

SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

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Salesian Missions

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 30 YEARS

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR MAJOR - DON ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME



Dear Readers. Certainly, most of us can call to mind that in one passage of the Gospel, Jesus speaks to us of how great was the value of the little offering that the widow placed in the treasury of the Temple of Jerusalem. This donation – poor by human standards – was all that she had, however, and so it was very great in God's eyes.

Today I wish to tell you that I have experienced this myself many times. In fact, the latest occasion took place just recently when I returned to Rome after a visit to Valdocco (Turin). I found a letter on my desk. It came from a small town in France. I am confident that my friend will allow me to speak about this openly, while

safeguarding her anonymity, because things that are good and beautiful need to be made known.

The person who wrote to me is 92 years old, an Italian emigrant, a wife and mother, and today a widow. She wrote it in her own hand on her simple paper and sent with it an offering for the poorest wherever they might be in the Salesian missionary world. What made this offering so special, is that this friend sent something very personal and of profound sentimental value: *she sent her wedding ring, and that of her deceased husband, and also a pyx with which one brings Holy Communion to those who are ill and homebound.* I must confess that I was very moved. I read the letter a few times over, and I contemplated the wedding rings, the sign of their love. I promised myself that once the donation had been exchanged for money, I would bring it personally to one of the poorest mission places.

With it, we would be able to help some very poor families with their basic necessities and also help educate a little girl of scarce means. (I thought of doing this because I imagined that since the donor is a woman, she would be happy to know that her offering would go to educate a little girl so that she could have the possibility of a better future.) I am also convinced that the rice that will be bought with this offering will also have a very special value added to it. We live in a globalized world that has many societies in which only bad news is broadcast: tragedies, natural disasters, violent deaths, etc. And the thought comes to mind: "Why can't what is so profoundly human and which fills one with good sentiments, not be favoured above bad news? These things ought to be news!" So that is precisely what I have decided to do: make it news. And I do so because I am sure it will make you as happy as it does me.



Graduations
and children
playing and
praying at
Don Bosco
Educational
Centre
Randvaal



SALESIAN MISSIONS HAS A NEW DIRECTOR



32 Years ago a plan was hatched to appeal for funds from the people in

South Africa, in order to help the children in our care, and so Salesians Missions was borne. The brainchild behind this idea was Father Pat Naughton. He started slowly in a simple way from Daleside, Walkerville, with the help of Lyn Brady. And then in 1988 these two met with yours truly in Booyens, and subsequently the Salesian Spotlight was introduced to many Catholic Parishioners in various Salesian Parishes. Father Pat handed over the reins of authority to many Salesian Priests

over the years, whilst I carried on with the handling of the office, assisted by the different Priests in charge. Fast forward to 2009 when Father Francois took over. He was made Provincial at the time but saw fit to assist me with photographs and articles of events that took place around the country in the Salesian Projects. His kindly guidance, humility and transparency were a ray of sunshine to many. To me the 'dark ages' had been put behind us and everybody knew what was happening at Salesians. Father Francois' term of office as Provincial is now over and we have come full circle, as once again the new Director is Father Pat Naughton. This short article is a farewell to Father Francois and a welcome to Father Pat. May God bless and reward them both. (Picture: Left – Father Pat, Right Father Francois). **Editor**

WHAT IT IS TO BE A MISSIONARY

Very often when people hear that you are a missionary, they think that you have gone far away to places where people are merely poor, or to pagan lands where the Gospel has not been preached yet, or where the Church has not yet taken root. There is a very common misunderstanding among Christians about what it is to be a missionary. However, Pope John Paul II had insisted in Redemptoris Missio no.33 and 34 that mission can no longer be seen solely in geographic terms but primarily as the proclamation of Jesus Christ in interpenetrating contexts where there is a need of either ordinary pastoral activity or new evangelization. Therefore, mission is no longer just a movement toward the "mission lands," but it is wherever a Christian crosses a human border to proclaim the Gospel. That is to say, the missionary today is

one who is sent either to a village or a city, to a parish or to a school, among followers of other religions, or among those who do not have any religion at all, or even among those who live their Christian faith as something cultural. What is most important is that the missionary keeps alive his or her passion for Jesus Christ and his people, especially the young.

Father Hoang, Quang Thai Vincent is the delegate for mission animation in South Africa. He is a missionary from Vietnam, who joined the Salesians in Southern Africa in 2008. He is currently in Bosco Centre, Walkerville.



A STORY OF COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE



This is the story of 2 incredibly brave young men, Linda Mbadu, from Khayelitsha, and Zinkele Moeba, from Gugulethu, in Cape Town. They did not know each other a few

months ago, but both shared the same background. They were caught up in communities at risk, experienced hardship during their life and were unemployed, yet both had the same dream to succeed. They are both married men and have children. Their priority was to secure employment so that they could look after their families.

Linda and Zinkele somehow heard about the Waves of Change Program at the Salesian Institute Youth Projects.

They made their way to Cape Town to find the Salesians and to enroll in this program, which prepares unemployed youth for the maritime industry, and ensures that they have the relevant training and documents. Part of the program is a one week intensive Life skills program, teaching the youth about self-worth, social- and family dynamics as well as finances and budgeting.

