

## Salesian Missions

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# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT



## E-NEWS JUNE 2023

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 34 YEARS

### Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- . Wisdom
- . Understanding
- . Counsel
- . Fortitude
- . Knowledge
- . Piety
- . Fear of the Lord

**PENTECOST.** Jesus tells his disciples: “The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, *will teach you everything, and remind you of all I have said to you* (Jn 14:26). “Everything”, “all” – these words are striking; they make us wonder: how does the Spirit give this new and full understanding to those who receive him? It is not about quantity, or an academic question: God does not want to make us encyclopedias or polymaths. No. It is a question of quality, perspective, perception. The Spirit makes us see everything in a new way, with the eyes of Jesus. I would put it this way: in the great journey of life, the Spirit teaches us *where to begin, what paths to take, and how to walk.*

First, *where to begin.* The Spirit points out to us the starting point of the spiritual life. What is it? Jesus speaks of it in the first verse of the Gospel, when he says: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” the Spirit reminds us that without love as our basis, all the rest is in vain. And that love comes not so much from our abilities, but as his gift. He teaches us to love, and we have to ask for this gift.

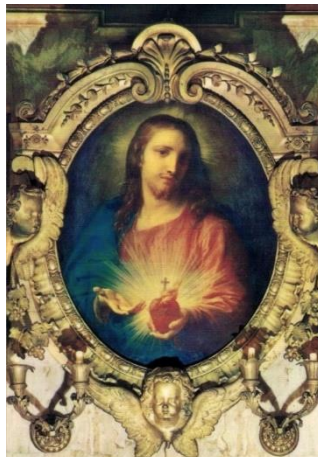
newness. God, the Spirit, is always new! He constantly teaches the Church the vital importance of going forth, impelled to proclaim the Gospel.

And finally, oddly, the Holy Spirit is the author of division, of ruckus, of a certain disorder. Think of the morning of Pentecost: he is the author... he creates division of languages and attitudes... it was a ruckus, that! Yet at the same time, he is the author of harmony. He divides with the variety of charisms, but it is a false division, because true division is part of harmony. He creates division with charisms, and he creates harmony with all this division. This is the richness of the Church.

Brothers and sisters, let us sit at the school of the Holy Spirit, so that he can teach us all things. Let us invoke him each day, so that he can remind us to make God’s gaze upon us our starting point, to make decisions by listening to his voice, and to journey together as Church, docile to him and open to the world. Amen. **Pope Francis 2022**

### JUNE – THE MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART

Pompeo Batoni (1708-1787) is the painter who depicted the most famous image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1760 Batoni realised the painting of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that was placed in a Chapel in the Jesuit Church of the Gesù in Rome. This work became the official image for the popular devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The painting of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was inspired by the apparition of Jesus, under the title of the Sacred Heart, to St Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690). Batoni represented Christ dressed in a red tunic (which is the colour of blood, of martyrdom and humanity) and a blue mantle (the colour of heaven and of the divine). In the masterpiece, Jesus is young, with long hair. He has a short beard whilst his right hand indicates His inflamed heart which is crowned with thorns with a cross on top.



**BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS IN  
ROME. Built by Don Bosco in 1887.**

**“Jesus meek and humble of heart make my heart like yours”**



### Why devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is in the DNA of the Salesian Congregation

This June I wish to present to you the reality of the meaning of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome (*Sacro Cuore*). It is a church with a very great history – one that has its roots in Don Bosco himself – for at the Pope’s request he spent the last years of his life, as well as his last energies and strength, on the construction of this beloved church.

The Sacred Heart, and every church and devotion in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, speaks of the Love of that Divine Heart, the Heart of the Son of God, for each one of His sons and daughters in the entire human race. It also speaks of suffering and of the Love we receive from God, which is not always reciprocated.

Today I wish to add one more aspect: I think it also speaks of the pain that Jesus our Lord feels in the face of the suffering of many people: rejection, immigration without a place to go, loneliness, and the violence done to many. I think it can be said that He speaks of all this, too, and without a doubt at the same time blesses everything that is done on behalf of those less fortunate, just as Jesus Himself did when traveling the roads of Judea and Galilee.

### Very many silver hearts

One joyful reality that undoubtedly makes the very Heart of God rejoice is what I myself saw being carried out in the Don Bosco Salesian Foundation on the islands of Tenerife and Grand Canary. I was there in these past weeks. Among the many things experienced, I was able to witness the work of 140 educators who carry forward the various projects of the Foundation including the reception of those in need and their housing, work training, and subsequent placement in the working world.

