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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

EASTER
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

FAREWELL TO POPE BENEDICT XVI

Benedict XVI entered Paul VI Hall amid warm applause and cheers. "Thank you for your affection and your love for the Church and the Pope," he said. Benedict spoke as though chatting, without notes, for about three-quarters of an hour, reminiscing about the past and his experience of Vatican II. "Even as I leave, I will remain close to you in prayer, and I'm sure that all of you will be close to me, though I will be hidden from the world," he said.



A RESPONSE

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone SDB the Pope's Secretary of State and the Cardinal Camerlengo.



"We would not be honest, Your Holiness, if we said that this evening there is not a hint of sadness in our hearts. In recent years, your teaching has been a window open onto the Church and the world, which let in the rays of truth and love of God, to enlighten and warm our journey,

especially at times when clouds gathered in the sky.

We want to thank the Lord for the path that the whole Church has walked, under the guidance of Your Holiness. From the depths of our heart, with great affection, emotion and admiration, we want to thank you for giving us the shining example of a simple and humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord. A worker however, who knew at all times how to do that which is most important – to bring God to men and to bring men to God."

AND OUR NEW POPE

Jorge Mario Bergoglio

From Buenos Aires in Argentina

The Salesian Family in Southern Africa gives thanks and congratulations. We welcome the new Shepherd of the flock with a promise of our support and prayers. Viva il Papa.

See inside – Souvenir of New Pope



WORDS FROM POPE BENEDICT'S HOMILY - EASTER 2012



"At Easter, on the morning of the first day of the week, God said once again: "Let there be light". The night on the Mount of Olives, the solar eclipse of Jesus' passion and death, the night of the grave had all passed. Now it is the first day once again – creation is beginning anew. "Let there be light", says God, "and there was light": Jesus rises from the grave. Life is stronger than death. Good is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate. Truth is stronger than lies. The darkness of the previous days is driven away the moment Jesus rises from the grave and Himself becomes God's pure light. But this applies not only to him, not only to the darkness of those days. With the resurrection of Jesus, light itself is created anew. He draws all of us after him into the new light of the resurrection and he conquers all darkness. He is God's new day, new for all of us."

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS AND
FRIENDS A VERY PEACEFUL AND
HAPPY EASTER



MESSAGE FROM THE RE-ELECTED PROVINCIAL



Dear Friends

Since I was completing my term of six years in December, I was expecting not to be contributing to future editions of the Spotlight as Provincial. But I was requested to continue to serve in this capacity, so that explains my ongoing appearance here, despite my farewell to you last December.

2013 has begun with lots of exciting news (like the Pope's retirement), but also another set of horrifying reports of gang rapes, police brutality, shootings, and assorted crimes. The battle between good and evil, justice and unfair discrimination, life and death, continues, and will do so till the end of the world. We have to choose which side we will play for. We cannot sit on the sideline and just watch and whine.

As we rejoice and celebrate the Resurrection, we are called to be signs of the love of God, bearers of his revelation, his life-giving word. Evangelisation, catechesis, education of young people and their families are at the heart of our Salesian mission. We are sent above all to bear witness in our daily living to the reality of the Risen Jesus, as someone we know as Saviour and friend even in the midst of chaos and turmoil.

This needs to be manifested through the sparkle in our eyes, the warmth of our smile, the genuineness of our welcome and hospitality, the song in our heart, the lightness of our step, the ardour of our faith, the gentleness of our compassionate touch, the dedicated gratuitous service and generous sharing of our goods and talents. It must be noticeable through the excitement of our vision, our passion for virtue, our commitment to a cause.

Basically it all has to do with who Jesus is for us and who we are for Him. We have seen the Lord! Thank you for helping us help others to discover him too. Every little bit counts a lot.

