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# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

CHRISTMAS  
2013

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

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## DONATIONS ARE MADE TO THESE

### SALESIAN PROJECTS

#### CAPE TOWN:

Salesian Institute Street Youth Projects

Learn to Live

Lansdowne Youth Ministry

#### GAUTENG:

Bosco Oratory

Bosco Youth Programs (Love Matters)

Don Bosco Educational Project – Ennerdale

Michael Rua School

Salesian Sisters – Finetown/Ennerdale

#### LESOTHO:

Maputsoe Oratory and Youth Ministry

Maseru Oratory and Youth Ministry

Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of

Christians - Youth Projects

Salesian Sisters – youth educational projects

#### SWAZILAND:

Manzini High School – Part bursaries to needy scholars

Manzini Youth Care

Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of

Christians – Malkerns Projects

Malkerns Oratory

**FORMATION** of future Salesians and vocations promotion.

SALESIANS CELEBRATING 154 YEARS  
WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
THE WORLD OVER

MASS INTENTIONS – CONTACT DENISE



WE WISH ALL OUR  
READERS, DONORS,  
AND FRIENDS A  
VERY HAPPY AND  
PEACEFUL  
CHRISTMAS AND EVERY  
BLESSING IN THE NEW YEAR

(Learn to Live Nativity Play 2012)



POPE FRANCIS WAS WAVING AT THE PEOPLE IN ST PETER'S SQUARE WHEN, INCREDIBLY, A DOVE PERCHED ON HIS HAND!

## POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE OF PEACE

“Is it possible to walk the path of peace? Can we get

out of this spiral of sorrow and death? Can we learn once again to walk and live in the ways of peace? Invoking the help of God, under the maternal gaze of the *Salus Populi Romani*, Queen of Peace, I say: Yes, it is possible for everyone!

How I wish that all men and women of good will would look to the Cross if only for a moment! There we can see God's reply: violence is not answered with violence, death is not answered with the language of death. In the silence of the Cross, the uproar of weapons ceases and the language of reconciliation, forgiveness, dialogue, and peace is spoken.

Let everyone be moved to look into the depths of his or her conscience and listen to that word which says: Leave behind the self-interest that hardens your heart, overcome the indifference that makes your heart insensitive towards others, conquer your deadly reasoning, and open yourself to dialogue and reconciliation.

“Peace expresses itself only in peace, a peace which is not separate from the demands of justice but which is fostered by personal sacrifice, clemency, mercy and love” (*World Day of Peace Message, 1975*). Three phrases are essential for a peaceful family life: ‘May I?’ to, make sure aren't being intrusive, ‘Thank you’ and ‘I'm sorry.’ Let us therefore pray for reconciliation and peace, let us work for reconciliation and peace, and let us all become, in every place, men and women of reconciliation and peace!

### PRAYER FOR PEACE

To You, Creator of nature and humanity, of truth and beauty, I pray: Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence among individuals and nations.

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war.

Hear my voice, when I beg you to instil into the hearts of all human beings the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice and the joy of fellowship.

Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country and in every period of history who do not want war and are ready to walk the road of peace. Blessed John Paul II





# CAPE NEWS - SALESIAN INSTITUTE AND LANSDOWNE



International Peace Day is celebrated on 21 September around the world. On 20 September students at Learn To Live Special School of Skills, celebrated Peace day with a special program. They were given a brief history and background about Peace Day, and this was followed by the song by Michael Jackson "Heal the World" which carries the message of peace. The learners then observed a moment's silence for all victims of violence around the world, and especially in some areas in Cape Town where there is gang violence. *(Picture on the right)*



On 24 September the Salesian Youth Movement in Cape Town held a media education day at Our Lady Help of Christians in Lansdowne. About 30 young people attended this informative workshop which dealt with topics such as social media, the importance of looking critically at media and responsible use of social media. The young people were also given the opportunity to produce short videos in which they gave their modern interpretation of the parables of Jesus. *(Picture on the left – news and pictures supplied by Brother Clarence Watts, seated in the front.)*



