

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 72 299 2809
missionoffice@bucknet.co.za
www.salesianmissions.co.za

SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

E-NEWS SEPTEMBER 2023



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



The Holy Father appoints Father Angel Fernandez Artime, Rector Major of the Salesians, a Cardinal of the Church on 9 July 2023

The appointment of Father Ángel Fernández Artime is a sign of the trust and hope that the Holy Father Pope Francis places in Father Ángel and the Salesians of Don Bosco. Father Ángel was born on 21 August 1960 in Gozón-Luanco, Asturias, Spain. He made his first profession on 3 September 1978, made his perpetual vows on 17 June 1984 in Santiago de Compostela and was ordained a priest on 4 July 1987 in León. He holds a degree in Pastoral Theology and a Licence in Philosophy and Pedagogy.

He has had many appointments, such as Delegate for Youth Pastoral, member of the Provincial Council, Provincial, Vice Provincial and Rector. He was appointed Provincial of South Argentina, based in Buenos Aires. In this capacity he also got to know and work personally with the then Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, today, Pope Francis.

On 11 March 2020, he was confirmed by the General Chapter 28 as the Rector Major of the Salesians, and the 10th successor of Don Bosco, for the second six-year term from 2020 to 2026.

The future Cardinal, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime: "Wherever I go and whatever I am asked to do, there will always be attention to the young, to education, to the most vulnerable"

"I am still that little boy from Luanco, where I really feel at home among my people and my compatriots. It is essential in life not to forget our roots." Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, who will be created cardinal in the consistory on 30 September, always speaks with a natural feeling of warmth.

On 11 July, when the Rector Major was received in audience by the Pope to receive his instructions regarding the steps following this appointment, Father Artime told him confidently: "Holy Father, allow me to remind you of one thing: 10 years ago, when you welcomed all the 267 Salesians in the Clementine Hall at the 27th General Chapter, you said to me: 'Hey, *Gallego*, what have they done to

you!' And now it is I who am saying to you: 'Holy Father, what have you done to me?' And I must say that the Pope reacted with genuine, heartfelt laughter.

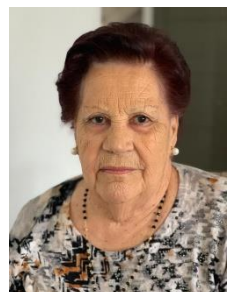
"A Salesian never stops being a Salesian, right?" the journalist asked Father Artime, who said he "feels very happy to accompany young people in their life. It is in my DNA, and wherever I go and whatever I am asked to do, there will always be attention to the young, to education, to the most vulnerable, and this is what I will be able to offer, together with my personal style, to my new service, where I will try to give the best of myself, through dialogue and respect for diversity." **ANS**



Heartfelt Condolences to the Rector Major

We ask for prayers for Mrs Isabel Artime Garcia, the Mother of the Rector Major. She sadly passed away on 24 June, the Solemnity of St John the Baptist.

Please keep Isabel, Don Angel, and all her family and friends in your prayers. May she rest in peace.



Celebrate the birthday of

Our Blessed Mother



“You are the glory of Jerusalem ... You are the highest honour of our race!”

