



Editorial

DON BOSCO'S MISSION – Hope for the Hopeless



We just celebrated the feast of St. John Bosco, lovingly known as Don Bosco. His name is magic to millions of millions of young people around the world. Hundreds of youngsters have found hope and new life in Don Bosco Anbu Illam in the past years. Who is this Don Bosco? How is this name 'Don Bosco' become a source of hope for countless young people, who come in contact with Don Bosco Anbu Illam?

Don Bosco loved the young. He loved them with a sincerity, intensity and tenderness that broke down walls of hatred and built up walls of new hope in the minds and hearts of youngsters. Don Bosco was penniless, his family name did not count for much, and he had no influential relatives or friends. But he had the deep trust in God that his mother Margret had taught him, and deep compassion for the homeless boys who roamed the streets in search of work, for whom no one seemed to care. He himself had to learn all this the hard way. His father, a poor farmer, died when Johnny was just two. His illiterate mother had to raise three boys all by herself. Poverty drove the little boy to work as a servant on someone's farm. He knew the meaning of hunger, helplessness and the indifference. Far from becoming bitter, he decided he would grow up into someone who would treat poor kids differently.

Don Bosco would often say, "It is enough for me that you are young, for me to love you." His life was a living out of this love. His love for young people who were in danger was prompted by a humanistic and positive attitude towards life and human nature. Don Bosco's sentiments are well reflected in the words of Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, "People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in; their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."

The family of Don Bosco Anbu Illam wants to keep this love alive. We want the miracles of his dream to continue. We want to dream with the young and make their best dreams come true. With Don Bosco, we believe in the young, and see not only their needs and pains, but also their extraordinary potential. Don Bosco's system of education, much like mentoring and parenting, is not easy, but the numerous success stories in Don Bosco Anbu Illam have proved its effectiveness.

May the God-given power to love, which all of us carry in our hearts, find expression in reaching out to whoever needs us the most. The contents of this newsletter carry that message in concrete. This is what Don Bosco did. This is what Don Bosco Anbu Illam is all about.

Fr. Joe Prabu, sdb

Asst. Director

"Think before you speak. Read before you think."

— Fran Lebowitz,

40th CHENNAI BOOK FARE – An eye opener of knowledge

The 40th Chennai Book Fare was held between 6-19 January 2017 at St. George Anglo Indian School, Chennai. Boys from Bosco Illam were taken on 15 January 2017 to marvel for themselves the ocean of knowledge displayed in the forms of books and magazines. Looking at the hundreds of shops in which thousands of book lovers were glancing through lakhs of books available on all genres, the children were encouraged to revive their reading habit. In the end they brought for themselves a book each on the subject of their interest.

- Br.Chezhan



Clowns Sans Frontières
Association Artistique de Solidarité Internationale

'Clowns without borders' an organization from France came over to Bosco Illam On 26 January, 2017 to entertain and amuse our children with their sterling performance. The professionals took a simple theme and communicated sharp messages through their exceptionally creative performance. The shelter home children and neighborhood children were the spectators of this evening show. Apart from great fun and laughter the evening turned to be very educative and informative.

- Mr.Antony



Culture is the arts elevated set of beliefs - Thomson Wolfe

PONGAL – A celebration of culture

Pongal, a tamil festival was celebrated with great pomp in children's home at Sarnalaya and Bosco Illam and a combined programme at out-reach centres. It was solemnity in Thiruvottiyur Boys and Girls Club on 19 January 2017. Fr. Joseph Leo, the director, Mrs. Rajeshwari (Head Mistress), Mr. Edward (Coordinator – Police Boys and Girls Club) graced the occasion. Indoor games for boys and girls and Rangoli competition was conducted for women groups and the winners were awarded. Sweet Pongal and sugar cane was distributed to double their joy. We would like to appreciate and thank our staff for having sponsored the event.



CAPACITY BUILDING - Staff enrichment workshop

Dr. A. Joseph Einstein, Ph.d (Consultant, Professional Counsellor and Professor of Psychology) animated our staff for a day on 7 January 2017. The resource person dealt in details on topics like optical achievement, holistic development of a child and high risk behaviour prevalent among teens. In the post-lunch session the staff made self-introspection through 'SCOT' (Strength, Challenges, Opportunity, Threat) analysis and through 'Business Game' to improve their individual performance to contribute effectively to the growth of the organization.