*A member of the Bosco Skate Park*

## NEWS FROM THE LESOTHO COMMUNITIES



The young women at St Mary Mazzarello Vocational Centre live their motto every day - "be always cheerful" (Mary Mazzarello) *(picture on the left)*



The daily activities in the Oratory continue. The school children have recreation and games during their lunch break and after school hours. There is a children's library for browsing, and a facility for the young people to practice music and dance, gym exercising etc. They also have indoor games and soccer, volleyball and basketball practices. *Father Joy Sebastian. (Picture above.)*



*Salesian Community in Lesotho, Priests, Brothers & Sisters*

The daily activities in the Oratory continue. The school children have recreation and games during their lunch break and after school hours. There is a children's library for



**"When we are weary, downcast, beset with cares, let us look to Mary, let us feel her gaze, which speaks to our heart and says: "courage, my child, I am here to help you!"**



## BOSCO – RANDVAAL LOVEMATTERS PROGRAMME

MINI LOVEMATTERS FOR GR.7S LASTS 3 DAYS AND FULL LOVEMATTERS I AND II FOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND PARISHES/ CHURCHES LASTS 5 DAYS

Lovematters is an intense 5 day responsible choice and life skills Programme. It is aimed at forming and informing participants as fully as possible about human sexuality both physical and psychological so as to counter myths, unbalanced opinions and errors promoted by the media, which ensure that all teenagers are "at risk." This formative experience enables them to make well informed choices as some attested, "It taught us to respect our body and that you don't have to have sex to show you love someone." "It will help me keep myself pure for my future husband and substance abuse is never the answer." In 2013 we managed to run 9 Mini Lovematters programmes with 757 students and 18 Lovematters including one Lovematters II with 1440 Participants. *Brother Mojelo*



### SICELO ORATORY - RANDVAAL

The Salesian community of Walkerville cares about poor needy youth in their locality. Every Sunday, a group of Salesians and volunteers from Bosco Youth Centre does outreach ministry at Sicele, 15 kilometres outside the Community.

A typical day in the Oratory involves simple prayer, a short talk, fun games and refreshments. Most of the young people who attend the Oratory are primary school students. Three times a year, they have the opportunity of a different experience. The Salesians invite them to Bosco for a camp experience for the following occasions: feast of St. John Bosco and Mary Help of Christians plus a Christmas party in December.



## NEW DEVELOPMENT AT THE DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL CENTRE



The end of September saw a development in the partnership the Don Bosco Educational Centre in Ennerdale has, with the non-profit organization, Ekukhanyeni Relief Project. Recently, this project, which was founded in 2005 to address the desperate situation facing children in the surrounding informal settlements, established a permaculture garden. This garden has since produced an abundance of organically grown vegetables that are used by the Centre's kitchen, to offset the costs of providing both breakfast and lunch to the school's 250 students. Given the

great success of the garden, it was decided to relocate Ekukhanyeni's Permaculture Design Technologies course from its previous site, to a classroom at Don Bosco Educational Centre. Having a space that was unoccupied and a fully functioning garden on the property seemed like a great development opportunity.

Today, the garden continues to feed the students from the Elementary School and the Skills Centre, and also serves as a teaching garden for the students of the permaculture course. Ekukhanyeni operates two types of short but intensive courses and has been drawing many students to the Centre. The Skills Centre will also begin to take more advantage of the new endeavor, as the students enrolled in the Centre's Family and Consumer Science's course. will take part in the permaculture training as an added component of their existing curriculum.

The addition of Ekukhanyeni has also emphasized the commitment the Salesians have to community based initiatives in order to uplift and improve the people who live in the surrounding area. *Father Sean McEwen.*



Dear Friends  
What a year it has been. The world around us has seen so much destruction and heartache,

mostly affecting little children, the abuse of whom is completely merciless and insane.

