exclaimed. "You're losing your

mind!"

He took Don Bosco by the hand, embraced him and went off leaving Don Bosco alone in his room." (MO cf. 246)

Evidently, there were moments of grave perplexity but never the intention to uproot himself from there at all. Then there opened to him a small window of light. One day while he was beseeching the Lord a certain Pancrazio Soave came to him in the Filippi field where the boys had already trampled down the grass so thoroughly that they had to be dismissed. This man (Soave) came to know that Don Bosco needed a place for his "Oratory" but he confused it for his "laboratory" and he agreed to lease him a shed that was attached to a field that was owned by a certain Francis Pinardi of Arcisate.

In fine, Don Bosco accepted the place on April 5, 1846 through the agreement signed by Fr. Borel on the contract that leased the Pinardi shed.<sup>2</sup>



Fr. Joseph Cafasso

There was hope and even a certainty of a grand Oratory in the future, like the one he had seen in his dream. Not even when everyone had abandoned him and not even when he was asked to leave the Filippi field had he reached the last stage of his painful pilgrimage.

Even at that moment of supreme discouragement he prayed to the Lord to illumine his path. He wept but he continued to believe against all human hope that he would become the father of a great multitude of poor and abandoned youngsters. The merciful and provident God heard his cry and heeded his tears and prayers. (cf. F. Giraudi *L'Oratorio di Don Bosco*, SEI 1935 p. 57)

### The Pinardi Shed

The Pinardi House lay on an isolated stretch along the Giardiniera Road in the midst of the fields of the Valdocco district and some distance from both the Moretta house and the Filippi field. The house that Francis Pinardi acquired on July 14, 1845, from the Filippi brothers had two floors with some land around it. That same year he leased it out to Pancrazio Soave of Verolengo (TO) on November 10. There he opened a workshop on the ground floor and sublet the rooms above. Only the roof of the Pinardi shed was preserved and under it he built a storeroom. The place below the roof he later transformed into a large room that became the Pinardi chapel. After some time Don Bosco, with the help of Fr. Cafasso and some other benefactors was able to rent out some more rooms and eventually the whole house on February 19,

1851 together with the surrounding land.

In truth, the sale of the house by Mr. Pinardi was made to four people together: to Don Bosco, to Fr. Borel, to Roberto Murialdo (brother of the Dr. Leonardo), and to Fr. Cafasso for a total some of 28.500 Lire, for the land and the structure.

On January 26 1853, the Fr. Borel and the Fr. Murialdo renounced their rights of ownership and handed it over to Don Bosco and Fr. Cafasso. On 10<sup>th</sup> October 1856 this was confirmed in their handwritten will: "I leave to the priest, John Bosco of Castelnuovo d'Asti and domiciled in Turin the ownership of the workshop attached to the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales in the main region of Valdocco, together with 5000 lire. The remission of the same is to be made to the inheritor on my demise. Notwithstanding what was written before on the subject." (*G. Cafasso, Epistolario e Testamento* (...). Effeta Editrice 2004, pag 173)

The Pinardi shed was called by Don Bosco "*Casa birichinòira*" (E 35) (from *birichin* = streetboys and *òira*=not for girls). It was the Piedmontese way of saying that the place was only for boys especially ragamuffins. The name indicated that it was a place of chaos and commotion. It was the first and most miserable house of Don Bosco and from there, there are now more than 2000 houses in 128 countries on all the 5 continents. □

#### (Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Don Bosco always spells the name this way. He seems to have considered "Borel" a kind of dialect abbreviation of the more Italian-sounding "Borrelli."

<sup>2</sup> It was leased in the name of Fr. Borel as Don Bosco had no money at all.



## NEWSBITS

### VATICAN

Pope Benedict XVI has completed his second encyclical, a meditation on Christian Hope, Vatican sources said.

The text, tentatively "*Spe Salvi*" (Saved by Hope), is about 65 pages, sources said Oct. 16, 2007. No release date has been set for the document.

