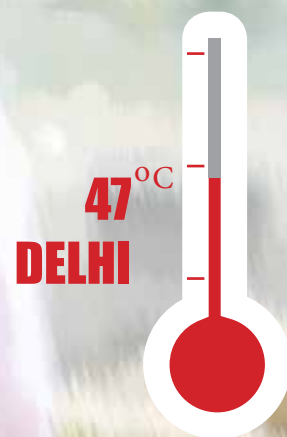


COOLING DRINKS FOR ALL!

10



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Editorial



Dear everyone,

Greetings from New Delhi. This will be the last time I write to you as the director of BOSCONET. Tomorrow, 24 May, the feast of Mary, the mother of Jesus, the patroness of the Salesians of Don Bosco, I hand over charge of this organisation to Fr. Noel Maddhichetty SDB.

It will, almost certainly, NOT be the last time you hear from me, because my transfer is to the international headquarters of Don Bosco, in Rome. My main responsibility will be to coordinate all the offices of Don Bosco around the world that work towards finding the resources needed to support the work of Don Bosco to the neediest in 132 countries.

Fr. Noel Maddhichetty is probably well known to you. As vice-provincial of our Hyderabad Province (INH), he promoted and structured our work for street children in the province. Later he was the provincial of Hyderabad for six years. For the past five years he has been the Rector of our national headquarters community in Delhi, the Secretary of the SPCSA (Salesian Provincials' Conference of South Asia), and the national delegate for the Salesian Family. As a member of the Governing Body of each of the numerous national networks of the Salesians in India, he knows best every single thing going on in Salesian India. In short, he is the right person to run BOSCONET.

My assistant, the director of finance management during the last two years – Fr. Jose Kadaprayil – stays on as assistant to Fr. Noel. There will be the addition of another assistant to Fr. Noel –

Fr. Vincent Thamburaj – who may also be known to some of you. He was the director of the PDO (Provincial Development Office) of the Province of Tiruchy (INT), and the director of DB Action, the network of all the Provincial Development Offices of our South Asia region.

When starting this organisation, BOSCONET, there was a big worry whether Indians would donate, whether people of other faiths would support the social services of a Christian organisation like Don Bosco, etc. YOU have proved that humanity is at the heart of our country, and Indians appreciate the services of anyone who goes to the aid of the needy with an open heart and no secret agenda. I am grateful to each of you for the warm, close cooperation you extended to me during these past years. I request you to offer the same to Fr. Noel. I am sure you will find in him a worthy partner in our common mission towards God who dwells in the heart of every human being. Help him build LIVING TEMPLES.

By the time you read this, I will have taken charge of my new responsibilities in Rome on 3 June 2016.

'Thank you' once again for the support and encouragement you gave me to start and build up BOSCONET. Please support me with your prayers as I try to make a contribution to the services of Don Bosco world-wide.

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Fr. Noel Maddhichetty sdb
New Director, BoscoNet

WELCOME!

Fr. Vincent Thamburaj sdb
New Asst. Director, BoscoNet





Fr. Noel Maddhichetty sdb
Director, BoscoNet

Dear Friends and Partners,

Warm greetings to you from BoscoNet, New Delhi!

As I write this first note for BoscoNet, I would like to congratulate Fr. George Menampampil, who has taken up his new office in the Salesian headquarters in Rome, after being the Director of Bosconet for the past seven years.

It is my pleasant task to thank him on behalf of the South Asia region for his hard toil to initiate and establish BoscoNet, the fund raising arm of Don Bosco Network in South Asia. While inheriting his mantle, it was wonderful to listen to his stories of successes and challenges to make BoscoNet reach out to many and make it known as "A Friend to Anyone in Need". During his tenure as the head of the Mission Procure of South Asia, he left no stone unturned for the brand-building of BoscoNet and to raise funds in every way possible. His efforts to mobilise funds for Nepal after the earthquake there have been commendable.

Counting on his contribution in BoscoNet, Fr. George is being inducted for a very significant task in the department of the Mission Councillor. He would be a great asset to the whole congregation with his versatile skills and vast experience.

I am glad to let you know that Bosconet has been blessed with a great boon in Fr. Vincent Thamburaj, from DB Action India, who has assumed office on 2 June as assistant director of BoscoNet. He is known for his competence and experience in the Salesian Development sector. His pioneering initiatives of job placement and career guidance services have given meaningful occupation to thousands of young people in Don Bosco India. For the past six years he has been heading the DB Action India Network reaching out to many peoples' networks. He is a great asset for the future of BoscoNet.

