

Salesian Missions

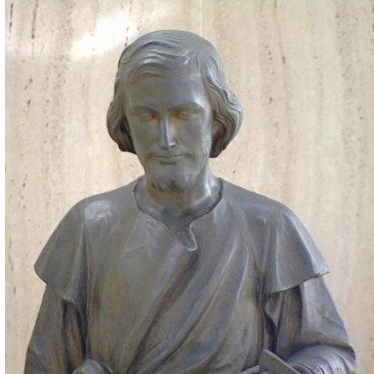
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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

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*



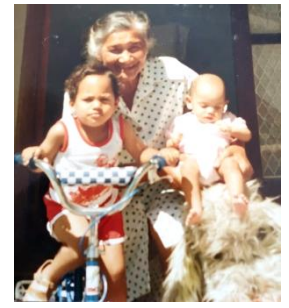
POPE FRANCIS URGES PRAYERS TO THE VIRGIN MARY DURING HARD TIMES

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

FIGHTING THE VIRUS, FEEDING THE STARVING, MAKING MASKS FOR THE POOR, LOVING AND PRAYING FOR ALL



Fighting the virus and lost her mask on the way.



CAPE TOWN

Wonderful people from Our Lady Help of Christians, Lansdowne, and Our Lady of the Rosary, Hanover Park, provide support to parishioners and local families in distress. The demands on them have increased exponentially with the current crisis.

They managed to feed 500 under-privileged in Manenburg, Ottery, Lotus River and Phillipi. One of the Organisers is now in quarantine. Please pray for the family.



The Rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of Love the world has ever known. Fulton Sheen



Before all else, the poor need God and his love, made visible by "the saints next door", people who by the simplicity of their lives clearly express the power of Christian love. God uses any number of ways and countless means to reach people's hearts. Certainly, the poor come to us also because we give them food, but what they really need is more than our offer of a warm meal or a sandwich. The poor need our hands, to be lifted up; our hearts, to feel anew the warmth of affection; our presence, to overcome loneliness. In a word, they need love. MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS THIRD WORLD DAY OF THE POOR 17 November 2019

GEORGE – CAPE

An intrepid young man whose parents are Salesians, was travelling outside the city of Cape Town, found that he could not go home because of Lockdown. He decided to get involved with the local community, and spent a lot of his time feeding the poor from the boot of his car.



ITALY



In 1987 **St MARY DOMENICA MAZZARELLO**, together with St John Bosco co-founded the Institute of the Daughters of MARY Help of Christians. She was a natural choice as the first superior.

SALESIANS - OVERSEAS

INDIA



HONDURAS



ARGENTINA



PANAMA



ECUADOR



DOMINIC SAVIO was an Italian adolescent student of St John Bosco. He was studying to be a Priest when he became ill and died at the age of 14, possibly from pleurisy. He is a wonderful hero for young people today. The Saint's way to holiness was to live the spirituality that was shared by St. John Bosco and his Salesians.

Dear Friends

My apologies for sending this newsletter so late in May but due to constraints waiting for pictures from my wonderful reporters, sabotage, illness, computer problems, etc. I have only been able to send this out now.



I do not usually have the opportunity to speak of Salesian Saints, however I was able to squeeze some of them in here and there, and I hope that they will give some inspiration. **There are** some beautiful feasts this month and we have been asked by the Holy Father to pray the Rosary daily, for an end to this pandemic. Our Blessed Lady will help. **We are** living in sad times and assistance is needed in every corner of the globe. Dozens of pages would not fill pictures of the good works that Salesian Priests, Brothers, Sisters, Co-Operators, and their helpers are doing. And not only Salesians, but also young people and mothers and fathers. These men and women are heroic in the face of the virus, adversity, lockdown, government constraints and pettiness. They battle daily to get funds, food, masks and sometimes clothing. All are united in a common goal.

Rarely do I beg, but on this occasion I ask humbly, as I know that everybody has some difficulty at this time, if you will give a donation to Salesian Missions, (any amount, small or big would be most welcome) so that we can help the poor and starving – Black, White, Coloured, Indian – and here I think of the hymn: "One Bread, One Body, One Lord of ALL. One cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this One Lord." When you donate please put the word Covid next to your name so that I can distinguish and thank. **Please** don't forget Mothers Day on the 10th. No matter who or where she is, a mother's impact reaches far beyond her children. **My thanks** as always, to all the wonderful people who have prayed for us and given donations. **My prayers** are with you all at this trying time. Pray for me too please. With Much Love, Denise Hards.

