

Salesian Missions

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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

CHRISTMAS 2016



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 27 YEARS

"Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger."

"Her first gift then to Him, and His first witness to the ways of earth, the first tribute, and the gesture that began the long fulfilment was a simple care she brought to Him, not as a creature comes to stoop, but as a mother bends to love. She knelt and held Him close against her heart, and in the midnight, adoration fused with human love, and was not separate. And very near, the man named Joseph came. He was not tired now, nor worn, nor sad. His step was gentle, and a lightness soared within him until the memory of angel voices heard in dreams was now a less remembrance for him than the



sight of hands that held a sleeping Child. He was the first to find her thus, the first of all the world." From 'A Woman wrapped in silence' by John Lynch.



May the Peace and Love of the Christ child and His Mother be with you all this Christmas and in the year ahead. Happy Christmas.



From Salesian Missions



Dear God
I think about you
sometimes even
when I'm not
praying. Elliott

Dear God
Thank you for the baby
brother, but what I
prayed for was a puppy.
Joyce

Dear God
If you watch in
Church on Sunday I
will show you my new
shoes. Mickey

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM THE CHILDREN
IN OUR PROJECTS.**

**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 Francis**



A soul arrived before God in heaven and with hands stretched out boasted: "Look Lord, they're clean!" And God replied: "What's worse is – they're empty!"

Money might open doors for us here on earth, but we will not be able to buy our way into heaven. We cannot take our money with us, but we can send our treasures on ahead. How? By being generous to the needy. We so often say –

"I would give more if I had more, if I was wealthy! If I won the lotto, I would give half of it to charity!" But if we are not generous with the little we have, then we are only fooling ourselves if we think we would give more if we had more!

I remember a teenager saying to me – "It's easy to be good and kind when you can afford it." It is not! When someone gets rich, the next ambition is to get richer. The man with eight children is more satisfied with life than the man with 8 million Rand, because the one with R8 million still wants more! Thus it is not the one who



has little, but the one who is always craving for more, that is poor. It is not a sin to be rich but it's dangerous! For as scripture says: *The more we have, the more we have to lose. The more we have to lose, the more fearful we become. The more fearful we become, the more defensive we grow. The more defensive we grow, the more closed we become. And the more closed we get, the less loving we become. So that we end up with a withered heart, and God finds it difficult to breathe into a withered heart.* (Habbakuk 2: 5-20!)

There are two ways to be rich: one means having all we want, the other is being satisfied with what we have. Of the two, the second is preferable. The truly rich person is not one who is in possession of much, but the one who gives much. And in fact, we are rich only if we are happy. If we are happy, then we are rich. In God's eyes it is not what we take up but what we give up that makes us rich. Let us strive to be poor in spirit and rich in generosity! I wish you all a Blessed and Happy Christmas.

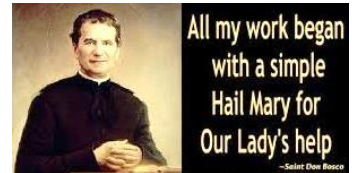
Father Francois Dufour



ON THE EVE OF JOHN BOSCO'S DEPARTURE FOR THE SEMINARY, HIS MOTHER CALLED HIM AND SAID THESE MEMORABLE WORDS"



"Johnny, my son, now you are wearing the clerical habit. Mine is the happiness of a mother whose son has been fortunate. But remember that it is not the habit that brings honour to your state in life, but only the practice of virtue. Should you ever come to doubt your vocation, for heaven's sake never, dishonour this cassock! Rather lay it aside. I would sooner have a poor peasant for a son than an unworthy priest. When you were born, I consecrated you to the Blessed Virgin; when you began your studies I told you to be devoted to our heavenly Mother; now I ask you to be hers entirely. Choose your friends among those who love her. And if you will become a priest, spread devotion to her.



