

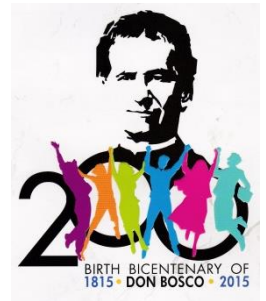
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CHRISTMAS 2014

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

# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN  
MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA  
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



## CHRISTMAS IS THE BIRTHDAY OF JESUS

not the holly and the tinsel that we see and the jingle bells that we hear in every mall and shop throughout the country. We as Catholics and Christians should try to remember this when we are faced with all the false materialism in our world. During his homily at his first Christmas midnight Mass as Pope, Francis recalled Jesus' humble, poor and vulnerable beginnings and urged everyone to emulate Him. "You are immense, and you made yourself small; you are rich, and you made yourself poor; you are all-powerful, and you made yourself vulnerable," the Pope said of Jesus in St. Peter's Basilica.



### CHRISTMAS PLAY AT LEARN TO LIVE CAPE TOWN 2013



"Mary is with child, awaiting birth, and Joseph is full of expectancy as he enters the city of his own family. He searched for a place for the birth of him to whom heaven and earth belonged. Could it be that the Creator would not find room in His own creation? Certainly, thought Joseph, there would be room in the village inn. There was room for the rich; there was room for those who were clothed in soft garments; there was room for everyone who had a tip to give to the innkeeper. But when finally the scrolls of history are completed down to the last word of time, the saddest line of all will be: "There was no room in the inn." No room in the inn, but there was room in the stable. The inn was the gathering place of public opinion, the focal point of the world's moods, the rendezvous of the worldly, the rallying place of the popular and the successful. But there's no room in the place where the world gathers. The stable is a place for outcasts, the ignored and the forgotten. The world might have expected the Son of God to be born in an inn; a stable would certainly be the last place in the world where one would look for Him. The lesson is: divinity is always where you least expect to find it. So the Son of God made man is invited to enter into His own world through a back door. The Christmas message is not that peace will come automatically, because Christ is born in Bethlehem; that birth in Bethlehem was the prelude to His birth in our hearts by grace and faith and love. Peace belongs only to those who will to have it. If there is no peace in the world today, it is not because Christ did not come; it is because we did not let Him in." Archbishop Fulton Sheen



**MAY THE PEACE AND  
LOVE OF THE CHRIST  
CHILD BE WITH ALL  
OUR DONORS, READERS**

**AND FRIENDS DURING THIS  
CHRISTMAS AND  
THROUGHOUT THE  
COMING YEAR.**



Wipe away, Baby Jesus, the tears of children!  
Embrace the sick and the elderly!  
Move men to lay down their arms  
and to draw close in a universal embrace of peace!  
Invite the peoples, O merciful Jesus,  
to tear down the walls created  
by poverty and unemployment, by ignorance and  
indifference, by discrimination and intolerance.  
It is you, O Divine Child of Bethlehem,  
who save us, freeing us from sin.  
It is you who are the true and only Saviour,  
whom humanity often searches for with uncertainty.  
God of peace, gift of peace for all of humanity,  
come to live in the heart of every individual and of  
every family.  
Be our peace and our joy!  
Amen!

Pope St John Paul II

# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS AND FRIENDS - FROM THE CHILDREN IN OUR PROJECTS




Pictures above were taken during the launch of the Bicentenary of St John Bosco in Cape Town.



**Dlamini Temahlubi**, a 13 year old, Form 2 pupil at St Anne's in Malkerns Swaziland, was welcomed back from Norway where she won the Junior World Chess Championship. She was in Norway for four weeks and on her return great celebrations were had at her success. Her younger brother (11 years old) beat a Grand Master. St Anne's is the girls school started by Fr Frank Flynn. It is next to the Boys school St John Bosco in Malkerns. *Father Martin Mc Cormack.*

Fr Joseph Nguyen, and Fr Francois and the people of Ntondozi after a Eucharistic celebration on Sunday. (Picture above)



 Sister Lydia handing out books to young children from Don Bosco Educational Projects in Ennerdale. (pictures left & right)



Children enjoying themselves at Netball and 'he ain't heavy he's my brother, from Maputsoe, Lesotho. (Pictures left)



"There is so much noise in the world. May we learn to be silent in our hearts and before God." Pope Francis.



St Luke's  
Primary School  
Assembly –  
Maputsoe,  
Lesotho



THE SALESIANS of the Southern African Province proudly commissioned Cleric Raphael Bhembe who volunteered as a missionary and was appointed by the Rector Major to the Salesian Province of the Far East based in Hong Kong. (picture right)



Children in Malkerns. (Picture above). And Sr. Elsa Joseph MSMHC organised a free medical camp for the people of Malkerns, through the generosity of the Taiwanese medical mission from the diocese of Taichung, with the help of Bishop Martin. There were more than 360 people who attended the free clinic. (Picture below)



Dear Friends

Waiting is such an uncertainty and it tries the patience and the sanity of the very best. In this rushed world of ours we spend a lot of our time 'waiting.' We wait for news of a loved one who is

coming from afar, especially when there has been an international disaster, as we have had in the plane crashes recently. We wait for news of the sick patient undergoing an operation in the theatre. We wait for mundane news like the cost of a printout, when we will get our car back after service, we wait for examination results, we wait for our children to come back to the faith, and we wait for the CHILD TO BE BORN.

