

## June 18, 2010 - Albania – Don Bosco welcomes his boys



**(ANS – Tirana)** – At the entrance to the Salesian house in Tirana, in addition to the warmth and friendliness of the Salesians and their lay collaborators, since June 15 there has been a monument of Don Bosco making people welcome. The sculpture, which shows Don Bosco and some boys, was inaugurated by the auxiliary bishop of Tirana Bishop George Anthony Frenco, OP; also present were the provincial of Southern Italy Fr. Pasquale Martino, Dr. Haki Mustafaj, deputy mayor of Tirana, representatives of other schools in the city, together with the youngsters as well as some Salesian Sisters and members of VIS.

The inauguration ceremony of the monument, a gift from the Miglietta family, formed part of the end-of-school activities this week at the Salesian house. It began with the reading of some extracts from Don Bosco's life, which Fr. Martino then commented on, relating them to the everyday life of the youngsters. It ended with the blessing by the bishop and some fireworks before, in true Salesian tradition, ice cream was distributed.

The Salesians arrived in Scutari in 1992 and officially began their presence in the Albanian capital on January 30, 1993, with the laying of the foundation stone of a large school which soon became a focal point for the young and for the people of the neighborhood. Today in the Qendra Don Bosko (Don Bosco House), with five Salesians leading the way, there are a vocational training center, an upper middle school, a parish dedicated to Mary Help of Christians, a youth center, diocesan services, and chaplaincies