

SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

JUNE 2019



Salesian Missions

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MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR TO THE SALESIAN FAMILY IN THE WORLD

When only faith, silence and prayer are possible ...



Dear brothers and sisters,

I write to you to share sad news and to invite you again to put your life and your mission in the hands of the One in whom the full meaning of every event resides: the God of Love and His Son Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord.

I was coming to Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo) for the visit to this new Vice Province when the Provincial of the Western French-speaking Africa Province (AFO) informed me that, a few

minutes before, the missionary confrere Father Fernando Hernández (*picture left*) was cruelly murdered and that Father Germain Plakoo-Mlapa was seriously injured and is now in hospital. Father Germain Plakoo-Mlapa was at the side of Father César Antonio Fernández, who was assassinated just three months ago.

The reason for this tragedy is related to an act of revenge. In fact, it seems that the old chef of the community, who was fired about a year ago, entered the refectory of the confreres during lunch time and enacted his vendetta with a machete.

In three months, two missionary confreres have lost their lives in this Province. We pray intensely for the healing of Father Germain and also for the wounds that will remain imprinted in his soul, since it must be terrible to endure all that he has lived through during this time.

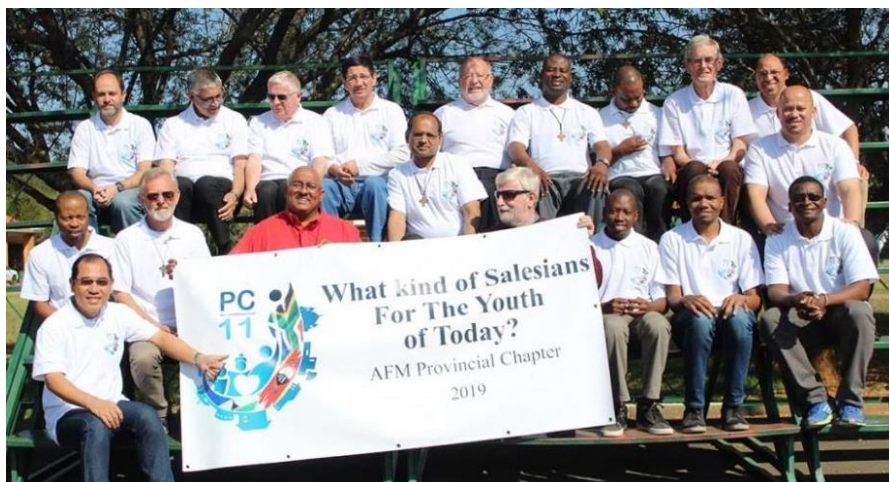
At this moment I can only hold on and anchor myself in faith to the Lord, keep silent and pray that He may transform the blood of these martyrs, cruelly and innocently shed, to life and good

for the African people and for all peoples.

Our two confreres, Father César Antonio and Father Fernando, lived profoundly loving the African people, the young Africans and their families, always seeking their good in the name of the Lord. Our prayer today should be an intercession for them, an intense prayer for Father Germain and a request for forgiveness for their assassins, as the Lord has done.

Our Mother Help of Christians takes us by the hand and leads us before God the Father. She accompanies us and takes care of all of us, sons and daughters, on this earth.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER AT BOSCO WALKERVILLE



The Salesian Vice Province of Southern Africa (AFM) celebrated the 11th Provincial Chapter, centered on the theme "What Salesians for today's youth?" The 20 capitulars reflected on topics concerning the young, the profile of the Salesian and the mission shared with laity.

MANZINI - SWAZILAND



Children sharing a meal

"Christians can find hope even at the hour of death, which faith teaches is not a closed door but a wide-open passage to a new life with Christ." Pope Francis.

Cycling from Cairo to Cape Town

A trip of a lifetime was recently undertaken by a 24-year-old young man from Ireland. Tomas Mac An T-Saior. Tomas's passion for cycling has taken him over continents and many countries. This time around he was fundraising for the Donal Walsh Foundation. His adventure was a cycling tour from Cairo to South Africa.

His journey started in Egypt, and over a period of 7 months, Tomas cycled through Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana, Namibia and lastly ended in South Africa. The journey was filled with mixed experience. He was held up by police, escorted by police, headwinds, terrible roads and near-death experiences with road users. He had a harrowing experience in Botswana where a lion kept "guard" outside his tent the whole night, with elephants wandering not far away. Stones were thrown at him many times in Ethiopia and his bicycle went through several sets of tires. But despite these challenging experiences, he almost gave up at one point, but the kindness of the locals in all these countries was astounding. Sudan, a very poor country, had the kindest, friendliest people, Tomas said. "They reached out and made sure I had a place to stay and that I always had food."