These 2 young men entered the January to March 2018 course. Both are still waiting for some documents and their seaman's book to finalise the process. They are extremely hopeful, thankful and eager to find employment in the maritime industry in Cape Town. Their tenacity to make something of themselves is astounding and brings warmth to one's heart. Zinkele for instance did not have any transport money one morning to attend the classes, so he got up at 2am in the morning and walked all the way from Gugulethu to Greenpoint, more than 35km on foot. With this kind of perseverance, one can only wish them all the best. **Frieda Pehlivan – Communications Manager, Salesian Institute**



**SALESIAN
INSTITUTE
YOUTH
PROJECTS**



MALKERNS - SWAZILAND

Level 2 leadership training at St Anne's high school has just been completed by 76 young ladies. The three day theme was Women in leadership - women empowering. Six high powered women from various businesses gave input alongside me over the three days. We looked



at culture in leadership, women empowering other women, servant leadership, transformation leadership, women in business and management, models of leadership, education of women in leadership, gender violence against women, and Jesus as a model for servant leadership. **Father Martin McCormack**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PALABEK - UGANDA



The Salesians of Don Bosco have arrived in Palabek, Uganda. (Pala means knife and Bek means sheath – therefore Palabek means retaining the weapons of war). Over a million people from South

Sudan are currently refugees in Uganda. 86% of the population in the refugee camp are women and children. More than 60% are minors. These young people are the reason for our commitment to education and evangelization.

HOPE HOUSE – MANZINI - SWAZILAND

A new client Sithembile was admitted with cancer in both eyes. She is completely blind and most areas of the face are also destroyed by the Cancer. The tender loving care of the staff gives her relief and she is serene and cheerful. We have many Clients with cancer and strokes of various types. Physiotherapy is a great help for all of them. The sick get their fresh vegetables from the Hope House garden, and we provide the relatives with health education and train them to care for their loved ones. **Sister Elsa Joseph**



Dear Friends

Have you ever thought of how life is like a journey on a train. We board the train when we are young, with our parents and everything is new and



exciting. Life has begun. We knock our heads on the various obstacles that we pass, as we traverse the corridors. And then comes the day when our parents leave the train and we are left to journey on our own. We meet new friends who board the train at the various stations and we share stories of our life and there is great fun and laughter. Our new friends leave the train at different stations and we are left alone to ponder life. Insecurity steps in as we scan the countryside from our window, and we might reach for our Rosary to get some comfort and look forward to the next encounter. And then a pleasant surprise. He or she must have been sitting quietly on another bench and heard our plea for the work that we are engaged in. A generous donor who gives a wonderful donation for our cause, and how grateful we are.

There are times of sickness and sorrow and these are the times when we disembark and miss the train when it leaves. We may meet a loved one and start a family of our own, and there is more joy and fun. Our Faith really is the mainstay on this journey – the belief that we will overcome the obstacles in our life. Inevitably the final stop is our last one and we have to collect all our baggage for the end of the journey.

In all the ups and downs of our journey let us pray for and support one another. This is something that we will not regret.

My thanks as always to all you wonderful, generous people, whom I have met on my journey. Happy feast of the Sacred Heart and pray for me as I do for you. Much love Denise Hards

CHUCKLE: The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing and stopped, even though he could have beaten the red light by racing through the intersection. The woman behind him was furious and leaned on her hooter, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection. While she was still screaming, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your hooter, shouting and cursing at the man in front of you. I noticed the *'What Would Jesus Do'* bumper sticker, the *'Choose Life'* license plate holder, the *'Follow Me to Sunday-School'* bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated *Christian Fish Emblem* on the trunk, so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car."



MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

The 9 June this year, marks the 150th anniversary of the official inauguration and consecration of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin – Valdocco, by the whole Salesian Family. To celebrate this event the Special Circumscription of Piedmonte and Valle d’Aosta have launched an initiative of ‘unity, fraternity and spirituality.’ To those coming from Corso Regina Margherita Blvd, facing the stretch of street and square leading to the Mother House of Don Bosco’s Salesian works, the



shrine suddenly looms large against a backdrop full of light, in the centre of an uninterrupted framework of buildings. From the top of the dome, the beautiful and shining statue of the Virgin, her head bowed, right hand raised, looks on and blesses the faithful. **(Picture below: Children celebrating the Feast of Mary Help of Christians on 24 May, albeit supporting the Lions Rugby Team as well.)**



HISTORICAL MEETING OF COOPERATORS

Fr Alberto and Fr Joy at a historical meeting of cooperators from Cape Town, Lesotho and Ennerdale who met in May to establish the regional structures of the cooperators. Picture right).



WORDS OF WISDOM FROM POPE FRANCIS

“Where the Madonna is at home the devil does not enter; where there is the Mother disturbance does not prevail, fear does not win,” the Pope said. In his homily, Pope Francis said that it is “a great danger to faith, to live without a mother, without protection, letting ourselves be carried away by life like leaves by the wind.” Just like persecuted people once took refuge under the cloak of the noble,

high-ranking women of their village, in “turbulent moments” we must take shelter under the mantle of Mary, “the highest woman of mankind,” for our own protection. “Her coat is always open to welcome us and gather us,” he said. “The Mother guards faith, protects relationships, saves in bad weather and preserves from evil.”



FEAST DAYS

- 03 June The Body and Blood of Christ
- 08 June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 09 June The Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 13 June Saint Anthony of Padua
- 24 June The Birth of John the Baptist
- 29 June Ss Peter and Paul
- 26 July Ss Joachim and Anne
- 31 July St Ignatius of Loyola
- 06 Aug Transfiguration of Our Lord
- 15 Aug Assumption of Our Lady
- 22 Aug Queenship of the 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 information can be given to you.

Tel: 27 (0) 11 476 8315

We would be extremely grateful.

If you know yourself, then you will not be harmed by what is said about you.

It is certain that spiritual works of mercy have even greater merit than mere corporal ones. Not only greater merit, I say, but even something which is divine. Do you want to do a good deed? Educate the young. Do you want to do something holy? Educate the young. Something even holier? Educate the young. Do you want to do divine work? Among the divine works this is the most divine of all. The Church Fathers agree with these words of St Denis: "The divinest of divine deeds is to cooperate with God for the salvation of souls." **SAINTE JOHN BOSCO**



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