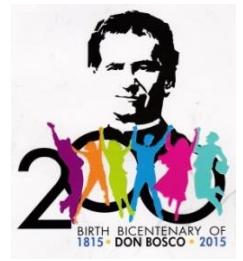


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# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT



SEPTEMBER 2015

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 25 YEARS

## Pope Francis in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians with the Rector Major Don Angel Fernandez Artime



"Dear brothers and sisters,  
In my pilgrimage for the veneration of Jesus crucified in the image of the Holy Shroud, I chose also to come to this place which represents the heart of the life and work of St. John Bosco, to celebrate with you the second centenary of his birth. With you I thank the Lord for giving the Church this Saint, who together with many other saints of the region, are an honour and a blessing for the Church and society of Turin and Piedmont, of Italy and the world whole, especially because of the care he had for poor and marginalized young people.



You cannot think of Don Bosco today without seeing him surrounded by many people - the Salesian Family he founded, educators who are inspired by him, and of course many young people, boys and girls, from all parts of the earth who acclaim Don Bosco as "Father and Teacher." You could say so much about Don Bosco! But today I would like to emphasize three aspects: his trust in divine Providence; his vocation to be a priest of the young especially the poorest of them; and his loyal and hard-working service to the Church, and in particular to the Successor of Peter.

Many branches have sprung from the solid roots he put down in Church and society two hundred years ago. Today there are thirty religious institutions that live his charism and share his mission of bringing the Gospel to marginalized areas. The Lord blessed his work by raising up among you, in these past two centuries, a large number of people whom the Church has proclaimed Saint or Blessed.

I encourage you to continue on this path, imitating the faith of those who preceded you.

In this Basilica, so dear to you and to the whole people of God, we invoke Mary Help of Christians to bless each member of the Salesian Family; to bless the parents and educators who spend their lives for the growth of young people; to bless every young person who is helped by the works of Don Bosco, especially those for the very poor, so that, thanks to well-formed well-educated youth, the Church and the world may discover the joy of a new humanity.



CHILDREN  
CELEBRATING THE  
BICENTENARY OF  
DON BOSCO AT  
DALESIDE

SALESIANS CELEBRATING 150 YEARS WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH THE WORLD OVER





**BROTHER PETER SIMMONDS SDB** Brother Peter passed away on the morning of 28 May 2015, at 87 years of age and 61 and a half years of profession, most of them spent in Cape Town. He was a wonderful model Salesian Brother, and although for the past few years was in poor health, continued to do his bit for the mission of Don Bosco.

Born in Tunbridge Wells, Kent on 22 November 1927, Peter became a Salesian in 1953, and came to Cape Town in the following year. He was instructor, teacher and finally principal of the Salesian Technical High School. After its closure in 1976 he directed the Salesian Press and Repository. In 1989 he set up the "Learn to Live" programme for street children.

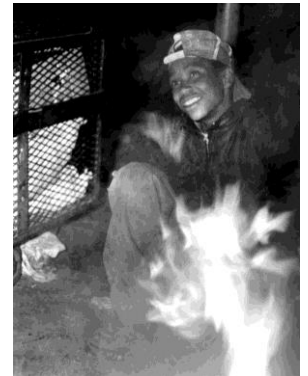
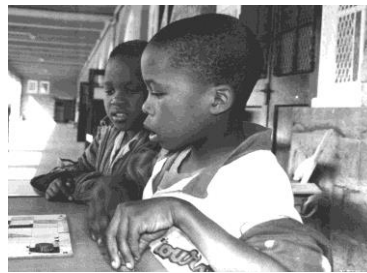
During the late 1980s the phenomenon of street children was becoming increasingly evident in several of the larger cities of South Africa. The Salesian Institute in Cape Town was at that time a schoolboys' hostel. Outside of school hours the boys enjoyed swimming, football and other recreations in the grounds of the Institute. Some of these activities could be observed at a distance from outside the entrance gates. Thus it sometimes happened that small groups of

street children would watch wistfully from outside while other more fortunate youngsters were obviously enjoying themselves inside the grounds. They were not a little surprised when, instead of being chased away as was their usual experience elsewhere, they were invited in off the street to join in the fun!