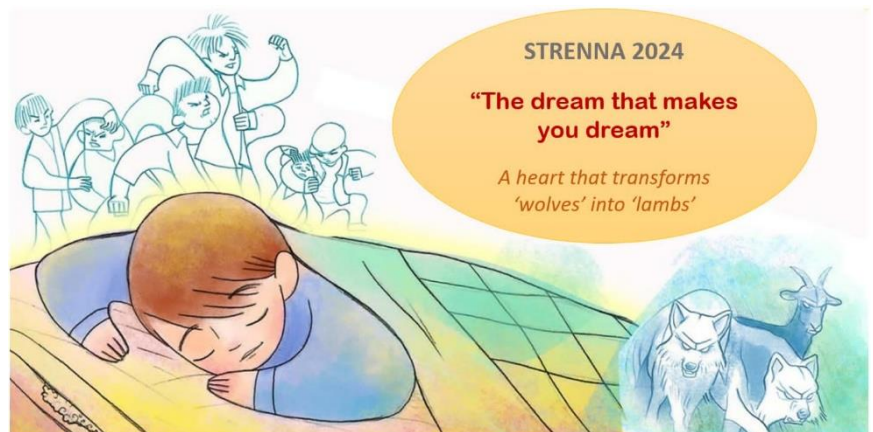


RMG – The theme of the Rector Major's Strenna for 2024 has been announced



(ANS – Rome) – In 2024, the Salesian Family around the world will celebrate the second centenary of the dream that the young John Bosco – the future Don Bosco – had in 1824, at the age of nine. In fact, it is well known in the Salesian Family as "the dream at nine years of age". For this reason, the Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Father and Centre of Unity for the Salesian Family, decided to dedicate the theme of Strenna for 2024 to this

dream, and as is the case every year, at the end of the summer plenary session of the General Council he announced the motto that will inspire it: "The dream that makes you dream". A heart that transforms "wolves" into "lambs".



NEWS FROM THE PROJECTS

SALESIAN INSTITUTE CAPE TOWN



Salesian Waves of Change program helps young women gain skills for employment



Waves of change with a very focused coordinator and 400 clients who complete this training every year and 6000+ queries as well. **Father Klement**



Empowering Youth from At-Risk Backgrounds



Be humble and patient and the Lord Jesus will give you the will and the means. Don Bosco

LANSDOWNE – CAPE TOWN - YOUTH MINISTRY IN ACTION!

SOUP KITCHEN OUTREACH



LANSDOWNE CHOIR AND MUSIC TEAM



ALPHA GROUP



DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS - ENNERDALE

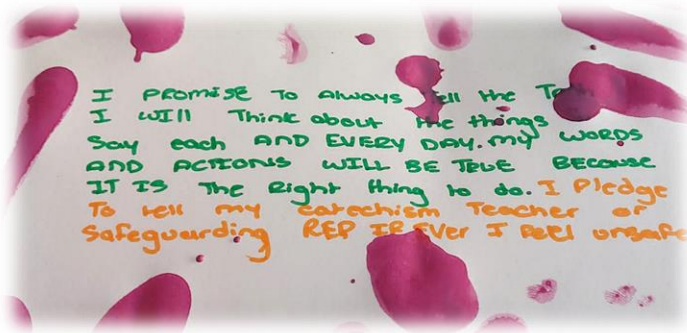


Mr Mr Balthazar Maniratunga the Regional Councillor for Africa, from Burundi, visited. He is seen in the photo with teachers who are past pupils of DBEP.



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

WITNESSING THE PLEDGE OF VOLUNTEER SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS FOR CHILDREN



WE WERE BLESSED AND HONOURED TO HAVE SR RUNITA BORJA FMA, GENERAL COUNCILLOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY, VISITING US FROM ROME



ESWATINI

Enthusiastic animation of Don Bosco Past Pupils in Africa-Madagascar Region



(ANS – Manzini) – Two full intense working days of an animation visit to eSwatini, offered a unique opportunity to the World Confederation Councillor of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco, Mr Balthazar Maniratunga (48, from Burundi) to animate and interact with the youth and Salesian Family members.

RECEIVING AWARDS AT SALESIAN HIGH, MANZINI



(ANS – Manzini) – More than 2,300 people in Eswatini had access to better nutrition thanks to a partnership between Salesian Missions, the U.S. development arm of the Salesians of Don Bosco, and Feed My Starving Children, a nonprofit Christian organization committed to “feeding God’s children

hungry in body and spirit.” The food shipment was sent in 2022 and shared with several Salesian programs and communities.



ST JOHN BOSCO PARISH, MALKERNS. PPC EXECUTIVE



LESOTHO



The end of Don Bosco month, August. Sodality and Youth at Don Bosco Oratory, Maputsoe.



