

Salesian Missions

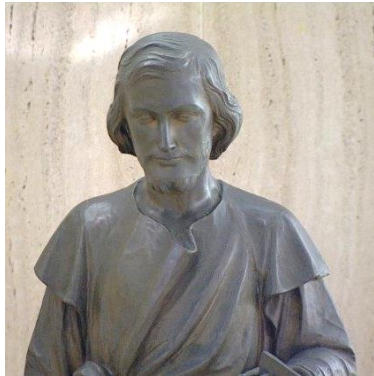
Trading under the name of
Salesians of Don Bosco
Box 3209 North Riding 2162
66 Nelson Road Booyens
Johannesburg 2091
Tel/Fax: 27 (0) 11 476 8315
missionoffice@bucknet.co.za
www.salesianmissions.co.za

SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

MAY 2020



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 31 YEARS



SAINT JOSEPH: A STATUE CONNECTING POPE FRANCIS AND PIUS XII

1ST MAY
WORKERS DAY

Pope Francis celebrated Holy Mass on 1 May at the Casa Santa Marta next to the same statue of St. Joseph that was with Pope Pius XII in 1956, the year after the institution of the solemnity dedicated to the Virgin's Husband.

The scene was like one that occurred 64 years before, minus the crowds due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But the same Patron Saint of workers was present. He watches over a category of people who are currently hard-hit by a microscopic adversary, just as before he interceded for that same segment of society, which at the time was called upon to rebuild post-war Italy.

Beyond the historical differences, numerous similarities surround the statue which arrived on Thursday evening 30 April. In 1956 the same image – blessed on 1 May by the then Archbishop of Milan, Giovanni Battista Montini – left for Rome by helicopter on 2 May to be blessed by Pope Pius XII at the audience granted that same day to ACLI (Christian Association of Italian Workers).

Then, as now, members of ACLI acted as protagonists. They wanted to bring Pope Francis the statue made in gilded bronze by the sculptor Enrico Nelli Breuning. The 150 centimetres tall statue is usually housed in the Association's headquarters in Rome.

These are just a few elements that intertwine the present – with the numerous anxieties that have lately upset the world of work – to the past. The national president of ACLI, Roberto Rossini, says, it is the "memory of those who have preceded us" which encourages us to make it so that – as the Holy Father points out – no worker is without rights and work is freely-associated, creative, participatory and mutually supportive. *Alessandro De Carolis*



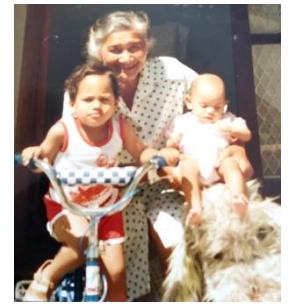
POPE FRANCIS URGES PRAYERS TO THE VIRGIN MARY DURING HARD TIMES

Pope Francis invites the faithful to pray to the Virgin Mary reminding them that May 8th is the feast of Our Lady of Lujan, the Patroness of Argentina, his homeland. On the same day, a traditional petition will be made to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Pompei, Italy. The Pope says that he will "ask her to take care of us. Also that because I am a sinner, I will ask her to give us the grace to always ask for forgiveness, to not tire of asking for forgiveness...because we know that Her Son never gets tired of forgiving."

Also, in this month of May on the 24th, the feast of Mary Help of Christians will be celebrated. The spread of devotion to Mary Help of Christians can be attributed to St John Bosco, who chose her as the main patroness of the Salesian family and of his works.

This feast was set for the 24th by Pope Pius VII in memory of his return to Rome on May 24th, in 1814, after his imprisonment under Napoleon in Fontainebleau.

Another Feast Day we celebrate on 10th May is Mothers Day. Padraic Pearse, one of the leaders of the Easter Rising in 1916, in Ireland wrote a poem to his mother containing the following: "Oh Lord Thou art hard on mothers: we suffer in their coming and their going." Mothers bring their children into the world, they teach them, build them, love them, and suffer for them. Let us be good to our mothers – they deserve our love and respect.



Father, I pray that my children understand that God's Love for them does not change because of their actions

SALESIANS CELEBRATING 158
YEARS WORKING WITH CHILDREN
AND YOUTH THE WORLD OVER