

FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK

What is one thing that is common between *street boys of Turin* and *Dalits, Tribals and Migrants served by Salesian Mission Centres*?

Street boys of Turin were the fall out of industrialization in Italy, Europe; Dalits, tribals, migrants etc are victims of misgovernance and lopsided development paradigms in India. The key Salesian *modus operandi* to work with and for the above target groups continues to be: Reason, Religion and Loving-Kindness; this pivot continues to inspire developmentally challenged target groups.

Reason gives rise to loving kindness because Salesian roots and charisma makes us appreciate phase of growth, maturation and evolution of human heartmind with empathy, love and tolerance as against coercive, repressive and punitive approach. Therefore Salesian Presence finds it a meaningful mandate to 'Go to the villages. Be with the people. Live with them. Learn from them and uplift them'- authentically empowering the people of God, be it street boys, slums, tribals, dalits or migrants.

Further, Reason gives rise to preparing, capacity- building groups and subgroups in order to speak the language of constitutional, electoral, legislative and judicial processes by

way of responsible, sacred and numerically assertive participation in policy and governance; because, this way one is able to obtain a level playing ground to respond to organised, institutionalised and 'legalised' unfair policies, practices and procedure that perpetuate social inequity.

Recalling Timeless Value of Don Bosco's Preventive System:

Don Bosco's vision of citizenship, social responsibility and education is based on the Preventive system. It is a safety net comprises of food, clothing and shelter to the orphans, rebels, antisocial, prisoners, street children, migrants, etc. They were developed with education, music, games and other industrial technical training for their development to stand in the society. He also insisted that the formation towards growth has to be in love and freedom and not in coercion. This safety net is also a protection of these youngsters from the evils, abuse, bondage, child labour, criminal behaviours, injustice and human rights. The ultimate aim of the preventive system is to become "good Christians and honest citizens". Love for the, orphans, from broken families, on the streets, trafficking children, children facing violence, rebels,

etc., is the key mission of St. John Bosco. Youngsters in prison were touched by his loving kindness, Migrant and street youngsters who came to Turin, found that they are not alone in the cities, they have a priest to be present always. Don Bosco opted to live with the poor youth on the streets..He wanted to spend his life for the poor youth, promising 'for you study, for you work, for you I live'.

January is the month specially kept apart for honouring St. John Bosco. This year it is also 4th death anniversary of St. Francis de sales, who is a patron and guide of St. John Bosco and the Salesian congregation. Loving kindness is the hallmark of St. Francis de Sales. As followers of Don Bosco, We the Salesian family, should imitate our founder and the Patron in Giving life, Protecting, Participating, and Educating in love to all the youngsters and the families of Dalits, Tribals, Farmers, Fishermen, Migrants, Prisoners, Pavement dwellers, loading and unloaders, narikurawars, etc. Let us endeavour in our works journeying with youngsters in striving to restore equity, love and justice.

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