The dream of Don Bosco, Holy Mass, Primary School, Laura School and some time to Play



SALESIAN SISTERS – FMA

Visit of the FMA General Councillor for Youth Ministry, Sister Runita Borja



On 13 August, the FMA General Councillor for Youth Ministry, Sister Runita Borja, visited the Salesian Parish of All Saints in Ennerdale, Johannesburg. The day began with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Vaclav Klement, Superior of the Southern African Vice-Province.



Sister Runita then

addressed the young people from the Salesian Youth Movement and the members of the Salesian Family, recalling the importance of building intergenerational ties and constructing a dialogue between young and old. Finally, she encouraged young people to take risks. "If Don Bosco had not taken risks" the Councillor stressed "there would have been no Salesian Family. We are here because people have taken risks, risks that have done good to others."



GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SISTER PATRICIA FINN

The Communities of Boksburg and Ennerdale as well as the Sisters from Maputsoe – Lesotho, gathered together in Booyens to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Sr Patricia Finn. The SDB community of Booyens joined in the festivities. The celebration of the Eucharist was presided by Father Alberto Villalba SDB who in his homily thanked Sr Patricia for her many years of generous service to the Church and to the Congregation. He also noted that many years were spent in the Catechetical Ministry, especially the last twenty-five years in which she was the National Catechetical Coordinator of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference.



All the Sisters present joined in the renewal of their vows thanking God for having called them to serve Him as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

SISTER MARIA NGUYEN

"It is only with the heart that one can see clearly. What is essential is invisible to the eye."



RENEWAL OF VOWS AND RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

Each year on the 5th of August the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters) celebrate the anniversary of the foundation of their Institute. It is customary, where possible, that on this day each year around the world, there are young women who consecrate themselves to God through the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience according to the spirit of St. John Bosco and St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello. Religious vows joyfully free a person to live for God and through that first love to serve others with love and to witness to God's faithfulness, compassion and care for all.

World Youth Day

(ANS – Lisbon) – In a great feast of colours, flags, hymns, songs and prayers, the Holy Father Pope Francis, met with young pilgrims at World Youth Day in Lisbon 2023



Children from the Booyens Creche honouring Our Blessed Lady

A new Salesian presence in Africa: BOTSWANA

(ANS – Rome) – On July 18, the Rector Major, Father Ángel Fernández Artime, with the consent of his Council, approved the opening of a new presence in Botswana. Anthony Pascal Rebello, SVD, Bishop of Francistown, Botswana, invited Fr Eustace Siame, a Salesian from Zambia, to preach a retreat for Catholics in his diocese in 2022. He then invited the Superior of the Zambian Vice-Province to start a presence in his diocese. On 8-9 February 2023, just after his instalment as Superior of the Zambian Vice-Province, Father Michael Mbandama made his first visit to the country, accompanied by two Salesians.

During his visit to Italy on 19 June 2023, Archbishop Rebello met the Rector Major, Father Artime, in the Salesian Mother House at Valdocco, in Turin. "We are willing to accept his invitation to work with the poor young people of Botswana" the Rector Major assured Bishop Rebello.

Botswana is a well-off country in Africa. And Archbishop Rebello's request to the Salesians is above all to take care of marginalised young people, starting a youth centre, because even in Botswana there are poor and marginalised children. He also asks us to work with the illegal immigrants detained in the Gerald detention centre and to take care of the *Mass Centre* in Monarch and eventually transform it into a parish.

Father Maravilla, General Councillor for Missions.



VOCATIONS



Welcome

WELCOME TO AFM

Gilles Nsoukele (ACC) - PT

Steven Kambale (AFC) - PT

Chris Bukenge (AFC) - PT

Fidele Mademba (AFC) - PT

Fr. Joseph Thong (VIE)

Fr. Chris Rychik (ZMB)

