

Salesian Missions

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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

EASTER 2019



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



EASTER 2018 MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS

“Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus is risen from the dead!

This message resounds in the Church the world over, along with the singing of the Alleluia: Jesus is Lord; the Father has raised him and he lives forever in our midst.

Jesus had foretold his death and resurrection using the image of the *grain of wheat*. He said: “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (Jn 12:24). And this is precisely what happened: Jesus, the grain of wheat sowed by God in the furrows of the earth, died, killed by the sin of the world. He remained two days in the tomb; but his death contained God’s love in all its power, released and made manifest on the third day, the day we celebrate today: the Easter of Christ the Lord.

We Christians believe and know that Christ’s resurrection is the true hope of the world, the hope that does not disappoint. It is the power of the grain of wheat, the power of that love which humbles itself and gives itself to the very

end, and thus truly renews the world. This power continues to bear fruit today in the furrows of our history, marked by so many acts of injustice and violence. May the risen Christ bring fruits of new life to those children, who as a result of wars and hunger, grow up without hope, lacking education and health care; and to those elderly persons who are cast off by a selfish culture that ostracizes those who are not “productive”.

The words heard by the women at the tomb are also addressed to us: “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen” (Lk 24:5-6). Death, solitude and fear are not the last word. There is a word that transcends them, a word that only God can speak: it is the word of the resurrection. By the power of God’s love, it “dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord and brings down the mighty. Happy Easter to all!”



VISIT OF THE RECTOR MAJOR TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Rector Major, Father Angel Artime was on South African soil from 8 to 12 March. He was accompanied by Father Americo Chaquisse, the Councilor for the Africa-Madagascar region, and his secretary Father Horacio Lopez. He visited the Vice Province of Southern Africa – which includes South Africa, Eswatini and Lesotho. His talks and instruction left the Salesian



family, as well as all the youth, highly enlightened. His first port of call on this whistle stop tour was in Cape Town, where he met with the Salesian Family, including Archbishop Stephen Brislin, at the Salesian Institute. (Picture above) See more inside.....



**HE IS RISEN - “PEACE BE WITH YOU - DO NOT BE AFRAID”
EASTER BLESSINGS AND THANKS TO ALL OUR READERS,
DONORS AND FRIENDS**



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ‘WAY OF LIGHT’ (THE STATIONS AFTER THE RESURRECTION) IS ON OUR WEBSITE IN ENGLISH, AFRIKAANS, FRENCH, SeSOTHO AND ZULU www.salesianmissions.co.za

RECTOR MAJOR'S VISIT



Learn to Live – Salesian Institute and Fr Pat Naughton with the Rector Major.
Picture on right and below – Youth Movement in Lansdowne



The Sisters in Boksburg and the Salesian Family in Bosco Randvaal



Welcome in Lesotho. (Pictures above and left. Salesian Sisters and Youth)



Father Ángel Fernández Artime's message. "My wish is that the Salesians will help you to be good boys and girls," he said shortly after his arrival, meeting the young students of Learn to Live. "Do not leave Jesus out of your lives." He subsequently met the parishioners and the Salesian Youth Movement in Lansdowne. In the first of the two meetings, Fr Angel recalled how in the whole world, religious and laity of the Salesian Family really succeed in changing the lives of young people, and he also emphasized the value of unity: "In order to

develop Salesian works, Don Bosco needed the help of many other people. It is very important that we remain united."

The following day the Rector Major met his confreres in Cape Town where he said how Pope Francis once said to him: "Others work with the young, but the Salesians exist for young people." Later, Fr Angel dialogued with Msgr. Stephen Brislin, Archbishop of Cape Town. In Johannesburg he visited the provincial community of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, and then the young people and members of the Salesian Family in Bosco, Randvaal. He reminded the young people that each person can be a gift to others and that holiness does not consist in performing miracles, but in performing "the miracle of service." His next stop was Lesotho where he arrived in pouring rain. To the various groups of the Salesian Family, he emphasized the importance of witnessing communion and of being significantly present among young people.



Farewell – Boksburg Sisters



The Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP) has been serving the needs of marginalised youth for 109 years in Cape Town. Since its humble beginnings, the Salesians have always focused on the education of the poor and most vulnerable young people.

Today, SIYP still stands strong in its commitment to serve the youth, although 2018 was a turning point for The Salesian Institute Youth Projects in Cape Town. A decline in donor funding and an increase of operational costs brought about a major change



well as changes in donor funding strategies, has resulted in a steady decline in donor funds over time. This has led to the SIYP Board having to restructure the organisation to ensure continuation of programmes such as the Learn to Live School of Skills and the PTRC-ZA Megatronics Auto Technician Programme. Both these programmes have designated funding in place.

The Salesian Institute Youth Projects will continue to seek new funding in order to augment the current programmes and re-establish programmes.

For the immediate future, SIYP are focussed on educating and providing training to youth from at risk communities and serving their dreams. *(Pictures: Learn to Live Choir and 2 Learners).*



in direction. This included the closure of the YES (Youth Employment Skills) Programme and the WOC (Waves of Change) Programme, as well as the Salesian Outreach Programme. A stagnant South African economy, as



SWAZILAND

Josiah and Laura Vacheresse are young people, both originally from the United States. They met and married, and continued to put their talents at the disposal of the most needy. They spent a year of missionary voluntary service in Swaziland. They applied to Salesian Mission Office as Lay Mission Volunteers. The preparation for the lay mission volunteers consists of three weeks of orientation. During the first week, we learn a lot about the Salesian

charism, Don Bosco's Preventive System and participating in Salesian community life. The second week consisted of work in the apostolate. On the final week, we went on a retreat with the Salesians, which was a truly amazing experience. They ended up in Swaziland, because of visa problems, which was a blessing in disguise.

