

Salesian Missions

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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

EASTER 2018



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



Easter Message

“Today, throughout the world, the Church echoes once more the astonishing message of the first disciples: “Jesus is risen!” – “He is truly risen, as he said!”

By his resurrection, Jesus Christ has set us free from the slavery of sin and death, and has opened before us the way to eternal life.

All of us, when we let ourselves be mastered by sin, lose the right way and end up straying like lost sheep. But God himself, our shepherd, has come in search of us. In every age, the Risen Shepherd tirelessly seeks us, his brothers and sisters, wandering in the deserts of this world. With the marks of the passion – the wounds of his merciful love – he draws us to follow him on his way, the way of life. Today too, he places upon his shoulders so many of our brothers and sisters crushed by evil in all its varied forms.

The Risen Shepherd goes in search of all those lost in the labyrinths of loneliness and marginalization. He comes to



meet them through our brothers and sisters who treat them with respect and kindness, and help them to hear his voice, an unforgettable voice, a voice calling them back to friendship with God. He takes upon himself all those victimized by old and new forms of slavery, inhuman labour, illegal

trafficking, exploitation and discrimination, and grave forms of addiction. He takes upon himself children and adolescents deprived of their carefree innocence and exploited, and those deeply hurt by acts of violence that take place within the walls of their own home.

The Risen Shepherd walks beside all those forced to leave their homelands as a result of armed conflicts, terrorist attacks, famine and oppressive regimes. Everywhere he helps these forced migrants to encounter brothers and sisters, with whom they can share bread and hope on their journey.

May Jesus, who vanquished the darkness of sin and death, grant peace to our days.” **Pope Francis 2017**



A Very Blessed and Happy Easter to all our Readers, Donors and Friends



HORRIBLE BURGLARY AT SAVIO CHURCH – BOSCO /DALESIDE /RANDVAAL – 20 FEBRUARY 2018

Father Francois Dufour writes, “I was in Bosco for the week presenting the 294th week with 80 grade 9s, when during the early hours of the morning I was alerted to the fact that the Church had been burgled.

Despite the church being securely locked and guards on duty, four men – maybe more - forced their way into the church after cutting the perimeter fence. CCTV footage shows how they checked that the guards were not in sight, and then two broke the front door lock while a third kept watch. It took them 7 minutes to gain entry. The back door of the church

sacristy had been opened, and on checking the church, we ascertained the damage and the items which had been robbed.

Once inside, they pillaged 2 loud speakers – R2,000, bongo drums – R4000, the tabernacle – R5000, ciborium – R800, and an ancient safe from the 1950s which must weigh over 200kgs, and which contained the sacred vessels for mass – 3 (silver plated and gold inlaid chalices and respective patens, a ciborium and “paten dish”, a pyx, some relics, mass wine bottle, and probably a few more minor items, including of course the Tabernacle key – R10,000. Broken lock on front, sacristy and back doors; damage to a metal cabinet – R3000 for repairs. THE BODY OF CHRIST/BLESSED SACRAMENT – PRICELESS.

There may be a few more items which in due course we will discover to have been taken, but for now we are especially distressed at the sacrilegious attack on our chapel and especially the violation of the Blessed Sacrament. This is the first such break in in nearly 60 years of its existence.”



EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PROVINCIAL

“Sir, give me this Water”

Let us CULTIVATE
the art of LISTENING
and of ACCOMPANIMENT



Even as we begin to wish and greet, ‘Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!’, I am thinking of the quiet way in which the Lord Jesus has stepped over and reached out to be by our side. Sitting at the well side, as a wearied traveler, feeble and vulnerable from the hunger and thirst, Jesus

seeks help from a fellow human being, equally feeble and vulnerable. The ensuing conversation leads the other – the woman at the well- to also seek help and open up: **Sir Give me this water!** Here we see two pilgrims meet. One is a pilgrim from the heavenly Father to the wearied, downtrodden and subdued human society; the other is a pilgrim from this wearied society seeking, albeit unknowingly, the source of Life. These two pilgrims meet, listen to each other, penetratingly attentive, and then accompany each other. Their own personal weariness and need forgotten, they turn to listen to the needs of others, and bring many more to drink from the ‘source of life giving water’– ‘come, see, could this be the messiah?’ ‘Woman, we now have seen with our own eyes and believe!’ What a transformation to the whole society because of the listening and accompanying! And when that is carried forward in ripples of listening and accompanying, the world is transformed. Listening and accompaniment can be done in so many different and varied ways. And that is what we are all called to do.