Father Francois Dufour

THE MALKERNS COMMUNITY SWAZILAND

consists of two Salesians, Frs. Moeketsi Khetla originally from Lesotho and Jonathan Daniels, a Capetonian. The two Salesians minister over a vast area within the Malkerns region. We have the chaplaincy of two high schools and five primary



The Parish of St, John Bosco has five outstations plus the Agricultural University of Swaziland and Waterford Kamhlaba School in Mbabane. The social situation in Malkerns is desperate. The greater majority of young people are either school drop-outs or unemployed. The Oratory that Fr. Moeketsi runs is probably the only form of constructive entertainment the youth have in the area. Poverty is rife! Notwithstanding the sad state of affairs, there is loads of enthusiasm amongst the young and they are hungry to be ministered to and to join the Salesians in the work of Don Bosco. We are most grateful for the funding received from the Spotlight. Due to this generous donation we will now be able to purchase a table tennis board, a pool table and other sporting equipment so as to enhance our Oratory. *Father Jonathan Daniels*

YAC - MALKERNS - SWAZILAND MISSIONARY SISTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS



Father Joseph Nguyen SDB from Manzini Salesian Community, celebrating Holy Mass with the YAC.

Sr. Mary Clara Topno takes care of the YAC (Young Apostles of Christ) together with Sr. Sabrina. Altogether they have 40 members. A workshop was conducted for them in Gebeni, and the following topics were covered: Faith & the Church, Devotion to Mary, HIV/AIDS. Around 35 members were present for the workshop. Snacks were provided for all. They were very happy and they gained a lot from the various 'talks'. Their questions & doubts were cleared.

MASERU - LESOTHO



Sr. Philomena Matthew, Mother General of the MSMHC sisters visiting with a view to setting up a community in Clonlea. Sister assisted in the distribution of chocolates to the younger children at the Oratory in Lesotho. (picture left)

BOOYSENS - GAUTENG

Celebrating the Feast of St John Bosco at BooySENS. (two pictures below)



BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE - GAUTENG

The Grade 7's from Lourdes School, Soweto attended a Love Matters program at Bosco Youth Centre. The youth are seen enjoying themselves in the photos below.



DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL PROJECT ENNERDALE

A Board meeting was held at the DBEP at Ennerdale. We can only imagine how it will look when the trees and lawns have grown and the recreational/sports facilities are installed.



SALESIAN INSTITUTE - CAPE TOWN



The Don Bosco Hostel gents were all in their smartest outfits for their graduation during 2012. (picture above)



Learn to Live had a wonderful Christmas pageant last year (picture above)

Children enjoying themselves at Maputsoe Oratory (picture left)



Dear Friends
'times they are a-changing.' I'm not sure who said that, but anyway by the time you read this we will have a New Pope. A new

website (it just needs a few more changes. Do go and have a look – www.salesianmissions.co.za).

We have a new look Spotlight and a new hairstyle (short back and sides – and a different colour).

And a new outlook on life – we are all trying to be more positive.

His Holiness Benedict XVI said: "God's passionate love for His people – for humanity – is at the same time a forgiving love. It is so great that it turns God against Himself, His love against His justice."

Now that's something to think about.

I always thought that God's love was equal to His justice, His mercy, His forgiveness, etc.

Amidst the crime, rape, corruption and fraud, we have to remember God's Love for us and now that Easter is upon us, with all the glory of the Resurrection, we can learn again how to appreciate that love.

Peace is possible in the midst of turmoil. If we retreat into our hearts and just BE with God for a few moments every day, we will be greatly enriched.

At the moment we have a Postal Strike – the frustration has been an offering during Lent – and so I have not been able to thank all of you who have given us donations. I have telephoned a few and emailed others, but there may be some that I have missed out.

We are extremely appreciative of all the prayers, love, encouragement and donations that we receive. I cannot emphasise enough how sincerely grateful we are. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL, and I ask, please continue to help us, as we cannot do without you.

My prayer for you all is that you will have a Blessed and Peaceful Easter and that during all the trials and tribulations that may come your way, may our Blessed Lady be your anchor and may you be uplifted by God's great love for you.

