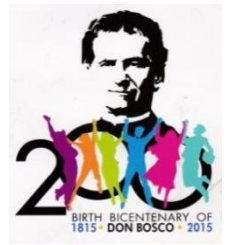


SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT



CHRISTMAS 2015

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



Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit today enlighten our hearts, that we may recognize in the Infant Jesus, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary, the salvation given by God to each one of us, to each man and woman and to all the peoples of the earth. May the power of Christ, which brings freedom and service, be felt in so many hearts afflicted by war, persecution and slavery. May this divine power, by its meekness, take away the hardness of heart of so many men and women immersed in worldliness and indifference, the

“CHRISTMAS IS JOY... AN INNER JOY OF LIGHT AND PEACE.”
Pope Francis

globalization of indifference. May his redeeming strength transform arms into ploughshares, destruction into creativity, hatred into love and tenderness. Then we will be able to cry out with joy: “Our eyes have seen your salvation”. With these thoughts I wish you all a Happy Christmas! *Pope Francis*



“Exiled from the earth, our Lord is born under the earth, for the stable was in a cave. He was the first caveman of recorded history, and there he shook the earth to its very foundations. Because He is born in a cave, all who wish to see Him must bend, must stoop, and the stoop is the



mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop, therefore they miss Divinity. Those, however, who are willing to risk bending their egos to go into that cave, find that they are not in a cave at all; but they are in a universe where sits a Babe on His Mother’s lap, the Babe Who made the world.”
Fulton Sheen

IN 2014/2015 YOUR DONATIONS WERE MADE TO THESE SALESIAN PROJECTS

CAPE TOWN:

Salesian Institute Street Youth Projects

GAUTENG:

Bosco Oratory
 Bosco Youth Programs (Love Matters)
 Don Bosco Educational Project – Ennerdale
 Michael Rua School
 Salesian Sisters – DBEP Laura Vicuna School

LESOTHO:

Maputsoe Oratory and Youth Ministry
 Maseru Oratory and Youth Ministry
 Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians – Ferrando Resource Centre
 Salesian Sisters – Youth educational projects

SWAZILAND:

Manzini Salesian School – Catechesis
 Manzini Aspirants
 Manzini Youth Care
 Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians – Malkerns Projects
 Malkerns Schools Catechesis

FORMATION of future Salesians and vocations promotion.

YPT Youth Animation



One of the annual Nativity Plays enacted by the Mary Help of Christians Primary School (run by the Salesian Sisters) and by the Catechists of Robertsham Parish, Gauteng

May the Blessings of the Divine

Child and the Love of His Mother be yours at Christmas and every day of the New Year. From all at Salesian Missions.



SALESIAN INSTITUTE – CAPE TOWN

World Peace Day was celebrated by the children in September this year. The learners took to the streets of Green Point and handed out messages of peace to the public and people were encouraged to become peace ambassadors.

The program started at 07h30 and moved later to the school hall where Ms. Margaret addressed the learners: "At Learn To Live, this is our 3rd year

celebrating World Peace Day, the first of which took place in 2013. The theme this year is "Partnerships for Peace - Dignity for All." "Our partnership is firstly amongst ourselves. Everybody at this school has to become a partner of



peace. Everyone has to contribute to make this school a place where everyone is respected and treated with dignity. So I again repeat the question: "What are you going to do on Peace Day? With whom are you going to make peace? We need to fulfil this year's theme "Partnerships for Peace - Dignity for All." Four of the learners and two teachers were interviewed on SAFM about World Peace Day and the others were glued to the radio listening to their classmates. Two of them read poems about Peace.



"I took the hostel youth on one of my favourite hikes, the pipe track just below Table Mountain. The good night message was given at a beautiful spot overlooking Camps Bay. My message was that of Pope Francis, how we should take care of the environment and always give thanks to God for the beauty of Mother Nature. Some of our learners also took part in a creative arts workshop facilitated by a group of artists. They also took the learners to the Youngblood Art Studio in Bree Street, so that the youth can appreciate various art forms. Some of our learners are very talented artists and it is hoped that

this initiative will help them develop their talents in this field." *Brother Clarence Watts.*



MICHAEL RUA SCHOOL GAUTENG

Father Victor and Brother Clarence visited Michael Rua School to celebrate Rua day with the learners. Father Victor opened with a prayer and a blessing and Brother spoke on the life of Don Rua, focussing on his work ethic and prayer life and encouraging the learners to imitate him in this regard.



One of the best feelings in the world is knowing that your presence and absence both mean something to someone.



