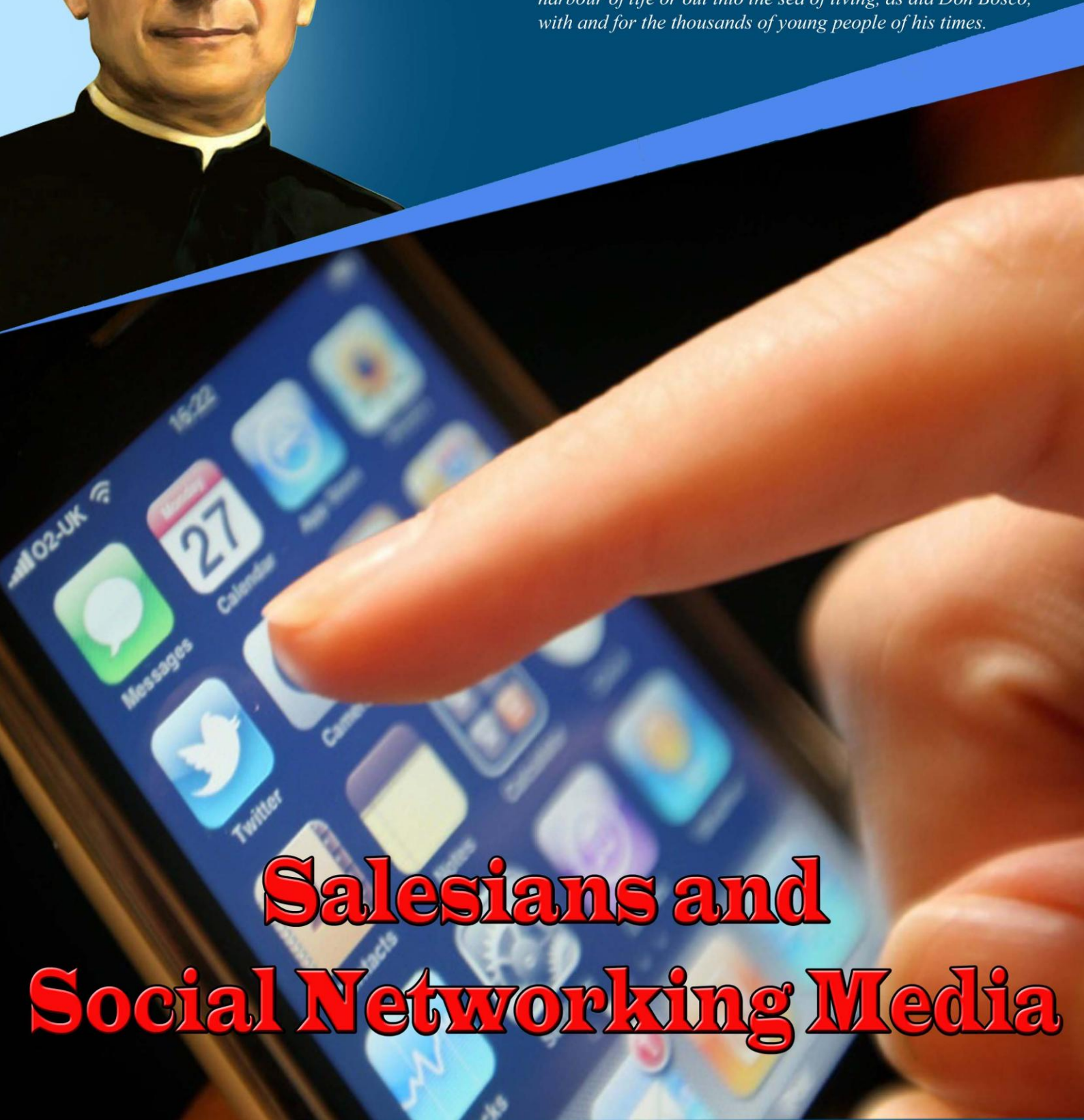




TUGBOATS

...an additional help to steer a willing heart and mind into the harbour of life or out into the sea of living, as did Don Bosco, with and for the thousands of young people of his times.



Salesians and Social Networking Media

TUNING INTO THE NEW LANGUAGES...

Sr Josmy Jose fma (INK)

Some years back, tuning oneself to a new language like English, French, Spanish and Chinese were indispensable to communicate in a multi-cultural society. But new languages of the new generations are What's app? See u in fb? V'll get back to Skype! etc. "With the young" makes it essential to learn this digital language. All the more as educators our responsibility to enter into this world is obligatory. The Sacred Scripture presents two prophets who play an important role in tuning themselves to current languages of their times. Eli (1 Sam 3) and Ananias (Acts 9).

We are called to "...be in tune with the languages of the new generations in the style of preventive education in order to enter into contact with them, dialogue with them, and promote expression and participation." The little Samuel was in need of Eli and Saul waited Ananias to begin the journey of becoming Paul. Salesian Youth Ministry engages us not only on behalf of young people, but with young people. Our holy Founder Don Bosco valued the unique part that young people could play and involved them actively in the adventure of their religious and human development. In the social networking media the involvement of the young we cannot ignore. In order to be tuned like Prophet Eli we need to overcome the generation gap and any tendency to paternalism in our dealing with the young. Instead we need "to engage in a family style that involves honest and open dialogue and a shared educative responsibility."