Join me in letting 'the Light of Christ come into the world.'

With much love Denise Hards

We wish all our Irish Readers a Very Happy Saint Patrick's Day

GOLDEN JUBILEES

Congratulations to:
Fr John Mehers – 11 February &
Fr Larry McDonnell – 25 March



FEAST DAYS

- 7 April Divine Mercy Sunday
- 8 April Annunciation
- 16 April St Bernadette of Lourdes
- 29 April St Catherine of Siena
- 1 May St Joseph the Worker
- 6 May St Dominic Savio
- 12 May Ascension of Our Lord
- 19 May Pentecost
- 24 May Mary Help of Christians
- 26 May Most Holy Trinity
- 27 May St Augustine
- 31 May Visitation of Our Lady

MASS INTENTIONS

Please send these by email, post or 'phone to Denise on 011 476 8315. Many thanks

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.
Oren Arnold

CHUCKLE

One day God was looking down at earth and saw all of the terrible behaviour that was going on... So He called His angels and sent one to earth for a time. When the angel returned, he told God, 'Yes, it is bad on earth; 95% are misbehaving and only 5% are not. God thought for a moment and said, 'Maybe I had better send down a second angel to get another opinion.' So God called another angel and sent her to earth for a time. When the angel returned she went to God and said, 'Yes, it's true. The earth is in decline; 95% are misbehaving but 5% are being good...' God was not pleased. So He decided to e-mail the 5% who were good, because he wanted to encourage them, and give them a little something to help them keep going. Do you know what the email said? I was just wondering, because I didn't get one either.

I SEE HIS BLOOD UPON THE ROSE

I see His Blood upon the rose
And in the stars the glory of His Eyes
His Body gleams amid eternal snows,
Tears fall from His Eyes.
Thunder and the singing of the birds are but His Voice
And carven by His Power rocks are His written words.
All pathways by His Feet are worn
His strong Heart stirs the ever beating sea.
His Crown of thorns is twined with every thorn
His Cross is every tree. JOSEPH PLUNKETT
Jesus' words to Thomas were, "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe."



Children enjoying themselves in Maputsoe, Lesotho. Fr. Victor Kyanga in the yellow T-shirt at the back.



Father Joseph Nguyen, recently ordained, and now in Manzini, finally got the authorisation required from the communist authorities to celebrate his "First Mass" in his home parish in Vietnam. His worst ordeal was an unpleasant interrogation from passport controllers on arrival at ORT. He writes: "It was with great joy that I was allowed to celebrate my Thanksgiving Mass at my parish. The Mass was celebrated with 22 priests. At the beginning of Mass, the parish priest introduced me to the faithful, and then we proceeded with Mass even though the police did not want it to happen. I thank God for my Salesian vocation, and I thank all those who have prayed and supported me along my journey to become a Salesian priest. Please continue to pray for me."

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting



Little children had a Christmas party at Philippi farm, which was organised by Agnes and Andile from 16+ Outreach and Development at the Salesian Institute. It was a day filled with fun and games. Andile explained to the children the real meaning of Christmas and John Pass acted as Father Christmas. I love the picture of the little girl receiving her gift, she is so happy.

Bro Clarence Watts

If we spoke to other people more than we speak about them, the world would be a better place.



Let us remember that "more things are wrought by Prayer than this world dreams of."

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST HAS COME INTO THE WORLD



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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:

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- Name of account holder:
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- Branch name:
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HABEMUS PAPAM

POPE FRANCIS 1



Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires on 17 December 1936, one of five children of an Italian railway worker and a housewife from the middle-class neighbourhood of Flores. He was a typical "Porteño," as inhabitants of the port city of Buenos Aires are known, a follower of the San Lorenzo football club, with a taste for classical music and the work of Argentinian writer Jorge Luis Borges. He became a Jesuit priest at the age of 32, nearly a decade after losing a lung due to respiratory illness and abandoning his chemistry studies. Despite his late start, he was leading the local Jesuit community within four years, holding the top post from 1973 to 1979. In 1998 he was appointed archbishop of Buenos Aires. After he became archbishop of the city in 1998 he routinely turned down invitations to eat at restaurants and only left the



archbishopric for meals at small soup kitchens. On 21 February 2001, he was created and proclaimed Cardinal by Blessed John Paul II and on 13 March 2013 was elected Pope by the College of Cardinals at the hand of the Holy Spirit.



