

## Salesian Missions

Trading under the name of  
Salesians of Don Bosco  
Box 3209 North Riding 2162  
66 Nelson Road Booyens  
Johannesburg 2091  
Tel: 27 (0) 11 476 8315  
Cell: 27 072 299 2809  
[missionoffice@bucknet.co.za](mailto:missionoffice@bucknet.co.za)  
[www.salesianmissions.co.za](http://www.salesianmissions.co.za)

# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

## E-NEWS SEPTEMBER 2022



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 33 YEARS

VATICAN CITY — Mary's assumption into heaven reminds people that they are also called by God to eternal life in heaven through humility and serving him, Pope Francis said.

Mary's secret is humility, the pope said before praying the Angelus. "It is her humility that attracted God's gaze to her," he said.

"God does not exalt us because of our gifts, our wealth or great skills, but because of humility. God loves humility. God lifts up the one who lowers him or herself, the one who serves," the pope said.

The pope asked people to reflect and ask: "How am I doing with



humility? Do I want to be recognized by others, to establish myself and to be praised, or do I think about

serving? Do I know how to listen like Mary, or do I want only to talk and get attention? Do I know how to be silent like Mary or am I always chatting? Do I know how to take a step back, defuse quarrels and arguments, or do I always try to stand out?"

Humility is the beginning of having faith by knowing one needs God and needs to make room for him in their heart and lives, he said.

"Those who remain humble allow the Lord to accomplish great things," he said.

Mary's assumption into heaven is a message of hope as it shows "lowliness and service are the secrets for reaching the destination, for reaching heaven," he said.



*Queen assumed into heaven, patroness of South Africa, pray for us*



## SALESIAN INSTITUTE CAPE TOWN

Salesian Institute Youth Projects held its Annual General Meeting on the feast of the Sacred Heart. All those who addressed the attendants, paid tribute to Fr. Pat Naughton who left us 5 months ago. The seed that he planted will continue to grow and as some pointed out, he is smiling down on us from his heavenly resting place. In his address, the chairman, Mr. John Doidge [himself a past pupil of Salesian Institute], remarked that "SIYP was very much part of Fr. Pat's commitment to Don Bosco's preventive system of reason, religion and loving kindness."

Archbishop Stephen Brislin congratulated the community and staff of SIYP for their work for the youth of Cape Town. He also noted how the Institute is moving with the times with reference to the new projects-based style of learning. His grace concluded with these words: "We cannot be disciples of Jesus Christ unless we respond to the needs of the people." May the work of education and evangelisation, begun by Don Bosco in 1841, continue to flourish here at the southern tip of Africa. Congratulations Salesian Institute Youth Projects. Brother Clarence Watts

## SALESIAN INSTITUTE YOUTH PROJECTS (SIYP)

The Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP) is a non-profit organisation, dedicated to improving the lives of South Africa's vulnerable children and youth at risk. It has provided education, emotional support and skills development training for at-risk young people in Cape Town since 1910.



Committed to making a difference for those who need it the

most, SIYP's skills development model, focuses on providing opportunities for young people, who may not have completed their main stream schooling or have had no access to skills training. Over the past 112 years, SIYP has been instrumental in changing the lives of hundreds of unemployed youths, who would otherwise not have been able to access the job market.



in Greenpoint. The Learn to Live School of Skills caters for ages 14 to 18, for youth no longer part of mainstream schooling. Basic education and vocational skills training form part of the four-year programme. The Waves of

Change Maritime Programme for youth up to ages 35, wanting to work at sea. The Porsche Mechatronics Programme enabling youth to work in the automotive sector, and the last programme to come on board recently, is the NEETs Youth Employability Programme, offering a National Certificate in Small Venture Creation, a SETA NQF4 accredited certificate.



NPOs are the glue that bind society, providing the social safety net and supporting the advancement of social justice and socio-economic inclusion, to the

benefit of all the role-players in the social contract – business, government, and communities. The reality is that the burden of covering the welfare gap, which is becoming ever more visible since the Covid-19 pandemic, will eventually shift towards the public and private sectors. “NPOs need the support from the government, the private



sector and individuals to enable organisations like ourselves to continue serving youth not so privileged, by offering much-needed skills training,” says Fr Francois Dufour, the CEO of the Salesian Institute Youth Projects.

