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SALESIAN

SPOTLIGHT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

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THE BICENTENARY OF DON BOSCO'S BIRTH

To recall the 200 years since Don Bosco's birth on August 16, 1815, the Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco at the time, Fr Pascual Chávez, launched the celebrations for the Bicentenary to take place from 16 August 2014 to 16 August 2015.

In fact we can discover the origins of Don Bosco's charism, the purpose of the Congregation's and Salesian Family's mission, and their future, in Don Bosco's motto, "Da mihi animas, and cetera tolle." Don Bosco worked tirelessly for "the glory of God and the salvation of souls." The Bicentenary is an opportunity to give the *charism of Don Bosco* back to the Church and society. It is not the property of the Salesian Family but has been raised up by the Spirit for everyone. The task of the Salesian Family is to make him known so as to involve many forces in his spirituality and mission. Don Bosco today attracts many young people, lay people and families and urges them to become saints, getting involved in the educative and pastoral mission precisely through the concrete nature of this commitment.

PRAYER TO DON BOSCO – FATHER AND TEACHER OF YOUTH

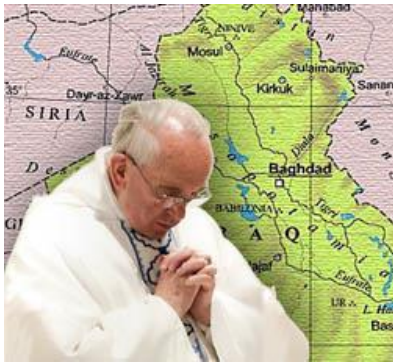
Saint John Bosco, Father and Teacher of youth,
docile to the gifts of the Spirit
and open to the reality of your times,
you were for the young,
especially the little ones and the poor,
a sign of the love and the special care of God.

Be our guide as we walk the path
of friendship with Jesus our Lord,
so that we may discover in Him and in his Gospel
the meaning of our lives and the source of true happiness.

Help us to respond with generosity
to the vocation we have received from God,
so that in daily life we may be builders of communion,
and may collaborate with enthusiasm,
and in communion with the whole Church,
in creating a civilisation of love.

Obtain for us the grace of perseverance
in living model Christian lives,
according to the spirit of the beatitudes.
And grant that, guided by Mary Help of Christians,
we may one day join you and our vast family in heaven.
Amen.





THE RECTOR MAJOR RELAUNCHES THE POPE'S APPEAL FOR CHRISTIANS OF NORTHERN IRAQ

Faced with the violence that Iraqi Christians are being subjected to in Northern Iraq, Pope Francis sent out an appeal so that by means of prayer and aid we can see "an end to the current humanitarian drama." "We should remember that all is lost with war, nothing is lost with peace. I think especially of children, who are deprived of hope and of a future, of dead children and wounded children, of orphans and children playing in the aftermath of war who do not know how to smile. May there never more be war!"

These were the words of the Pope which prompted the Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, to make an appeal to the whole Salesian Family: "Dear brothers and sisters at all points of the compass where the Salesian charism is present, allow me to ask that we join in this prayer of the Holy Father, that we pray with true faith that the Lord may touch all hearts, including the hearts of the people who can decide to put an end to the wars that are going on at present. May God grant us the grace of being always bearers and builders of his peace. Let us pray that this great pain be converted into the New Life of the Risen Lord. We pray that we may always strive for peace and we pray for children and young people who suffer the most. May the Lord continue to let his hope shine upon us."



MAPUTSOE LESOTHO

Children who came to play and take part in many competitions on the new completed slab at the oratory in Maputsoe.



BOOYSENS GAUTENG

Catechism children at BooySENS, posing with statues of John Bosco, Dominic Savio and Mary Help of Christians.



DBEP ENNERDALE



Celebrating Youth Day at Don Bosco Educational Hall, Ennerdale.

MANZINI SWAZILAND

Salesian Primary School – daily assembly – addressed by the Principal



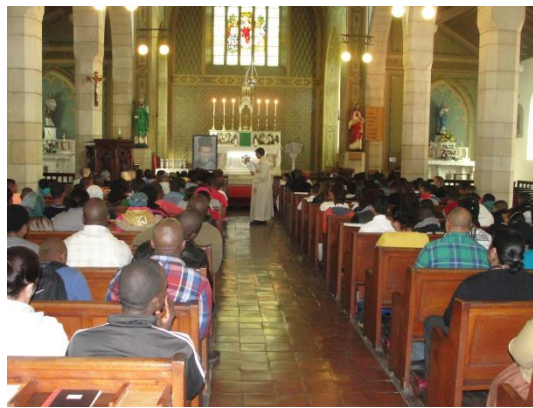
Remember Our Lady's Birthday on the 8th September, forget the speculation on the date, just acknowledge her, thank her and ask for her assistance in all your needs.