"You are Peter and on this Rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it, and to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven....."





All eyes were on the chimney in Saint Peter's and cries of "The white smoke is coming out. The white smoke is coming out," rang around the world. "We have a Pope." It seemed as if the whole world was excited about this stupendous moment, which was history in the making. And then attention was turned to the window. Who was it going to be? Rain-drenched people and those watching from afar, had to wait a full hour before the words:

"Habemus Papam"

with the name of Francis I, and to enormous

applause, the new Pontiff stepped onto the balcony. A humble, gentle man, who seemed overwhelmed by the reaction of the crowd. "Brothers and sisters, good evening" he said. "You know the duty of the Conclave was to give a bishop to Rome. It seems as though my brother cardinals went almost to the end of the world to get him. But here I am. I thank you for your welcome. The diocesan community of Rome has a bishop. Thank you!" Then he prayed for his predecessor – Bishop Emeritus Benedict XVI while the crowd joined in.

He continued his speech with "and now let us begin this journey together as bishop and people... the journey of fraternity, love and trust. Let us always pray for one another..... and now I would like to give you my blessing. But before I do, I would like to ask you a favour. Before the bishop blesses the people, I ask you to pray to the Lord that He bless me...the prayer of the people for a blessing upon their bishop. Let us take a moment of silence for you to offer your prayer for me."

After the cacophony of sound that emanated from St Peter's Square, the silence was deafening. He then gave his blessing 'to the world and to all men and women of good will.' After which he said that he would pray tomorrow to the Madonna.

WHO IS JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO?

The Vatican released his official biography and taken from there is a short summary: He holds a degree as a chemical technician

He taught literature and psychology at the Immacolata College in Santa Fe and at the University of El Salvador.

He has a degree in Theology and in March 1986 he went to Germany to finish his doctoral thesis.

He was Provincial for Argentina for six years.

In 1992 John Paul II appointed him titular Bishop of Auca and Auxiliary of Buenos Aires.

In 1997 he was appointed Coadjutor Archbishop of Buenos Aires.

John Paul II proclaimed him Cardinal in 2001.

He was a member of:

The Congregations for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments; for the Clergy; and for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, The Pontifical Council for the Family, and the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.



"We live in the most unequal part of the world, which has grown the most, yet reduced misery the least," he said in 2007. "The unjust distribution of good persists, creating a situation of social sin that cries out to heaven and limits the possibilities of a fuller life for so many of our brothers."

But his dedication to social justice and commitment, to alleviating poverty may now have counted in his favour – and much has been made of his humility and frugal lifestyle. Not only did he abjure the cardinal's residence in the Argentinian capital for a small apartment and reject a chauffeur-driven car to travel by bus, he also told hundreds of Argentinians not to waste their money on plane tickets to Rome to see him created a cardinal by John Paul II in 2001, urging them to give it instead to the poor. He also cooked his own meals.

"His character is in every way that of a moderate; he is absolutely capable of undertaking the necessary renovation without any leaps into the unknown," said Francesca Ambrogetti, one of his biographers. "He would be a balancing force. He shares the view that the church should have a missionary role, that gets out to meet people, that is active ... a church that does not so much regulate the faith as promote and facilitate it."



We are reminded of an old hymn which we don't seem to hear these days: 'Full in the panting heart of Rome, Beneath the Apostles' crowning dome With pilgrim's lips that kiss the ground Breathes in our hearts one only sound: God bless our Pope, God bless our Pope, God bless our Pope, the great the good.'

