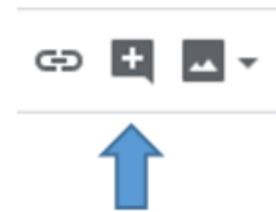




*After the question you can write your contribution or add your comment to what others have written already (crtr+alt+m or clicking the “add comment” button on the toolbar)*

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*Dopo la domanda potete scrivere il vostro contributo o aggiungere il vostro commento a quello che altri han già scritto (ctrl+alt+m o il pulsante "add comment" sulla barra degli strumenti)*



**PLEASE DO NOT DELETE WHAT OTHERS CONTRIBUTED ALREADY**

**PER FAVORE NON CANCELLARE QUANTO TROVI GIÀ SCRITTO DA ALTRI**

**1**

How do we cherish the **SENSE OF BELONGING** to the Church and to our Salesian Congregation?

Do we share in the **GREAT HORIZON** which the Church and the Congregation open before us?

*Scrivi qui (si autoespande). Google doc si autosalva || Write here (it expands itself). Google doc is automatically saving:*

Abc...

To know that I am a member among so many others who make up the Church gives me strength, hope and a sense of oneness. To know that I am a Salesian of Don Bosco gives me a sense of oneness with all my brother Salesians and members of the Salesian Family. Yes, I belong to the Church and to the Congregation because this is my family.

By involving myself in church activities especially where the young are involved.

By being present, to always listen and accompany each other, especially towards the young people.

By reminding myself that there are plenty of Christians, Religious, especially Salesian who are working very hard for spreading the Gospel. Therefore, I should pray for them constantly as they are praying for me.



|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>2</b> | <p>How do we take <b>INTERNATIONALITY</b> and <b>INTERCULTURALITY</b>?</p> <p>Are they perceived as a problem or as a valuable resource?</p> |
|----------|--|

*Scrivi qui (si autoespande). Google doc si autosalva || Write here (it expands itself). Google doc is automatically saving:*

Abc...

I did my formation in an international and multi-cultural environment; this gave me the opportunity to engage with different cultures during my formative years. I now realize how crucial this was to help me over the years to understand different mentalities and be able to dialogue with people having different approaches to life, coming from various cultural backgrounds. This indeed has been a major feature of my own journey in religious life and I found it of invaluable help when I worked in Africa and Europe.

It was at the age of eighteen when I left home and my country for the first time to go to the novitiate. At the time we were a large number of students coming from seven different countries: This brought me in contact with cultures and mentalities each having its own distinctive features. Initially I went through a cultural shock to find myself in a totally different environment and new way of doing things. But especially in those first few

