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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 28 YEARS



SEPTEMBER 2016

MARCH AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE MALKERNS, SWAZILAND

FATHER MARTIN MCCORMACK ARRANGED A 3,000 PERSON PEACE MARCH IN SWAZILAND. It was wonderful to see the youth of Malkerns taking a stand against the abuse of women. What prompted this protest was the recent killing of a young female teacher (Nobantu Sukati) two weeks ago. She taught at St. John Bosco School in Malkerns. Since February this year 46 women have been killed. Fr. Martin was assisted by the local police and some of the teachers in organising the march. Nobantu's father also spoke at the event and nobody will forget his words "I am no brave man, standing here before you. My heart is empty." Powerful words from a grieving



father. He urged the youth to take a stand and embrace love instead of violence and hate. Members of the Royal Swaziland Police and His Majesty's Correctional Services lead hundreds of people, who joined the march against the murdering of women. The march began in Esibuyeni and ended in the sports ground in Malkerns.



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016



The Festival of the Salesian Youth Movement began on 27 July. It is part of the cycle of events that accompany World Youth Day 2016. Young people from around the world conquered the city, and the young people of the Salesian Youth Movement filled the EXPO Fair in Krakow.

AND IN SOUTH AFRICA THE VAAL TRIANGLE



AT DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL CENTRE (LEFT) AND MASERU (RIGHT)



Life is a trip. The only problem is that it doesn't come with a map. We have to search our own routes to reach our destination.

MARY – GOD’S MOTHER AND OUR MOTHER



We have such wonderful protection from Our Lady. We need her in our lives and the world and its people need her.

Saint John Bosco said: “In all dangers call on our Blessed Lady and I guarantee that she will help you.” St Bernard also tells us that: “The name Mary is interpreted to mean “Star of the sea,” and admirably suits the virgin Mother. She is that resplendent and radiant star, placed as a necessary beacon above life’s great and spacious sea, glittering with merits, luminous with examples for our imitation. In danger, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. With her for guide, you shall never go astray. While invoking her, you shall never lose heart. While she holds your hand, you cannot fall. Under her protection, you have nothing to fear. If she walks before you, you shall not grow weary. If she shows you favour, you shall reach the goal.”

The Rector Major of the Salesians says this of Our Lady: “For us to speak of Mary Help of Christians is more than just talking about a devotion. We may have a particular devotion or may not. But for us, Mary Help of Christians is the Marian dimension of our vocation. It is a feeling of having a mother, a certainty that she accompanies our pastoral work, a strong conviction as Don Bosco used to say: ‘It is she who does it all and continues to do everything.’”



YOUNG CHILDREN ASSISTED IN



SYRIA

After over five years, the war continues to steep Syria in blood. Military people and politicians of the various fronts continue to

pursue their particular goals to the detriment of the common good. And yet there are some who are even more obstinate than they are: they are the Salesians who continue to offer the youth of the martyr city of Alep their summer activities. About 800 young boys and girls participate in this event, assisted by the SDBs, and 85 animators of various ages, and in diverse ways also by the entire Salesian Family in Alep. “Despite the war and the darkness deriving from it, we try to light a small lamp of hope in the hearts of the youth of Alep. We bring the children by bus to the oratory so that they may spend a few hours in joy and serenity”, says Fr. Pier Jabloyan, a Salesian priest in Syria.

OF CHAMPIONS AND SAINTS - A REFLECTION

Being faithful is more important than being successful. With all the talk of gold medals this past month at the Olympics and incessant reports about winners and prizes or awards, we inevitably become obsessed with the ideals of various achievements. Meanwhile, as Mother Theresa loved to repeat – “God does not call us to be successful; just to be faithful!” Amen! One is not required to be a **great** person, just being a **good** person is enough achievement. And it may be nice to be important but it is more important to be nice. There are champions who make everyone feel small, but the real great person is the one who makes every other feel great.



