

## **SALESIAN EDUCATIVE PASTORAL PROJECT**

### **ST. JOHN BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE – ONITSHA**

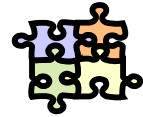
#### **1. Introduction**

On **31<sup>st</sup> January 1989**, at the conclusion of the Centenary Celebrations for the death of St. John Bosco, the Adriatic Salesian Province opens officially the presence in Onitsha Archdiocese with the welcome by the Archbishop H.G. Most Rev. Dr. Stephen N. Ezeanya of Rev. Fr. Riccardo Castellino followed after a short time by Rev. Fr. Vittorio Albasini and Rev. Fr. Nicola Ciarapica.

The plan started under the then Archbishop of Onitsha H.G. Most Rev. Dr. F.A. Arinze, now Cardinal, and the then Councilor for the Missions of the Salesian Congregation Rev. Fr. Luc Van Loy.

The Very Rev. Msgr. Dr. N. C. Obiagba helped the Salesians to buy, about 5 Hectares of Land at Ugwuagba – Ibolo – Obosi, in the outskirts of Onitsha, to accommodate the foreseen project of the Mission (cf. the land Plan No. MU/1028/89, allocated to the Roman Catholic Mission of the Archdiocese of Onitsha by the Ministry of Work Lands and Transport LAND DIV. Ref. No.: LON: 8619/14 of 9<sup>th</sup> January 1991).

An Agreement between the Catholic Archdiocese of Onitsha, Nigeria and the Society of St. Francis de Sales (Salesian Congregation) has been signed on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1993.



## **The history of the Onitsha Salesian Pastoral Project**

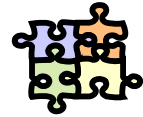
On **2<sup>nd</sup> February 1987**, in the request to open a Salesian presence in Onitsha Archdiocese, the Archbishop made a ***particular reference to Catechesis, Pedagogy and opening of Professional Schools.***

In the meeting of **21<sup>st</sup> November 1987**, between the Salesian Councilor for the Mission Luc Van Loy and the Provincial Fathers of the Salesian Provinces involved in the Nigerian Project Fr. L. Testa (Subalpina), Fr. C. Filippini (Novarese), Fr. G. Galbusera (Adriatica), about Nigeria it ***is foreseen a Catechetical Centre together in a youth pastoral work that is typically Salesian (Oratory or/and Parish).***

The first pastoral activity the Salesians started has been an informal **Oratory** ( see the Dominic Savio Band in Awada; 53, Oraifite Street) and from September 1991 the festive Oratory in the new site Ibolu-Obosi.

With the moving in St. John Bosco youth centre, on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1991, the Salesians realized that a possible project to be carried out in the isolated outskirts of Onitsha Town was a ***Technical Vocational School.*** In commissioning the St. John Bosco Youth Centre the then Governor of Anambra State H.E. Chief Dr. Chukwuemeka Pius Ezeife stressed the importance to prepare qualified technicians and asked the Salesians to train the new generations bringing them up till the secondary school.

Together with the Training Centre also a ***Boarding House*** at the service of the student of the DBTC was requested.



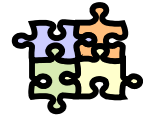
After the first year of our arrival we started to welcome some youth who already successful finished the secondary school and were asking to know our style of Life ***aspiring to become Salesians***.

***Collaboration with the Local Church:*** Since the beginning the Community was available for pastoral activities in the local Church (English Sunday Mass, confessions, accepting chaplaincies, participating to diocesan priestly meetings and programs especially the ones related with the youths).

From 1990 one of the confreres collaborates with the Italian community in Port Harcourt especially in pastoral issues.

With the first students who graduated in the Centre, the ***Past Pupils – DBTC Alumni*** Association started on 1996.

On 24<sup>th</sup> May 1998, a first group made the Promise as ***Salesian Cooperators*** making this branch of the Salesian family present.



