

February 17, 2010 - Hungary – leaders at the heart of youth ministry



(ANS – Budapest) – Between February 5 and 7 about 20 young leaders from the Salesian Youth Center in Obuda-Budapest in the Hungarian Province met together to reflect on how to be Don Bosco today and how to be close to young.

Fr. Dominic Sequeira, a member of the Youth Ministry Department in Rome, went to visit the Obuda center to meet the leaders of the groups which are engaged in youth ministry in the centers of the Salesians and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in Eger, Mogyorod, Ujpest, Nyergesujfalu, and Balassagyarmat. The purpose of his visit was to encourage the leaders in their activities within the centers.

The topics which the leaders found most interesting were Don Bosco's great love, his commitment to formation, and above all, a form of teaching practice as a means of approaching young people in the places where they are living. In all the centers the questions of the youngsters were concerned with how to be leaders, how to incarnate Don Bosco and his system of education, how to work in groups, and how to go further as leaders. In fact, the centers in Kazincbarcika and Nyergesujfalu already offer voluntary service as a possible opportunity.

In the course of the meeting, certain challenges emerged with regard to Salesian youth ministry, but the young youth leaders in the Hungarian Province are inspired by a great enthusiasm in their approach to the young. This enthusiastic spirit will support them in their activities. As the saying goes, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

Youth leaders are certainly at the heart of youth ministry, and this is very clear in the Hungarian Province. There is a fine group of leaders and young people who dedicate time and effort working side by side with the SDBs and FMAs in Hungary.