

January 25, 2010 – Salesian GHQ – Salesian Family Days: bringing the Gospel to others nowadays



(ANS – Rome) – The Salesian Family has completed the 28th Spirituality Days and now has the task of building up its strength for the “sequela Christi” and for bringing the Gospel to the young. The Rector Major presented a draft of the new “Charter of the Salesian Family.”

The final day of Spirituality Days, Sunday, January 24, was devoted to two celebrations: Mass and the conclusions.

Commenting on the readings for the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Rector Major emphasized that one of the characteristic features of the messianic mission carried out by Jesus with His great love and special concern for those most in need was its being done “now”: “Today is precisely the novelty of Jesus. The last days began with Him, and they are prolonged through time in the Church and in our own days.”

“This way of acting by Jesus,” Fr. Chavez continued, “is an invitation to shape, as individuals and as communities, as groups and as the entire Salesian Family, our life and our educational and pastoral activities around His, accompanying Gospel proclamation with a commitment to human development and to creating a Christian culture.”

From this commitment arises the task of the 28 groups of the Salesian Family “to bring the good news of salvation to the poor, the least, the needy, the young – news that brings hope and a future to their lives. It is up to us to be Jesus for our young people so as to say, as at Nazareth, ‘This text is being fulfilled today.’”

The official conclusion of the 28th Spirituality Days came in the Great Hall of the Salesianum. It took the form of a celebration of the Word during which results of the group work were presented, tasks which the various parts of the Salesian Family are called to make their own. There is a strong desire to make the local and provincial Salesian Family commissions work well. These organizations, composed of representatives of the groups in the area, have the role of coordinating an apostolate that is more and more one of evangelization.

The Rector Major once again, as he did in the commentary on the 2010 Strenna, asked that a real youth mission should be undertaken according to the particular programs and specific features of each province and country.

Fr. Chavez officially presented a draft of the new “Charter of the Salesian Family.” This is a further step in making the Salesian Family a real movement, officially recognized by the Church, for the salvation of the young. The document will be sent to the councils of the various institutes, congregations, and associations making up the Salesian Family so that it can be studied, discussed, and modified.

The Rector Major was given a very warm round of applause, as the final act of the Days, in recognition of his role in the animation of the Salesian Family.

Then the tradition group photograph was taken. This year two versions were taken, one the normal one and then another with everyone imitating the gesture on the poster which seems to have become the symbol of the 2010 Strenna.

The Spirituality Days were closely followed by the multimedia production of Missioni Don Bosco-Media Center from Turin. As in previous years, shortly they will have a DVD available with videos, the talks, and photographs. In the meantime it is possible to find the same material on the appropriate **section** on the sdb.org site.