SIYP is changing lives. Youth that were previously sitting at home, unable to find employment or support themselves, are learning the skills needed to get jobs and are beginning their careers. Many work as entrepreneurs and strive to employ others from their neighbourhoods, while others join industries and move forward in changing the dynamics of the workforce. SIYP continues to move forward with its mission, driven by their

founder, Saint John Bosco's commitment, to provide physical, educational and spiritual needs for youth at-risk, regardless of race, religion, gender or nationality. **Frieda Pehlivan, Communications Manager.**



**NEET's – Youth who are Not Educated, Employed or in Training**

**“We can't fight the gangs, but we can offer an alternative”**  
*Father Pat Naughton – 23 November 1940 - 23 March 2022*

On the 18th of June we had an event at Hangberg Sports Centre in Hout Bay. This was possible due to the initiative of the NEETS ... which were recognised and supported by our loyal and generous funders.

The event was a success, and everything went off well with the whole set up. As it was our first event, we also learned how to work with Crowd Control. The children from Hout Bay were very grateful for what we did for them. They have learned a lot from us, and we have learned from them.

We also learned a lot from the event. We had a few disappointments on the day, but we managed to come up with a plan B. We requested a snack back but that wasn't successful. Then we arranged for Hot dogs and juice for the children and a breakfast sandwich for them when they arrived at the event. The team that assisted, were very proud of themselves and are looking forward to having another event in Hout Bay, in the future.

As students, there is a limit to what can be understood academically. The opportunity to practically implement a project has been invaluable. Going forward we are busy with pop up shops on weekends as a fundraiser, and also as an experience for the students. The identified locations for the pop-up shops are Bishop Lavis and Bonteheuvel. These are the areas where most of the students come from. **Anocia Sylvester Student administrator**



We hosted a youth project in Hout Bay, in the community centre. I was in charge of football. I have a passion for soccer. I took a walk in Hout Bay recruiting children who were interested. I enjoyed talking to them and getting to know them. I was also the soccer referee on the day. When the match was finished, I handed out medals and trophies to the winning team, and each child who took part in the soccer tournament got a medal. Face Painting was

also carried out on some of the younger children. Comment from **Muzamiel Rossier**, one of the Team Leaders.

\*\*\*\*\*

# RADIO VERITAS IN BOOYSENS JOHANNESBURG



On Saturday, 2 July, the Salesian Provincial House in Booyens, hosted the Youth Team from Radio Veritas [South Africa's only Catholic radio station]. The day started with Holy Mass. Father Lingoane Tlaile was the main celebrant, and Fathers Dino Miotto and Joseph Nguyen concelebrated. During Mass, prayers were offered up for the young people of 1976 and the youth of today who face so many challenges. The theme of the day was *Dare To Make A Move*. The other activities included a Bible Trivia and a testimonial by Sicelo Ntuli, who encouraged the youth to find their purpose in life.

The *Let Them Dance* group entertained us with their high energy pantsula dance moves. It was very encouraging to see the passion, the youth presenters of Radio Veritas have for their work and service as missionaries, online. One could see how these presenters live and embrace the motto of the station: "The Good News For A Change."  
**Brother Clarence Watts**



## BOOYSENS CHAPEL APPEAL



The Salesian Fathers are appealing for help with refurbishing of the tiles on the floor of the Chapel in Booyens. This Chapel has served the public for over 60 years. Any amount will be most appreciated. After all we need to keep the House of the Lord in good shape and worthy of the Our Saviour. If you feel that you would like to help us, when making an EFT, please make your reference: Booyens Chapel. We would be most grateful.



# DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

## Incorporating Declan Collins Skills Centre, Laura Vicuña Education Centre & Sancta Maria Early Childhood Development Centre

Don Bosco Educational Project – Declan Collins Skills centre is located in a Township called Ennerdale, one of poor areas of the Southern region of Johannesburg, in South Africa. Our centre is meant for young people, especially the poorest among the poor, following the wish of our Father and founder St John Bosco. The majority of those coming to our skills centre are really poor. They are unable to pay in full, the minimum fees required to contribute towards their PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). Hence any donation to cover some of the expenses of the youth in need, is welcome. One of the challenges faced with those coming to our Centre is the rate of illiteracy. The latter is becoming worse, especially where young people have lost interest in learning. Some of them have become drug and alcohol addicted.

They come to our Centre from the rehabilitation center. Some seem to be forced by their relatives or parents to attend a specific program. At the end of their training after, being declared clean of addiction, they go back to their respective families. Later we hear that they have lapsed. This makes the tracking of our former learners difficult, especially for follow-up after their training. Despite some dropouts we continue our work with courage and determination, thanks to various benefactors. At Don Bosco Educational projects our objective is to provide quality training. We have well equipped workshops, and competent facilitators. In order to reach our goal, we need consumables that will enable the centre to provide quality training.

### NINE COURSES ARE OFFERED AT OUR CENTRE:

**THE MOTOR MECHANIC PROGRAM** attracts many young people, but due to its duration (12 months) several find it too long, and as a result we experience some youth who drop-out. The truck was donated by Iveco for the practical use of our learners



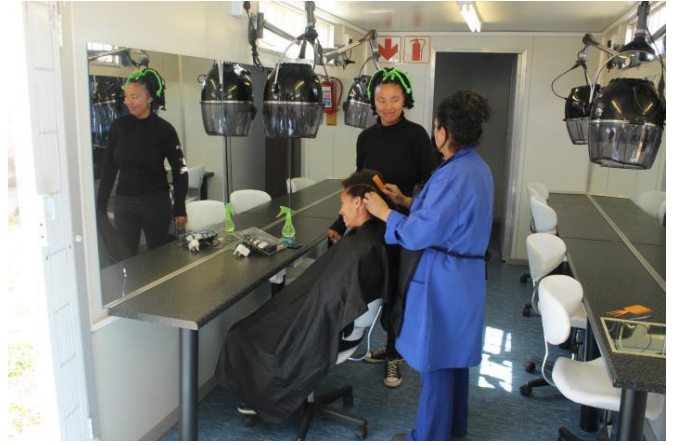
**THE ELECTRICAL PROGRAM** (house wiring, maintenance and repair of electrical appliances is open to women, like other programs.) This skill is in high demand but the duration, 3months, is too short to provide the maximum knowledge in theory and practical, needed for our learners to be employed so easily.



**THE COMMUNITY HOUSE BUILDING (BRICKLAYING) PROGRAM'S** duration is 3 months, as is **COMMERCIAL PLUMBING**



**THE HAIRDRESSING PROGRAM.** Two identical containers have both been designed to accommodate 25 learners each at once. They are a great asset to run the Hairdressing Course.



**THE WELDING COURSE** is the most expensive course if one wants to provide quality training. Each learner costs around R13,000 per term. The R1,500 that they contribute is nothing compared to what is required to train one learner.



**END USER COMPUTING, ICT (INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY);** duration: 6 months



**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE (FOCUSING ON BAKING);** duration 6 months. The program in this class focusses on baking. Learners spend four months on theory and some practical. Then they spend the remaining 2 months doing specialised practical. Here they need special ingredients of all kinds, which will enable them to bake any type of cake.



**ARTS AND CRAFTS** (focusing on sewing and beading). Some items made in the workshop are either for sale or to be given to visitors or donors as a gift in recognition of the support provided. Others are for the display to show what can be produced from the Arts and Crafts workshop.