ENNERDALE STUDENTS



LAURA VICUNA SCHOOL CAMP



About 70 learners [Grade 4-7] attended a camp at DBEP, Ennerdale, where they learnt about Dominic Savio, Laura Vicuna and other Salesian saints. Sr. Lidia organised the camp with the assistance of the youth. (Picture below)



A few weeks ago the students of DBEP's TechPro2 Motor Mechanic Course, made the journey from Ennerdale to the North of Pretoria, to take part in a tour of Iveco's South African Training Centre and Assembly Plant. The tour of the large facility gave the students a better understanding of the various disciplines that their chosen field of study has to offer along with the employment opportunities that are available in this industry. The students showed a keen interest and took the opportunity to pose many questions to their guide.

Pictured (above left) are some of the students along with their instructor Mr. Cedric Poley who is also a Salesian Cooperator. (CNH Industrial and Iveco South Africa sponsored the training facility and programme at the DBEP) **Father Sean Mcewan**



Blackmail: It was coming up to Christmas and Sammy asked his mother if he could have a new bike. So, she told him to write to Father Christmas. But Sam said that he would prefer to write to the Baby Jesus. He went to his room and wrote, 'Dear Jesus, I have been a good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas.' Not good enough he thought and wrote again, "Dear Jesus I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas." No good either, he thought, and so he went outside for a walk, and passed a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, put it under his coat, hurried home and hid it under his bed. Then he wrote: "Dear Jesus, if you want to see your Mother again, you'd better send me a new bike.

SALESIAN INSTITUTE - CAPE TOWN



Mlondolozzi Madyibi, who completed the Youth Employment Skills Program at Salesian Institute Youth Projects a few short years ago, returned to deliver a moving speech to the newest YES Project graduates at a heartwarming ceremony just recently. Madyibi shared the story of his transition from an entry-level bricklayer to the owner of his own small contracting business in hopes that he would inspire the next wave of workers to defy the status quo by practicing perseverance and self-motivation.



MALKERNS - SWAZILAND



There are moments in life when you just want to shout and cheer. Last evening we celebrated with Mrs Winnie Nkambule, teacher at St John Bosco High school. She was the recipient of the heroes of education national award. Descriptive adjectives fail me when it comes to Mrs Nkambule. She is a woman of substance, a teacher, an educator, a pastoral care worker, loved by students and staff alike. She means

so much to us at John Bosco High school and the wider community of Malkerns. As the Poet T. S. Eliot said: "Words after speech reach into silence." *Father Martin McCormack*

BOSCO CENTRE RANDVAAAL
Young people from Yeoville attended a leadership camp at Bosco Centre.



THE POPE FRANCIS LIST

1. Don't gossip
2. Finish your meals
3. Make time for others.
4. Choose the 'more humble' purchase.
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh.'
6. Stop judging others.
7. Befriend those who disagree.
8. Make commitments, such as marriage.
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord.'
10. Be happy.

For me Christmas has always been about this: Contemplating the visit of God to His people. Pope Francis

Dear Friends

In the film 'One against the Wind,' a true story, Mary Windell helps young British Soldiers escape back to their Homeland. In one poignant part of the film, a soldier runs into a church to try and escape and he is shot, while running down the middle aisle, by the Nazi soldiers. Mary gets to him first and cradles his head in her arms. "Mother" he says, "yes darling I'm here," she says, and he sighs just before he dies. "What did he say?" the German soldiers want to know. "What everyone of you say", she says, "he asked for his mother."



And in another time, another place, another Mary was cradling a Baby in her arms and murmuring in His ear. She was a woman wrapped in silence. And when the shepherds and the wise men stooped at the stable door, she smiled and raised Him so that they might see Him. She did not think that not so many years later she would be cradling His Head at the foot of the cross.

And that is the lot of mothers. Pdraig Pearse a poet and a central figure in Irish history and one of the leaders of the Easter Rising said, "Oh Lord, Thou art hard on mothers. We suffer in their coming and their going."

It is all about love and with love comes peace, security and laughter. Memories bind us to loved ones and laughter is the medicine that heals us.

My prayer this Christmas is for the lonely and forgotten; the elderly who rely on others to be their eyes and ears; for the children who have lost fathers and mothers to war; for those without work; for single mothers; for parents dealing with drug addicts and alcoholics; for abused women; for the poor and the sick; for those who have abandoned their faith; for students battling to cope with the journey of life and for children without mothers.