In the global village "the need for a more meaningful preparation for communication as a more incisive educational intervention is highlighted, as is the promotion of alternative information in our contexts, strongly marked by the monopoly of the media." Ananias, keeping away all the prejudices about Saul prepared him to become Paul. By listening to God's word and obeying it courageously made Paul an instrument in the hand of God for all peoples. The meaningful preparation in the social networking is essential and helps us to enter into the world of communication. Day by day this "world of communication, with its rich potential that influences culture and everyday life, contributes toward forming the mentality and creates new languages, frequently difficult for us as adults to understand, and with which we struggle to be in tune." A social networking "with the young" cannot but be deeply based on the same methodology of dialogue and participation. For which is needed a meaningful preparation by entering into the digital world. Yes! This is a challenge to all of us to become another Eli and Ananias in the digital world, making educators capable of tuning oneself and having the capacity to tune the other, to listen to the Other.



SALESIANS AND FORMATION OF PUBLIC OPINION THROUGH SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Br Thykkattu Christy Joseph sdb (INK)

The Y generation with the motto 'From Facebook through Whatsapp to Twitter' consistently creates a living environment in the social networking sites. Youngsters spend one hour to eight hours every week in cyber space, making it a powerful means of communication. It is neither a space for perverted acts, as more and more people tend to believe nor it is a space for mere passivity or inaction. Macon Philips, a US digital strategist, acknowledges an overwhelming influence of social networking sites in the formation of public opinion.

Youth spend their time in Cyber Space and the presence of Salesians is no longer an option but a necessity. As the most vibrant users of cyber space, youth formulate or discard public opinion. Who is this youth? Which youth formulate public opinion? Is it those youth, who positively interact with us? Definitely the answer is negative which in turn should prompt us to swift action by creating cyber space for youth around us, increasing its influence

and outreach and making public opinion based on the teachings of Jesus. This herculean task is made easy by sharing inputs of others. Networking is the key. The central role should be given to laity; making co-production more viable option than individual endeavours.

Prioritize the values and teachings of Jesus and avoid wasting time in a systematic and organized way. It is a task and a duty with greater responsibility to give the youth the best. Our inaction means a wasted opportunity, and may cost us heavily. Salesians share a rich tradition of creativity. Prioritising the social networking sites and forming the youth for the creation of public opinion should not be at the cost of real relationships. Form the society, form public opinion with the values of Jesus and with His help.

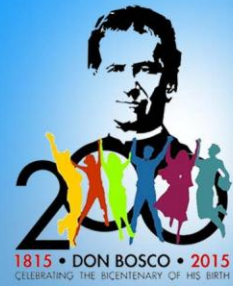
Know Don Bosco

1. Who was the first protector of the Salesian Society?
2. When was the institute of Mary Help of Christians consecrated?
3. Who was the minister who encouraged Don Bosco to form a society?
4. Which was Don Bosco's bestseller? '
5. What were the last words of Don Bosco?

(Names of those who send the right answers will be published in the next issue. Please send your answers to manunsdb@yahoo.com)

Answers for the March 2015 Issue

1. When was the first border admitted?
1847, May
2. What did pope Pius XI say of Don Bosco?
Don Bosco is a colossus of sanctity.
3. Who is the author of the book the early apostolate of DB?
Don Bonetti
4. Who was the first first Novice Master?
Don Barberis
5. What is written on the door of Don Bosco?
Every moment of time is a treasure.



SALESIANS AND SOCIAL NETWORKING MEDIA

Thekkepookombil Augustine sdb (INK)

Social networking is one of the ways of expressing the missionary vocation of the Church. It helps people to experience the beauty of faith and the beauty of encountering Christ. For us Salesians it is an area made use by our father and founder Don Bosco who was not behind the times. He was a good communicator, an author and a prolific writer. There is no doubt that if Don Bosco was alive today he would be using social networking media to attract youngsters to the Gospel way of life. Following his example, we as Salesians need to play our part efficiently and courageously with a discerning eye in the building up of this new culture that is open to the spirit of the Gospel.

Fr Egidio Vigano, the former Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation gave a clarion call to the Salesians to strengthen this dimension when he said that we need a 'new Salesian presence' in the media to bring about impact on the world that is continually changing and developing. Social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter and Whats App can be effectively made use of by the Salesians in evangelizing and in bearing witness to the person of Jesus Christ. We have an added responsibility to make use of this modern means of communication given the fact that vast majority of people are youngsters and they are the core group of our apostolic activity. In this present context it is anathema to say that 'these are worldly things which are not meant for us'.



When we speak about Salesians and social networking media two things that we need to reflect are; (a) the use of social networking by the Salesians themselves (b) the use of social networking by youngsters. When it comes to the use of social networking by Salesians, I am of the opinion that personal sites of the Salesians should reflect Catholic values. We need to establish credibility and authenticity in engaging the spiritual seekers on the social networking sites. Our ultimate aim should be that of sharing the love of Christ be it in the school, parish, mission area or in the social networking. People should be able to draw spiritual energy when they come into contact with us through social networking. We have a great role to play in guiding the youngsters in using the social networking with responsibility. However, not everything on the internet and everyone on the internet has pure intentions. Once I asked one of my students to remove unhealthy pictures and videos he posted on the Facebook. He was very grateful to me for that intervention. This shows us that most of the youngsters are highly appreciative of the timely guidance that we render them with brotherly affection.

In the words of Fr Ricceri, "We are sons of a book binder, a printer, a journalist, an author, a publisher." Let us honour Don Bosco who was always in the vanguard of progress by making use of the possibilities offered by the modern media to extend to vast numbers of people the announcement of the Gospel message. It would be good to reflect and see if I reach out to the young through the use of social networking media? What is my motive behind my personal use of social networking media?

Layout: Cl. Mackanal Antony sdb (INK)

Next Issue:

"Abandoned Ministries..."

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