Various items made in the Arts & Crafts Workshop



The Facilitator demonstrating to a learner



Table mats made in the Arts and Crafts Workshop



**Photos and comments compiled by Fr Emmanuel Kanuma Kagimbangabo sdb  
Principal of Don Bosco Educational Project- Declan Collin Skills Centre**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE – WALKERVILLE – GAUTENG**

The "Bosco Youth Ministry Team," based at the Salesian Youth Centre in Johannesburg, held a formation session under the leadership of Clarence Watts, SDB, during the month of July. The team reflected on and talked about the aspects of Social Communication and the theme of Salesian Mission Day 2022,

### **"Communicating Christ Today."**

The 2022 Salesian Mission Day, was launched on the Feast of St Francis de Sales, 24 January 2022.

#### **Prayer**

"O God, creative Father, awaken in us the fire of love that burns but is not consumed. May that fire be for each of us the universal call to holiness that could be realised everywhere.

Remind us that everywhere there is a mission land and that in every person there is already a desire for You. Make us courageous disciples incarnated in our time, capable of proclaiming You also in social media so that the web may also become a place of encounter with You.

Send your Spirit upon us, your children, so that, as agents of the new evangelisation, we may trigger the initial proclamation of Jesus among the young people today. Amen." **ANS**



*Italy – 1872 - August 5 - 2022*

*150th anniversary of Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Institute*



**(ANS - Mornese)** - The date of August 5 is a date of grace and an event of powerful communion for all the world's Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA), especially so this year. This is because on August 5, 1872 - that is exactly 150 years ago tomorrow - in Mornese, Piedmont, a group of 11 young women, led by Maria Domenica Mazzarello pronounced their "yes" before Don Bosco to give life to a religious congregation that would be inspired by the example of Mary Help of Christians and would

be dedicated to the education and evangelization of and of young people, especially those from poor families. The name of the new Institute is today a symbol of identity: Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, a living monument of gratitude to Our Lady of Don Bosco.

150 years have passed and the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians is celebrating a prolonged and extremely rich history of love and care for young people. The celebrations, organized over the past three years, have had to cope with the difficult context of the Covid-19 pandemic, but all of this has been an even more opportune time to look back over the history of the Institute and to seek in its own origins and charism the inspiration to face the challenges of the present.

As the Mother General of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Mother Chiara Cazzuola, said, "In this situation that still surprises and persists, we are called to accept the challenges of the contemporary world to design the future with boldness and, in this context, to live the 150th anniversary as an opportunity for renewal and vocational and missionary revitalization."

From the small village of Mornese to the whole world, in its first 150 years of existence, the FMA Institute has transported the educational passion of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello to the four corners of the world and is today one of the Church's major women's religious congregations.

Celebrating the 150th anniversary there will be 11,225 professed FMA and 310 novices, scattered in 97

countries on five continents, and organized in 69 Provinces and 5 Vice-Provinces. They animate their mission through 122 centres for the promotion of women, 274 social works (for migrants, refugees, ethnic minorities), 440 boarding schools and hostels, 475 Technical and Vocational Training Centres, 142 social works for children and young people in difficulty, 2,793 oratories, and youth centres, and 3,175 schools of various orders and grades. For each of these FMA communities or centres, what the motto chosen for the 150th anniversary says applies:

**"Mary walks in this house."**







## VIDES WORKSHOP – ENNERDALE GAUTENG

On Saturday 28 May 2022, the Salesian Sisters in Ennerdale organized a workshop on VIDES at the Salesian Sisters' house. The workshop was held to assist young people to understand the meaning of VIDES and to enable them to freely volunteer in the Salesian style and collaborate with the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters).

VIDES was founded by the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters) on November 30, 1987. Volunteers in Development, Education and Solidarity, or VIDES, is a volunteer missionary program that collaborates with members of the Salesian Family to promote social justice, by living a simple Christ centred life while serving the poor and marginalised. VIDES volunteers are young adults who serve short- or long-term missions with our Salesians on every continent of the world.

Sr. Cecilia Motanya – the Provincial, gave a virtual talk to the participants on how God called Moses, how He called the disciples, and how He calls each one of us. VIDES is also a call and it was explained to the youth how important it is to recognize God's call in our lives and how to respond to His call.