The working title comes from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, I which he wrote: "For in hope we have been saved." The encyclical is said to explore the Christian understanding of hope, with reference to modern philosophy and the challenges of disbelief.

The pope worked on the encyclical this summer, when he had time to write during his sojourns in northern Italy and at his villa outside Rome. At the same time, he was working on a third encyclical that deals with social themes, Vatican officials said.

The pope published his first encyclical in late 2006. Titled "*Deus Caritas Est*" (God is Love), it called for a deeper understanding of love as a gift from God to be shared in a self-sacrificial way.

The pope spoke about the importance of the virtue of hope in 2005, when he addressed Mexican bishops on their "ad limina" visits to Rome.

"Confronted by today's changing and complex panorama, the virtue of hope is subject to harsh trials in the community of believers. For this very reason, we must be apostles who are filled with hope and

joyful trust in God's promises," the pope told the bishops.

From a pastoral standpoint, he added, hope means reminding Christians that God never abandons his people and is alive and active in the world.

"In contemporary society, which shows such visible signs of secularism, we must not give in to despair or a lack of enthusiasm in pastoral projects," he said.

In introducing a section on hope, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. (CNS)

### ROME

US Apostolic nuncio Archbishop Pietro Sambi made the announcement saying, "Peter, the rock on which Jesus founded this church, will be among us in the person of his successor, Benedict the XVI."

Catholic News Service reported that the Holy Father will arrive in Washington on 15 April, when he



will receive an official welcome at the White House. That afternoon - coincidentally his 81st birthday - he will address the nation's bishops.

The Pope will celebrate Mass at the new Washington Nationals baseball stadium and meet with directors of Catholic universities and diocesan educational leaders at the Catholic University of America.

He will also attend an inter-religious meeting at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Centre.

On 18 April, he will travel to New York to address the United Nations and attend an ecumenical meeting in the afternoon. The following day, he will concelebrate Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral.

While in New York, the Holy Father will visit Ground Zero, and celebrate Mass at Yankee Stadium. (CNS)

### CHINA

Catholic shrine in China has been saved from destruction, however police continue to refuse entry to pilgrims other than locals.

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Carmel in Tianjiajing was built a century ago. It was badly damaged during World War II and the Cultural Revolution. More recently, it has been a popular pilgrim site, with 40,000 to 50,000 visitors each year.

AsiaNews reported in May that local authorities banned the annual pilgrimage, which had become a national tradition. They also revoked permits organisers were required to hold, calling the pilgrimages "illegal religious activities."

In addition, a ban was issued



denying the Church the right to use public areas, requisitioning the shrine's own compound and threatening to destroy it.

Although pressures from local Catholics have stopped the demolition plan, the ban on pilgrimages remains. (CNS)

### BEIJING

Chinese officials have rejected media reports which have said that Bibles would be banned from the Olympic games.

Catholic News Agency published an article sourced from an Italian newspaper.

*The China Daily* reported that Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said the Beijing Olympic organisers "did not and would not issue such a rule and this is a total rumor."

"According to the Chinese laws, foreigners are allowed to bring in religious objects or materials, be it print or audio or video, for personal use."

Beijing Olympics Media Centre director Li Zhanjun said a religious service centre will be set up in the Olympic Village and religious services, from Christian, Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu to Buddhist, will be available to athletes next year. (CNS). □

# 16 STEPS to GREATNESS

(Operation Wardrobe)

Text by: Jimmy Rizzi

Drawings by: Giovanni Gherardi

Translation & adaptation: I.D.



