



TGS Eurogroup

TGS Newsletter no. 18, December 2013 - UK Edition

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Happy Christmas from TGS Eurogroup!

by Alessandra Granziero

Warm greetings from a chilly day in Italy. With Christmas just around the corner it is the right time to send you our best Season's Greetings.

We can't believe Christmas is back again. It seems like yesterday when we sent the last Christmas newsletter, reporting on the Forum in November 2012. Here we are back again, glad to enter your homes and give you a few updates about our family.

We will start with a piece of news strictly concerning TGS, continue with the pilgrimage of St John Bosco's relics and finally move to an invitation for Spring 2014 (doesn't it sound strange to speak about Spring next year while looking at your Christmas tree lights turning on and off!?). Happy Christmas to all of you!

News from TGS!

It is a truth universally acknowledged that... Christmas is the time for expectation when resolutions are made for the year to come. At TGS we already have big news to share!

Igino Zanandrea, President of TGS Eurogroup, is leaving the Committee's line to continue his contribution with the new role of TGS's Managing Director, just the proper proper acknowledgement for his consistent collaboration throughout the years.

This will lead the Association to a new President who is identified in the current Vice President, Bruna Rainaldi. Nothing is changing from the practical point of view: with no change in our mission and purposes, we will keep working with the same fervor as always, only with a stronger and better qualified team at work, totally dedicated to TGS.

In pictures: TGS Christmas Party, December 2013.



Our welcome to Saint John Bosco

Waiting for the forthcoming bi-centenary of Saint Don Bosco's birth in 2015, a casket with his relics is currently on a pilgrimage throughout the world.

It is meant to be a the-other-way-round pilgrimage: followers usually visit churches and holy places. This time it is Saint Don Bosco to go and visit people everywhere in the world.

The pilgrimage began on 31st January 2009, another important anniversary for the Salesians as it was 150 years from the foundation of the Congregation itself. It was Thursday 21th November when the relics landed at Venice International Airport and soon moved to Collegio Astori in Mogliano Veneto. For those of you that are acquainted with TGS Eurogroup, this place is expected to sound familiar: indeed it is our headquarter in Italy and the same place where we meet your leaders and students.

The relics of Don Bosco have been recomposed from the urn that contained his remains since 1929 when the body was exhumed.

Later on he was declared Blessed and canonised on Easter Sunday in 1934.

The urn consists of a large glass box in which the wax replica is placed and easily viewed.

Among the urn's decorations are the words "*Da mihi animas, ceatera tolle*", which translates to "*Give me souls, take away everything else*", one of Don Bosco's many quotes.

The main celebration took place the day after the relics' arrival in Venice and gathered together people of all ages ranging from children, families and adults.

TGS representatives were there to welcome the urn: it was a good chance for our students and leaders to attend and help during the Mass.

This collaboration allowed to show the awareness of Don Bosco's spirituality and the importance of young people in the Church.

Fancy a visit to your TGS friends in Italy?

You are welcome to join us for a wonderful day out on the occasion of the "Su e Zo per i Ponti", taking place in Venice on 30th March 2014! "Up and Down the Bridges" is a walk involving young people, adults, families, school parties and sport groups in a stroll through the alleys of Venice, all together in the name of friendship and solidarity. Every year the money raised from the event, after expenses, is donated to charity. We will keep posting news about it on our blog, but feel free to ask for information if you are considering the possibility of joining us! See you in Venice!

