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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

SEPTEMBER 2018



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

A Fitting Farewell to a Fine Salesian – Father Francois



Just hours before he would leave South Africa, Salesian Priests and Sisters gathered to wish Father Francois farewell and to thank him for all the good that he did whilst he worked as a Brother and Priest here in this country. Speeches were made, gratitude was expressed and a meal was enjoyed, while many reminisced on the years that had gone before. Father Francois leaves us to enjoy a well-earned rest with his family before he moves to Nairobi, Kenya, where he will take up the position of instructing novices to becoming good and holy priests. We wish him Godspeed and a promise of our prayers in his new home.

(Pictures left: Enjoying his last meal in South Africa and right – listening to one of the speeches in his trademark sandals.)



Children are the same the world over



Salesian Institute - Cape Town



Bosco Centre - Gauteng



Hoa An Oratory - Vietnam



Maputsoe Oratory - Lesotho



Lesotho



Hoa An Oratory - Vietnam



One in a million shot. A smile from Heaven...



Pope Francis shows his respect and affection for Our Blessed Lady at the Vatican



Carry your Rosary with you every day

MANZINI – ESWATINI(SWAZILAND)



THE YOUTH MINISTRY team organized a leadership seminar for members of the Salesian Youth Movement (SYM) in Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland. Fr Martin McCormack SDB, an expert on the formation of animators

and author of the recently published book on the theme, "The many facets of leadership", urged participants to take inspiration from Don Bosco's style of leadership.



A GROUP OF DUTCH youngsters from Amsterdam visited Don Bosco's Manzini Youth Care in Swaziland. During the visit they exchanged experiences and thoughts with

peers from Swaziland. The theme of the exchange was: 'self-dependence'. The visit was jointly organized by Don Bosco SAMEN, the Dutch Salesian voluntary service, and Manzini Youth Care. The Dutch group is formed by 5 streetwise youngsters with experience of living on the streets and/or receiving residential care. They are accompanied by 6 volunteers, experienced in volunteering at Don Bosco street children projects worldwide. Manzini Youth Care (MYC) facilitates residential care for street children in Manzini. During informal meetings, like dinner or a sports event, the youngsters found understanding on different levels. They found out that a streetwise life in the Netherlands and Swaziland doesn't differ as much as expected and the youngsters were able to share their stories and relate to each other. A boy who had been on drugs for years went to rehab and it is now 1.5 years that he has been "clean". One of the Dutch participants heard this story and it inspired him in his own process of refusing to use drugs. Many more stories were shared and they all inspired in their own way.

DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL CENTRE



The young people of the Salesian Youth Movement in Johannesburg met at the "Don Bosco Educational Projects" in Ennerdale to reflect on the message of Pope Francis for the

World Day of Social Communications. There was a debate about what it means to be a Christian online and how to counteract the problem of fake news. In addition, young people were asked to produce a video that promotes peace journalism, especially on social networks.

CHILD LABOUR

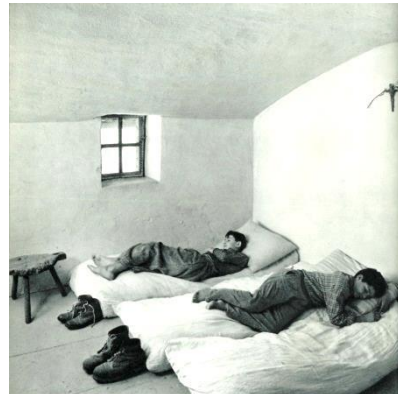


Do you study or work? It is a question that nobody should ask a child, because children already have their place: the school, the playground, the classrooms ... Yet, about 168 million children are victims of child labour.

HISTORY FROM THE LIFE OF DON BOSCO

THE HOME OF DON BOSCO

Castelnuovo, Italy - 1815 - This is the famous home of I Becchi, the rural home of the Bosco Occhiena family, a modest home, but one they owned. On the lower floor is the kitchen and next to it a stable for cows. Above are two rooms and a small window. There was poverty, but not misery.



THE ROOM OF THE BOSCO OCCHIENA BROTHERS

Two straw mattresses, four whitewashed walls, a small window, a small bench and a crucifix. A room poorer than what they will later have from the Moglia family. This is where, in the burgh of I Becchi, the three Bosco brothers slept side by side: Giovanni, Giuseppe and Antonio.



MAMMA MARGHERITA'S WORK TABLE

On this work table, Mamma Margherita, John Bosco's mother, kneaded the flour, her hands preparing the bread that nourished Giovannino's rustic childhood.

DON BOSCO'S LAST DAYS

Valdocco, Turin - 1887 - On this sofa and around this lectern, Don Bosco spent the last months of his life. There he rested, prayed, worked, received visits and told his secretary the beginnings of the Oratory.