To find out more about VIDES or to join VIDES, please contact:

Sr. Maria Nguyen: 063 023 9856

Mashadi Makhondo: 061 322 9534

Sr. Annet Kaluka (Cape Town): +26 077 058 6254



~ Old Italian proverb...After the game, the King and the pawn go into the same box. ~

# Prayers Please



For all Readers, Donors and Friends of the Spotlight.

For those who have been retrenched and are battling with the injustices of life.

For starving children and families, the world over.

For all women who are used and abused.

For all children who suffer at the hands of abusive adults.

For the protection of Our Blessed Mother and Her Son.

For all carers, nurses, doctors and those in religion who help without expecting thanks.

For the people of Ukraine.

For a mother who is agonizing over her children's lack of faith.

For our Priests, Brothers and Sisters who need our support.

For all those who have gone before us, and especially for:

Father John Coleman SDB, Ruth Hards, Jimmy Stark, Merle Salida, Beryl, Mr Peddie, Cathy's grandchild, Geraldine's Uncle, Fran, Sr Catherina OP, Sue's Mom, Miguel De Gouveia, Robin Kerr

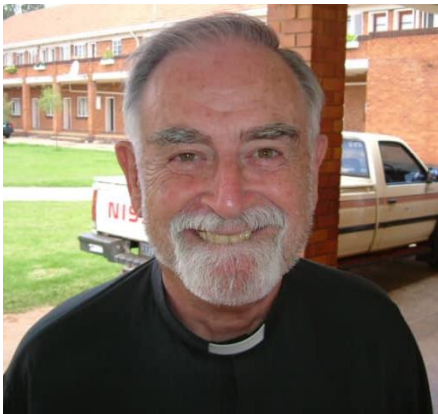
May they rest in peace.



Dear Lord  
You loved me before I was born, and you called me to be holy.  
Give me the vision to find ways to share your love.  
Help me to be a mouthpiece for your Word in what I do and in what I say, and when it's hard to do the right thing,  
Strengthen the Spirit of love in me. Amen

"God speaks in the silence of the heart, and we listen. And then we speak to God from the fullness of our heart, and God listens. And this listening and this speaking is what prayer is meant to be."  
Mother Teresa

## FATHER JOHN WILLIAM COLEMAN 14 JUNE 1930 - 28 JULY 2022



Fr John Coleman was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1930 at Battersea, Wandsworth, London in the diocese of Southwark in England, to Sidney Samuel Coleman and Winifred Georgina Young [Eileen Violet Stones, his Step Mum]. During his many years on earth born a citizen of Great Britain, he became a citizen of Swaziland and of South Africa, and now he has gone to claim the citizenship of the Kingdom of Heaven. Made aware of his terminal health condition, the community gathered around him in the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and celebrated the Sacrament of the Anointing for him. Later in the evening came his final very terse message: "*I am going*". And then he closed his eyes and about an hour and half later he breathed his last on earth at 18h40 on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Fr John was sought out as a spiritual director, to preach retreats, to assist with canonical matters or liturgical matters etc. He assisted two local religious congregations - the Servite sisters in Swaziland and the Companions of St. Angela in South Africa - with the drafting of their Constitutions. He loved being around where the young people were, for the various activities or programmes; and even when he was no more mobile and versatile, he would sit on a bench and watch the groups in action. He was a very jovial and witty person, very pleasant to interact with and very helpful to anyone seeking assistance or guidance. We give thanks to God for Fr John Coleman's life of dedication and witnessing to the Salesian sacrament of presence among the young. **Father Joy Sebastian**

# THE WAR IN UKRAINE



Croatia - June 2022 - About 60 Ukrainian children, with the help of the Salesian Mission Office of Bonn, Germany, and the Salesian Province of Croatia (CRO), have arrived on the Croatian island of Prvić, near the city of Šibenik, where they will spend nine days. The children come from the city of Lysychansk, in eastern Ukraine, which has been under Russian bombardment since March and is currently in the worst affected part of the war. The children have endured the horrors of war, spending several months in shelters. The Salesians took them to Lviv and then decided to move them, at least for a short time, away from the war to the Croatian coast.