CHUCKLE: Arcelor-Mittal Steel, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers. While on a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?" A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make R400 a week. Why?". The CEO said, "Wait right here." He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy R1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back." Feeling rather good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?" From across the room a voice said, "**Pizza delivery guy from Domino's.**"

LOCKDOWN OUTREACH OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY – ENNERDALE

The situation of the lockdown, due to the corona virus, is becoming more and more desperate – as, no work means, no food. People are starving. We have been looking to see how we can be instruments of being little signs of hope to those who only see darkness.

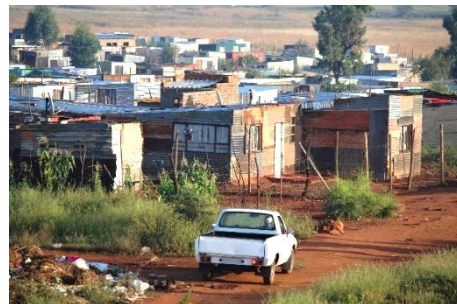
The Salesian Co-operators started making masks and giving food parcels to the poor that they could reach out to. Fr. Emmanuel SDB supported by his community, together with the Salesian Sisters (FMA) had several meetings to see how to get food supplies to distribute to the most needy. Much paperwork had to be done, to obtain the necessary permission to distribute food. Our local Councillor, was approached and he referred us to the Health Inspectors, the Police, etc. Everything is now in place as we have the necessary documentation. We now just need the food for distribution. The pupils from our Centres under Don Bosco Educational Project, Laura Vicuna School and Sancta Maria Early Childhood Centre in Finetown, cater for the most vulnerable. The children come mainly from informal settlements and squatter camps. 70% are Migrants from neighbouring countries and 30% are South Africans who have no proper papers. As they do not have all the necessary documents, they do not qualify for food parcels or grants allocated by the Government. The parents of these children had no fixed jobs and just did piece work. Lockdown has prevented them from even looking for ‘waste’ in the trash heaps, to get a few cents to provide the minimum for their families. These people are becoming more depressed and having no work means that there is no income at all. Their health is also very much affected. This will also have psychological consequences.

The children were used to getting a cooked meal each day while they attended our schools, now there is nothing. Meanwhile we received a generous donation of material from a kind donor, so we will be able to produce hundreds of masks, especially for the children and we are so grateful for this. As soon as we have food supplies, we will deliver parcels to the families of each of these vulnerable children. There are also more and more young people, and women with children coming to our door each day. We provide what is possible. These people are incredibly sad looking, desperate, and depressed. The little children who are straggly looking, badly in need of a wash, sit on the pavement with their mothers, with tears in their eyes and run to the gate when we take sandwiches and food to them. We try to say a good word to them to give them a little sign of hope. These are the poorest, and most destitute, who always had little something.

As the situation is, if they do not die of the corona virus, they will die of starvation. **Sister Charmaine de la Chaumette**



INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS



Where humility reigns, the Grace of God will triumph. St John Bosco

FEAST DAYS

- 01 May St Joseph the Worker
- 06 May St Dominic Savio
- 08 May Our Lay of Lujan
- 10 May Mothers Day
- 13 May Our Lady of Fatima
- St Mary Mazzarello
- 24 May Ascension
- Mary Help of Christians
- 30 May St Joan of Arc
- 31 May Pentecost

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.
Tel: 27 (0) 11 476 8315
We would be extremely grateful.



SALESIAN MISSIONS

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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 do not need it!

I enclose my gift of:

- R150 R200 R250 Other R.....
- will be made by (please tick)
- Cheque Debit Order Direct deposit*
- Cheques payable to **Salesian Missions**
- Please debit my bank account with R.....
- Monthly Once only
- Type of account: Cheque Transmission
- Name of account holder:
- Bank: Branch Code:
- Branch name:.....
- Account number:.....
- Signature:.....

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