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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT



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

JUNE 2015

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Provincial: Fr Francois Dufour
 Vicar Provincial: Fr Michael Connell
 Economist: Fr Robert Gore
 Councillors: Fr Alberto Villalba
 Fr Joy Sebastian
 Fr Marko Mhara
 Acting AFM Secretary: Fr Robert Gore

ORDINATION IN LESOTHO FATHER LINGOANE TLAILE SDB

A BIG vote of gratitude to the confreres in Maseru who with the parishioners of Pelo e Tlotlehang (Sacred Heart) Parish hosted (with limited means) a tremendous festive occasion with representations of young people from far and wide, for the Ordination of Father Lingoane Tlaile.

The Salesian High School band and two Drum Majorettes from Manzini enthralled the crowd. The weather could not have been better - cloudless blue skies, windless, the natural aircon set at a comfortable 22 degrees! The ceremony began on the stroke of 10.00 and ended around 13.00 followed by speeches and the procession of gifts - plenty of blankets, clothes, and a beautiful stole from the Salesian Sisters.



I will bless the houses in which the image of my Sacred Heart is exposed and honoured.



"IF YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE NOW, THEY WILL SOON KEEP YOU VERY BUSY!"

FOR PESSIMISTS, THESE ARE THE WORST OF TIMES;
 FOR OPTIMISTS, THESE ARE THE BEST OF TIMES.

156 years ago, Charles Dickens understood how each era can be observed from two opposite perspectives. Don Bosco lived in times which were also the best and the worst, but being not only an optimist but driven with a desire to make the world a better place for young people, he spent his life establishing projects which would provide them with an opportunity to do so. Not only for their sake, but for the glory of God. Not only to improve their prospects in this earthly life, but for their salvation in eternity.

There is such a flood of bad news being fired at us daily from every direction, that there is a danger we grow depressed and start believing that we are helpless and powerless to make any

difference to the crises facing our society. However, for us members of the Salesian Family, that is not permitted. We have an obligation to do all we can to advance the salvation of the young and never give up. We are charged with a responsibility of pursuing the dream of Don Bosco and the mission of Jesus Christ, and despite all the challenges, together with our lay mission-partners and with the help of our benefactors, we struggle on regardless, and strive to improve the chances of young people and their families to become productive citizens and holy human beings.

"If you don't take care of young people now, they will soon keep you very busy!" Don Bosco warned various authorities and influential people. We are most obliged to all our supporters who ensure that we can continue to serve the cause of young people and families in these best of times and worst of times. **Father Francois Dufour SDB**

(Photos: Fr Lingoane blessing his Provincial – Father Dufour and with children from Jackson's Drift after his first Mass.)



Every day God gives us a new beginning!

DONATIONS ARE MADE TO THESE SALESIAN PROJECTS

CAPE TOWN:

Salesian Institute Street Youth Projects
Lansdowne Life Choices

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



**SALESIAN
INSTITUTE -
CAPE TOWN**

On Freedom Day, the youth from SYM gathered at Muizenberg beach at 7am to pray and reflect on the events after the resurrection, the Via Lucis. Fr. Francois and Fr. Roy also joined us on a windy cool morning.

On Fridays our pupils from Learn to Live have the opportunity to develop their talents. Here are some of them showcasing their skills on the trumpet. Our pupils continue to learn various skills in the workshops. In the picture are some of the woodwork students. Before the term ended we organised a fun day for the pupils and it was a good way to end this term. **Brother Clarence Watts**



**DON BOSCO
EDUCATIONAL
PROJECTS - GAUTENG**



Praying, Eating and playing – three very important things in the life of a child.



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



A Youth Convention was held for young people in the area. They stayed at the centre for three days. Sr. Dimaya led the group in prayer and reflection. Meals were served for all and they also had a picnic with games and a braai at the end of the programme. **Sister Elsa Joseph**



WHEN WE PRAY, GOD HEARS MORE THAN WE SAY, ANSWERS MORE THAN WE ASK, GIVES MORE THAN WE IMAGINE... IN HIS OWN TIME AND IN HIS OWN WAY...

Children who come to the Oratory arrived in their numbers for an enjoyable talent show, and then they prayed and sang together.

This is the link to a comprehensive report on Salesian's pastoral activities to the earthquake victims of Nepal, written by Fr. Jude SDB for www.donboscoindia.com

MALKERNS & MANZINI - SWAZILAND



John Bosco primary school completed 4 days of leadership and classroom issues. Some children in the Bosco primary received awards for their Don Bosco colouring competition. Soccer balls, sports bags and medals and certificates were given out this morning. It is always a good day when I can put a smile on a child's face. **Father Martin Mc Cormack**



Students with Father Michael Whelton.

AND

A Medallion was presented to Mr. Kamenga, an old friend of the Salesians in Swaziland. Mr. Kamenga owned a printing press and always assisted both the Salesians and the Church at large in Swaziland. Finally he has packed up and is returning to his homeland, Zambia. His generosity was outstanding to



the church in this country and we will miss him as a friend. Father Jonathan Daniels made the presentation to Mr Kamenga in the presence of his wife. It was a very emotional moment for him.