## **2. THE DESTINATARIES OF THE SALESIAN MISSION**

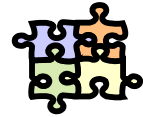
An Analysis of the Youth in Onitsha Archdiocese and the particular environment where our Mission is situated (see attachment) is pointing which youths we target with this Educative Salesian Pastoral Plan of Don Bosco Youth Centre (DBYC) Onitsha.

Our charism is for:

- a) the poor and abandoned youth, especially those in extreme danger;
- b) young workers and those young people in the working classes;
- c) young people who feel they are called to a particular vocation, be it religious, priestly or lay;
- d) adults from the popular classes;

**In particular among them we affirm our preference for**

- 1. The Boys and Girls between 6-15 years old who need the primary formation and living near our compound**
- 2. Youth between 16 and 25 years old who need secondary school formation and need to learn a work coming from Onitsha town, nearer towns, nearest Nigerian States.**
- 3. Youths who want to know better the salesian life, coming from this Nigerian Igbo land area**
- 4. Adults and young people living near our compound where our mission is situated.**



### **3. THE ONITSHA EDUCATIVE PASTORAL COMMUNITY**

**Onitsha** because implanted in this particular social and ecclesial environment and culture.

**Educative** because has the continuous consistent goal of formation and has as their method of **dialogue, patience and conversion**.

**Pastoral** because the Soul, the pulsing Spirit and the method is the loving Heart of **Jesus the Good Shepherd**

**Community** because unites in one **Family**, according the style of Don Bosco, Children, Youth, Adults; Pupils, Parents, Educators.

Don Bosco wanted consecrated persons at the centre of his work, persons oriented to the young and their holiness (CG 24,150) as witness of the love of God to the young, as prophecy in action, as Community in God translating in understandable way the Gospel, experiencing and making experiencing the relation with God, being a school to holiness.

The tasks to be carried at different levels:

**Organization being the centre of communion and evangelization**

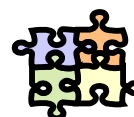
**Coordination**

**Methodological accompaniment**

**Educative orientation**

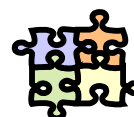
**Spiritual and Christian Formation**

**Guarantee of Salesian originality**

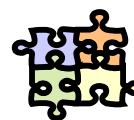


**To form a community of persons which has a unifying element the love of the young and the educative pastoral mission.**

Area of Commitment	Objectives	Strategies	Lines of Action
<b>Structures of Animation</b>	❖ Creation and consolidation of the EPC	<p><b>Sharing</b> with each others whatever we know and whatever we are doing in our youth work</p> <p><b>Exercising our competencies</b> and talents in a genuine spirit of service</p> <p><b>Recognizing and respecting differences</b> of role, age, experience and abilities</p> <p><b>Building a lively family spirit</b></p> <p><b>Planning together</b> to educate and evangelizing ( cf. R. 4,5)</p> <p>Involving in the <b>ongoing formation</b> as professionals, Christians and Salesians</p>	<p>✓ Each sector will create and convoke at least once a year the related organization: (Don Bosco Youth Centre: <b>EPC Council</b> D. B. Training C. and D. B. Boarding H.: <b>PTA</b>; D. B. Oratory: <b>Animators and Parents</b>; Aspirants: ? D. B. Secondary School: <b>PTA</b>)</p> <p>✓ Considering the EPC as active <b>participant to the most important moments of the Salesian Mission</b> (programming verifications, feasts...)</p> <p>✓ Making the EPP an important matter of the EPC reality.</p> <p>✓ The Rector and his council identify outstanding people in the community and offer them proper formation to become members of the EPC council of Onitsha Salesian Presence</p> <p>✓ Celebrating the Salesian feast involving all the salesian family, especially: 31<sup>st</sup> January St. John Bosco 24<sup>th</sup> May Mary help of Christians 8<sup>th</sup> December Immaculate Conception</p>
<b>Salesian community as Animating nucleus</b>	<p>❖ Awareness of being the animating nucleus of a vast apostolic movement combined with a planning mentality</p> <p>❖ Support for the formation of a genuine animating community witnessing the</p>	<p>○ Creation of an atmosphere of communion and participation in the EPC.</p> <p>○ Commitment of all the confreres</p> <p>○ Total dedication to a loving presence among the young ("Salesian assistance"), cordiality and family spirit</p> <p>○ Nurture of the Salesian Charism</p> <p>○ Being the Centre of the Communion</p> <p>○ Using the structures of the mission to reach more youngsters (using the modern means of communication to</p>	<p>✓ Making the Salesian appointed as delegate, Ecclesiastical assistants, Salesian responsible of the various groups of the Salesian family collaborate with the SYM in charge through Annual Plan</p> <p>✓ Formation of the SDBs as animators of the EPC (participation to ongoing formation programs and meetings at National ad Provincial Level, Community Day meetings, reading of literature from Community library and Internet...)</p> <p>✓ Organization of Annual Onitsha Community Feast (near the feast of St. John Bosco)</p> <p>✓ Reinforcement of the net of communication of the all Congregation and Provincial level with the diffusion and the magazines, news paper, others related links and with the contribution of an Onitsha Salesian Internet Web Page.</p> <p>✓ Organizing the time table and tasks of the Confreres to</p>