Steven Chiwenda (ZMB) -PT

John Bunmee (THA) - PT



AFM Initial Formation

Joseph - PT Cape Town

Nhlanhla - Cape Town

Reece - PT Eswatini

Thabiso - Post Novice Lusaka

Paul - Pre Novice Malawi

Lebohlang - Post Novice Lusaka

Romeo - Pre Novice Malawi

Nathaniel - Pre Novice Malawi

Khunong - Pre Novice Malawi

TOGETHER BECOMING DON BOSCO



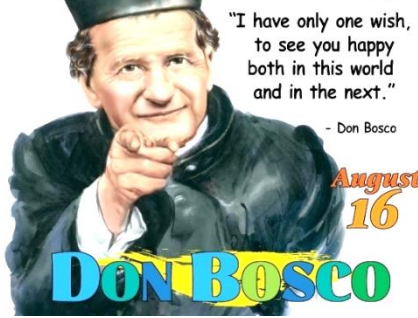
Prayer for Vocations and Welcoming

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd,
in Don Bosco you give your life for the salvation of all young people,
especially those most in need.

Raise generous young people who will follow you as Salesian
brothers, priests and sisters in the Salesian Family.

Help us to welcome with an open-heart
the new Salesian missionaries,
who will come to Southern Africa to strengthen our communities,
as together we strive to relaunch our Salesian Charism. Amen

Happy Birthday



Prayers Please

For all our donors and friends.
 For those who have been retrenched and are battling with the injustices of life.
 For all women who are used and abused.
 For children who suffer at the hands of abusive adults.
 For the protection of Our Blessed Mother and Her Son.
 For those who help without expecting thanks.
 For our Priests, Brothers and Sisters who need our support.
 For the recovery of a father who has cancer, and for his family.
 For all those who have gone before us, and especially for:
 Mrs Isabel Artime, Sammy and John Mills.
 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."
 St Mother Teresa

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
- 02 Sep The Holy Guardian Angels
- 04 Oct St Francis of Assisi
- 07 Oct Our Lady of the Rosary
- 29 Oct Blessed Michael Rua SDB
- 02 Nov All Souls
- 05 Nov All Saints
- 19 Nov World Day of the Poor
- 21 Nov Presentation of the Virgin Mary
- 26 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.

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

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

THE GREATEST LOVE
 STORY OF ALL TIME
 IS CONTAINED IN A TINY
 WHITE HOST.

Bishop Fulton Sheen



Dear Friends

It is something short of a miracle that I have managed to produce this newsletter, just barely in time for Our Blessed Lady's birthday. For those of you who live in this wonderful country of ours, I don't have to explain; but for those of you who live beyond these magnificent borders the reason is: load shedding, or no power – just that. I have brainwashed myself into believing the sayings:



'Life is great if you don't weaken,' and 'Ours is not to reason why, ours is but to do or die.' However, I find in my communication with many different people, young and not so young, that my thinking is not the best. "We need to stand up for our rights and challenge when, in our opinion, things are wrong," I'm told. Well, what is the answer? Should we protest, march, down tools, stop paying taxes and should we let the Government know how we feel.

And on that note, I find much is being said about Pope Francis. "He is not acting correctly, he is promoting wrong behaviour, he is disrespecting the Vatican, et al." My answer to all of this – in the first instance - we would have total anarchy. And with reference to the Holy Father. The answer is in our Bible: Matthew: 16.18. "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.... what you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, etc." Our opinions don't really count, when God is in control and the ultimate answer is: Prayer, Reverence and Respect for ourselves and for one another. Correct me if you think that I am wrong. Please, send me your criticisms. My sincere THANKS to all of you, once again, for your prayers, your loyalty and your donations. May God bless and reward you. REMEMBER Our Blessed Lady's Birthday tomorrow – do something nice for her. Pray for one another, and yes, please pray for me, as I do for you. Much love. Denise Hards



PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY AND YOUR PRAYERS WILL BE ANSWERED



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PO Box 3209, North Riding 2162 • Tel: 27 (0) 11 476-8315
 e-mail: missionoffice@bucknet.co.za
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YES! I want to support the Salesian work with needy youth!

I send my gift of:

- R150 R200 R250 Other R.....

Which will be made by (please tick)

- Debit Order Direct deposit*

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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