January 1990 saw the opening of the project with some twenty-five boys and five girls; most came from the shelters, but about a dozen attended direct from the streets on which they were living. Numbers steadily increased but also fluctuated owing to the instability of the children's life. Donations from various benefactors made it possible to provide the children with soup and something to eat before departing in the afternoon.

Brother Peter's health began to fail when he reached his eighties and he suffered a great deal in his last years, but accepted this with true dignity, always grateful for any act of kindness towards himself. He continued to keep himself informed of current affairs – especially within the Church and the Congregation.

## SALESIAN INSTITUTE Some of the first pictures from Learn to Live



### And some recent ones



How will we remember Peter? As a true friend, a kind human being, a dedicated religious, a real servant to all and a deeply spiritual being – a spirituality that touched everyone. "He whom we loved and lost is no longer where he was before. He is now wherever we are", as St Chrysostom wrote. Peter's legacy lives on, especially at the Salesian Institute, not forgotten, but growing.

May his soul rest in peace. *Father Jeffrey Johnson*

At the end of our life we collect the reward of all our good works. Don Bosco.

**There will always be a reason why you meet people. Either you need them to change your life or you're the one who will change theirs.**

← Newly ordained priest Fr. Lingoane giving the Good Night to the Hostel youth whereby he encouraged them to make use of the opportunity of education.



## Perpetual Profession of Cleric Chris Sharpe



I returned home from the perpetual profession of CI Chris Sharpe recently. It was a long drive - 2350 kilometres approximately since Friday morning, but it was worth it. St Joseph the Worker parish and the Oratorian community welcomed us with great warmth and great numbers

attended the profession yesterday afternoon. Everything went very smoothly, and Chris pronounced his vows very serenely and confidently during the 140 minute Eucharistic celebration.

It was another grace-filled moment which highlighted our bicentenary. The Bishop of Port Elizabeth Diocese, Vincent Zungu OFM presided and was very gracious in spending the whole afternoon till late evening with us. Chris' family and friends were also present on this joyous occasion.



Father Francois Dufour & Bishop Zungu on the right

## LANSDOWNE – CAPE TOWN

We had a wonderful youth festival here at Lansdowne comprising of the youth and confirmation classes of the three Salesian parishes of Westridge, Hanover Park, Lansdowne and Delft,



where the Salesian sisters are involved. It was indeed a first of its kind and a real Salesian event. We look forward to having these more often with the cooperation of the three parishes. *Father Roy Elavungal*

## LOVE MATTERS – BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE WALKERVILLE GAUTENG



Many thanks to all of our benefactors, clients and supporters for their continued involvement with LoveMatters and the work of the Salesians of Don Bosco.

We are extremely grateful for everything you do for us and keep you in our daily prayers.



Dear Friends  
Salesians and youth in their care, have been celebrating the bicentenary of Don Bosco all over the world. So much

fun and laughter has been spread around that it has almost been electric. It makes me wish that the world wasn't in such a mess and that everybody could also experience this love and laughter. So many are asking 'why' and my thought on this is that God, Prayer and Discipline have disappeared from our lives. God is not brought into the classroom anymore and He is forgotten in the home, as we are so busy with all that we have to do. Prayer is just a fleeting thing remembered only maybe on Sunday and discipline, which children cry out for, is non-existent. St Paul tells us that "at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven, on earth and in the underworld." So many nasty jokes are made today that we have possibly forgotten who Jesus is.

We need to bring Him back into our lives as He is our Creator and Saviour and He loves us. If anyone can make things right in this world it is Him.