"The trip of a lifetime is over. What an incredible & humbling experience it was to pedal my bicycle from Egypt all the way down the length of Africa to South Africa! Africa is just such a wonderful continent, I've had just the best experiences with the



best people! Today also marks the 6th year anniversary of Donal Walsh's funeral. A significant day to finish and he was in my mind as I pedaled into Cape Town. Donal has left an important legacy behind so I'm very grateful to be able to play my part in continuing it." Tomas own words on 15 May when he arrived in our Mother City.

Tomas paid a visit to The Salesian Institute Youth Projects whilst in Cape Town sharing his experiences with the youth at the Institute. His main message to them: "Don't ever give up; keep fighting for what you want".

Tomas with Fr Pat Naughton and Waves of Change Youth



Meeting of past volunteers of "Bosco Volunteer" program

The "Bosco Volunteer" program at the "Bosco Youth Centre" in Johannesburg has been active since 1994; since then, hundreds of young people have lived a year of volunteer service as members of the Youth Ministry team, and a meeting of those who took part in this program took place from 22 to 24 March. One of the objectives was to examine how past volunteers can serve the Church, especially within the Salesian Congregation. The program of the meeting included: the possibility of confessing, moments of prayer and reflections on what the volunteers of the past are doing in their lives and on how to network with the "Bosco Past Volunteers" group.



Children at play – Maputsoe, Lesotho

Children from Laura Vicuna – Don Bosco Educational Centre, enjoying a meal



MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS



The Feast of Mary Help of Christians was celebrated on 24 May by all Salesians worldwide. She is the Patroness of the Salesian Congregation. Some interesting facts about the Popes and Mary Help of Christians.

Saint Pius V, after the Battle of Lepanto, decided to establish the feast of the Holy Rosary, and that the invocation "Mary Help of Christians" should also be included in the Lauretán Litany.

Pope Pius VII instituted the feast of Mary Help of

Christians, in memory of his return to Rome after being imprisoned in the palace of Fontainebleau by Napoleon Bonaparte.

Pope John XXIII cultivated a special devotion to the Help of Christians and proclaimed her Patroness of the Council with the titles of Auxilium Christianorum and Auxilium Episcoporum.

St. Paul VI in many circumstances of his life and pontificate manifested a particular devotion to Mary Help of Christians.

St. John Paul II often went to pray in the chapel of Mary Help of Christians in the church of St. Stanislaus Kostka (Krakow) and it was precisely before the image of the Helper, as a young man, that he took the firm decision to enter the seminary.

Pope Francis has always affirmed that he learned to love Mary Help of Christians during his childhood.

Salesian Youth Movement - Gauteng

Johannesburg, South Africa - May 2019 - The Salesian Youth Movement (SYM) of Gauteng held the first of a series of monthly meetings dedicated to the reflection on the 2019 Strenna of the Rector Major entitled "Holiness for you, too". On May 19, at the "Sancta Maria" church in Finetown, the young people discussed the gift of understanding, under the guidance of the provincial coordinator of the Salesian Co-operators, Chester Browne.



CHILDREN AT DON BOSCO CENTRE ENNERDALE & GUITARIST FROM MANZINI



Remember: The day you plant the seed...is not the day you eat the fruit! Be patient.. Be humble.. Don't give up!



Dear Friends

We have had much, in these last few months, to celebrate and also to lament. But as the Prophet



said, "There is a time for sorrow and a time for joy, a time to mourn and a time to laugh." Emotions have run high and low, but I think that death brings out the greatest emotion of all – it is so final – we will never see that beloved face on this earth again. We have the promise of eternal life but it is difficult to envisage this reward. The promise also of not knowing neither the day nor the hour, is very real, and we need to be ready when the call comes. As the old saying goes – 'we can be sure of two things in our lives – death and the taxman' - and both exact their dues, and we are called to account in each of these circumstances. Many of us have had to watch whilst those we love have suffered, and when the nursing is over, it is a relief, but it is also so very hard to say 'goodbye.' However we have the assurance of happiness and reward, and:

"Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near
Still loved, still missed and very dear."

Don't forget, June is the month of the Sacred Heart and there is in the **Sacred Heart**, the symbol and express image of the infinite love of **Jesus Christ**, which moves us to love in return. Salesians are present in 131 countries in the world, and youngsters in need, will always find in a house of Don Bosco, joy and security, serenity and the assurance that each of them is loved and cherished, respected and supported. And this is only due to the help, prayers and loyalty of our donors and friends. And so once again I say, and I can't say it enough, THANK YOU for your loyalty, your support, your prayers and your donations. THANK YOU to all our anonymous donors, our monthly donors and to those who graciously say "It's a pleasure. You don't have to thank."