## The age of Ad

### 13 - JUSTICE Part 2

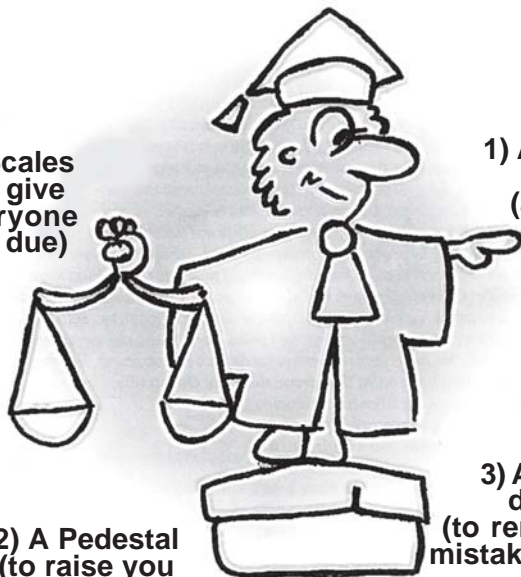
LOOK HOW MANY JUDGES ARE ROMING AROUND!

They are impossible to please, ready to pass sentence, a sentence of condemnation! These judges are you and me!

And these are our characteristics:

2) Scales  
(to give  
everyone  
his due)

1) A Pointed  
Finger  
(at others)



2) A Pedestal  
(to raise you  
above others)

3) A memory  
diskette  
(to remember the  
mistakes of others)

GOD is very different:  
His JUSTICE is Queer,  
it is STRANGE JUSTICE,  
YET IT IS GOD'S JUSTICE!

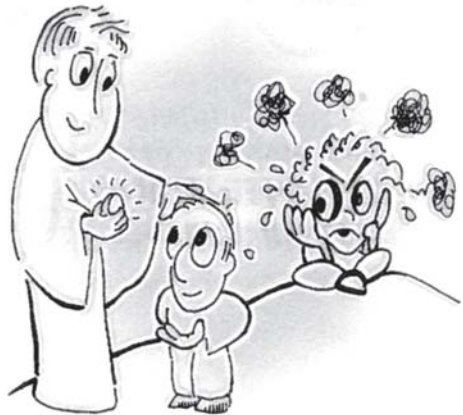
Read this parable:

### ***The parable of the workers hired at the vineyard***

*From the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 20:1-16)*

*At that time Jesus said: "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a man who went out early in the morning to hire some men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them the regular wage, a silver coin a day, and sent them to work in his vineyard. He went out again to the market place at nine o'clock and saw some men standing there doing nothing, so he told them, 'You also go and work in the vineyard, and I will pay you a fair wage.' So they went. Then at twelve o'clock and again at three o'clock he did the same thing. It was nearly five o'clock when he went to the market place and saw some other men still standing there. 'Why are you wasting the whole day here doing nothing?' he asked them. 'No one hired us,' they answered. 'Well, then, you also go and work in the vineyard,' he told them.*

*"When evening came, the owner told his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with those who were hired last and ending with those who were hired first.' The men who had begun to work at five o'clock were paid a silver coin each. So when the men who were the first to be hired came to be paid, they*



thought they would get more; but they too were given a silver coin each. They took their money and started grumbling against the employer. these men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'while we put up with a whole day's work in the hot sun - yet you paid them the same as you paid us!'

'''Listen, friend,' the owner answered one of them, 'I have not cheated you. After all, you agreed to do a day's work for one silver coin. Now take your pay and go home. I want to give this man who was hired last as much as as I have given you. Don't I have the right to do as I wish with my own money? Or are you jealous because I am generous?'''

And Jesus concluded, "So those who are last will be first, and those who are first will be last."

## ***THE JUSTICE OF GOD***

### ❖ DISPROPORTIONATE JUSTICE

"But what is this queer kind of Justice?" You may ask yourself. What employer pays the last workers as much as he pays those who came first? How very unfair! That is what they think. Those workers who came first are shocked! What kind of justice is this? That is God's unfathomable justice...

*God's justice is like this, it's a very different kind of justice from ours: he doesn't execute justice according to our merits, he doesn't simply mete out justice according to what we have done. He doesn't only pay the first... God gives out of the goodness of his heart...*

❖ God's justice never condemns. It does not return evil for evil. He does not execute justice according to the wrong we've done, but he gives us with great love. His justice is in his pardon and his mercy...

