

28 September 2008 - 40 Years of TGS Eurogroup



# Newsletter

TGS40 Newsletter no. 1, December 2007 - UK Edition  
TGS Eurogroup, via Marconi 22, 31021 Mogliano V.to TV, tel./fax +39.041.5904717

“Let us educate with the heart of Don Bosco, for the integrated development of the life”  
“Strenna 2008”, Fr. Pascual Chávez Villanueva, Rector Major of the Salesians

## Editorial

by Igino Zanandrea, President of TGS Eurogroup

Dearest TGS Eurogroup friends,  
By means of this simple “newsletter” on behalf of our Association’s Committee, we would like to send to you and your families our most sincere wishes for a happy Christmas and a joyful New Year. We like to do it through the words of our Rector Major, to remember once more the educational principles and the Salesian charisma that inspire the activities carried out by TGS.

However, this time we have one more reason to exchange wishes: in 2008 TGS Eurogroup will celebrate its first 40 years of activity. We are all invited to join this special celebration!

First, take note of this day on your appointment book: Sunday, 28th September 2008. This is the day when the “TGS 40” event will take place at our headquarters in the Salesian College “Astori” in Mogliano Veneto (Treviso, Italy). This date was not chosen at random: it is close to Don Dino Berti’s anniversary - he passed away on 25th September 2000. We feel his presence still so close thanks to a number of initiatives organized in his memory every year: a scholarship in his name, the “Don Berti Prize” for schools at the time of the march in Venice (Su e Zo per i Ponti), and the Holy Mass in his memory.

“TGS 40” will be an occasion both to remember our Association’s founder with loving affection and to take stock of what TGS has achieved in the last eight years. This period has involved significant reorganization

*Hoping to see you soon, let us wish you,  
on behalf of the TGS Eurogroup Committee,  
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

and renewal of our Association: the most recent event was the ratification of our new Charter (see Bruna's article), which respects and adheres to the spirit and principles on which Don Berti based it originally. This is why "TGS 40" will be an occasion to look back to the road so far, to look at what we have achieved in 40 years - not with nostalgia, but rather with an endless feeling of gratitude. It will also be a time to give a faithful, enthusiastic and passionate look at the future, at the road in front of us, at what is yet to come.

---

## TGS Eurogroup today

*by Bruna Rainaldi, Vice-President of TGS Eurogroup*

Dear leaders, dear old leaders, dear friends, Our Association, TGS Eurogroup, where you have spent some of your time (never mind if recently or not), is alive and kicking as always, after an understandable period of settling-down and reorganization.

Over the last few years, after Don Berti's death, we have discovered that anything can happen. Everyone who had the chance to meet Don Berti knows that he was a driving force: he worked relentlessly and made decisions autonomously. With his death, the Association was at risk of fading out, mostly because no one else had such a charisma. At that time, the Divine Providence inspired our Salesian Inspector, Father Claudio, who gave us the choice: either you, lay people, take this on, or it is over. None of us felt like taking this on alone, we did not even know how exactly the TGS machine worked, but, on the other hand, nobody wanted Don Berti's moral legacy to disappear. We did, as he used to say, what donkeys do in the rain: "Crestfallen and walking," everyone with his time, his skills to devote to TGS Eurogroup, everyone sure to be part of a big family. Then came the mad cow disease, September 11th, the terrorist attacks in London... and the unavoidable student enrolment drop... and then the renewed faith of many families who kept entrusting us with their children, a renewed enthusiasm from the leaders, and the relentless and loyal work of the Committee and the TGS Office. However, all this is history, a history of 40 years of which we are proud (and we are not the only ones). What I want to show you is a snapshot of what

TGS Eurogroup looks like today.

We have five centres in the UK (in strict alphabetical order, to avoid favouritism...): Caterham, Dorking (which we successfully re-opened this year), Guildford, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. Last summer 135 students and 25 leaders left for the UK. We organise training courses and meetings not only for the leaders but also for our English collaborators. We are keeping the traditional march in Venice, "Su e Zo per i Ponti", alive. This year will highlight its 30th edition, on the 13th of April 2008!

Moreover, on 21st October 2007, our TGS Members' Assembly approved the new Charter. This little event meant a great change for our Association.

What is more important is that we will be officially listed among the initiatives organised by the Salesian Youth Movement of the Triveneto Region, promoted by the Salesian Region "San Marco" North-East Italy; this qualifies us as an Association for Social Promotion.

Some other points which distinguish our Association and are worth mentioning (straight out of our Charter) are the following: the fact that we are a non-profit organization (this year we donated a considerable amount to charity for needy people and worthy associations, one of which being the recently established Salesian mission in Moldavia); we are autonomous with respect to programming, administrative and operational management and all its related responsibilities; our main purpose is charity, and we pursue this goal by inspiring ourselves on the Christian idea of life and society, by explicitly referring to Don Bosco's pastoral-educational system and to the Salesian Style; our offer is an offer of tourism and culture which acknowledges in tourism an essential value of a person's life, which lets people be together in a friendly way, and which becomes active in our journeys, where our students can learn new things and experience what being in a group means; they can also grow up and learn how to get over barriers and prejudices.

Did we really need to remind this? We guess so! We believe that, in this way, Don Berti's work and dreams are not only still alive but also officially recognized in a way that inserts our Association with full rights in the corporate world. We reckon that this is a safe foundation on which those who will take on this challenge in the future can keep growing.

---

## TGS40 update

[www.tgseurogroup.it/tgs40](http://www.tgseurogroup.it/tgs40)

TGS Eurogroup counts on YOU to help out with the planning of this special event! You can especially try and think over **your own experience with TGS**, by means of a short piece of writing, a picture or a document telling your own story within TGS to share with all of us. Your contribution will be collected in a small publication we are just starting to develop. For all your suggestions please send an email message to **tgs40@tgseurogroup.it**. We'll be waiting for you!