

November 11, 2009 - India –Don Bosco past pupils as a project of life



(ANS – Shillong) – In the early afternoon of November 8, the Rector Major took part in a Blessed Sacrament procession in Shillong, India, walking two miles with the Salesians and the faithful. The annual procession is one of the major religious events of the Catholic Church in Shillong. Held on the second Sunday of November every year, it brings together the faithful from all over the archdiocese.

This year the procession had further significance, coinciding with the closing of the celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the archdiocese of Shillong; thus the event brought together the all the archbishops and bishops of the region with the faithful, the Rector Major, and the Salesians. Since the founding of the diocese, the bishops and archbishops of Shillong have been Salesians.

At the end of the procession, Fr. Chavez joined the members of the National Federation of Don Bosco Past Pupils at Don Bosco Technical School in Shillong, the motherhouse of the Salesians in India. Rajesh Gupta, the National Federation president, welcomed the Rector Major to India. The provincial delegates and two representatives of each province past pupils section were present here on this special occasion.

In his address to them Fr. Chavez said that there were four types of past pupils. He explained that this was not on the social level nor religious level, nor one based on cultural preparation nor educational level. But in fact not all past pupils are of the same level.

The first group are those who consider being a past as just a “default”: it happened by chance. For them it is just a memory, nothing more.

The second group are those who consider their passing through a Salesian institution a blessing. They consider the Salesian education that they received as a moment in which they learned to be grateful and feel an affection toward Don Bosco.

The third group are those who consider it not only a blessing but also consider being a past pupil a commitment. Hence they feel the need to re-associate themselves with the Salesians. They are grateful for the religious education they assimilated. They are willing to commit themselves to this way of life in their social life. They are ready to be present in politics; they are ready to work for the welfare of all.

The fourth group of past pupils are those who consider it a project of life in their own families, in society, or much more in politics. Their guiding principle must always be to give the best to those who have received the least.