I also had an encounter with another group of a hundred adolescents and young adults who have been blessed to have received this service that Don Bosco gives to the least. At the end of our precious meeting, they gave me a gift. In a small, heart-shaped cardboard box, they had placed more than a hundred hearts, bearing the names of Nain, Rocío, Arniche, Mustapha, Xousef, Ainoha, Desirée, Abdjalil, Beatriz and Ibrahim, Yone, and Mohamed, and a hundred others, each with a message written on it. These messages expressed something simple, and in a simple way, but still something which sprang from the heart. These are some examples of the precious statements:

- Thank you for making all this possible
- Thank you for the second chance you have given me in my life
- I’m still fighting. It’s easier to do so with your help
- Thank you because you have restored my joy
- Thank you for helping me believe that I can do everything I set out to do
- Thank you for the food and a home
- Thank you from the bottom of my heart
- Thank you for having helped me
- Thank you for this opportunity to grow
- Thank you for believing in us young people despite the situation in which we live



There were a hundred others, just like these, addressed to Don Bosco and to the educators who are at their side every day in Don Bosco’s name. I listened to all they shared with me. I heard some of their stories – many of them filled with pain; I saw the look in their eyes and their smiles. I was very proud to be a Salesian and to belong to a family of such splendid brothers, educators, and young people. I thought, yet again, that Don Bosco is as timely as ever – and more necessary than ever. I also thought how great is the educational delicacy with which we accompany these young people along their path, taking each one where he or she is and not where we would like them to be. Together we said a prayer addressed to the God who loves us all, to the God who blesses His sons and daughters, using words that made Christians, Muslims, and Hindus feel comfortable. No doubt, the Spirit of God assisted us all.

I was happy because just as Don Bosco himself welcomed his first boys to Valdocco, the same thing is experienced today in so many “Valdoccos” around the world. I have no doubt that the Sacred Heart of Jesus is full of the Love that manifests itself in the many wounds healed in each one of these boys and girls because, we well know, Love heals and cures.

Blessed Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, Don Angel



## ORDINATION OF DEACON XOLILE GALATA SDB



Deacon Xolile Galata was ordained by Bishop Victor Hlolo Phalana of Klerksdorp on May 27, during the Eucharistic celebration at 10:00 am in Viljoenskroon, Kgabareng Secondary School Hall in the presence of 30 priests and 500 faithful. On the eve of the ordination the SYM (Salesian Youth Movement) organized a prayer Vigil in Bosco Youth Centre (Walkerville, Johannesburg) with the participation of 80 young people from all 3 AFM countries, coordinated by the Youth Ministry Delegate, Fr. Lingoane Tlaile and his team. The concelebrating priests both from Kroonstad and Klerksdorp dioceses, and Salesians of Don Bosco, witnessed a dynamic joyful celebration prepared for a long time by the local parishioners of St Paul at Ramulotsi and St Daniel.

The presence of 80 members of the Salesian Youth Movement of Eswatini, Lesotho and South Africa accompanied by the Salesian Fathers and Sisters FMA, made this historic occasion, of a Religious Priest's ordination in this diocese, more meaningful. In his homily, Bishop Phalana invited the present faithful to sustain with prayers, their first Religious Priest. As a missionary, he underwent his initial formation for the last 10 years, in South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya. In his ministry he will be sent by obedience, around the 3 countries of Southern Africa, making up the AFM province of Eswatini, Lesotho and South Africa.



The wonderful celebration was followed by a family-like meal, offered by the generous parish community of Saint Paul of Ramulotsi, where Fr Xolile was an altar server and where he nourished his faith and seeds of his religious and priestly vocation.

On the following day Fr Xolile presided his first thanksgiving Mass in his home parish of St Paul, with a Pentecost-like atmosphere. Lively songs in Sesotho, with a vibrant



homily by Fr Tumelo Pone SDB, and the concelebration of five Salesian priest and three priests from the Kroonstad diocese, participated in the Eucharist. Among the highlights of the celebration were various gifts offered by each of the 20 small Christians communities of the parish.



The whole ordination and thanksgiving Mass event celebrated in a vocation key, challenged the young people, like Don Bosco, the founder of the Salesians: "Give your heart completely to Jesus". Indeed, the only SDB novice present from Southern Africa, has roots in this parish, since he was an Altar server, guided by the now Father Xolile. **Fr Vaclav Klement**



# MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PROVINCIAL - FR VACLAV KLEMENT



Dear Friends of Don Bosco and his Salesian Family, I'm glad to greet you through the Spotlight digital pages. It's only 100 days since my arrival to Southern Africa to lead and animate the Salesian Family of Don Bosco. Since last March I was able to visit already twice each of our Salesian presences in South Africa (Ennerdale parish - Don Bosco Education Projects, Bosco Youth Center in Walkerville and Booyens provincial house, Cape Town Lansdown - Hannover Park parish and Salesian Institute), in Lesotho (Maseru and Maputsoe) and in Eswatini (Manzini and Malkerns). What a marvelous mission for thousands of young people and ministry to the people of God!