As we come to another celebration of the Power of the Risen Lord, in transforming our lives, it is with gratitude that we remember the many hearts that have joined together to make this transforming power of the Lord reach and touch many more hearts than our own. Our nine Salesian presences in southern Africa have continued this journey of listening and accompanying because there have been so many of you who also have listened and accompanied us with your support of prayer, encouragement and material help. And I invoke the Lord’s blessing on all our benefactors, collaborators, friends, well wishers and family members together with the many that turn to open their hearts and needs to us. Even as there are many that are in material need and support, there are also as many in spiritual need and support. May this EASTER Celebration usher us into that continued journey of listening and accompanying in the ways possible to each of us, all through the year, because we know that each of us is a seeker: **Sir, Give me this water!** May the Risen Lord Bless each of us, draw us closer to HIM, and use us to touch other hearts with His Eternal Love. HAPPY EASTER! ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN INDEED! HE IS ALIVE!

Yours humbly in our blessed mother. **Fr Joy Sebastian SDB**

*The words of the tongue should have three gatekeepers:
Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?*



3 MORE OF DON BOSCO’S SIMPLE WAYS TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE AND REACH ETERNAL HAPPINESS

These are what Don Bosco called “medicine” for the soul. The simplicity and efficacy of these “prescriptions” remind us of those good old-fashioned homemade remedies made by our mothers. 4: If you do not wish to be

ruined, never spend more than you earn, and always measure your true capacities accurately.

5: Be humble. Speak little of yourself and never praise yourself before anyone. Those who praise themselves, even if they do merit it, risk losing the good opinion of others.

Whoever seeks only praise and honours is sure to have an empty head fed only by wind... will have no peace of soul, and will be unreliable in any undertaking.

6: Carry your cross on your back and take it as it comes, small or large, whether from friends or enemies and whatever wood it is made of. The most intelligent and happiest of people are those who, knowing that they are doomed to carry their cross throughout life, willingly and resignedly accept the one God sends them.

Don Bosco concluded: “Dear friend, I am a man who loves joy and who wishes to see you and everybody else happy too. If you do as I advise you to, you will be joyful and glad in heart.”

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR, MONDAY 1 JANUARY 2018, ST JOHN BOSCO CHAPEL BOOYSENS, JOHANNESBURG



Fr Joy takes the oath of office witnessed by Fr Michael Connell and Fr Americo our regional on behalf of the Rector Major

Christmas Decorations Learn to Live Cape Town



Celebrating the Feast of John Bosco and 60 years at Robertsham Parish



SALESIAN INSTITUTE CAPE TOWN



It is with great pride that I share with you the rewarding news that the Western Cape Government's Department of Social Development, has awarded the Salesian Institute Youth Projects with the **Gold Award** for **"Opening Economic Opportunities & Facilitating Entrepreneurship."**

This award was for our YES Program and I thank all the staff for their contribution. Salesians carry this award with pride and we remain committed in our efforts to create opportunities for the youth at risk.

Hilton Nyirenda, CEO



LAURA VICUNA – 22 JANUARY AND DON BOSCO 31 JANUARY CELEBRATIONS AND GRADUATIONS, AT DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL CENTRE, ENNERDALE



BACK TO SCHOOL AT



Lerato Pre and Primary School, and Michael Rua Primary School Ennerdale. We hope that the approximately 100 grade ones (Lerato) and 142 grade ones (Michael Rua) will make it to matric in 12 years' time.



MASERU – LESOTHO 108 children received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. I participated in their remote preparation and I was impressed by the way they understood the basics of the children's catechism. **Fr Lingoane Tlaile**



When God Sends You Help, Don't Ask Questions She hurried to the pharmacy to get medication, got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys inside. The woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground. She looked at it and said: "I don't know how to use this." She bowed her head and asked God to send her some HELP. Within 5 minutes a beat-up old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He got off of his cycle and asked if he could help. She said: "Yes, my daughter is sick. I've locked my keys in my car I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?" He said, "Sure." He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute the car was open. She hugged the man and through tears said: "Thank You, God, for sending me such a very nice man." The man heard her little prayer and replied: "Lady, I am NOT a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday; I was in prison for car theft. The woman hugged the man again, sobbing, "Oh, thank you, God! You even sent me a Professional!"