My thanks to all of you who have helped and supported us with your prayers, your donations and your loyalty. To my mother, Father Francois, Father Sean and Brother Clarence, who have helped me during the year with articles and pictures for this newsletter.

May I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas, may the Christ Child bless you with His Peace and Love, and may Jesus, Mary and Joseph be your constant companions throughout the coming year.

Smile: They weren't in my pockets. Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically I headed for the parking lot. My husband has scolded me many times for leaving my keys in the car's ignition. He is afraid that the car could be stolen. As I looked around the parking lot, I realized he was right. My car was gone. I called the police immediately. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then I made the most difficult call of all, to my husband. **"I left my keys in the car and it's been stolen."** There was a moment of silence. I thought the call had been disconnected, but then I heard his voice. **"Are you kidding me?"** he remarked, **"I dropped you off!"** Now it was my turn to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, **"Well, come and get me."** He retorted, **"I will as soon as I convince this cop that I didn't steal your car!"**



Rector Major, Fr Angel, meets with Provincials from all over the world

The Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, recently introduced a new initiative which includes meeting with Provincials half-way through their term of service. Here they all are with Fr Angel in the centre front and Fr Francois at the back left.

Three years of service have passed for this group of Provincials. In seven days, the Provincials who are in the middle of their term, from different regions in the world, gathered and met with the Rector Major, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime and his Vicar, Fr. Francesco Cereda. This gathering is dubbed as the "Meeting of Provincials in the Salesian Places after Three Years of Service of Animation and Governance of the Province." The venue is none other than the motherhouse of the Salesian Congregation: Valdocco. At the middle of their term as Provincials, they naturally find themselves at the crossroads, and what better place to go than to the place that Don Bosco called his home!



DONATIONS ARE 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

LESOTHO:

Maputsoe Oratory and Youth Ministry

Maseru Oratory and Youth Ministry

Salesian Sisters – youth educational projects

SWAZILAND:

Manzini High School – Part bursaries to needy scholars

Manzini Youth Care

Malkerns Oratory

FORMATION of future Salesians and vocations promotion.



A LOVELY LITTLE GIRL was holding two apples with both hands. Her mother came in and softly asked her little daughter with a smile; "My sweetie, could you give your mum one of your two apples?" The girl looked up at her mother for some seconds, then she suddenly took a quick bite on one apple, and then quickly on the other. The mother felt the smile on her face freeze. She tried hard not to reveal her disappointment. Then the little girl handed one of her bitten apples to her mother, and said: "Mummy, here you are. This is the sweeter one." No matter who you are, how experienced you are, and how knowledgeable you think you are, always delay judgement. Give others the privilege to explain themselves. What you see may not be the reality. Never conclude for others. Which is why we should never only focus on the surface and judge others without understanding them first. One day, all of us will get separated from each other; we will miss our conversations and the dreams that we had, and we will think back and say: "I HAD THE BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE WITH THEM."

"Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices, Oh night Divine, Oh night when Christ was born...."

FEAST DAYS

- 08 Dec Immaculate Conception
- 25 Dec Nativity of Our Lord
- 30 Dec Holy Family
- 01 Jan Mary Mother of God
- 08 Jan Epiphany
- 09 Jan Baptism of Our Lord
- 24 Jan St Francis de Sales
- 31 Jan St John Bosco
- 02 Feb Presentation of Our Lord
- 01 Mar Ash Wednesday
- 17 Mar St Patrick
- 20 Mar St Joseph
- 25 Mar Annunciation

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.

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

SALESIAN MISSIONS

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

I enclose my gift of:

R120 R175 R200 Other R.....

will be made by (please tick)

Cheque Debit Order Direct deposit*

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:

Signature:

***STANDARD BANK CLAREMONT 025109**

A/C NUMBER 07 256 1572

A/C HOLDER – SALESIAN MISSIONS

Never look down on anybody, unless you are helping them up.

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