We have just celebrated Woman's Month, so let us not forget Our Blessed Lady this month and during October. The Rosary is a most powerful prayer. And if you need any beauty tips read the advice from Audrey Hepburn below.

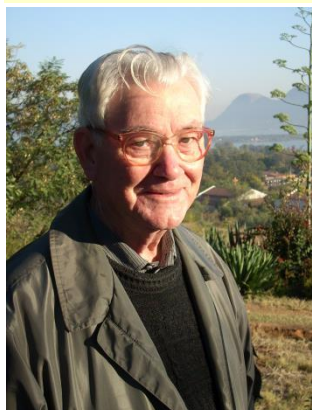
My sincere thanks once again to all of you wonderful people for your donations, prayers and kindness. Please continue to help us so that we can bring the knowledge of Jesus to more youth in this world. And pray for me as I do for you.

Much love Denise Hards

**Audrey Hepburn** wrote the following when asked to share her 'beauty tips.' It was read at her funeral years later. For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone. People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, reclaimed and redeemed – never throw out anyone. Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.



**FATHER PETER DOHERTY SDB** Father Peter breathed his last around 13h00 on Sunday 19 July in his own bed at the Salesian



House in Manzini, having been confined to bed for the previous 10 days, at the age of 85. Brother Marko Mhara had been nursing him with some professional assistance, and Fr Joseph Nguyen spent the last night in the same room to attend to him as he was in much pain for the last 24 hours. Father Joseph and I celebrated Mass at his bedside and he received communion a couple of hours before departing for that final journey to the Father. He had a "good innings" and had served the Lord and his people well through the congregation and in the church, especially here in Swaziland where he spent 47 years. Father Peter, though highly qualified, was content to be a teacher in the classroom for most of his priestly life, dedicated to the task, conscientiously marking piles of exercise books, unpretentious and never seeking to be in the limelight. His past-pupils hold him in high esteem and their numerous presence at his funeral bears testimony to their recognition for how he helped them achieve their often high prominent position in society. It was truly fortuitous, or providential rather, that seven of them were able to pray at his bedside minutes after he breathed his last. The Cathedral of Manzini was almost full for the funeral mass presided by the Bishop of Manzini, concelebrated by 8 confreres and a dozen priests of the diocese, most of whom had been pupils of his. A special memorial mass was held in his home parish of Malin Head, which Fr Hugh Boyle presided and Fr Tim Wrenn concelebrated with 5 other priests. May he rest in peace. *Father Francois Dufour*

**YOUTH BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**



**THANK YOU**  
We have no address or 'phone number for the following and would like to say "Thank You" for your donation."  
E.J.Dorney  
Parishioner – Library gardens  
**PATRICK**  
When making a deposit into our bank account please leave a 'phone number so that we can contact you.  
God bless and reward you all.

**POPE FRANCIS** has a special affection for Mary Help of Christians. When he was in Buenos Aires he used to go to the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians so as to "salute the Mother, Help of Christians" and have a chat with Our Blessed Lady. He went during the hours that were not frequented by the faithful. Kneeling on a bench hidden by a column, at the feet of the statue blessed by Don Bosco, he used to pray for a long time. Let us remember the month of the Holy Rosary. It is amazing what this prayer can do to bring about peace in the world. When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.



*Children were asked questions about the old and new testaments. The following have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in.*

1. In the first book of the bible, guinessis, God got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built and ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.
4. Moses led the Jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients
5. The greatest miricle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
6. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
7. The epistels were the wives of the apostles.
8. One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.

**FEAST DAYS**  
08 Sept Birthday of Our Lady  
14 Sept Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
15 Sept Our Lady of Sorrows  
01 Oct St Therese of the Child Jesus  
02 Oct Guardian Angels  
07 Oct Our Lady of the Rosary  
29 Oct Blessed Michael Rua SDB  
01 Nov All Saints  
02 Nov All Souls  
22 Nov Christ the King

**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!**

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- Type of account:  Cheque  Transmission
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