Creativity in full bloom. Children cannot suffer hunger or thirst for long. Within a short while they cry and will keep crying until they are fed, or they have no more energy left even to cry. The hunger of children's minds and souls are even greater. If these hungers are not fed, they react with behaviour that is disruptive and destructive. We do our very best so that our guest children from Ukraine have all their hungers satisfied, at all times, and with the appropriate food.



## Silence that is frightening

At České Budějovice in the Czech Republic, the Salesian Centre serves mainly the Rom community ("gypsies"). The recent additions are about 40 Ukrainian kids. We serve them in two groups according to their age. They have pre-school "lessons" and informal classes. They also enjoy hobbies, clubs and recreational programmes. There is even a group of adult Ukrainians learning the Czech language.

What everyone appreciates best, is the sense of freedom, a feeling that they are respected and welcomed, that they are loved and cared for. They are happy to meet here someone who speaks Ukrainian and Russian.

They want to talk about the war. They want people who listen to their experiences and understand them. They want to remember and talk about their home, their family.

For such people, what is most frightening in a sense, is the silence, the fact that they do not hear sirens anymore. They were so used to their wailing several times a day, sometimes for hours on end. They were always ready for the rush to the shelter, followed by earth-shaking explosions. The total silence now in contrast is truly stressful. They become anxious because of the ingrained fear of horrible expectations – when are the sirens going to go off again and when will they have to start running? It takes weeks to get used to the terror of this peaceful silence!

**Father George Menampampil**



# THE PAIN OF ARMED CONFLICTS AROUND THE WORLD



Millions of people, especially women and children, have fled Ukraine to escape war. Worldwide, more than 100 million people are in the same situation. There are a hundred armed conflicts raging around the world that have been going on for years without any lasting peace being established.

"Misiones Salesianas", the Salesian Mission Office in Madrid, took stock of ongoing wars around the world. Since 2013, the **Central African Republic** has been

embroiled in a civil war that has left more than **1.4 million people displaced**;

In **Syria**, more than **13 million people** are in urgent need of **humanitarian aid**. **South Sudan** has never lived in peace. In **Yemen**, more than **4.7 million** children and women suffer from **malnutrition**.

More than 100 million people have fled their homes this year to save themselves from war, persecution or human rights violations. Nearly **47 million** have fled to other countries and become **refugees**. Half of them are children. Fleeing is the only way to survive. Many arrive in refugee camps such as **Palabek** in Uganda or **Kakuma** in Kenya. Here, in addition to providing refuge from conflict, Salesian missionaries distribute basic necessities, provide access to health and education, assist women with dependent children, and help anyone in need. ANS

## GOOD WORKS BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS – ESWATINI



Catechists Workshop



Sisters visiting Sigcineni village for Bible Sharing and Sports week in St. John Bosco Pre- School:

Sister Susan Soren organized sports and games for the students of St. John Bosco Pre-School with the co-operation of Sister Priscilla Boithabiso and the teachers. They had their practice from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June and on the last day the 10<sup>th</sup> June they had their final sports, competing against each other. The little students took an active part in all their games and competitions. At the end of the day, the winners were awarded with small prizes and medals which made the children happy. *Sister Elsa Joseph*



## FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE SODALITIES



Sacred Heart Sodality celebrated their feast day on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 and the members of St. Anne Sodality Celebrated their feast day on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022.





## POPE PRAISES ITALIAN PRIEST WHO BAPTIZED HIM

Pope Francis recalls the virtues of the Italian city, Lodi's,

native-born son, who became a missionary to Argentina, and baptized the future Pope. Salesian Fr. Enrico Pozzoli was born in Senna Lodigiana, in Italy's northern Lombardy region, and spent his life as a missionary in Argentina. The Italian-born priest baptized Jorge Mario Bergoglio on 25 September 1936, and later helped him discern his vocation to join the Society of Jesus, also helping the future Pope's parents accept his decision to become a priest. Pope Francis recalled Fr. Pozzoli on Friday during an audience with pilgrims from the Diocese of Lodi, in which the priest was born. "He was a true Salesian!" said the Pope of the priest who baptized him. "He was a wise, good, and hardworking man, an apostle of the confessional—he never tired of hearing confessions—and was merciful and well-versed in listening and offering advice." The Pope thanked one of the pilgrims present for writing a biography on Fr. Pozzoli, which was presented formally to the Holy Father at the audience. **Devin Watkins**

