

## **August 23, 2010 - Austria – Salesians in the Village of Religions among the Scouts**



**(Austria – Luxemburg)** – The Salesians of Don Bosco visited the Scouts International Camp gathered at Luxemburg in Vienna. The Scout movement in Austria celebrates this year the first centennial of existence; on this occasion around 7,000 Scouts coming from 25 countries have gathered in Austria from August 2 to 12.

“The Scout looks for a way to God” is what is written in the first paragraph of the Scout handbook. In the camp organized on occasion of the jubilee of the Scouts in Austria, an addition was made: “A village of religions” through the motto “enter this place with curiosity and respect.” The organizers of the event have wished to have kids experience the reality of the religious variety present in our planet.

On Wednesday, August 11, the Salesians also arrived in the camp, in order to help the youngsters draw nearer to Don Bosco. Through some games, the Salesians managed to help youngsters discover the values of Don Bosco, joy in sharing games and winning some prizes.

Fr. Franz Hauser, a Salesian who since 1990 has accompanied the Scouts as spiritual father and guide said, “Don Bosco and the Scouts go hand in hand.” The Scout regulations resemble the educational objectives of Don Bosco: integral education by means of reason, loving-kindness, and religion. Fr. Hauser adds, “The international network of the Scout movement is similar to that of the Salesians; I like it very much.”

In the regulations of the Scouts is written: “We commit ourselves to the education of the young to make of them citizens who are conscious of their responsibilities; fulfill their duties at home, at work and in society, nourished by faith.” This is undoubtedly a commitment similar to Don Bosco’s motto: “educating young people to become good citizens and good Christians.”