What is my first impression or feeling? Amidst multiple challenges of various kinds, Don Bosco's mission is effectively reaching and

involving the youth who need Don Bosco. But at the same time all our youth, Salesian family members and lay mission partners are asking for 'more Salesians of Don Bosco' – his brothers and priests. Although we have just celebrated, after 5 years, the priestly ordination of Fr Xolile Galata, SDB and we hope soon to witness the first religious profession of one young novice, presently in Zambia, we are called to pray and work for new Salesian vocations. The workers are few! At the present time we are only 5 Salesian brothers, 29 Salesian priests and 3 young Salesians preparing for the priesthood. Can you help us in spreading the vocation culture?

There are also many material needs I was listening to in my two rounds of animation visits around our 7 communities. It's painful to meet 92 children crammed into one primary school classroom; or to see young people growing up amidst the gangs, without their parents' care and exposed to so many temptations. There are so many needs. The harvest is plentiful!

I'm never tired of inviting any person of goodwill to be involved in Don Bosco's mission for young people. We need you! We need volunteers for our education programs (not only in Walkerville, Bosco Centre), but we also need more Salesian Family members, who would assist the young people as Salesian Cooperators or Don Bosco Past Pupils. And we also need many supporters in this mission. Our Saint used to say to his benefactors: 'Without you we can't do anything!' We need your help in many fields of the Salesian mission – from the Youth ministry to Social communication! Visit our Salesian Mission website to know more about our mission! Thank you so much for your help!

Fr Václav Klement, SDB provincial ([sdbprov@gmail.com](mailto:sdbprov@gmail.com))

## AKASH BASHIR – THE YOUNG PAKISTANI WITNESS TO CHRIST



Akash Bashir's life is surprisingly ordinary. A Salesian pupil, a young Catholic, born to a humble family of deep and sincere faith. He attended one of our schools in Pakistan in the Christian district of Youhanabad in the city of Lahore.

Akash lived his life in the normal way that any other young man would, with his family, friends, school, work, sport and prayer. Certainly, in a country like

Pakistan where the conservative Muslim faith prevails, it is no small thing to be a young Catholic. The faith there is not just a title or family tradition – it is one's identity. The simple but significant feature that made his life different however, was 'service.' Each moment of Akash's life had been an act of service, and he died serving the community in his neighbourhood. He died serving to the point of giving his very own life.

On 15 March 2015, while Mass was being celebrated in St John's Parish, the group of security guards made up of young volunteers of whom Akas was a part, was faithfully guarding the entrance. Something unusual happened that day. Akash noticed someone with explosives under his clothing trying to enter the church. He held him back but realising that he would be unable to stop him he embraced him saying, "I will die, but I will not let you enter the church." And so, the young man and the suicide bomber both died.

Our young man offered his life, and saved the lives of hundreds of people, boys, girls, mothers, teenagers and adults who at that moment were in the church praying. Akash was 20 years old. His act has left a deep impression, and naturally we cannot, nor do we want to lose this memory of young Akash. His simple and normal life is undoubtedly a very meaningful and important example for the young Christians of Lahore, indeed all of Pakistan and the Salesian world.

Fr Angel Fernandez Artime.

Rector Major of the Salesians

# SALESIAN INSTITUTE YOUTH PROJECTS



The Waves of Change (WOC) Maritime Training Programme, a flagship initiative of the Salesian Institute Youth Projects, is celebrating its **10th anniversary** of empowering communities and underprivileged youth. Since its official establishment in **2013**, the WOC Programme has gained significant recognition for providing opportunities to young people aspiring to work at sea.

Recently we celebrated the remarkable achievements of our Stitch Ahead Sewing programme graduates! 🧵 Their hard work, creativity, and dedication shone brightly during the captivating graduation ceremony. 🎓 ✨

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible partners, Sewing Forward, who played an instrumental role in making this program a resounding success.