There is no time limit and we have no answers, we live in uncertainty. Our only recourse is in prayer and then we are still uncertain. And this is where hope comes in, we start hoping – that everything will be all right, that we have passed, that our loved one will be there – and still we wait – and then we start begging – "Please God help us.." I have realised in the past few years that God allows this waiting to happen to us. He allows us to suffer, but He does help us to bear that suffering. We should see it as an honour to share His suffering, but we are only human. My sincere thanks to you all once again for your patience with me during the year. Thank you most especially for your wonderful donations, without which we could not carry on with our work. And thank you for your prayers – I need them and so do the children.

A special thank you to Anna Cox and the Archdiocesan News of JHB for allowing us to send out this edition – the post being what it is.

And as we celebrate CHRISTMAS once again this year, may you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love with you at Christmas and always. HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL. MUCH LOVE DENISE.



Youth relaxing after the Speech and Prize giving day held at Manzini Swaziland (picture left)

**"For this day is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11**



**Don Bosco (1815-2015)**

The Bicentenary Jubilee began on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and will conclude on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2015. The theme of the bicentenary year challenges us to be **“Like Don Bosco with the young and for the young!”**

Similar to the tour of the Relic of Don Bosco in 2012, this is an opportunity not to be missed. We wish to celebrate and share the gift of St John Bosco – his example and his legacy - with everyone. For this “Holy Year” does not belong only to the Salesian Family, but to all the faithful and especially to young people and those most in need.

The bicentenary celebration is not an end in itself, but a time for us to be renewed in the charism of Don Bosco. Just as Christmas challenges us to allow Jesus to be reborn in our hearts, may this jubilee year witness Don Bosco’s rebirth in the world through our lives.

Long live Don Bosco in the Salesian family and benefactors and mission partners!

We rejoice that there are so many concrete situations around the world in which Don Bosco is still “alive”, and that there are so many reasons to celebrate with a string of festival events in the coming months.

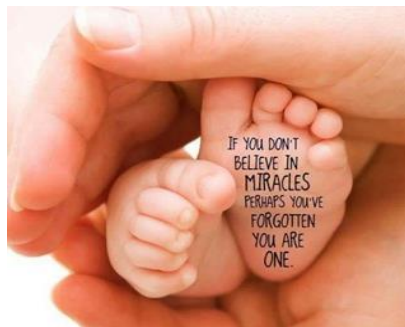
Please look out for open invitations and join us in the various commemorations.

I wish you a blessed Christmas season and a wonderful bicentenary year.

Father Francois Dufour SDB



Learners in front of the Chapel in Manzini



*If you look for me at Christmas  
You won't need a special star –  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem  
I'm right there where you are.  
You may not be aware of Me  
Amid the celebrations –  
You'll have to look beyond the stores  
And all the decorations.  
But if you take a moment  
From your list of things to do  
And listen to your heart, you'll find  
I'm waiting there for you.  
You're the one I want to be with,  
You're the reason that I came,  
And you'll find Me in the stillness  
As I'm whispering your name.  
Love, Jesus.*



**JOY TO THE WORLD  
THE LORD IS COME**



I've learned...  
that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.  
I've learned... that when you're in love, it shows.  
I've learned...that being kind is more important than being right.  
I've learned...that we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.  
I've learned...that everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.  
I've learned...that you should never say no to a gift from a child.

- FEAST DAYS**
- 08 Dec Immaculate Conception
  - 25 Dec Nativity of Our Lord
  - 28 Dec Holy Family
  - 01 Jan Mary Mother of God
  - 04 Jan Epiphany
  - 11 Jan Baptism of Our Lord
  - 24 Jan St Francis de Sales
  - 31 Jan St John Bosco
  - 02 Feb Presentation of Our Lord
  - 18 Feb Ash Wednesday
  - 17 Mar St Patrick
  - 19 Mar St Joseph

**LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT**  
Perhaps you would like to leave something to Salesian Missions in your Will. An enquiry can be made and the necessary form can be sent to you.  
Tel: 27 (0) 11 476 8315  
We would be extremely grateful.



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**YES! I want to support the Salesian work with needy youth!**

Kindly fill in your Name, Address, Telephone Number and Email

**Please pass this on to a friend if you don't need it!**

**I enclose my gift of:**  
 R120  R175  R200  Other R.....  
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Cheques payable to **Salesian Missions**  
Please debit my bank account with R.....  
 Monthly  Once only  
Type of account:  Cheque  Transmission  
Name of account holder: .....  
Bank: .....Branch Code: .....  
Branch name: .....  
Account number: .....  
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