❖ It is a justice that Jesus the Son, the only Just One, the only Innocent One makes himself guilty to free us from our guilt...

❖ His justice is just: Jesus, the only Just One renders himself unjust in order to justify us....

*Be aware that Jesus is the **only just one**. Thanks to him you are saved and that you are justified; made right, reconciled with God.*



Therefore **THE JUST MAN** is **NOT ONLY** the one who **LIVES ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF THE LORD**, but he is also the one who becomes **JUST** like the **LORD**. He is one who has the **CAPACITY** to **PARDON** and show **MERCY...**

That is what it means: "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."

To be continued

**LOVING CHILDREN TO  
THEIR LOVING MOTHER**

My sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mother Mary for all the favours received.

*John Robert George, Bombay*

Belated thanks to you dear Mother Mary for curing my daughter of her illness after 13 years.

*Mrs. L. Vaz, Bombay*

Sincere thanks to Our Blessed Mother for having helped me succeed in my examinations and for all the graces received.

*N. Braganza, Goa*

Thank you dearest Mother for giving us a wonderful house and for the many other favours you have showered on our family.

*Mr Julius & Mrs Sandra Colaso, Goa*

Thank you, dear Lord Jesus and Mother Mary for Mira and Maya to good health after their recent bout of high fevers and cold. We are extremely grateful.

*Natasha Samagond, USA*

Thank you dear Mother Mary for the safe delivery of a healthy baby boy.

*Pancy, Bonny D'Souza, Karwar*

Thank you dear Mother Mary for helping my mother recover after a fall. Thankfully she did not have a fracture.

*Agnelo D'Souza, Bombay*

We thank you dear Mother Mary for the gift of a baby boy received through the faithful recitation of the 3 Hail Marys.

*Jayaseelan Paulas, Bombay*

Thank you dear Mother Mary for the two major falls I had in 1997 and 1998 when I was knocked down by a speeding vehicle. I am grateful that I was not injured except for a few bruises. I was wearing the blessed Scapular of Our Lady. May Our Lady protect me always.

*Nurse Winnie D'Souza, Bombay*

On the way driving to Ooty with my family and my aged mother I was caught in a situation where a truck was attempting to overtake a bus and in the rush I immediately swerved the car to the left off the road after saying: Jesus, "Mary and Joseph, Save Us!" Our tiny car turned over. We were rescued a few moments later by a group of students who helped us. Except for a few bruises and a dislocation none of us was severely injured. We're grateful to the protection of our Blessed Mother. The daily Rosary we pray assures us of Mary's protection.

*Mr. L. Colaso, Conoor, Nilgiris*

Thank you dearest Mother for all the favours granted to us.

*Vincent, Bombay*

Thank you, Mary Help of Christians for a successful eye surgery.

*Mrs. L. D'Costa, Bombay*

My sincere thanks to dear Mother Mary, Don Bosco and the faithful recitation of the 3 Hail Marys that have kept us all in good health.

*Mrs Bella Sequeira, Bombay*

I am grateful to Our Blessed Mother for helping me find a crucifix I had lost...it was a very special crucifix. I faithfully recite the 3 Hail Marys.

*Mrs Maria Fernandes, Goa*

I am grateful to Our Blessed Mother for relieving my son Cassian from terrible pain in the pelvis.

*Philomena Mendes, Bombay*

## THE DEVOTION OF THE THREE HAIL MARYS



*The devotion of the THREE HAIL MARYS is a very simple yet most efficacious devotion. Everyday, recite Three Hail Marys, adding the invocation: "O Mary, My Mother, keep me from mortal sin." Many people recite the Three Hail Marys as part of their morning and night prayers. To practise this devotion in time of danger, stress, special need or temptation, is a sure means to obtain Our Lady's help.*

Thank you dear Mother Mary for all the graces and favours I received through the recitation of the 3 Hail Marys. Do continue to bless our daughter as she prepares for her ministry examination.