On Thursday, May 25, 2023, the Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP) organized a significant town hall meeting, with the objective of reimagining work-integrated learning opportunities and enhancing employability for its learners. Despite the cold and wet weather in Cape Town, leaders from various industries and semi-government entities eagerly attended the event. The session was expertly facilitated by Mymoena Ismail, a member of the Rotary Club Waterfront, as part of their commitment to digital transformation. Industry leaders emphasized that the key to tackling the pressing issue of unemployment, that lies in educational institutions such as SIYP, is by providing a pool of talented individuals, whose competencies and skills align closely with targeted job profiles. SIYP is looking forward to future collaboration with businesses in Cape Town. To get involved please contact us: [info@salesianyouth.org.za](mailto:info@salesianyouth.org.za) **Frieda Pehlivan**





## LANSDOWNE CAPE TOWN



Our Lady Help of Christians in Lansdowne, had its first ever combined retreat for Confirmation candidates, their parents and sponsors. It was a wonderful day with great faith sharing, love and support for the candidates as they prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday. Pray for them and their families.

## HANOVER PARK CAPE TOWN

First time back at Mass for the children in Hanover Park,



**RUN, JUMP, SHOUT,  
BUT DO NOT SIN  
– JOHN BOSCO**

## DON BOSCO ORATORY MAPUTSOE - LESOTHO



Children 14 to 15 years of age, celebrating the Feast of Mary Help of Christians at the Oratory in Maputsoe.



# PICTURES OF THE VARIOUS COURSES UNDERTAKEN BY CHILDREN AT DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL CENTRE IN ENNERDALE



Father  
Emmanuel  
Kagimbangabo

## WELDING



## PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL



## COMPUTERS AND HAIRDRESSING







*Life* is like a camera. Just focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives, and if things don't work out, just take another shot.

**CONSUMER SCIENCE  
AND  
ARTS AND CRAFTS**



**Worry** is a conversation you have with yourself about things you CANNOT CHANGE.

**Prayer** is a conversation you have with God about things HE CAN CHANGE.

**ENNERDALE PARISH  
PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Eskom tells us not to use electricity, water supplier tells residents not to drink the water, hopefully soon SARS is going to tell us not to pay tax.





# ESWATINI MANZINI YOUTH CARE MENTORSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME



## NEWS FROM THE MSMHC DYSSELSDORP - WESTERN CAPE



The MSMHC Sisters, together with the Oratory children, celebrated the centenary year of their Father Founder, Venerable Stephan Ferrandos's arrival in India from Italy, as a Missionary, as well as his 100 years of ordination Anniversary. **Sister Elsa Joseph**

### YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Sister Maura Hickey FMA RIP 24 April 2023. Sr Maura was recuperating at the Dominican Convent in Boksburg when she went to her eternal reward.

Sister Consuelo Aguirre FMA RIP 1 June 2023. Sr Consuelo was recuperating in her home country of Mexico when she passed to her eternal reward.

Sister Elsa Joseph sends word: "As you know I will be away in India, until August 2023, since I have some health issues, kindly keep me in your precious prayers."

Pray also for PEACE and for the PROTECTION OF ALL CHILDREN. For the starving, the unemployed, the abused and ALL MOTHERS.

For persecuted Christians. One in seven Christians in the world is a victim of persecution.

Pope Francis has asked us to pray for the abolition of torture. For a complete recovery for Pope Francis after his surgery.



*"Almighty, ever-living God, whose love surpasses all that we ask or deserve, open up for us the treasures of your mercy. Forgive us all that weighs on our conscience and grant us more even than we dare to ask. Through Christ our Lord. Amen*





Be always cheerful!  
It is the characteristic  
of those who  
love God dearly!

(Mother Mazzarello)



And the Feast of  
Mary Help of  
Christians was  
celebrated on 24  
May.



The Salesian Sisters celebrated the  
Feast of their Foundress, St Mary  
Mazzarello, on 13 May.



Mary Help of Christians is the Patroness of Mary Help of Christians School in Booyens. During the Novena to Mary Help of Christians, the children learnt how to say the "Hail Mary" with one sentence each day. After the Novena, the children knew the full meaning of the "Hail Mary." They were also encouraged to greet and pray to Mother Mary when they passed her statue.

On Wednesday 24 May 2023, the nursery school joined the Primary school, to celebrate the Feast of Mary Help of



Christians. The children started with a procession around the school to honour Our Lady, followed by the Solemn Mass at the Salesian Chapel. Fr. Alberto presided with the beautiful homily on the Wedding Feast at Cana where Jesus performed His first miracle, through Mother Mary's intercession, adapted for the children. Father encouraged the children to

pray to Mother Mary.

After the Holy Eucharist, the children made yummy snacks together and played some exciting games. They enjoyed the celebration very much. We thank the Lord for the gift of Mother Mary. We are grateful to have her as the school's Patroness and ask her to help us to love Jesus more and more.