Happy Feast Day for the 28th and as one of my children once said: "Dom Buster (Don Bosco) pray for us." Much love and God bless Denise

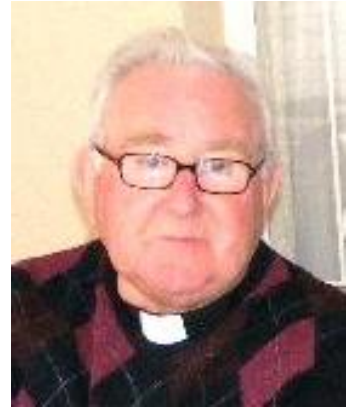
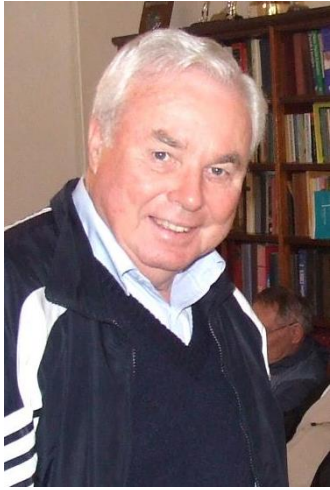
CHUCKLE: A man and his wife went to breakfast at a restaurant where the "seniors' special" was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for R35.99. "Sounds good," said the wife, "but I don't want the eggs." "Then, I will have to charge you R52.99 because you are ordering a la carte, the waitress warned her. "You mean I would have to pay for not taking the eggs?" the wife asked incredulously. "Yes!" stated the waitress. "I will take the special then," the wife said. "How would you like your eggs?" the waitress asked. "Raw and in the shell," the wife replied. She took the two eggs home and baked a cake. Don't mess with seniors.

Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind – always!

AD MULTOS ANNOS – CONGRATULATIONS

KATHY WEBB RIP

PRAYERS PLEASE



Father Eoin Farrelly will celebrate his Golden Jubilee of Ordination on 29 June.

Father John Thompson celebrated his 40th anniversary of ordination on 26 May.

Kathy was a loyal donor and friend in South Africa. She continued to support Salesians when she emigrated to New Zealand. After much suffering, she went to her eternal reward on 7 May 2019. May her dear soul rest in peace.

Your prayers are asked for Father Canice Dooley who is seriously ill.

Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus we place all our trust in Thee.

ARGENTINA - "SAN LORENZO DE ALMAGRO": A CLUB WITH SALESIAN ROOTS

On 1 April, the Club Atlético San Lorenzo de Almagro celebrated its 111th birthday. Among its fans is none other than Pope Francis, holder of membership card number: 88235N-0. The "San Lorenzo", as it's more commonly called, was established in the city of Buenos Aires, and precisely at the "San Antonio" festive oratory directed by the beloved Salesian priest Lorenzo Bartolomé Martín Massa. The Salesian priest wanted to offer his boys a new recreational space.

According to Father Massa himself, the colours of the team's shirt were taken from an image of Mary Help of Christians he kept in the oratory. The club slowly grew and Father Massa was sent to continue his work of evangelization with other assignments at other destinations. And yet, even so, Father Massa was always attentive to the club of his boys and those who continued to pass through his oratory. Father Massa died in Buenos Aires on October 31, 1949. A few days later, Father Raul Entraigas, spiritual assistant of the San Lorenzo de Almagro club, wrote: "His love for the San Lorenzo de Almagro club was his life and his death, his joy and his drama. San Lorenzo was his spiritual son. Father Massa did not love it as a father, but as a mother. He rejoiced for its triumphs and suffered for its defeats."

Today the San Lorenzo de Almagro is one of the main Argentine clubs and its activities have expanded, including, in addition to football, other disciplines, such as basketball, volleyball and hockey. And among the many fans, it also boasts the Successor of Peter, Pope Francis.



- FEAST DAYS**
- 13 June Saint Anthony of Padua
 - 16 June Trinity Sunday
 - 23 June The Body and Blood of Christ
 - 24 June The Birth of John the Baptist
 - 28 June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
 - 29 June Ss Peter and Paul
 - 29 June The Immaculate Heart of Mary
 - 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



Don Bosco's devotion to the Sacred Heart was admirable. He recommended it in a big way to his boys. He showed his love and devotion by undertaking, near the end of his life, and at great cost and sacrifice to himself, the construction of the Basilica of the sacred Heart, next to Rome's Termini Station.



SALESIAN MISSIONS

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

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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 one's words are not better than silence, then one should keep silent.