The School Cricket team won first place in the primary schools tournament for Swaziland.

SALESIAN INSTITUTE CAPE TOWN

Today 15 August the youth and staff from Salesian Institute kicked off the Bicentenary Year with a beautiful service at Sacred Heart Church. We had the young people from Learn To Live and the YES program, together with all staff. Fr. Jeff Johnson and Br. Clarence led the service which included reading, hymns, (the organ was played by Fr Mikel Garmendia) intercessions and young people bringing up various symbols connected to Salesian Spirituality. Fr. Jeff blessed the special bicentenary candles which were given to each project. Staff have been encouraged to light these candles during special moments in each project and also during their staff meetings. The service was followed by a lekker boerewors roll and drinks for all.



Children from Learn to Live dramatising Mary Assumed into heaven. (Picture left)

Games at Don Bosco Educational Centre – Ennerdale



MANZINI SWAZILAND

FEEDING THE 5,000

Brother John Thusi
feeding 1,300 hungry
boys;

and recreation time at
Salesian High, Manzini,
Swaziland.



Dear Friends
There is so
much suffering
in the world
today that
some people
are asking if

there is a God, and if so, why does He allow this suffering? The suffering is of course, of our own making. Greed and the need for power have replaced kindness and generosity.

There is enough food in the world to feed all the starving children, but it would mean less money in the pockets of those who have it, if they gave it away.

A film I saw many years ago – City of Joy - about poverty in the slums of India, had this message from Hassan Pal: “All that is not given is lost.”

Pope Francis has said that while the situation of the world may seem hopeless, we know that Christ has conquered death, and that “His word has the power to touch every heart, to conquer evil with good, and to change and redeem the world.”

It is only the love of Christ that “can bring new life to every human heart and can transform every situation, even the most apparently hopeless,” he said.

Let us take heart from this and share this message with all whom we come in contact with.

Once again my sincere THANKS to all of you for your kindness, prayers, encouragement and donations. Our humble reward to you – we pray daily for all your needs. Much Love and God bless. Denise Hards

“I used to think the worst thing in life was to end up all alone – it’s not. The worst thing in life is to end up with people that make you feel all alone.” Robin Williams

FATHER JOHN MEHERS SDB



Father John died in the Good Shepherd Hospital, Siteki, Swaziland, on the 8 August 2014.

Father John was born in Leigh, Lancashire, England in 1917. He was professed in 1953 and ordained a Priest in 1963. He came to South Africa in 1964 and spent most of his life teaching, first as a lecturer in Philosophy, and then in Salesian schools in Swaziland and Lesotho. He retired due to ill health in 2006. May his soul rest in peace.

ON 19 JUNE 1964 FR DINO MIOTTO



landed in South Africa as a newly professed Salesian Missionary. While having lunch with Fr Joy Sebastian

and some friends, he quietly said: 'Today is 50 years to the day since I landed in South Africa, as a newly professed Salesian Missionary!' Congratulations Fr Dino! Thanks for the sterling service that you have done in the education and evangelisation of the young people, especially in South Africa!

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
- 04 Oct St. Francis of Assisi
- 07 Oct Our Lady of the Rosary
- 01 Nov All Souls
- 02 Nov All Saints
- 23 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.



CONGRATULATIONS BROTHER

Brother Odise Lazri, a missionary from Albania, who has spent time at the Salesian Institute in Cape Town learning English and assisting in the projects, renewed his vows for three years on Sunday 10 August. Present were members of the Lansdowne community, his spiritual director Fr. David and friends. Father Jeff Johnson received his vows on behalf of the Rector Major. The ceremony was followed by a festive lunch which was also attended by the Salesian sisters from Belhar community. He will continue his practical training stage in Bosco Youth Centre, Gauteng, before continuing his formation for the priesthood next year.

Pray the Rosary for Worldwide Peace

October is 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.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, "The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description."



Fr Joseph Nguyen (centre) missionary from Vietnam - with some of the community of KaNdinda, outstation of Malkerns parish in Swaziland.

When your arms can't reach the people close to your heart, hug them with your thoughts.



THIS IS DEDICATED TO ALL OF US WHO ARE SENIORS, TO ALL OF YOU WHO KNOW SENIORS, AND TO ALL OF YOU WHO WILL BECOME SENIORS. "Where is my Sunday paper?!" The **irate customer** calling the newspaper office loudly demanded to know where her Sunday edition was. "Madam", said the newspaper employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow, on SUNDAY". There was quite a long pause on the other end of the 'phone, followed by a ray of recognition as she was heard to mutter, "Oh well, that explains why no one was at church either."



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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

I enclose my gift of:

- R120 R175 R200 Other R.....
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- 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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Please pass this on to a friend if you don't need it!