I have to share with you the prayer of a young child, which I think just about sums it up:

*"Hi Lord, it's me. Things are getting bad here, fuel prices are too high, too few jobs, too much disrespect and violence, killings, food and heating costs too high. I know some have taken You out of our schools, government & even Christmas. But Lord I'm asking you to come back and re-bless South Africa. We really need You. Thanks Lord, I love You!"*

There is hope though, the prophet tells us: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great Light."

Yes we are celebrating Christmas, and at this time my heart goes out to all those who have lost a loved one this year. As I have said so many times, nothing can take that kind of pain away.

My prayers this Christmas will be with the lonely, those battling to make ends meet, those suffering from incurable illnesses and the unemployed: many of whom are still loyal to our cause.

My sincere thanks to all of you, who have helped us during this year. Your prayers and donations are much appreciated. We need you to continue as we cannot do without you.

My Wish then: May your homes be filled with Christ's peace and love this Christmas and during the New Year. Much love Denise

"Have courage for the great sorrows of life; have patience for the small ones. Sleep each night in peace God is continually awake." Victor Hugo



And the angel said, "Do not be afraid, I bring you news of great Joy. Today a Saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest and peace to all who enjoy His favour"



### FEAST DAYS

- 3 Dec St Francis Xavier
- 5 Dec Blessed Philip Rinaldi SDB
- 9 Dec Immaculate Conception
- 12 Dec Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 25 Dec The Nativity of Our Lord
- 28 Dec Holy Innocents
- 29 Dec Feast of the Holy Family
- 01 Jan Mary Mother of God
- 6 Jan The Epiphany of the Lord
- 12 Jan The Baptism of the Lord
- 15 Jan Blessed Louis Variara SDB
- 22 Jan Blessed Laura Vicuna
- 24 Jan St Francis de Sales
- 31 Jan St John Bosco
- 11 Feb Our Lady of Lourdes
- 25 Feb St Versiglia & Caravario SDB
- 5 Mar Ash Wednesday
- 19 Mar St Joseph Husband of Mary

## WELCOME TO CLONLEA, BOSCO CENTRE



The new team of four Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC) arrived in South Africa on 26 October. They were welcomed by the Salesian Fathers, and some of their own Sisters. They will be working from Ferrando Convent, in Clonlea.

Two days after their arrival, Holy Mass was celebrated to mark the foundation of the Sisters Convent. In the absence of Fr Francois Dufour, who had

invited them to Clonlea, Fr Michael Connell blessed and welcomed the Sisters. Grateful thanks goes to the Salesian Fathers, especially Fr John Coleman for his pains-taking endeavours, which made things possible for the Sisters to work here. A grand meal was hosted by the Rector of Bosco Centre, Fr. Alberto Villalba, for all those present at the occasion. *MSMHC Sisters*

## MANZINI - SWAZILAND

Saleians have been in Manzini for 60 years this year and Manzini Youth Care is the brain child of Fr Larry McDonnell. MYC is a Christian, faith based, not for profit organization which provides holistic Christian care in meeting the basic needs of food, shelter, education, training and life skills for marginalized young people at risk, through poverty. Such a need arises from the devastating effects of Swaziland's HIV-Aids pandemic, which is the highest in the world, along with 69% of its population living below the poverty line. Where possible, children are re-integrated into their communities. However, where it is not possible, MYC provides ongoing residential and educational care.



Children who come from Bo-Kaap to Bosco Skate Park enjoying the view from Table Mountain

### ANSWERS GIVEN BY 2ND YEAR SCHOOL CHILDREN

#### Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the selotape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.

#### How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.

#### Why did your Mum marry your Dad?

1. She got too old to do anything else with him.
2. My Grandma says that Mum didn't have her thinking cap on.

#### What would it take to make your Mum perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

#### If you could change one thing about your mum, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.



### SALESIAN MISSIONS

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