We are glad to let you know that heads of the Don Bosco Network in South Asia have facilitated the unification of DB Action India, the network of Provincial Development Offices, with BoscoNet.

It is my privilege to thank all the donors who have joined hands with BoscoNet in the past years by their generous solidarity to reach out to many young people in need. You are our greatest strength and encouragement to continue the services rendered in the past years by the BoscoNet team.

I appreciate the dream team of Fr. George, which has rendered its earnest service in the past years and has become qualified fundraisers, to pave way for a good future of BoscoNet. Each one of us in the BoscoNet family has a challenging task, to strive with the great optimism of Don Bosco in whose mission for youth we are all share holders.



BENEFICIARY ONCE, BENEFACTOR NOW!

L. ANAND - a son of Navajeevan Bala Bhavan

“My life at Navajeevan was a rebirth. I thank Don Bosco home for providing life and education to thousands like me. The Directors, Fr. Balashowry and Fr. Pradeep, encouraged me to complete engineering and prepare for bank tests,” says L. Anand.

Lingam Anand is one of the many hardworking students and sons of Navajeevan. Loneliness and poverty did not deter the perseverance of Anand, who became a bank officer against all odds. Lingam Anand is currently a Probationary Officer (PO) in Andhra Bank. Anand's aspiration is to get a secure job and give a secure life to someone like him.

The engineering graduate appeared for the Andhra Bank PO examination, conducted by the bank management, last September and got selected for the job. He applied for the PO post through the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) also, passed the written test and interview, and is due for the post.

He has become a role model for the rest of the

students to excel in studies, to equip themselves with knowledge of all the related subjects and current affairs to appear for various competitive exams, to settle in life with Government jobs. He has completed B. Tech in Electronics and Computer Engineering (ECE).

Navajeevan Bala Bhavan, Vijayawada is very proud of this great achievement. We wish Anand best of fortune for the rest of his life, and continue to motivate himself to realise his life's ambition.

He recalls: “the police brought me to this home when I was five. I do not know anything about my parents or where my native place is.”

Anand wasted no time in adopting a homeless child, to do his bit for society. “Immediately after getting a job, I adopted a Class 2 student who joined a home like me. I have not forgotten those who gave me a respectable life,” the young officer said.

(cf. THE HINDU 2nd March 2016, page. 2)



HEALING TOUCH OF DBNJ BALA BHAVAN

KORRA RAM - a son of Navajeevan Bala Bhavan



Korra Ram Babu was brought to Don Bosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan in 2006 as a six year old, from Antipotu village of Vishakapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh. He has faint memories of his father being run down by a lorry and of his mother's death due to fever. He and his infant brother were orphans, with an ailing grandmother.

Till seven years of age, he never uttered any words other than making some sounds like the chirping of birds. One thing weird about him was, he spent most of his time on a tree, even while sleeping. It took some time for the staff of DBNJ to make him stay more on the ground than on the trees. With

constant caring and loving attention, he gradually started to speak a few words in Telugu. His vocabulary and speech have improved considerably ever since. At the age of seven he joined Prathibha English Medium School as an LKG student, and now he has reached the VII standard. The school staff pays special attention to him and tries to make him reach the level of other students.

Their effort is yet to fetch the desired result, as he still fails in many subjects. But Ram Babu feels happy with the tremendous progress he has made in life, especially in behaving like a normal child.

ACT OF SUCCESS

Two children were rescued in Hanamkonda, Telangana. They were found begging on the streets around the railway station.

The children are semi-orphans who lost their mother during their infancy. When their father remarried, their grandmother took them under her care and protection. As she grew older and suffered from financial crises, the children were forced to drop out of school. She finally left them on the streets, where they found different ways to support themselves. A group of volunteers found them and referred them to Navajeevan, Warangal. The Street Presence team from Don Bosco Navajeevan rescued the children, counselled them, and provided their basic needs. The children have been handed over to Childline 1098 for further action.



STREET CHILDREN AND THE SCORCHING SUN

As the temperature rises every day, people find comfort inside their houses, offices or shopping centres with fans, coolers and air conditioners. Using expensive cream to protect their skin from the harmful UV rays, people try their best not to expose themselves to the sun. People drink as much water or juices as possible to keep themselves hydrated in this weather, to keep themselves healthy and to stay away from the hot burning sun. Even after all this, they still suffer from the heat.