Father Larry McDonnell gave a moving homily on Mary Help of Christians, to the children, at an open air Mass, in Manzini

MAPUTSOE - LESOTHO

Two days were spent with the older youth. We had some topics for them like "drugs and alcohol, communication and dialogue, and family matters." There were many suggestions for the next time. They asked for more days... **Father Vincent Hoang**



Dear Friends

We all know the story in the Gospel which tells about the Apostles attempting to get rid of the children, who were clambering around Jesus, each one vying for His attention. And Jesus said: "Let the

little children come to me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." These words have come to me very often of late, when I have seen the great suffering of children in the world today. I wonder if Jesus was thinking of how Herod had the little children slaughtered when He was a baby. And how history would repeat itself over and over. Children are now being beheaded and crucified in Syria and other parts. They are left homeless, abandoned and then used as sex slaves. Abortion is the fate of millions worldwide, because of adult selfishness and greed. Mothers too, have to stand by and watch their children suffering. However we take heart from the fact that no mother has endured more suffering than the Woman who stood at the foot of the Cross – Our Blessed Mother.

Children learn from the example that is set for them and that means that we have a great responsibility. I remember visiting the hospital one day with the late Father Pat Ahern. A mother had died and her husband was standing grief stricken beside her bed, whilst their 4 children had been ushered to the lawn outside the hospital entrance. After Father had anointed her and spoken to her husband we both went downstairs only to see the children huddled together crying. To my shame I could not face them and hurried to the car where I wept bitterly. Father went straight over to them, knelt down on the grass, put his arms around them and comforted them.

Strange how we can vividly remember some moments in our lives better than others. And yes sad, that our children have to suffer so much. Their eyes tell their stories. We need to put the smiles back on their faces. There is a great need, especially in this country, to educate our young people and to challenge them to cultivate their faith, hope, respect, love and dignity. You have seen from our newsletter how the children flourish in our care and we are grateful to you, our benefactors, for your prayers, your generous donations, your loyalty and your support.

And now I ask YOU all to keep smiling and remember there are 5 simple rules to be happy: 1. Free your heart from hatred. 2. Free your mind from worries. 3. Live simply. 4. Give more. 5. Expect less.

May God bless and reward you all.

Pray for me as I do for you. Much love. Denise Hards



As I could not attend her funeral I pay tribute to a dear and loving friend of almost 40 years.

Elaine was born of Irish parents on 8 June 1926. She was what they call a 'laat lammetjie' and very spoiled by her father. As a child she attended school at Loreto Convent in Skinner Street, Pretoria. She left Pretoria, married Bill and settled in Franshoek in the Cape, where she sold little packets of sweets to the neighbourhood children, from her shop. It was there that she befriended the Holy Family Sisters, and the Salesians, to both of whom, she was both loyal and true to the end of her days. Sister Peter would accompany Fr Pat Ahern (both of happy memory) to her farm for Confession.

She then decided to move to Constantia where there was uproar from the locals about her pig farming, so she took off with Bill, to farm in Ottery. Elaine loved her animals and of these she had plenty. When Father Swan was dying Elaine 'inherited' his budgies and she always had two golden spaniels at her side. They were her constant companions.



She was a creature of habit and she stuck to her weekly routine from a visit to the Hairdresser, Dawn and then

Joan, to delivering vegetables to the Salesians at the Institute and in Lansdowne. She bought flowers for Bills' grave and many other kind errands. She never missed her weekly Mass with her worn out missal. She was generous to a fault and

FORMATION AND VOCATIONS



Vocations and Formation of young men aspiring to be priests, plays a great role in the Salesian Apostolate.

A Vocations weekend or Come and See program was held in Manzini. Fr Larry McDonnell and some of the youth who attended.

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Elaine Olsen and I when we were both young and good looking. Eternal rest give unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her, may she rest in peace.

would always include a gift for someone or other in her purchases. At Christmas time her list was long from cards to presents. Having no children of her own, she educated her staff's children as well as a few of the poorer children at Holy Cross Convent. Many priests were entertained by her and Bill, as were many others, and when her older sister Paddy was getting on in years she took her in and cared for her.

Bill's death was a blow to her and she was attacked many times after his departure. But she would not leave her farm though many tried to persuade her to leave. As her health slowly started to decline her faithful and loyal friend Norman was at her side night and day. And Tilla and Cliffie, the Sisters and Father Pat, Dr Davey and Mrs Maggott, stood by her to the end. God bless and reward them for that. Her last words to me, a week before she died, were: "Denise give my love to my family." Her funeral was sad, with a few loyal friends and family in attendance, and she was buried on her beloved farm next to Bill. As one of her dear friends said, "Denise it is the end of an era," and so it is. Goodbye Elaine dear – may the road rise to meet you and may God hold you gently in the palm of His Hand.



PHOTOS THAT DON'T NEED A CAPTION

FEAST DAYS

- 07 June Body and Blood of Christ
- 12 June Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 13 June Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 24 June Nativity of John the Baptist
- 29 June Saints Peter and Paul
- 16 July Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 26 July Ss Joachim & Anne
- 31 July St Ignatius of Loyola
- 06 Aug Transfiguration of Our Lord
- 15 Aug Assumption of Our Lady
- 22 Aug Queenship of Virgin Mary

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. 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:

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- Name of account holder:
- Bank:Branch Code:
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