

July 9, 2010 - Dominican Republic – Don Bosco’s casket on its way to Haiti



(ANS – Santo Domingo) – At the end of the very intense pilgrimage in the Dominican Republic, Don Bosco’s casket has arrived at the Haitian border. Don Bosco’s relic, which has already been enthusiastically received by many Salesian communities in South and Central America, comes to Haiti as that country continues to try to cope with the effects of the January 12 earthquake.

The casket spent its last days in the Dominican Republic visiting Salesian centers in the region of Cibao, where it was admired by thousands of people, especially youngsters from Salesian centers in the country’s north. At Jarabacoa, the most important center of the Salesians in the Antilles, with two formation houses, a school, a parish, a retreat center, and other social activities, the people flocked to the Salesian centers to see the casket and spend some time in prayer close to it. Then it was the turn of the technical and agricultural school in La Vega, and Moca, near the shrine dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, where Don Bosco’s charism has been warmly welcomed over the years that the Salesians have spent in this central region of the Dominican Republic.

For the last two days the casket was at Santiago de los Caballeros, where in addition to being taken to the Salesian house in the city, it was on display for the faithful inside the cathedral. On July 7, its final day in the Antilles Province, it was venerated by hundreds of people gathered at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Salesian house in the city of Mao. On July 8 it set out on its way to Haiti.

Fr. Hiram Santiago, president of the Coordinating Commission for the visit, accompanied the casket as it was transferred to the Salesians in Haiti. The first community to be visited there will be Fort-Liberté, about 120 miles from Port-au-Prince.