*Mrs Dora D'Souza, Karnataka*

On 26th October 2007, my husband who was insulin-dependent was missing. All efforts to try and find him seemed fruitless. Not knowing where to turn I knelt weeping at the picture of Mary Help of Christians and prayed the 3 Hail Marys. A few moments later I received a call assuring me that my husband was found safe. Though his sugar levels were very low he was safe. I am most grateful to Blessed Mother.

*F. Parashar, Bombay*

I thank you dear Mother Mary for the many favours received through the recitation of the 3 Hail Marys.

*Diya Kerkar, Goa*

My sincere thanks to the Blessed Virgin Mary, I also thank Don Bosco and St. Dominic Savio who are also with me all the time. Do continue to bless us. My husband had undergone a surgery for a cyst about 8 months back. Everything was fine. A week back the cyst appeared. It was sent for a biopsy and found benign. We prayed the three Hail Marys. Thank you dearest Mother.

*J.N. Bombay*

During my daughter's pregnancy her BP was high so I recited the 3 Hail Marys for a safe and normal delivery. I am grateful to our Blessed Mother for these and so many other favours.

*Mrs B. D'Souza, Kalyan*

Our thanks to Our Blessed Mother for the many graces received through the faithful recitation of the 3 Hail Marys.

*Mrs. Mary Fernandes, Bombay*

The baby in my womb was critical and the doctor suggested an operation after which the baby was removed and placed in the N.ICU. We would know something only after 48 hours. We spent those anxious moments in prayer. Two days later when my husband asked the doctor about the baby's condition he told us that the child was out of danger and would be healthy. We have been praying the 3 Hail Marys for the baby's health and Our Blessed Mother answered our prayers.

*Mr & Mrs George and Mary Maliyil, Kerala*

Thank you dear Mother Mary for the many graces received through the faithful recitation of the 3 Hail Marys.

*Maggie Rogtao, Goa*



**THEY ARE GRATEFUL TO  
OUR LADY AND DON BOSCO**

My humble and sincere gratitude dear Lord Jesus, Mother Mary and Don Bosco for a successful recovery of my sister from cancer.

*Mrs. Rosy Johny, Bombay*

Thank you dear Mother Mary and Don Bosco for all the graces and favours received.

*Mrs Mary Fernandes, Bombay*

Thank you dear Mother Mary, Don Bosco and Dominic Savio for all the graces and favours received.

*Mrs. A.E. D'Silva, Bombay*

Thank you dear Mother Mary and Don Bosco for a very special favour received.

*Orson Rodrigues, Goa*

Thank you dear Mother Mary, Don Bosco and Dominic Savio for all the graces and favours received, especially for helping me succeed in my TYBSc examinations.

*Stephanie Sequeira, Goa*

Our grateful thanks to dear Mother Mary, Don Bosco and Dominic Savio for the innumerable blessings showered on us.

*Mrs. Nora D'Sa, Bombay*

My sincere thanks to Jesus, Mother Mary and Don Bosco for all the blessings and favours bestowed on my and my family.

*Mrs O D'Souza*

Many thanks dear Mother Mary and Don Bosco for miraculously saving us from an accident.

*Loraine S. Nair, Navi Mumbai*

Our sincere and humble gratitude to Our Blessed Mother and Don Bosco for the many graces bestowed on us.

*Mr Felix & Flavy Ferns. Kenya*

I am grateful to the Divine Mercy, Our Blessed Mother and Don Bosco for all the graces and favours I received.

*Cynthia Pereira, Bombay*

We are alone and far from our near and dear ones and hence greater is our gratitude to Our Blessed Mother and Dominic Savio whose relic I carried for a safe delivery of a lovely boy Shaun Joe.

*Jubie Savio Soares, Boulder, USA*

Many thanks dear Mother Mary, Don Bosco and Dominic Savio for healing my daughter of a severe pain and a lump in her breast.

*Mrs Lourdes Athaide, Goa*

Our sincere thanks to Our Blessed Mother, Don Bosco and Dominic Savio for the safe and normal delivery of a daughter-in-law and gifting her with a healthy baby girl and for helping my daughter settle happily.