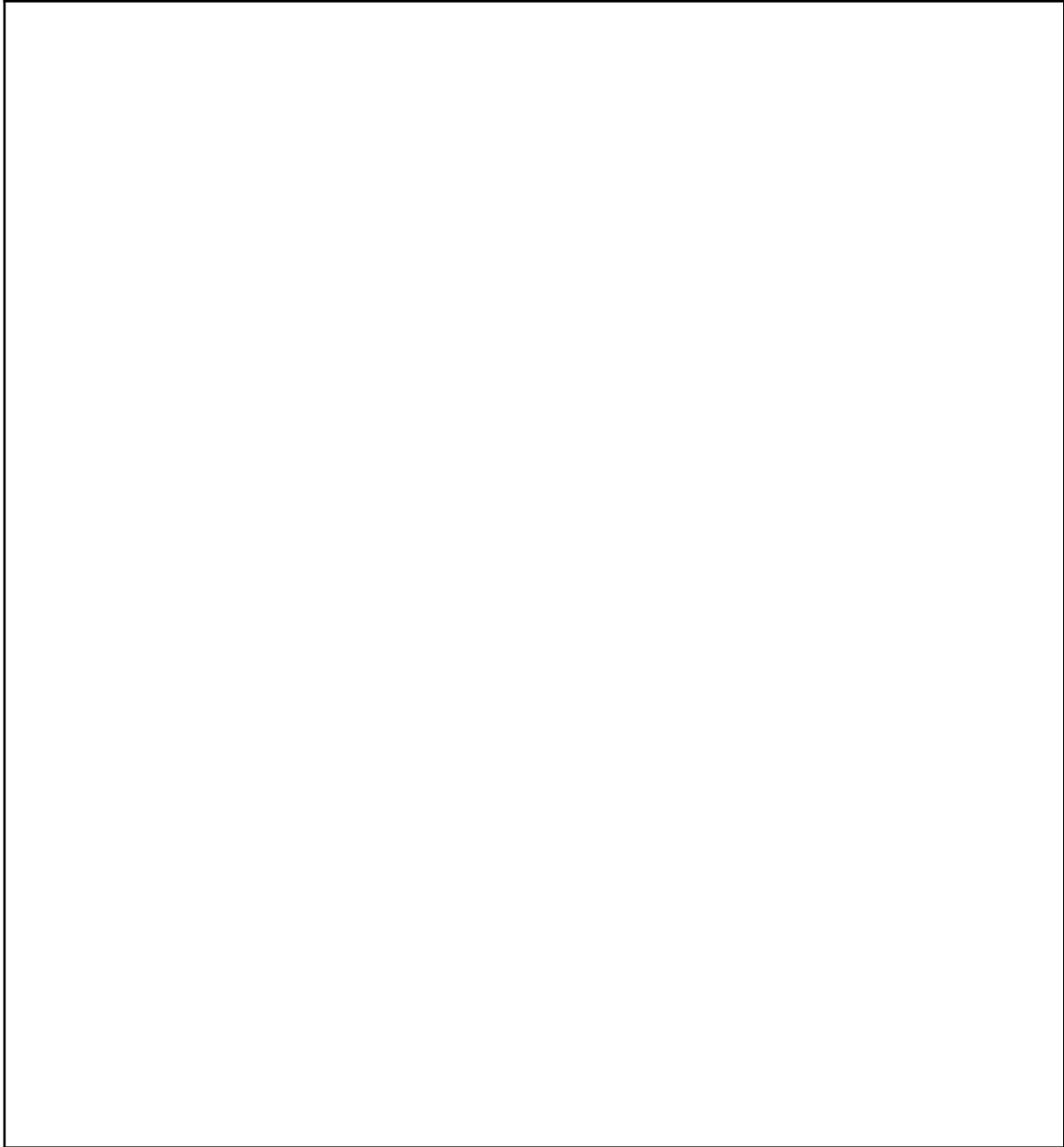
years, I was engaged in trying to understand and accommodate a whole new set of values, while at the same time trying to be true to my own roots. Over the eight years of my religious formation, I was attentive to my own inner struggle, as well as that of others. Indeed I went through a lot of change as a result not only of growth and maturation, but especially because of my interaction with a new culture.

Indeed for me the opportunity to be exposed to different cultures has been one of the most enriching experiences of religious life. The word *culture* became for me the metaphor by which I was able to appreciate and differentiate the various experiences I was having.

The struggle which I personally went through, as well as listening to that of others with whom I was sharing my life, helped me in formulating and making a meaningful life choice as a consecrated Salesian. It has also produced in me an interest in the process of personal growth and spiritual maturity.

I consider myself to be truly blessed to have lived and worked with confreres and young people from countries all over the world. This has its challenges, but it has always been an exciting experience for me. And to know that there are confreres from other parts of the world, from different cultures and mentality, and who share the same Baptism, the same Profession and mission, and have the same father and founder Don Bosco has enriched my life as a Salesian of Don Bosco.

**I think that being with and working with people of other cultures is a source of enrichment and growth. It opens horizons which are otherwise unknown to me.**



|          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>3</b> | How the <b>DIALOGUE BETWEEN GENERATIONS</b> works within our formation community? |
|----------|---|

***Scrivi qui (si autoespande). Google doc si autosalva || Write here (it expands itself). Google doc is automatically saving:***

**Abc...**

**In my limited experience, I see that the big range of ages in our community is a gift which opens us to different ways of seeing the world and the church and the congregation. Dialogue works when we practice our preventive system with each other and practice presence and availability with each other. This opens the chance for person to person talks and group community talks and sharings. And the practice of Francis de Sales KINDNESS towards each other is our special secret as Salesians.**

**Living in community with confreres of different generations can be a challenge, and at the same time it is of great value. There is always so much to learn from the lively, creative and innovative young and from the wisdom of the elderly members of the community. This is family life... this is our Salesian family.**

**It is a very big opportunity for me to live in an international and multicultural community especially as a young confrere. In fact, I learn so much from that diversity of confreres for my own growth first and then, for others such as young people in general. In the same way, I also contribute to the growth of others due to my culture.**

**Though, the challenge is there to accept each one in his diversity; that is very important in order to strengthen our identity by recognizing other people's identity as our young people to whom we are sent are also quietly different even inside the same Oratory, school or parish,etc.**