The young people there taught them that they had nothing to complain about. They taught them to be cheerful no matter what your circumstances are, which is what Don Bosco was about, cheerfulness! The communal spirit is what also touched their hearts. Once the children were out at basketball practice and it had been a long day. So what they did was to collect money they had and bought bread, said grace while seated on the basketball court and broke the bread amongst themselves. This moment really touched them in a profound way. Josiah and Laura's advice: "Be patient, things don't change overnight. Concentrate on the things that you can control and be radically open because God has a bigger plan, so just let it happen."

(Pictures: Josiah & Laura with children in Manzini and Salesian Youth in Malkerns.)



Dear Friends

I recently received a message regarding the hymn, "This is the day" and it straight away brought back so many memories.



When I was teaching at Learn to Live we always had song and prayers first thing in the morning, and this hymn was a favourite amongst the children. As we get older we tend to cherish the memories – old songs, old films, old chats, and old friends, who have gone to their heavenly reward. These things pass, but there are so many things that remain the same – the Mass, the Easter ceremonies, First Communion, Confirmation, marriage – and yes, these events should have a stabilizing effect in our lives. There are also other issues which we cannot forget – corrupt Government officials, load-shedding, etc. but we can put patience and prayer into practice, when we are sorely tried, lean back on the memories and sing, "This is the day that the Lord has made..."

Today, you, dear friends, are the mainstay of our work and our future endeavor. The future of Salesians in Southern Africa depends on your support for our work, and subsequently the many youngsters in our projects. Don Bosco said, "I could have done nothing without your assistance." And I say the same. 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." May the Risen Christ bless you with His Peace, Love and Healing this Easter. And may Mary, our Mother be with you. Much love and God bless. Denise Hards

Chuckles: A priest was driving through the country when suddenly his motor stopped. He got out of the car and raised the hood to see if he could locate the trouble. All at once a voice behind him said: "The trouble is the carburetor." Quickly he turned around and in surprise he saw an old horse standing on the other side of the fence. Hardly daring to believe his ears, he asked, "Did you say something?" "Yes, I did, you had better check the carburetor," replied the horse. Rushing down the road to the nearest farmhouse, the priest excitedly related his experience to the old farmer who answered the door. "Was it an old bay horse with one flop ear?" asked the farmer. "Yes, yes, that's the one!" "Well don't pay any attention to him," the farmer scoffed. "He doesn't know anything about motor vehicles anyway."

"Mary is the mistress under whose guidance you will become wise, and without whom all wisdom is foolishness. " Don Bosco

FATHER LARRY

McDONNELL - Died on the 25 December 2018 at the age of 83. He spent 48 Years of his long priesthood serving the poor in Eswatini. Fr Larry – *Inyoni*, as he was fondly called by his students – faithfully fulfilled his ministry up until the last few moments of his life, when ill health finally overcame him. He was well known and loved by the entire Eswatini nation. He was an extraordinary person and his accomplishments and impact on the country will be felt by many generations to come. *Eswatini Prime Minister – Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini*. May he rest in peace.



FATHER ANTONIO CESAR FERNANDEZ – ASSASINATED

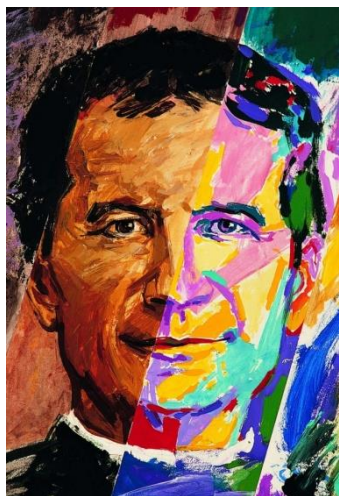
A tragic death has struck the Salesian Congregation in Africa. Our beloved confrere was shot dead in an ambush by jihadist assassins February 15, 2019. He was in charge of the Salesian community of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. He had offered his life for Africa and his offer was fully accepted. He was also the founder of the parish of Mary Help of Christians, and the first teacher of novices for 10 years. May he rest in peace.



Children in happy mood in the 'FocusVillage' MALKERNS

KENYA

Father Francois teaching a program similar to that of Love Matters, to teenagers (95 of them) in Kenya.



THE MULTICOLORED FACE OF DON BOSCO TODAY

"While listening to the many wonderful stories on my travels, it struck me that Don Bosco must be happy on account of his sons and daughters in the Salesian Family who are still today intent upon being faithful to the charism that God raised up in him. And I felt great joy while listening to all these reports – which are only the tip of the iceberg – about the great good that is being done for so many people. This made me think that today Don Bosco's face has many colours that he himself probably never imagined." **Rector Major**

EASTER PRAYER

My Lord Jesus, You have risen to new Life! Give me new eyes with which to recognise Your presence in the world around me. Sharpen my vision so that I see beyond the ordinary events of each day and into the extraordinary reality of Your grace. Brighten my view of the world with renewed hope in the coming of your Kingdom. Soften my gaze so that I view others with the kind of tenderness and compassion you showed to so many. May each day of this Easter season provide glimpses of your glory. In Your Sacred Name, I pray. Amen

FEAST DAYS

- 18 Apr Holy Thursday
- 19 Apr Good Friday
- 21 Apr Resurrection of Our Lord
- 28 Apr Divine Mercy Sunday
- 01 May St Joseph the Worker
- 06 May St Dominic Savio
- 24 May Mary Help of Christians
- 31 May Visitation of Our Lady
- 02 Jun Ascension of Our Lord
- 09 Jun 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.



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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 don't need it!

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