Let us take a moment to think about those on the streets. The vegetable vendors, those working on the street for their daily bread, the family that lives under a fly-over, the children with no home, children with no clothes on them, with no sunscreen lotions to protect them from the UV rays. The merciless heat affects these people the worst.

Don Bosco Navajeevan infirmary has been extending special services to the children engaged on the streets. The medical assistance team has encountered several cases of dehydration and heat stroke. These cases were referred to the nearest Primary Health Centres and hospitals for necessary care and attention. In addition, there is a spurt of accident cases and inflicted injuries among very young children. Don Bosco Navajeevan infirmary has addressed on an average 60 to 70 cases every month, since January 2016.



In the case of Pavan, a 4 year old boy, the pain and suffering were multiplied by the external climate. He used to accompany his mother Sujata who helps cut vegetables for a catering contractor. While Sujata was busy cutting vegetables, Pavan was busy playing. He accidentally fell into a big cauldron of steaming hot dal. He suffered severe burns on his body. Fortunately, the DBNJ Infirmary field workers were present there to rush him to the hospital for immediate care and treatment.



Rajeshwari, 6 years old, had to bear the brunt of an angry alcoholic father. In a spate of anger, he threw a big vessel of boiling water on the mother and child. The little girl's tender skin was badly burnt. Now she is recovering under the care of the Don Bosco Navajeevan infirmary staff.



GOOD NEWS

Three years ago in Imphal, Manipur, a girl named Sylvia Kom was not allowed by her school authorities to sit for her class X examinations because she could not clear her school fees. BOSCONET got her readmitted into school and helped her complete her high school studies. A year later Sylvia passed class X in the First Division, and with star marks in Social Studies.

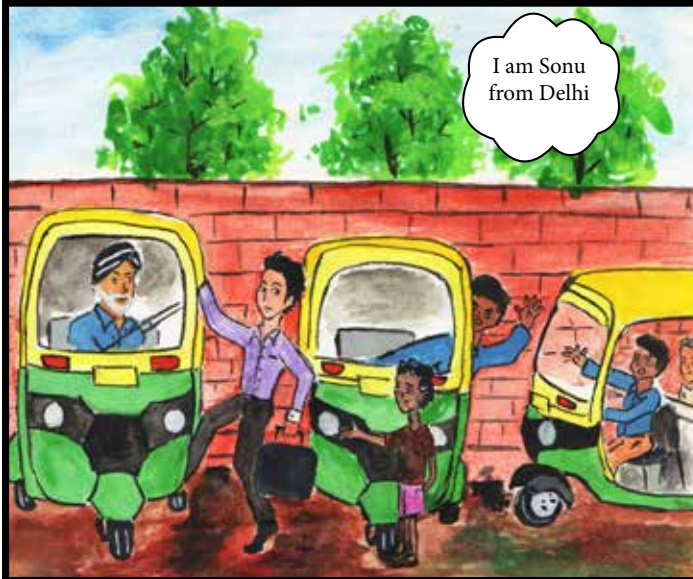
BOSCONET helped Sylvia to continue her studies at the +2 level. We are now glad to report that Sylvia has passed her class XII examinations in the First Division, THANKS TO EACH OF YOU DONORS!