	primacy of God.	reach masses...) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promotion of relationship among various groups through appropriate activities</li> </ul>	allow them to be present in the playground during recreation time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Organizing Seminar for Adults and Lay people on the Salesian Youth spirituality and Salesian Preventive System of education</li> </ul>
<b>The Rector in the EPC</b>	The rector as the guardian and centre of unity and animate the animators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exercise the decision task always in dialogue after patience research</li> <li>○ Foster the charismatic character of the EPC</li> <li>○ Promotes formative and relational processes</li> <li>○ Activates the criteria for the convoking and formation of the Lay people</li> <li>○ Maintains the linkage between the Council of the Salesian Community and the Council of the EPC (GC 24 172)</li> <li>○ Promotes the Salesian Spirituality and liaisons with all the groups, benefactors, friends...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The rector preside over the EPC</li> <li>✓ Participate to the workshop organized by the Province</li> <li>✓ Draws up with the SDBs at the beginning of the year the Annual Community Plan and organization of the Calendar of Activities</li> <li>✓ Uses the traditional the traditional Salesian ways: conferences, talks, Good Nights, visits to different sectors, dialogue, friendly monthly chat with confreres</li> <li>✓ Avoids the tasks that make him away from the community</li> <li>✓ Cares for the religious atmosphere of the Community</li> <li>✓ Promotes the family atmosphere and friendly presence of the SDBs and Lay Collaborators among the young</li> <li>✓ Is getting informed of all the activities of the sectors of his community</li> <li>✓ Keeps the good relationships with others educative organizations.</li> </ul>



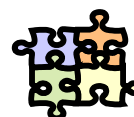
## 4. THE ONITSHA SALESIAN EDUCATIVE PASTORAL PROJECT

### 1. Educative and Cultural dimension (Human Growth)

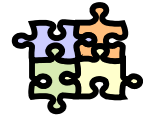
#### Fundamental Option:

To stimulate and to accompany a process of education that is able to release the creative possibilities and resources of the person and that favors a critical insertion in the culture and in the society