We attain greatness the day we understand our littleness. If ever we earned ourselves a monument, we would not need one. Really great persons are likely to be humble and modest. Those who consider themselves too big to do little things, are too little to do big things. We can judge the greatness of a person by watching how that person does little things. In character, in manners, in style, in all things in fact, the supreme excellence is humility and simplicity.

God assesses the importance of a person by putting the tape measure around the heart rather than head and chest. For God the look of the car or the thickness of the wallet, count for nothing! The world equates greatness with wealth, power, prestige and prizes. In the end we cannot take our money and honours with us, but we could send our treasures on ahead. We do so by imitating God’s heroes, the Saints, through our service of neighbour and concern for the dispossessed, not anxious about whether there are gold medals in heaven! *Father Francois Dufour SDB*

SALESIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR



About 60 youth gathered at Bosco Youth Centre to focus on Don Bosco and Salesian

Spirituality. Youth were from Manzini, Lesotho, Cape Town and Johannesburg. Sr. Patricia gave input on Salesian Holiness, Fr. Eoin guided the youth through Don Bosco's Preventive System and Leadership style. Sr. Lidia gave a presentation on what SYM is about. Our Philosophy students helped the youth towards a better understanding of Identity. We also had Vocation Story sharing by Sr. Rosemary [MSMHC], Br. Clarence, Fr. Lingoane and Nkosinathi [Philosophy student]. Fr. Lingoane gave a presentation on Leadership and Morality and we concluded with mass which was celebrated by Fr. Francois. There was a fantastic spirit among the young people and we hope that this was a fruitful weekend of growth in the Salesian spirit for all.

Morning is God’s way of saying go make a difference, touch a heart, encourage a mind, inspire a soul and enjoy the day.

MANZINI YOUTH CARE PROJECTS - SWAZILAND



Brother Marko took me around the Manzini Youth Care projects, which guide young people through education and skills training. Salesians guiding young people towards becoming Good Upright Citizens. Brother Clarence Watts.

MALKERNS - SWAZILAND



Great to see young people involved in various sports, including chess. Some of the best chess players attend Malkerns School.

LOVE MATTERS – BOSCO RANDVAAL, GAUTENG



The 270th Love Matters program was held at Bosco Youth Centre with 150 young people from various parishes (Pretoria, Tembisa, Ennerdale, Lawley, Finetown

and Brits). Two of the young people at this program indicated their interest in religious life, which is always good news to the ear. Five days is a short time, but we will journey with these young people to guide them in making the right choices in life. Keep these 150 youth in your prayers. In the picture, Dr. Heinz is presenting his session on Human Sexuality. *"The glory of God is a human being fully alive, and to be alive consists in beholding God"* St. Irenaeus.



POPE FRANCIS challenged massive crowds of young people at World Youth Day's final vigil to step away from the "sofa" of comfort and convenience, and respond to Christ's call to transform a suffering world. "Jesus, Who is the way, the truth and the life, is calling you to leave your mark on history," the Pope told the estimated 1.6

million people attending the vigil at the "Campus Misericordiae" – or "Field of Mercy." Young people have a restlessness in their hearts and Jesus is the answer.

THE BEST SERMONS ARE LIVED, NOT PREACHED

Dear Friends

I received an email the other day and I started soul-searching. I'm passing it on to you to perhaps ponder, and in doing so maybe tell me that I need my head examined. It reads as follows:



And every day, the world will drag you by the hand, yelling: "This is important! And this is important! And this is important! And this! And this! And this!" And each day, it's up to you to yank your hand back, put it on your heart and say: "No. This is what's important."

- I. S. Thompson.

Our minds are so cluttered with 'things that we have to do or that we want to do,' that we neglect to pay attention to the importance of so many valuable things. I, personally, am greatly at fault when it comes to this. I could be saying the Rosary, a wonderful devotion, when I sit doing the daily puzzle. I could be offering it for the multitude of children who are suffering at the hands of so many people, who feel that what they are doing is important.