HAVE YOU GOT A VOCATION?

My name is Victor Kyanga. I am a Salesian priest, who was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo. I came to South Africa as a missionary in 2006, and I am grateful to God for trusting me with this Holy specific vocation. I have been a Priest now for 7 years and have worked in Cape Town and Lesotho.

I am currently studying in Rome as one of the students in our Pontifical Salesian University. I am doing my Masters in Sciences of Education, with Specialization in Catechetics. I have successfully completed one year of studies, and after my break here in South Africa I will go back to continue the second year. I believe and remain optimistic about the great work that is being done for our young people by each Salesian wherever he/she is. As Don Bosco our founder says, everything we do is for the sake of our young people entrusted to us. I would urge any young man/woman to come and see what it is like to work with us. Contact: Father Alberto 076 935 9442 or Brother Clarence 063 282 6981



Asunción, Paraguay - Sebastián Núñez, a 17 year old student of the "Salesiano" institute, has this year been admitted to the NASA Space Camp, a week-long intensive specialist course held at Huntsville, Alabama, a course taught by astronauts of the US space agency. Sebastián has already won a bronze medal (2016) and a gold medal (2017) at the National Olympics of Astronomy and Astronautics.

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kinshasa

"Never allow young people to be idle during recreation", said Don Bosco. This great saint of the oratory had already understood centuries ago that youth can indeed develop in a healthy fashion when they receive valid proposals for work, formation and leisure. This is why today in Kinshasa, the spiritual Sons of Don Bosco are working to offer their students the means and opportunities to practice music and sports.



Manila, Philippines - Students of the "Don Bosco Academy", Pampanga-Mabalacat, took part in the "Genfest 2018" organized by the Focolare Movement. The international event was held with the aim of promoting communion among young people of different ethnic groups and religions through various workshops and forums led by experts and folklore evenings. In addition,

the young people gave life to the activity called "Hands4Humanity", bringing their help to orphanages, homes for the elderly, poor communities of Manila, as well as cleaning up part of a coastal area of Manila Bay.

UNITED STATES – NEW ROCHELLE

"Salesian Missions", the U.S development arm of the Salesians of Don Bosco, is one of the first winners on "GreatNonprofits" 2018 Top-Rated Award List. This award is provided to non-profits whose donors and volunteers have shared exceptional stories and insights about their work and impact. These stories are shared with GreatNonprofits who utilizes them to help inspire more donors and volunteers.



SYRIA – KAFROUN "Welcome, you are welcome here! Welcome Mella, welcome!" These are the first words that Mariangela Branca, an Italian volunteer, heard in the Salesian oratory of Kafroun, on the border with Lebanon. "To show you affection, children and young people do not get tired of saying, 'I love you!'," she says. "A small group also enjoys teaching me something in Arabic. I'm really fortunate."

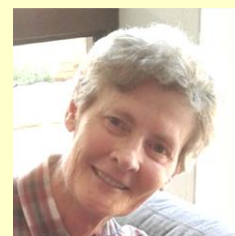
London, Great Britain

The summer activities of the association "Youth and Social Tourism" (TGS), promoted by the "National Centre for Salesian Works" (CNOS), ended on August 1st. For four weeks, more than 100 students aged between 11 and 18, led by various animators and Salesians, took part in a Christian experience of group life, improved their knowledge of English and participated in cultural activities.



Dear Friends

In this edition we have a mixture of modern international/national news, as well as a bit of old history about the life of the founder of the Salesians -



Don Bosco. It also has a bit of sadness as we bid farewell to a friend with whom we have worked for so many years. However the work must go on.

Staring at me from the TV news the other day were the words, "The Catholic Church is in crises." The media will do anything to catch the eye of the beholder. My interest was immediately roused. It was all about the abuse of minors in Pennsylvania many years ago. I, as I am sure were many others, was horrified. It is always the innocent who suffer. And then I remembered a message I had received, also a few days ago. It read: "Priests are like airplanes: one falls and it's all over the news but no one remembers those who are still flying."