Area of Commitment	Objectives	Strategies	Lines of Action
1. Physical Growth	the human body as a part of integrated growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Promoting Physical Education in the curriculum of the school, Boarding House and Oratory.</li> <li>o Assuring an healthy environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Hygienic health education</li> <li>✓ Sportive activities</li> <li>✓ Availability of sufficient facilities and equipped playground</li> <li>✓ Care for hygienic food provide a first immediate health care</li> <li>✓ Organization of preventing HIV infection programs</li> </ul>
2. Affective Formation	Accompaniment of the youth towards their affective maturity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Educating to the self esteem and self-control</li> <li>o Educating to love and to be loved</li> <li>o Educating to the good and beautiful</li> <li>o Educating to the use of freedom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Create opportunities for free-self expression (sport, drama, cultural dances...)</li> <li>✓ Develop the salesian family spirit in the educative community</li> <li>✓ Create opportunities for meeting with councilors</li> <li>✓ Insert in the curricula the sexuality education to be done by prepared Parents</li> </ul>
3. Intellectual and Professional Formation	Intellectual and cultural formation of the young	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Acquiring Academic and professional competences</li> <li>o Knowing the organization of the Society (politics, economics and culture...)</li> <li>o Developing the ability to discern and to judge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide the Primary Education through Oratory services</li> <li>✓ Provide Secondary School officially approved by Anambra State</li> <li>✓ Offering Technical Formation through a Training Centre with Federal Accreditation</li> <li>Promote activities that foster creativity</li> </ul>



			<p>and serious reflection (drama, seminars, debates ... on political, religious and moral issues)</p> <p>✓ Insert the RME in the curriculum of the studies</p>
4. Formation to Commitment	<p>Aim in young people a proportional mature attitude to commitment and action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Giving the opportunities to make self-giving decisions</li> <li>○ Considering social action as a man duty</li> <li>○ Educating to the dialogue to take advantages from differences</li> <li>○ Promotion of Justice and Peace</li> <li>○ Appreciating and developing the quality of the human person, work, rights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Insert the Social Human and Christian formation in the curriculum of studies</li> <li>✓ Involve the youth in initiatives where his leadership skills are encouraged and strengthen</li> <li>✓ Fostering the participating in groups that aim at taking care of the peers.</li> <li>✓ Assure that in the school, Boarding house, Oratory organization there is chance for youth representatives and proposals</li> <li>✓ Offering the opportunities of Animators courses</li> </ul>

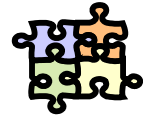


## 2. Evangelization and Catechetical Dimension ( Christian Growth)

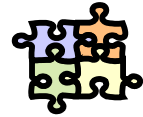
### Fundamental Option:

To program an explicit plan of education to the faith, rich in proposals, offered to the young, in a climate of freedom and in line with a healthy pedagogy

Area of Commitment	Objectives	Strategies	Lines of Action
1. First Evangelization	Knowledge of God as Creator and Providence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Showing and using the loving kindness of God in dealing with people especially with the young</li> <li>o Using the contact with the nature as a mean to reach the creator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Meeting with christian witnesses</li> <li>✓ Make the biographies of good christians available in the library</li> <li>✓ Growing in confidence with the youth especially in the playground</li> <li>✓ Use of the outings and camping for spiritual reflection</li> <li>✓ Organization of Run for Don Bosco, Foot Pilgrimage to Umunya</li> <li>✓ Opening and closing the school and day with morning and evening talking and Good Night.</li> </ul>
2. Evangelization	The knowledge of the Christ who make us enter in a relation of son ship with god the Father	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Placing the Gospel in the hand of the young People.</li> <li>o Helping the youth to have deep experience of faith from their own culture, background so that they may grow in Christ.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conduct seminaries, retreats, and renewal programs and recollection</li> <li>✓ Helping the youth to learn how to make meditation</li> <li>✓ Celebration of the station of the Cross and Of the station of the light</li> </ul>
3. Biblical Catechesis	To develop bible catechesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Placing the Bible in the hands of the young with deep culture significance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide the young with Bible accompaniment and deep Bible course</li> <li>✓ Organizing bible sharing on the reading of the Sundays</li> <li>✓ Knowledge of the Lectio divina</li> </ul>
4. Sacramental Catechesis	To Express the faith through the celebration of the Liturgy and Sacrament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Involving the youth in the liturgical and sacraments celebrations</li> <li>o Making of the Communion and Reconciliation the columns of youth Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Give to the youth opportunities to participate actively in the liturgical celebration of the salesian community.</li> <li>✓ Give the opportunity of daily mass, daily communion, and frequent confession</li> <li>✓ Every week all the students even the externals have their general</li> </ul>