**Chuckle:** "Last year I installed those solar panels in my house for the geyser – that energy-efficient kind. Today I got a call from the contractor who installed them. He complained that the work had been completed a year ago and I still hadn't paid for them. Hello...just because I am blonde doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid. So I told him just what his fast-talking sales guy told me last year ... that these panels would pay for themselves in a year. It's been a year now, so they are paid for, I told him. There was only a silence at the other end of the line, so I hung up. He never called back."

### PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY AND YOUR PRAYERS WILL BE ANSWERED



#### FEAST DAYS

- 08 Sept The Birth of the Virgin Mary
- 14 Sept Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 15 Sep Our Lady of Sorrows
- 29 Sep Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael
- 01 Sep St Therese of the Child Jesus
- 04 Oct St Francis of Assisi
- 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
- 21 Nov Presentation of the Virgin Mary

#### 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.

Kindly fill in your Name, Address, Telephone Number and Email

Please pass this on to a friend if you don't need it!

Dear Friends. Over the years so many of my friends have had to give up their mothers to God, and I have been so fortunate to have my mother for so many years. She was my constant companion, my comfort when I had need, and my friend, for ninety one years. Over the last 18 years of her life, the tables



were turned, as she had to lean on me for assistance in her suffering. Between us we weathered the doctors, the hospitals and the pain. And, so many times, I asked God to take her because she was suffering so much, but when the call came, no one was more unprepared than I. I was on autopilot from 2 o'clock on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> June until 2 o'clock the following morning. She died at 11.36pm and I had said goodbye to her at 7.00pm on the same night. When the hospital called, she had already met with her Maker and my heart was broken. It is therapeutic for me to write this, and I hope that you will bear with me, as while I write, I think of my many friends, and also of the finality and mystery of death.... You take nothing with you... the shoes left side by side on the floor, the half empty glass of water, the Simple Prayer Book, next to the Rosary, all left on the bedside table. The tissues in all the pockets of her clothes, and even the socks, which I had put on her cold feet before I took her to the hospital, were handed back to me by the nurse, before I left her. The memories are all still fresh and raw, in the forefront of the mind, but they too will be gone one day – lost in the mists of time.

October is the month of the Rosary and November the month of the Holy Souls. My prayers at this time are for all those who have lost a loved one. Together with our Blessed Lady, I share your grief and I mourn with you. Let us pray together for, and to, our loved ones, and let us not forget to pray too for when it is our turn to leave this earth, and all our worldly goods. Let us cultivate a life of prayer and kindness now, before it is too late.

Once again, my sincere thanks for all your prayers, loyalty and for all the donations, from the known and unknown wonderful people. May God bless and love you all. Don't forget our Lady's Birthday on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Do something nice for her and pray for me please, as I do for you.

Much love Denise Hards

*'How sweet the hours I spent with thee dear heart,  
How sweet the memories still.*

*But oh, the aching void you left... this world can never fill.*



### SALESIAN MISSIONS

PO Box 3209, North Riding 2162 • Tel: 27 (0) 11 476-8315  
e-mail: [missionoffice@bucknet.co.za](mailto:missionoffice@bucknet.co.za)  
[www.salesianmissions.co.za](http://www.salesianmissions.co.za)

**YES! I want to support the Salesian work with needy youth!**

#### I enclose my gift of:

- R150  R200  R250  Other R.....
- will be made by (please tick)
- Cheque  Debit Order  Direct deposit\*
- Cheques payable to **Salesian Missions**
- 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:.....

**\*STANDARD BANK CRESTA 007254  
A/C NUMBER 07 256 1572  
A/C HOLDER – SALESIAN MISSIONS**