

THE SALESIAN WAY OF HOLINESS

Buenos Aires, November 7, 2019.

Back to the fundamentals

Don Bosco did not introduce something new regarding spirituality. He knew that it is necessary to live the constant Gospel message in a new way. Don Bosco in a very refreshing way held firm to what is old but in a new way. In a sense, don Bosco was a genius in the new evangelization. We must do the same in the 21st century and don Bosco can teach us how to attain personal sanctification and how to lead youth to holiness.

Young people are always searching for answers to life's big questions...

Const. 26 young people are at the age when they must make basic life-choices which affect the future of society and of the Church.

The answer to life's greatest question is not an idea or a theory but a person: JESUS CHRIST

Const. 196 Our living Rule is Jesus Christ, the Saviour announced in the Gospel, who is alive today in the Church and in the world, and whom we find present in Don Bosco who devoted his life to the young.

Const. 11. The Salesian spirit finds its model and source in the very heart of Christ, apostle of the Father.

Const. 2. to be in the Church signs and bearers of the love of God for young people

Const. 31. Our mission is a sharing in that of the Church, which brings about the saving design of God, the coming of His Kingdom, by bringing to men the message of the Gospel, which is closely tied in with the development of the temporal order.

We educate and evangelize according to a plan for the total well-being of man directed to Christ, the perfect Man. Faithful to the intentions of our Founder, our purpose is to form "upright citizens and good Christians".

*On finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." Mk 1, 37
They are still looking for Him...*

I was found by those who were not seeking me; I revealed myself to those who were not asking for me. Rm 10, 20

A Salesian must be evangelized.

Jesus' first words to the His disciples: „Come“ (Jn 1, 39).

Jesus' final words: 'Go!' (Mt 28, 19-20; Mk 16, 15-18; Iv 20, 21).

You can't „go“ if you did not first „come“ to Jesus. Before you talk about Jesus, you must first talk with Jesus.

Nemo dat quod non habet – you can't give what you do not have.

Jesus spoke the TRUTH and founded the CHURCH

A Salesian must know that true holiness can be achieved within the Church and by living an authentic sacramental life.

Const. 13 Our love for Christ necessarily gives rise to our love for his Church, the People of God, the center of unity and communion of all the forces working for the Kingdom.

We feel ourselves a living part of her, and we cultivate in ourselves and in our communities a renewed ecclesial awareness. This we express in an attitude of filial loyalty to Peter's successor and to his teaching, and in our efforts to live in communion and collaboration with the bishops, clergy, religious and laity.

We educate young Christians to an authentic understanding of the Church and to work assiduously for its growth. Don Bosco tells us: "No effort should be spared when the Church and the Papacy are at stake".

JOY: Christianity is all about a big YES

The Salesian must be a person of joy. Joy is the infallible sign of God's presence.

Christianity and the New Evangelization is accomplished with a smile, not a frown. Our joy must be contagious and magnetic. Don Bosco was a saint of Joy because he believed that Jesus is a live. This is the joy of Easter morning. For this reason, his oratory was a place of joy.

Christianity is all about a yes to everything decent, good, true, beautiful and noble in the human person.

The Church is about a 'YES', not a 'NO'!

Const. 17 *The Salesian does not give way to discouragement in face of difficulties, because he has complete trust in the Father. "Let nothing upset you", Don Bosco used to say.*

He believes in man's natural and supernatural resources without losing sight of his weakness.

He is able to make his own what is good in the world and does not bewail his own times; he accepts all that is good, especially if it appeals to the young.

Because he is a herald of the Good News he is always cheerful. He radiates this joy and is able to educate to a Christian and festive way of life: "Let us serve the Lord in holy joy".

Love like don Bosco

Everyone thirsts for authentic love; this need is ingrained within human nature. Don Bosco expressed Christian love in an authentic way.

Const. 15 *Sent to young people by the God who is 'all charity', the Salesian is open and cordial, ready to make the first approach and to welcome others with unflinching kindness, respect and patience.*

His love is that of a father, brother and friend, able to draw out friendship in return;

His chastity and well-balanced attitude open his heart to spiritual fatherhood and give transparent witness to God's anticipating love.

We must proclaim God's loving plan for sexuality; Theology of the body.

Suffer like don Bosco

Const. 14 *For their welfare we give generously of our time, talents and health: "For you I study, for you I work, for you I live, for you I am ready even to give my life".*

Don Bosco and Mary Help of Christians

Don Bosco did everything under the patronage of Mary Help of Christians. From his childhood until his death, don Bosco was inspired by Mary.

Const. 8 The Virgin Mary showed Don Bosco his field of labor among the young and was the constant guide and support of his work, especially in the foundation of our Society.

We believe that Mary is present among us and continues her “mission as Mother of the Church and Help of Christians.” We entrust ourselves to her, the humble servant in whom the Lord has done great things, that we may become witnesses to the young of her Son’s boundless love.

Don Bosco the Charismatic

Don Bosco was open to the charisms of the Holy Spirit and was a conduit of the power of God.