

## July 23, 2010 - Costa Rica – Don Bosco, an unforgettable presence



**(ANS – San José)** – In the cathedral of San José, Costa Rica, Archbishop Hugo Barrantes celebrated Mass on July 21 in honor of Don Bosco. Among the congregation at the Mass, concelebrated by over 40 priests, were President Laura Chinchilla, Mayor Johnny Araya of San José, and thousands of the faithful.

After spending the night at the Don Bosco Salesian School of San José, the **casket** of Don Bosco was taken to the cathedral for the Mass, at which the choir of the University of Costa Rica led the singing. In his homily, using simple but profound words, Archbishop Barrantes spoke about the need for an education in values in the face of the current educational crisis, when efficiency rather than life is the goal. "And so now, the pedagogy of Don Bosco, based on the Preventive System (reason, religion, love), is more valid than ever," the archbishop declared.

At the end of the Mass a large number of people began to file past the casket and spend a few moments with the saint.

Later the casket was taken to the CEDES Don Bosco School, a huge, complex educational establishment in the working class district in the southern part of the capital. Within the recently opened new gymnasium all the pupils from the smallest to the university students had the opportunity to spend some time in prayer beside the casket. Then there was another Mass followed by a concert by Martin Valverde, a popular songwriter-singer from Costa Rica and a Salesian past pupil who at present is living in Guadalajara, Mexico.

On July 22 the casket was in the city of Cartago, first of all visiting Mary Help of Christians Parish and then the city hall, where Don Bosco was welcomed by Mayor Roberto Rodriguez as a distinguished visitor. Then the casket was taken to the basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, where Bishop Vittorino Girardi, MCCI, bishop of Tilaran, presided at Mass. Then the relic of Don Bosco was taken to Dominic Savio Salesian center, where the citizens of Cartago continued to pay their respects and say their prayers to Don Bosco.