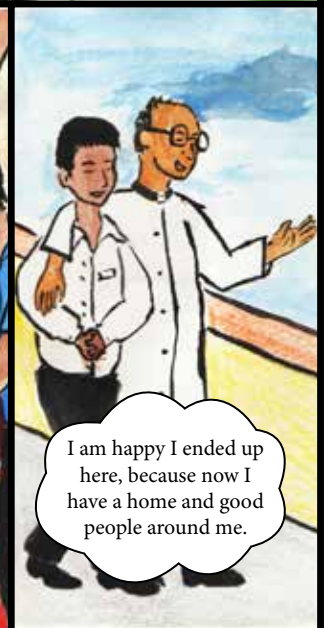
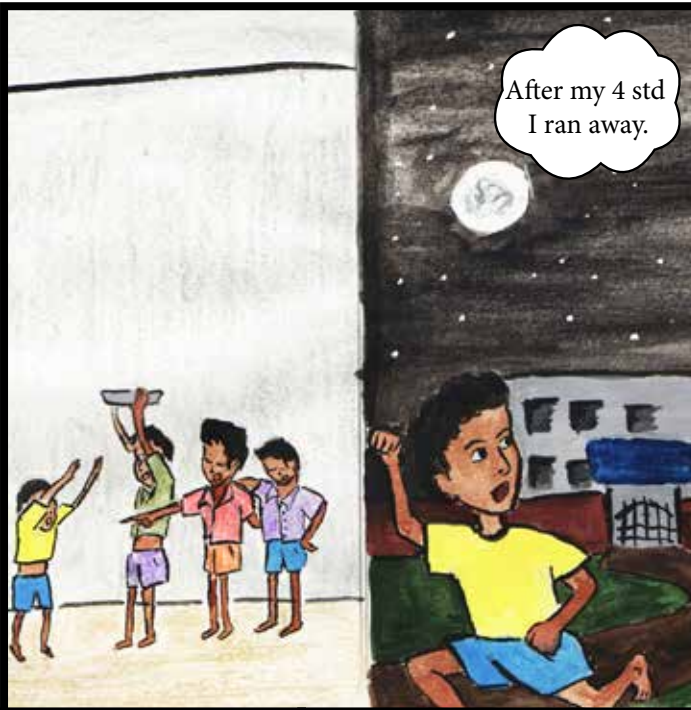
If you would like to sponsor Sylvia (or other girls and boys like Sylvia) for further studies, please write to us.




SONU'S NEW LIFE IN NAVAJEEVAN

Sketch & Colour : Yaomashun Zimik | Illustration : Angel Zimik





COOLING DRINKS FOR ALL!

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a man wearing a white turban with a purple and white patterned band and a white shirt. He is holding a white cup to his lips and drinking. The background is a solid light blue.

We did it again. On 23 May 2016, Fr. MC George, the Director of BoscoNet and Fr KC Jose, the Asst. Director, along with the entire Delhi staff of BoscoNet went out to the main Palam-Dabri road to give out cool drinks to the passersby. It was a scorching day, with the temperature ranging from 45 to 47 Celsius. Yet, we were out there in the sun, serving a cooling drink to quench the thirst of the passersby. We served nearly 1300 litres of cool drinks to more than 5000 people, within a span of four hours, on a very hot day.

All those who felt thirsty stopped by and had a glass or two of the drink, before moving on: people in cars, buses, auto-rickshaws, cycle-rickshaws, pedestrians, young and old, rich and poor, irrespective of caste and creed, all came to quench their thirst.

This is the second time we distributed cool drink on the road. Our first attempt was on 10 June 2014.

We will do it again.



NINE YEARS LATER, LOST SON REUNITES WITH HIS PARENTS

“I ran from pillar to post looking for him but couldn’t find him. My prayers have finally been answered,” Shehnaz said.

Shehnaz finally met her son Muhammed, alias Faiz Hussein, after nine long years, at a child rescue centre. She broke down on seeing her son and couldn’t stop hugging him, and neither could he.

Shehnaz had come to the city from Jabalpur, with her 7-year old son in 2007. As they stepped out of the train she asked him to wait on the platform, while she went to get a taxi; when she returned she could not find him. He went missing.

“I, too, was lost in the city. I was unable to explain my situation to anyone, as I didn’t know the language. I rang up my husband and he asked me to wait around, and look for him some more time. But nothing came of it,” said Shehnaz holding back her tears.

Muhammed, clutching his mother’s arm, said: “I cried for several years thinking about my parents as I missed them immensely.”

He was rescued by officials from Childline at the Chennai Central station, who produced him in front of the Child Welfare Committee, and was later sent to a home run by the Don Bosco Anbu Illam (DBAI). “We were unable to get any proper information from him at

that time, as he was too young. When we asked what his name is, he said Muhammed, that’s how we named him. We, however, continued looking for his parents,” said Johnson Bashyam SDB, Rector, and Director of DBAI.

Muhammed was enrolled in St. Joseph’s school, where he was a good student, who displayed keen interest in running and high jump. He even represented the district at the annual sports meet.

However, there was always a void. “I was sent to foster homes, but I don’t have any friends and felt unwanted,” he said. “I want to become a cricketer one day and that’s my only aim,” he said in Tamil looking at his father, who was trying hard to figure out the language.

“I have bought a Hindi to Tamil translation dictionary, so that I can understand what my son says. We’ll teach him Hindi too,” said Muhammad Hussein, his father.

The home currently houses 102 children, of whom 23 are orphans, 70 have single parents and the remaining 9 were found abandoned at railway stations, bus stops and other public places. “We get such cases almost every single day,” said a senior CWC official.