PLEASE PRAY FOR RAIN

MALKERNS SWAZILAND



Sports week was held in the pre- School and various competitions were conducted for the children- such as running, frog jump, spoon and marble race, picking the object, etc. Sisters Theresa Krocha, Susan Soren and the teachers Xolile, Lungile and Ngobile engaged with the children and it proved very exciting for them. Children took active



part in all the games and competitions and prizes were awarded for the best competitors. A Marian Procession was organised in the parish and everybody took part, honouring our Blessed Mother, Mary Help of Christians by singing hymns and praying the rosary. At the end of procession, Sr. Susan Soren gave a talk on Mary Help of Christians and the important role Mother Mary plays in the life of every Christian. *MSMHC Sisters*



Tech Pro² Opens at Don Bosco Educational Centre

There was an abundance of excitement earlier during the year, at the Don Bosco Educational Centre in Ennerdale as the TechPro² Programme was officially inaugurated. Sponsored by CNH Industrial in Turin, and supported



by Iveco South Africa, the TechPro² Programme was created to support local communities by training young people and providing them with technical training in the automotive and industrial vehicle sectors.



In her address at the inauguration, Daniela Ropolo, CNH Industrial's Sustainable Development Initiatives Manager, explained that, "TechPro² has created a model for innovative relationships between schools and the professional workforce. Students will rediscover a passion for learning and studying and are then able to put it all into practice. They will feel more in charge of their own lives, already having a foot in the door and receiving further encouragement to make the most of their potential."

Fr. Francois Dufour, the Provincial of the Salesians in Southern Africa, blessed the brand new facility, and currently, the first group of students have already eagerly begun the course. *Father Sean McEwan*



Dear Friends

Somebody asked me once whether the greater suffering was with physical or mental pain. At the time I said mental pain, but I am not so sure anymore. When we lose a loved one the pain never goes away and when we are ill and have physical pain, and there is no relief, life becomes so difficult, especially if we do not have help. Medication can have so many side effects, and we can almost think that God has abandoned us.

So as once again we prepare to celebrate the beautiful season of Christmas - the re-enactment of the Birth of a Special Child – a Child Who would become our Saviour, let us try to do so with love and peace in our hearts. St Peter Chrysologus tells us that "God wished to be born as a little babe, in order that He might teach us to love and not fear Him."

Whatever your circumstances I would love everyone who reads this newsletter to have a wonderful Christmas and so my thoughts this year are with all of those who have lost a loved one and are mourning; with all those who cannot buy a gift for their children because they have been retrenched or have no job; with all those mothers who suffer as a result of the abuse of alcohol, drugs or gambling; with all those who are ill and in hospital; with all those who long for communication from their loved ones; and with all of you who by your prayers and donations help us to support and encourage all of these wonderful people.

I pray that our Blessed Lady will comfort you in your need and that the Baby Jesus in the crib will lift your spirit and fill your hearts with joy as you look on Him and think on Him. Special thanks to you all for your wonderful support and prayers during the year. We need you, so don't go away! Pray for me as I do for you. A Blessed Christmas and much love to you all. Denise Hards

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS AND FRIENDS – FROM THE CHILDREN IN OUR PROJECTS





In **MALKERNS SWAZILAND** it was a weekend of winning competitions. Both St Annes and John Bosco High School won in choral festival. Bosco High School won 5 trophies including quartet, best male choir and best mixed choir joined with St. Annes. St Annes also won best solo singer, the sextet and double quartet.
 Father Martin McCormack



VOCATIONS
 The local Salesian Province has one novice this year, who exceptionally has been sent to Italy for this special year of discernment of his vocation.
 Michael Dean-Jackson, originally from the Southern suburbs of Johannesburg.
 (picture right)



FINETOWN RANDVAAL
 Sr Lidia with children in Finetown, Randvaal enjoying an afternoon of fun. (picture left)

- FEAST DAYS**
- 08 Dec Immaculate Conception
 - 25 Dec Nativity of Our Lord
 - 27 Dec Holy Family
 - 01 Jan Mary Mother of God
 - 03 Jan Epiphany
 - 10 Jan Baptism of Our Lord
 - 24 Jan St Francis de Sales
 - 31 Jan St John Bosco
 - 02 Feb Presentation of Our Lord
 - 10 Feb Ash Wednesday
 - 17 Mar St Patrick
 - 19 Mar St Joseph
 - 20 Mar Palm Sunday
 - 24 Mar Holy Thursday
 - 25 Mar Good Friday
 - 27 Mar Easter Sunday

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.

- PRICELESS REMINDERS**
- Kindness is in our power even when fondness is not.
 - Carry a heart that never hates, a smile that never fades and a touch that never hurts.
 - Never look down on anyone unless you are helping them up.
 - A good character is the best tombstone.
 - Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.
 - If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.
 - Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out.
 - The best things in life are free – hugs, smiles, friends, kisses, family, sleep, love, laughter, and good memories.



"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."
 – John Bunyan

Murphy died the moment he arrived home from a vacation in the tropics. He was laid out in the coffin for friends and neighbours to pay their last respects." He's got a great tan," Mrs Doolan from next door mused.
 "The holiday did him the world of good."
 "And he looks so calm and serene," said Mrs McGuinness. "That's because he died in his sleep." explained Mrs Murphy, "and he doesn't know he's dead yet, but when he wakes up, the shock will kill him!"

"And she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room at the inn."



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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!



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- Monthly Once only
- Type of account: Cheque Transmission
 Name of account holder:
 Bank:Branch Code:
 Branch name:
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