Dear Friends

This edition of the Spotlight is very much about listening and discerning. The Holy Father and the Rector Major seem to have pooled ideas on these subjects. However there



is a lot to be learnt from what they are saying. We can also learn a lot from the people who have made a big impression on our lives. In the Book of Kings, "Solomon asked the Lord God for "wisdom" and the basis of wisdom is a listening or a discerning heart. 1 Kings 3:4-13. And in the story of the Prodigal Son we learn also about humility and listening.

"Forgive me Lord, and God listens" and "we are not better than any-body else."

Many people in the Salesian family, who quietly work in the background, and have done so for many years, deserve mention and gratitude. I have tried to show some of them on Page 4 of this edition and I sincerely hope that they will be duly recognized.

There are also others who deserve a medal – Lyn Brady who has done my printing and put up with me for many years. Also Tanya Graham who keeps the web-site up to date, when I let her know. AND let us not forget all you wonderful people who enable us to continue with our work, with the children in our projects. Your loyalty and love are unstinting. You are all remembered in the daily prayers of Salesians. Pope Francis tells us, "Never give up on people who love you." And in all your troubles: "Mary is the sure ark in the midst of the flood." A BLESSED AND HAPPY EASTER TO YOU ALL. Pray for me as I do for you. Much Love Denise Hards

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO GREAT DIGNITARIES IN THE SALESIAN FAMILY



Father Canice Dooley SDB celebrated his 84th birthday on 8 February this year.

AD
MULTOS
ANNOS



Father Eoin Farrelly SDB celebrated his 77th birthday on 13 February this year



Father Ralph De Hahn, loyal donor and friend, celebrated his Diamond Jubilee in December 2017



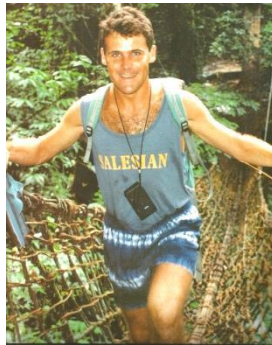
Cynthia Maggott, who celebrated her 80th birthday on 1 February this year. She has worked tirelessly for 60 years in the Lansdowne Parish as Minister of the Eucharist, Catechist, Legionary, Social Worker and general hands-on of all events and festivities.



Mrs Sheila Gilbert, loyal donor and friend, was the recipient of the Don Bosco medallion for 40 years' service in the parish of Hanover Park



Sean Devereaux RIP, an English Salesian and missionary who gave his life for starving children was assassinated on 2 January 1993 in Somalia, 25 years ago. His mother Maureen is pictured alongside him.



"While my heart beats, I have to do what I think I can do – and that is to help those who are less fortunate."



Joan Swanson, President of the Legion of Mary for many years, and loyal donor and friend



CATHOLIC CHURCH celebrates 200 years of existence in South Africa in June 2018.



The Provincial Council from South Africa joined Salesian delegates from all over Africa for the TEAM VISIT 2018 at Dimesse, Nairobi. They all came together with one purpose: to reflect on **Redesigning the Salesian Presence in Africa**. They were joined by the Rector Major from Rome.

Back row left to right: Fr Americo Chausse – Regional for Africa, Fr Robert Gore, Fr Alberto Villalba. Front row: Bro Clarence Watts, Fr Joy Sebastian, Fr Angel Artime – Rector Major, Fr Lingoane Tlaile. Absent: Fr Michael Connell

"Jesus said to her, I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

FEAST DAYS

- 29 Mar Holy Thursday
- 30 Mar Good Friday
- 01 Apr Resurrection of Our Lord
- 08 Apr Divine Mercy Sunday
- 01 May St Joseph the Worker
- 06 May St Dominic Savio
- 13 May Ascension of Our Lord
- 20 May Pentecost
- 24 May Mary Help of Christians
- 27 May Most Holy Trinity
- 31 May Visitation of Our Lady

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.



Kindly fill in your Name, Address, Telephone Number and Email

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

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YES! I want to support the Salesian work with needy youth!

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:
- *STANDARD BANK CLAREMONT 025109**
- A/C NUMBER 07 256 1572**
- A/C HOLDER – SALESIAN MISSIONS**