

## January 16, 2012 - Italy –Senior Formation Commission



**Photograph available in Image Bank**

**(ANS – Rome)** – A meeting of the Senior Formation Commission of the Italy–Middle East Region concluded on January 16. It had begun on the evening of January 13.

The agenda focused on the young people preparing for Salesian religious life and their accompaniment, and on the formation team. The meeting provided an opportunity to focus on the formation of young Salesians in the region. Taking part were the provincials, the provincial delegates for formation and youth ministry, the vocation directors, and those in charge of the phases of initial formation (prenovitiate, novitiate, postnovitiate, theology, and the two-year course for coadjutor brothers). Also present were the provincials or formation delegates from the European provinces which make use of the Italian formation centers.

There were three main talks to assist the 50 or so taking part with their reflections and discussions. On the first day these were given by Fr. Amedeo Cencini, a Canossian priest, Fr. Gianni Dal Piaz, a Camaldolese priest, and the SDB general councilor for the region, Fr. Pier Fausto Frisoli.

On January 15 some aspects were considered which cut across all the stages of formation, such as the continuity of the process of initial formation, the possible contribution of the psychological sciences, the variety of the roles of those involved in the formation process, and the criteria for inclusion and the qualities required in the formation teams. Talks were given by Fr. Giovanni Rebellato, vice provincial of Northeast Italy, Fr. Erino Leoni, vocation director and the one responsible for a prenovitiate, Fr. Beppe Roggia, a lecturer at the Salesian Pontifical University and the one responsible for a course for formation personnel, and Fr. Maurizio Verlezza, director of the San Tarcisio postnovitiate.

The ideal to be pursued was seen to be a continuous formation in which the Salesian religious is engaged in a daily response to his vocation and in conformity to Christ. This would therefore entail a rethinking of the process of initial formation: the commitment taken up and to be implemented in the future by the provincials and those involved in formation in the Italy-Middle East Region.