“I have my exam tomorrow, but I will go home once my exam is over,” Muhammad said, as he stepped out of the home with his family.





YOUTH MAKE A BEELINE FOR DON BOSCO'S THIS SUMMER

Be it the tiny tots learning to throw the ball into the basket or the adolescents showing off their talents in arts or sports, Don Bosco institutions have it all. And is there a better time to put your skills to the test, than over the summer holidays?

Cliff Richard's rendition goes:



***"Everybody has a summer holiday ...
Doing things they always wanted to ...
So we're going on a summer holiday ...
To make our dreams come true...
For you and me!"***

Don Bosco Recreation Centre at Don Bosco High School, Matunga in Mumbai, organised two camps, from 12 to 29 April and from 2 to 18 May, for around 1600 children and youth. Despite the searing summer temperatures, youth from across the city came forward to compete in a host of sports events like football, athletics, advanced and basic gymnastics, cricket, roller skating, lawn tennis, basketball,

fencing, judo, abacus and table tennis. Those more inclined to the fine arts enrolled for courses in Vedic maths, calligraphy, music, dance, art, speech and drama.

Brother Joyston Machado, the organizer of the summer club says: "Our theme for the summer club is 4G - Gather, Grasp, Glow, and Grow. We stress on the virtues of Dominic Savio, as his feast on May 6, is during the summer club. We tell the children holiness consists in being cheerful; doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way, to participate and give their best."

"I am gearing up for a world record challenge in future. I have been practising at the camp intensely. I attend a weekly skating session throughout the academic year, but practising daily at the vacation camp gives me an extra edge," says Amir Khan, 14 years old.

Shruti Raut, whose sons have enrolled for the basketball camp says: "They love the camp. I requested them to stay home this summer because I get tired of dropping and picking them up in this heat; but they enjoy the camp."



Fr. Thomas Aquinas sdb
National Director
Homelink Network

EXCERPT FROM “HOMELINK”

“**B**ecome like Mukesh Ambani, who owns an expensive home.... Katrina Kaif is spending ₹50 lakhs to dye her hair correctly.... Need a Denim Jeans like what Khan wore to be with your colleagues....” These are the instructions our children and youth receive from the media and at times from elders too.

We provide them with biryani, chicken and sweets 5 times a week, because the sponsor wants it that way (respecting the intention of the donor). Movies whenever there is free time and a free day. Multinational companies walk into our homes in the name of charity to train our children to eat pizzas, burgers with coke. A dress at hand whenever a child loses them, because our stores are full of them. A new ball when there is little problem with a stitch. A computer class every day. We want the best for them when it comes to food, dress, recreation, facilities and infrastructure. Who says you are wrong? I too feel that they deserve it because they have no one but us. We are ready to beg, borrow and work hard to get them these.

“Happy Birthday, you are 18. You are an adult. You need to pass out into the world to begin your journey alone...”. But my boy/girl is used to biryani, chicken, and sweets 5 times a week. A movie whenever he/she is free. Pizza huts and burger shops are inviting because I have learnt it that way. The Jeans shops and attractive T-shirts are what he needs to wear to cope with. Mobile phones and laptops can’t be ruled out in this list. The partying world expects them for every salary hike to sprint from roti-sabji to burger-coke and further towards cheese-champagne and happy hour. That is what they call status.

We have provided them the best. But are we teaching them to manage without? We teach them in our homes to excel one better than the other. But are we teaching our children to live in harmony as husband and wife in life? The tempting urban show-biz life style sometimes challenges our children to appear smarter; don’t be sure if they are walking around hungry for days together. Let them learn the story of Dhirubhai Ambani before reading about Mukesh Ambani. Are we preparing them for life?



“HAPPINESS IS NOT AN
APP YOU CAN DOWNLOAD!”
-POPE FRANCIS



“Your happiness has no price. It cannot be bought. It is not an App that you can download on your phones, nor will the latest update bring you freedom and grandeur in love,” Pope Francis said as part of the Vatican’s weekend celebration for young people who were gathered under grey skies in St. Peter’s Square on 24 April 2016.

About 70,000 young people, aged 13 to 16, gathered at the Vatican to listen to the Argentinian Pontiff, who also cautioned them against “simply going with the flow” and “being too laid-back.”

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5	BoscoNet	50100015733818	HDFC Bank	Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi	HDFC0000132	
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