

Fr. Balashowry: Providing refuge



Fr. Balashowry is the director of the Don Bosco Centre for street children in Hyderabad, India. The centre rescues children from the streets and provides counselling, food, clothing, medicine, education, and aims to return the children to their families.

There are currently over 50 boys at the centre. Most of them will have been found by the staff, begging at the train and bus station. Over a third of them are orphans and the rest have run away from broken homes. Fr. Balashowry offers a loving home for them in which they can feel safe and regain hope for their future.





As well as funding the children's education, the centre has workshops where it provides training in trades like carpentry, tailoring, and engineering. They also have a bakery where a former resident of the shelter now teaches baking to the children.

The boys are encouraged to return to their families and spend some time with them, but they are welcome to return to the shelter and continue their studies. The boys need the stability and assurance that they will be supported and helped to finish their education. Fr. Balashowry is there for them until they are ready and able to move on.





The staff at the shelter have to be available at all hours of the day. Sometimes, there might be a knock at the door in the middle of the night, and someone needs to be ready to let the child in and look after them. The centre is open seven days a week and staff are always available.

Fr. Balashowry and the staff need to provide care and guidance and show the children that they are loved. When told he was inspirational, Fr. Balashowry humbly responded, "It is God's work."



Think about the answers to these questions

What do you think of Fr Balashowry and his staff?

What would you find challenging about his mission?

Why is their work so necessary?

What inspires Fr Balashowry to think of others first?

How are you a witness in your local area? (Hint: think about the ways in which you show kindness and care for others.)

How does your local charity witness and care for others?

What can you do as an individual to witness to God's love?

Either

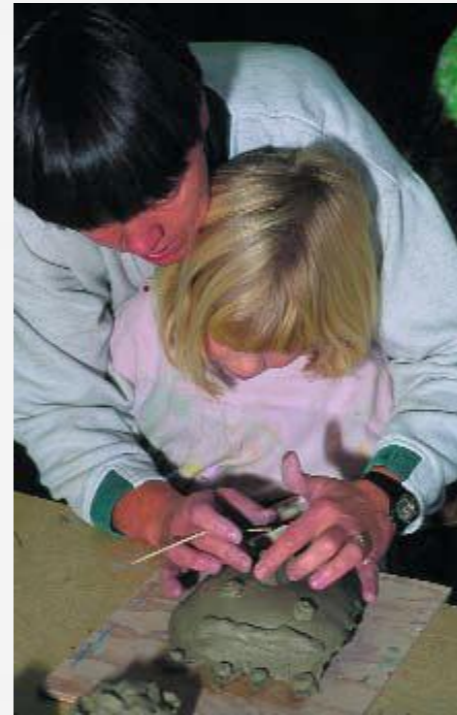
Make a poster to illustrate how you are a witness in your life and try to encourage others to be good witnesses and care for others. Ideas on the next slide.

Or

Choose a charity and produce a poster to illustrate how the charity cares for others.



**God has made us
what we are,
and in our union with
Christ Jesus he has
created us for a life of
good deeds,
which he has already
prepared for us to do.**



**Based on Ephesians 2: 10
(Come and See)**