			<p>Eucharistic celebration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Organizing catechism classes and Religious Instruction especially on Sunday afternoon in the compound</li> <li>✓ Prepare a chapel where to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament every day</li> <li>✓ Make sure that every day especially on Sunday the Eucharist is celebrated in the compound</li> <li>✓ Availability at the catechesis for the sacraments for the Italian Community in Port Harcourt</li> </ul>
5. Spirit and Mission	Reinforce the faith of the young bringing new ardour and commitment to their lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Experiencing the Church</li> <li>○ Promoting experiences of apostolic service</li> <li>○ Showing the faith with actions</li> <li>○ Involvement in Activities of spending personal time, gifts, life to witness the life of Christ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop peer ministry programs in our sectors</li> <li>✓ Involve the youth in the Salesian Youth Spirituality and groups of the Salesian youth Movement</li> <li>✓ Invite the senior to help in the running of younger peer activities (primary school lessons, preparation for first communion ...</li> <li>✓ Giving the opportunity for confession to our students and externals at least 3 times a week</li> <li>✓ Availability (as much as possible for the chaplaincies for the religious communities especially related with the youth apostolate)</li> </ul>
6. Devotion to Mary and the Salesian saints	<p>To show a deep devotion to Mary</p> <p>The knowledge of the life of the Salesian Saints</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Focusing Mary as Help of Christians, as Mother, Model, Mistress</li> <li>○ Understanding the Saints as companion of Journey and friends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Knowledge of the involvement of Mary in the history of salvation.</li> <li>✓ Knowledge and use of traditional prayer of Mary and to Mary</li> <li>✓ Readings and imitation of life of saints</li> <li>✓ Opportunity to pray the Rosary every day in community or personally</li> <li>✓ Give importance to the Marian devotions of the month of May and September</li> </ul>

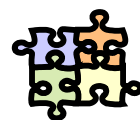


### 3. Group Activity Dimension (Social Growth)

#### Fundamental Option:

**To favor group experiences and to lead the young to have experiences of commitment and co-responsibility within the christian and social Community**

Area of Commitment	Objectives	Strategies	Lines of Action
1. SYM as Experience of Church	To discover the Church as Member of the Body of Jesus Christ his head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Experiencing and sharing fellowship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Educate the young to join peer Salesian groups</li> <li>✓ Participation in the Diocesan and Universal Church activities and programs</li> </ul>
2. Interpersonal relationships (communion)	To discover the Church as Community with Jesus Christ as Good Shepard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Developing feelings of belonging, of being loved and accepted through communication and sharing</li> <li>○ Giving an environment of Preventive System</li> <li>○</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Excursions and pilgrimages, Holyday camps, Community sports and games</li> </ul>
3. Youth spirituality	experience and practice the Love of God the Father	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Making the young people knowing and practicing the Salesian Spirituality</li> <li>○ Helping to prepare a personal project of life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Joy and optimism</li> <li>✓ Friendship with the Risen Christ</li> <li>✓ Living the Church and the sacrament life</li> <li>✓ Filial Marian devotion</li> <li>✓ Generous and apostolic commitment</li> <li>✓ Accompanying the youths to draw and realize a program of life</li> </ul>
4. Youth leadership and service	the commitment as apostolate among the peers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fostering responsive leadership inside the groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Enter in voluntary service experiences</li> <li>✓ Organize Leadership courses</li> <li>✓ Entrust responsibility of Catechism</li> </ul>

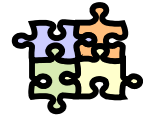


#### 4. Vocation Animation Dimension (Vocational Growth)

##### Fundamental Option:

To help the young in the discovery and the realization of their own project of life.

