

February 27, 2008 - Cuba – Cardinal Bertone meets the Salesian Family



(ANS – Havana) – At the end of his official visit to Cuba, which took place from February 20 to 26, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, secretary of state of the Holy See, fulfilled his wish to meet with members of the Salesian Family on the island.

The meeting took place in the convent of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians at Peñalver, on the outskirts of Havana. Representatives of various groups of the Salesian Family were present: Salesians, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, ADMA, Salesian Cooperators, DBVs, past pupils, representatives of youth councils from parishes entrusted to the Salesians, and friends of the Salesians.

Cardinal Bertone, who presided at a celebration of the Eucharist, invited those present to live their lives in Cuba with the heart of Don Bosco, which leads to the building up of friendship with others.

Young people from the various sectors of the Salesian Family played a large part in animating the liturgy.

A further meeting was held with Salesians and Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, at which the cardinal called on them to be “martyrs of patience” in a society that presents so many difficulties.

The cardinal’s visit to Cuba has been welcomed by the Catholic population as a gift of God to the local Church. It was the cardinal’s desire, in the course of his talks, to recall the messages given to the people by Pope John Paul II during his visit to Cuba ten years ago.

Several members of the Salesian Family in Cuba have expressed their gratitude for the meeting they held with the secretary of state, in which they felt they recognized the style of Don Bosco, through his joyful spirit and plain, friendly words, which showed his Salesian roots and years of formation.