

## May 6, 2009 - Poland - "Savionalia" 2009



(ANS - Krakow) - Between May 1 and 3 in the theological studentate in Krakow, Poland, 400 young people took part in the 19th Savionalia Games, an annual event organized by the Salesians of the South Poland Province (PLS) around the time of the feast of St. Dominic Savio, May 6.

This year for the first time a group of young people from Lvov, Lithuania, took part. Also for the first time more emphasis was given to formation and the spiritual aspect. In fact, the theme for the day, recalling the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Salesian Congregation, was "Returning to Don Bosco."

After a performance of "Text and pretext" by the Teatr Jeden theatre group from Kielce and by the Olga Palka Band, Fr. Marek Chrzan, provincial of Krakow, officially opened Savionalia 2009. The first two days were focused on Don Bosco's dream at nine years of age, which guided his whole life and work.

On Saturday, May 2, the young people listened to a reflective talk by Fr. Marian Chalecki on the essence of Salesian spirituality, spent some time celebrating together, and then took part in Mass, at which the provincial presided.

The traditional "Good Night" was given by Fr. Pascual Chavez by means of a video-recorded message. The Rector Major reminded the young people of the great zeal and the deep love that Don Bosco showed for the young and how with some of them he founded the Congregation. "You are being called to lead the way in changing the world," Don Bosco's ninth successor said as he invited the young people to become friends of Christ.

On Sunday, Poland's National Feast, the provincials from the North Europe Region meeting in Krakow in those days together with the regional councilor, Fr. Stefan Turansky, and the vicar of the Rector Major, Fr. Adriano Bregolin, spent some time with the young people.

Fr. Turansky presided at Mass, and Fr. Bregolin, who gave the homily, invited the young people to compare their lives with that of Don Bosco, who, believing in his dream and putting it into practice, became like Jesus a Good Shepherd who loves and knows his flock. "The best dream concerning our life always corresponds with the dream God has for it," Fr. Bregolin said. " I invite you, my dear young people, to give God a chance."

At the end of the Mass there was an entertaining soccer match between the Salesians and the police.