Area of Commitment	Objectives	Strategies	Lines of Action
1. Human career guidance	To develop values of generosity and responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Helping the young to see the life as a gift (call) and a task/responsibility ( Mission)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Vocational camp</li> <li>✓ Vocational rally</li> <li>✓ Give the opportunity to have a group of 5-8 aspirants to be sent in the pre-novitiate program every year</li> </ul>
2. Christian Apostolic Vocation as Service	To nurture Apostolic vocation within the Church ( Lay, priestly and religious)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Cultivating an attitude of openness to all vocations in the Church</li> <li>o Looking at the social life a as a call from God.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ To form a sense of mission among the young</li> <li>✓ Participation in the Animators course</li> </ul>
3. Salesian vocation	Giving opportunities of Salesian vocational experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Giving all the necessary information concerning vocation areas in the Salesian congregation and family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Organic vocation camp in our local Church</li> <li>✓ Knowledge of the salesian Family groups: SDB, FMA, Cooperators, Past Pupils, VDB, VCD ...</li> <li>✓ Participation in the Salesian professions and ordinations ceremonies</li> </ul>



## THE SALESIAN METHOD OF EDUCATION: THE PREVENTIVE SYSTEM.

Don Bosco did not only leave a particular area of apostolate to his Salesians; he also gave them an original pedagogical system to follow and to preserve. At the heart of this method is the pastoral love which seeks the good of the individual. It places the person in the moral impossibility of committing sin. The educator keeps the young under watchful eyes, and like an affectionate father corrects and gives good and timely advises.

The preventive system has three main pillars: reason, religion and kindness.

### 5.1 Reason, taken from three angles:

- a) from the *educator's viewpoint*. Through the use of reason, the educator introduces the youth to a constant, balanced and happy behaviour; preparing him to make a mature discernment of God's will, which leads to sound decision-making.
- b) From the viewpoint of *the young*. When the youth understands what he is doing and what he is made to do, there is no more need of harsh measures to maintain a certain level of discipline.
- c) From the point of view of *dialogue*. Dialogue enriches the mind of the young and helps him to formulate his own project of life.

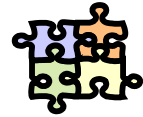
### 5.2 Religion.

Don Bosco could not imagine any educational method that could assure of success outside the scope of Christian pedagogy. Because of this, he believed that the principles of the Catholic religion play an essential part in his preventive system which according to him is a moral force rather than an external one.

He recommended a simple prayer life, but done well and constantly. He also believed that the frequent reception of the sacraments, particularly penance and holy communion are essential elements of any pedagogical work. And he always presented to the boys the image of the Blessed Mother as an indispensable presence in the education of Christian youths.

### 5.3 Loving Kindness

Loving kindness is closely united with the virtue of charity, the Christian virtue par excellence. The spirit behind all of the preventive system is the profound relationship between educator and the individual student that unites one with



**the other. loving kindness is manifested through an active presence among the young, participating in their activities, and learning to appreciate and love what is important to them. It also makes itself felt through the Family Spirit. Through an atmosphere of familiarity and love, hearts open up and renders each individual available to learn and to grow.**

## **6. THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE DON BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE.**

**In order to fulfill its specific mission in the Church of preparing good Christians and upright citizens, particularly within the scope of the Onitsha Archdiocese, the Don Bosco Youth Centre envisions a complex of services and sectors all aimed at the holistic development of each individual.**

### **A. The Oratory.**

**The oratory is the original form of youth apostolate which Don Bosco himself applied and left to his Salesians as a heritage. Don Bosco called it the "oratory" because its primary aim is the education of the young to the faith: to prayer, to the practice of religion, to moral education, and practically, to the salvation of their souls. The means Don Bosco used to reach this end were catechetical instruction, the school, wholesome recreation, sports, music, and any other instrument through which he could assure his boys of a sound Christian education.**

**In September '06 the Oratory will be daily and will offer informal after school classes for primary school and junior secondary school.**

**The Oratory youth centre will conduct the course for animators of two years and the courses for updating the animators (leaders, bible...)**

**The Oratory will offer confessions at least 3 times a week and especially on Saturdays afternoon**

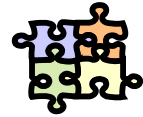
**It is the Oratory that organizes also a Cybercafé'**