**Sister Maria Ngunen FMA**





## CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS IN ENNERDALE



We started the month of Mary in the School with members of the Educating Community and learners. Together we honoured her as our Help by praying ‘three Hail Marys.’ Through her intercession each day we asked for the needs of our school. We had sport and other extra activities to mark this beautiful month in preparation for the feast on the 24 May.



**DOMINIC SAVIO FEAST:** On Friday 5 May we celebrated in advance, the feast of St Dominic Savio in the Primary School, with a simple prayer and reflection on the Saint. The Savio’s Club gave a presentation. In the afternoon, at the Oratory after the games, children received sweets as a gift from Dominic Savio.



**SALESIAN FAMILY DAY:** Saturday 13 May the feast of St Mary Domenica Mazzarello, foundress of the FMA, the Sisters and Salesian Co-operators of Ennerdale had prepared the SALESIAN FAMILY DAY. It was celebrated beautifully with the rest of the Salesian Family at DBEP. During the Eucharist, we had the pleasure of welcoming a new member of the Salesian Co-operators into the family. Barbara Myburg made her promises during the Mass. Br Clarence gave us some insights on the Salesian family Spirit that was then shared and discussed in groups. We concluded with lunch and the prayer of the Holy Rosary. Also present was a delegation of the Salesian Co-operators from Malamulele - FMA Community who added to our joy as the family increased.



**MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS:** Wednesday 24 May. This special day was so anticipated in the school. It began with a vibrant Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr Emmanuel and well animated by the children. After Mass followed a number of different activities prepared by the Houses in which learners are divided into. A break with a special lunch for all added to the flavour of the feast. Majorette’s performance and quizzes animated by Dominic Savio and Laura’s Clubs gave a special touch to the day.

Meanwhile, in **Sancta Maria’s ECD- Fine Town**, Sr. Annet Kaluka and the Staff also organised a happy celebration, to honour Mary Help of Christians making the day an enjoyable one with the little ones. **Sister Lidia Castro FMA**





# WELCOME TO THE AFM PROVINCE



**Fr Hydeman from Tanzania Province and Deacon Severin and Cleric Hasina from Madagascar**

“Kindness is the firm and persevering intention to always will the good of others, even the unfriendly. We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace.”  
Pope Francis



Dear Friends  
We have only just begun to absorb the miracle of the Resurrection, as well as the wondrous gifts of the Holy Spirit and now we come to dwell on the greatest and most generous gift of love, that only a loving Father could conceive – giving Himself in the form of food to strengthen our spiritual life. Nobody can define the wonderful feeling of love. It has to be experienced. St Paul reminds us that our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, and when we receive Holy Communion our bodies become the dwelling place of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and our God. To show His love for us Christ died on the cross, but that was not sufficient for Him. He gave us Himself in the Holy Eucharist. We tend to be indifferent to this great gift and the only way that we can make this right, is to increase our reverence before the Blessed Sacrament. Our Blessed Lord will reciprocate by showering us with wonderful gifts and graces. During this month of the Sacred Heart let us try and be more reverent. Our Blessed Lady will appreciate this gift to her Son. Once again, I send my thanks to each and every one of you for your prayers, your donations, your criticism and your loyalty. To our monthly donors, our unknown donors, donors who give large amounts every now and then and the ones who give when they receive this newsletter. May God bless and reward you all. Please go and look at our new website. And don't forget to pray for me as I do for you. Much love Denise Hards



WORDS OF THE SACRED HEART TO ST. MARGARET MARY  
On June 6th, 1675  
*“Behold his Heart which has so loved men that It has spared nothing to testify Its love for them, even to the exhausting and consuming Itself for their sakes; but in return I receive from the generality of men nothing but ingratitude, through the contempt, irreverences, sacrileges, and coldness with which I am treated in the Sacrament of My love . . .*  
*“What, however, afflicts Me most is that those who are consecrated to Me do Me this wrong.”*  
*“Let us, therefore love God : because God has first loved us”. (1 John v. 19).*

- FEAST DAYS**
- 11 June Body and Blood of Christ
  - 16 June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
  - 17 June Immaculate Heart of Mary
  - 24 June The Birth of John the Baptist
  - 29 June Ss Peter and Paul
  - 03 July St Thomas
  - 22 July St Mary Magdalene
  - 25 July St James
  - 26 July Ss Joachim and Anne
  - 06 Aug Transfiguration of Our Lord
  - 20 Aug Assumption of Our Lady
  - 22 Aug Queenship of 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 information can be given to you.  
Tel: 27 (0) 11 476 8315  
We would be extremely grateful.



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 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 do not need it!**