*Mascarenhas Family, Pune*

**MAMA MARY**



**M**other of God, honouring Mary we begin the New Year,

**A**ll our cares and worries we entrust to her;

**M**ary it is who leads us all through the storms of life,

**A**nd intercedes for us with her Son in our moments of strife.

**M**other of the Universe, Queen of our hearts and family,

**A** New Year's resolution - "To Jesus Through Mary";

**R**equest we humbly for the renewed grace we need,

**Y**our Son to please in thought word and deed.

*Merwyn D'Souza*

# THANKS TO DEAR ST. DOMINIC SAVIO



Thank you dear Lord Jesus, Mother Mary, Don Bosco and Dominic Savio for the gift of a healthy baby girl to my daughter.

*Florence Rajah, Malaysia*

Thank you dear Jesus, Mother Mary, Don Bosco and Dominic Savio for curing me of my sickness.

*Lourdes Alphonso*

Our sincere thanks dear Mother Mary and Dominic Savio for a good job to my husband and my son. *Benedicta D'Souza, Bombay*  
Our daughter-in-law developed severe complications in the sixth month of her pregnancy. We prayed fervently to Mary Help of Christians and Dominic Savio to enable her to carry the baby to full term.

Our prayers were answered and we were blessed with a healthy grandson, Calvin Shaun. Mother Mary and Dominic Savio we are most grateful, do keep us always under your protection.

*Bonny & Sally Noronha, Bombay*

My sincere and heartfelt thanks to Mary Help of Christians and Dominic Savio for a safe delivery of a baby boy after 12 years of marriage.

*Maria and Marshal, Bahrain*

Thank you dear St. Dominic Savio for the safe delivery of my daughter. In spite of all the complications she delivered a healthy baby boy whom we have named Myron Savio.

*Mrs Benny Sequeira, Bombay*

Grateful thanks to St. Dominic Savio for blessing my nephew's wife with the gift of a baby boy.

*Philomena Ferrao, Bombay*

My special thanks to Our Blessed Mother, Don Bosco and Dominic Savio for the many blessings especially for curing my grandson Alister of a throat infection.

*Rosy Soares, Goa*

Many thanks to Our Lady, Don Bosco and Dominic Savio for the safe and normal delivery of a baby girl.

*Rosalyn, Ca, USA*

## APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER JANUARY 2008

**Holy Father's General Intention:** *That the Church may strengthen her commitment to full visible unity in order to manifest in an ever growing degree her nature as community of love, in which is reflected the communion of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

**Missionary Intention:** *That the Church in Africa, which is preparing to celebrate her second Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, may continue to be the sign and instrument of reconciliation and justice in a Continent still marked by war, exploitation and poverty.*

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### **MARY WAS THERE**

My wife was due to have our first child but she experienced no labour pains and no attempt to induce labour seemed to work. She was very anxious and depressed. During her entire pregnancy my wife prayed the novena of expectant mothers. Then suddenly she began to feel uneasy and she was told that this was going to be an emergency. Claspng her Rosary she was taken into the Operation theatre while I was anxiously praying outside. Some time later I heard the first cry of my child and I was summoned by the doctors into the OT. They said that it was a miracle that my child survived. Incidentally that was the first day of the Novena of the Nativity of Our Lady. On the following day my wife mentioned to me that during the entire operation she felt caressed and I am sure that it was the Blessed Virgin who was present there. *Nelson Almeida, Bangalore*

**Don Bosco's Madonna**, has developed to its present form from a folder published in 1937, by late Fr Aurelius Maschio, on behalf of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Bombay.

The magazine is sent to all who ask for it, even though there is a fixed subscription (Rs 200/- India & Rs 400/- Airmail)). We trust in the generosity of our readers/benefactors. Whatever you send us will help cover the expenses of printing and mailing; the surplus if any, is devoted to the support of orphans and poor boys in our schools and apostolic centres.

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