**An small canteen and business store is organized**

### **B. The Don Bosco Training Centre.**

**A privileged area of the Salesian apostolate is the world of work. Young people, who are looking for work and young workers in general, often encounter difficulties and easily become victims of injustice.**

**The Don Bosco Training Centre (DBTC) is preparing the young to take their place in society with dignity, educating them to a sense of moral, professional, vocational, and social responsibility. The DBTC prepares skilled Technicians, encourages private initiative and supplies manpower to the Nigerian society towards industrial development, economic and**



**national self-reliance, capable of giving a positive contribution to the technological and industrial development of the country.**

**The courses offered at present are electro-mechanics Mechanical engineering craft practice for boys, Secretarial courses for girls. They have duration of two years and young people between 16 and 25 years old who have finished secondary school can apply.**

**A course for Hardware Electronics communication workshop, with the intention of generating income for the school is also foreseen.**

**C. The Secondary School.**

**The Don Bosco Secondary School takes off from the Primary School to prepare young people for higher education and for life.**

**It is a service that will be offered gradually in the next years, according the new educational policies of Nigeria is made of 3 years SSI, SSII, SSIII**

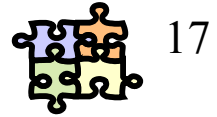
**The program offered by Don Bosco Secondary School ideally prepares its students for any academic course that they wish to pursue. Its Technical Program, however, gives an edge to graduates who wish to enter in the Don Bosco Training Centre. The human, spiritual, emotional, and moral formation they get makes them ready to face the challenges of the world out there, in a spirit of service and love for others, especially the marginalized members of society.**

**D. The Boarding School.**

**This Boarding School (which at the moment houses 80 students) aims at helping the students who come from other towns and states to frequent our Training Centre. The Boarding School also offers these students some formative experiences. Organized activities like work, prayers and games, plus the possibility to live in a community, enable them to live the Salesian ambient.**

**When the secondary school will start also a boarding school for the junior and secondary school students is needed. The boarding for the Technical School can go to extinction (the student will be asked to come daily from outside). The facilities can be used for particular courses (NAOC...) and for a small aspirantate and especially for secondary school.**

**These students also receive formal preparatory courses to enable them to teach catechism and contribute to the animation of the Sunday Oratory and societies in the Church. It is part of the aim of the Educative Pastoral Community to concentrate its forces so as to ensure the smooth running of all community activities.**



E. The Aspirantate.

**Taking care of vocations is, from the very outset, a characteristic of the Salesian congregation. It is also important to orient the youth towards the realization of the will of God for each of them, leading them to follow His call as a priest or as a religious. In this way, we are also assured of the continuity of the Salesian presence in Nigeria.**

**Right now we receive candidates to the Salesian life, introducing them to the Salesian Spirit, and guiding them to a better discernment of God's will for them. These candidates begin this formative experience as soon as they comply with the necessary requirements. Periodical evaluation of these applicants is made during their stay, the duration of which will be determined by the Formators.**

F. The Outstation

**It is a religious service given to the very poor population living around our compound, especially now that there is not a parish in the premises, and the nearest Church ( St. Peter the Apostle) is cut down from our valley by the Mgbuka Market.**

**We contribute for the propagation of the Good News and for the promotion of the people, in collaboration with the local Church, bringing the richness of our specific vocation.**

G. The Catechetical Centre.

**It is part of the project of the beginning is still waiting for future developments.**

**PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS (2007-2008):**

- ❖ Establishment of a working Onitsha Salesian Educative Pastoral Community.**
- ❖ Particular attention at the new situations and requests from the local social ed ecclesial environment ( Primary and Secondary School formation and Parish Outstation service).**

Attachments

No.: 1 **Files:** Analysis of Youth Situation

No.: 2 **Files:** House Assessment **and File :** Report for visitation 2005

No.: 3 **File:** SEPP Onitsha 93