- Ms. Malini

REACHING THE UNREACHED – Inauguration of evening tuition centre

DBAI which has as its focus 'to bring to the centre those in the fringes of the society,' started a new evening tuition centre for the children of families living by the pavements of Flower Bazaar, Broadway, Chennai. It was inaugurated by Mr. Rajaraman (Sub Inspector of Police, Flower Blazar), in the presence of Fr. Joseph Leo, the director. Field work students of Loyola, MCC, Hindustan and Stella Maris colleges collectively performed street play highlighting the importance of education. In the end education materials were distributed to 85 children present for the inauguration.



- Ms. Malini

"Every Child is Unique"

AGE VERIFICATION - Documentation process of Shelter Home Children

Children, who run away from home, often do not carry details with them and some do not even know their age. Not knowing the proper age of children has always been a major concern in documentation and in enrolling the children in schools. To put an end to this on 6 January 2017, 32 of our boys and 21 girls were taken to Greater Chennai Corporation to be examined. The doctors certified the age of the children based on the results of the tests. We thank Mr. Reagan and Ms. Preethi for the following up of these endeavours.



SCOUT CAMP - "Be Prepared"

A special Scout Camp was arranged for Bosco Illam Scout group during Pongal holidays in Don Bosco Camp Centre, Yelagiri Hills. Fr. Joseph Leo, the director, inaugurated the scout camp and wished the boys a fruitful training. Mr. Naurdhin, the Scout master and Mr. Ashok Bosco, the assistant Scout master facilitated the training for the new scouts. Symbols used in scouting, flag song and basic rules of scouting were taught to the boys. They were also given training in Scout salute, march past, different knots and its usage. Being festival time the scouts joined the villagers in 'Puduvannur' for a traditional style of Pongal celebration. Camp fire conducted on the eve of the conclusion day was the highlight of the training.

- Mr. Ashok



Save and Serve

You have to fight to reach your dream. You have to sacrifice and work hard for it - Lionel Messi

"SAVE JALLIKATTU" – The voice of Tamil Nadu

Pro – jallikattu Protests were organized by students, youngsters and later joined by general public in several locations throughout the State from 8-23 January 2017, and more intensely for a week at Marina Beach, Chennai. To everyone's amazement the protestors maintained extraordinary calm and peace. Human chain, sloganeering, hunger strike, internet activism, candlelight and mobile vigil were the creative methods used in the protest. DBAI Director, management, staff, children and social work trainees from different colleges in the city participated in the protest. Through DBAI Child Line that had campaigned in the beach, a total of 30 children who were lost in the crowd rescued and successfully reunited with their parents and family members.

–Ms. Malini



FEAST OF ST. JOHN BOSCO - We are a family! Every home a school of Life and Love

On 31 January 2017, the management, staff and children together celebrated the feast of St. John Bosco, the father and friend of the young in a grand manner. The event was presided over by Fr. Johnson Paulraj. Children performed dance, skit and delivered speech on the life and achievement of the saint. Fr. Joseph Leo, the director, in his message encouraged all to work together in making Anbu Illam, a school of life and love.

- Br. Susai



Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality - Warren Bennis

DON BOSCO FAMILY DAY – “Joining hands for a noble cause”

Don Bosco Family day was the first ever initiative of its kind since the start of the DBAI three decades ago, took place on 29 January, 2017 in which around 150 sponsors and well wishers participated. The event was meant to get the lay collaborators join hands with the organization in defending the rights of the child in every way. In the meeting the history of DBAI and its future plans were screened and the need to network together to offer effective service to the deserving children was explained to the participants who themselves are mostly from middle class families. They received the proposal well and promised to share their resources, time, money and energy for the wellbeing of the children. Some agreed to sponsor the education of individual children while others assured their share of contribution for their growth. At the end of the meeting a core committee was formed.

- Br. Cyril



Editorial Board

Fr. Joseph Leo

Fr. Joe Prabu

Br. Jerome Cyril

Mrs. Jyothi Priya

Ms. Margaret Malini

For Contact:

Don Bosco Anbu Illam, No 25, Kulandai Street , Park Town,
Chennai – 600 003, Tamil Nadu.

Ph : 044-25352101 / 25356885 , Mob:09444031098

E-mail: anbuillamchennai@gmail.com

Web: donboscoanbuillam.org, www.childmiss.net

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