Dear Friends we need to pray. Firstly for our church, and then for our Pope – Francis. What must he be thinking and feeling? I think for him and for all of us, a profound sadness. And then we need to pray for those people who were abused. What must they have felt and thought and still live with. In the Gospels we read that Jesus told His disciples, "Let the little children come to me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." These survivors were children once and we can't imagine what they must have suffered. And we need to pray for ourselves, for our families and for all those who have asked us to pray for them. We never know what others are suffering and kindness and prayers cost nothing. St Augustine says, "Whenever we suffer some distress or tribulation, there we find warning and correction for ourselves. The Gospels themselves do not promise peace, security and repose, but tribulations and distress; the Gospel is not silent about scandals, but he/she who perseveres to the end will be saved." And on that light note, we will survive, we will rise above the suffering and the sorrow as did our Saviour before us. Jesus has given us the example. Remember the 8 of September is Our Lady's Birthday and October is the month of the Holy Rosary. Mary knew what suffering was and she can be our comforter and friend in all the turmoil of life. My sincere thanks go to all of you out there who constantly donate to our cause, either monthly, every so often, or anonymously. We appreciate your prayers, your support, your loyalty and every cent we get from you. May God bless and reward you all. With much love Denise Hards

CHUCKLE: An elderly Irishman bought a sports car to recapture his youth and drove at 120mph. Then he saw a police car behind him, blue lights flashing. "I'm too old for this nonsense," he thought, so he pulled over. The police officer said, "Sir, my shift ends in 10 minutes. If you can give me a good reason why you were speeding, I'll let you go." The old man said, "Years ago my wife ran off with a policeman. I thought you were bringing her back." "That will do," said the policeman.



All Saints Parish, Ennerdale, Gauteng, regrets the passing of an outstanding parishioner: Frans Petrus Josef Hilzebecher, born on 19th March 1952 in Windhoek, Namibia and went to his eternal reward on Friday 27th April 2018. He attended primary school at the St Joseph Roman Catholic Mission Hostel in Rehoboth. His mother worked at the Mission and his father worked countrywide and was home every now and again. Frans went to church every day and served as an altar boy. Besides playing rugby he also participated in the Scout Movement. After high school in 1971 he studied Theology in Pela at St Francois Mission and in 1972 taught as an auxiliary teacher at Keetmanshoop Primary School. Later he came to Johannesburg looking for gold! He did not find gold, but *a rare diamond*, Jacqueline, from Kimberley and they married in 1976.

For 42 years he was happily married to Jacqui, raising 3 children in a home filled with love, laughter and integrity. Frans was a stellar example of how to raise a family and how to love your wife. He really gave his best to provide them the best. How to be a committed parishioner. He served in All Saints parish as a member of the PPC, as its chairman for several years, as RCIA teacher, and baptism preparation sessions for parents. He leaves us all with an exemplary legacy. May his dear soul rest in peace.



The Winter Camp

in Finetown was a great success. There were 140 children and 13 youth leaders from Ennerdale and Finetown. The children enjoyed many different activities. Many parents were happy because their children were in a safe place during the school holidays.

Youth Camp with Sr Giovanna and Sr Maria



Try to say your Rosary as often as possible



WORDS OF WISDOM FROM POPE FRANCIS



You can have flaws and be anxious, and even angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from going bust. Many appreciate you, admire you and love you. Remember that to be happy is not to have a sky without a storm, a road without accidents, work without fatigue, relationships without disappointments. To be happy is to find strength in forgiveness, hope in battles, security in the stage of fear, love in discord. It is not only to enjoy the smile, but also to reflect on the sadness. It is not only to celebrate the successes, but to learn lessons from the failures. It is not only to feel happy with applause, but to be happy in anonymity. Being happy is not a fatality of destiny, but an achievement for those who travel within themselves. To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become your destiny's author. It is to cross deserts, yet to be able to find an oasis in the depths of our soul. It is to thank God for every morning, for the miracle of life. Being happy is not being afraid of your own feelings. It's to be able to talk about you. It is having the courage to hear a "no." It is confidence in the face of criticism, even when unjustified. It is to kiss your children, pamper your parents, to live poetic moments with friends, even when they hurt us. To be happy is to let live the creature that lives in each of us, free, joyful and simple. It is to have maturity to be able to say: "I made mistakes." It is to have the courage to say "I am sorry." It is to have the sensitivity to say, "I need you." May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness... That in spring may it be a lover of joy. In winter a lover of wisdom. And when you make a mistake, start all over again. For only then will you be in love with life. You will find that to be happy is not to have a perfect life. But use the tears to irrigate tolerance. Use your losses to train patience. Use your mistakes to sculptor serenity. Use pain to plaster pleasure. Use obstacles to open windows of intelligence. Never give up... Never give up on people who love you. Never give up on happiness, for life is an incredible show. (Pope Francis)



FEAST DAYS

- 08 Sept Birthday of Our Lady
- 14 Sept Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 15 Sept Our Lady of Sorrows
- 02 Oct Guardian Angels
- 04 Oct Francis of Assisi
- 07 Oct Our Lady of the Rosary
- 29 Oct Blessed Michael Rua SDB
- 01 Nov All Saints
- 02 Nov All Souls
- 25 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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