Instead of spending time moaning about my illness I could pray for so many others who are far worse off than I am. Maybe they need a visit, with a bar of chocolate, or a bunch of flowers. Maybe that person is one of my own family. Roses or a kind word are far more important while they are alive. I cannot do it for them when they are gone. I learned this important fact when my younger brother died of a massive heart attack a few months ago. When he said "goodbye" a few days before he died, I did not realise that that was his last 'goodbye.'



And now, most importantly I must THANK each and every one of YOU for your kindness, your loyalty, your prayers and your donations. REMEMBER we cannot do our work without your help. Be friends with Our Blessed Lady and pray for me as I do for you. Much love. Denise Hards

SMILE: Husband's Message (by mobile phone): Honey, I got hit by a car outside of the office. Susan brought me to the Hospital. They have been doing tests and taking X-rays. The blow to my head, though very strong, will not have any serious or lasting injury. But, I have three broken ribs, a broken arm, a compound fracture in the left leg, and they may have to amputate the right foot.

Wife's Response: Who is Susan?

A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER AT DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS



Sindisiwe Nkhosi (with Sr Lidia in the picture above) was born in Ermelo and went to school there up to grade 10. In 2010 she moved to the Ennerdale-Finertown area and tried to find employment, but in vain. Her sister is teaching ABET at the DBEP and suggested she should accompany her and see if she could find something to do, to at least occupy her days. At the DBEP she met the Salesian Sisters and offered her services for mahala as a volunteer. Ever since January 2016 she clocks in every morning by 08h00 and clocks out not before 14h00 helping to clean the canteen, prepare and serve the 280 plus hungry children, their breakfast and lunch, and clean up after them... She has not received any payment nor ever asked for any. She does it out of love of God and of the poor children of the area. She only hopes her eventual reward will be many divine blessings on her and her baby child who has started attending the Sancta Maria Early Childhood Development Centre in Finertown. Sindisiwe always assists with a beautiful smile.

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
- 07 Oct Our Lady of the Rosary
- 29 Oct Blessed Michael Rua SDB
- 01 Nov All Saints
- 02 Nov All Souls
- 20 Nov Christ the King
- 27 Nov 1st Sunday of Advent

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

Perhaps you would like to leave something to Salesian Missions in your Will. We would be extremely grateful.
Tel: 27 (0) 11 476 8315

Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.

LEARN TO LIVE CAPE TOWN

Our Learn to Live students had the opportunity to experience Yoga and Meditation with our new friends Benjamin and Cherine. It was incredible to find that something as simple and accessible as deep breathing can make you feel so calm and connected with your inner self.



HANOVER PARK – CAPE TOWN

The Ladies of Mama Margaret (so named after the mother of Don Bosco), affectionately known as the "Magaritas", had a soup kitchen at the Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Hanover Park. More than 150 cups of soup were distributed to many children and adults.

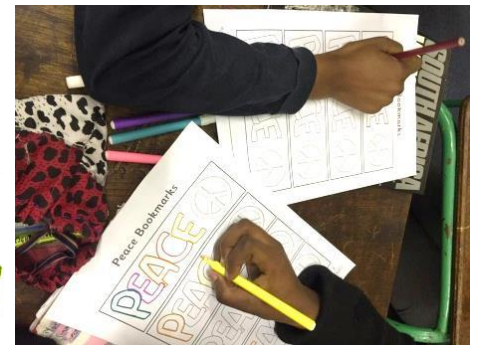
LAURA VICUNA – ENNERDALE



Different charities came to visit and bring gifts to the children at Laura Vicuna. In the pictures above (left) children from Marian College and (right) aaakee Active Education.

SALESIAN INSTITUTE – CAPE TOWN

Students preparing the Peace packs that will be handed out to the public on International Peace Day on 21 September 2016. "Believe me... nobody can be truly happy in this world unless he is at peace with God." Don Bosco.



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