

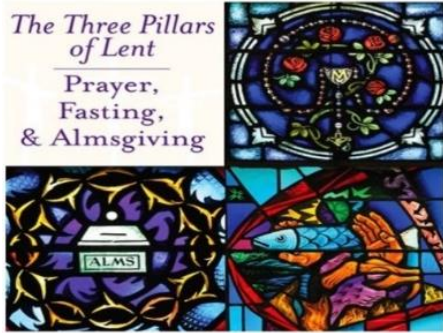


SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

E-NEWS FEBRUARY 2024

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



Welcome once again to the monthly newsletter. This year, February hosts ASH WEDNESDAY and the beginning of Lent. During Lent, we give special attention to the practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in order to grow closer to Christ and enter more fully into his life, death and resurrection. **Special** thanks for the favourable response which I received from many of you regarding the January Spotlight, as well as all the gifts received, from known and anonymous donors. **May** I wish you all a prayerful Lenten season, as we walk together the Way of the Cross. Pray for me as I do for you. God bless and thank you. Much love. Denise



MESSAGE OF SAINT JOHN PAUL II FOR LENT

Lent is a time of truth. Christians, called by the Church to prayer, penance, fasting and self-sacrifice, place themselves before God and recognize themselves; they rediscover themselves.

“Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return” (Formula for the Distribution of Ashes). Remember, that you are called to things other than worldly and material goods that can easily divert you from what is essential. Remember, your first calling: you come from God, and you return to God by going towards the Resurrection which is the path marked out by Christ. “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple” (Lk 14:27).

Lent is a time of profound truth, which brings conversion, restores hope and, by putting everything back in its proper place, brings peace and optimism.

Lent is a time that makes us think about our relationship with “Our Father.” It re-establishes the order that should reign between brothers and sisters. Lent is a time that makes us jointly responsible for one another. It detaches us from our selfishness, small-mindedness, meanness and pride. It is a time that enlightens us and makes us understand better that we too, like Christ, must serve.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you also love one another” (Jn 13:34). “And who is my neighbour?” (Lk 10:29).

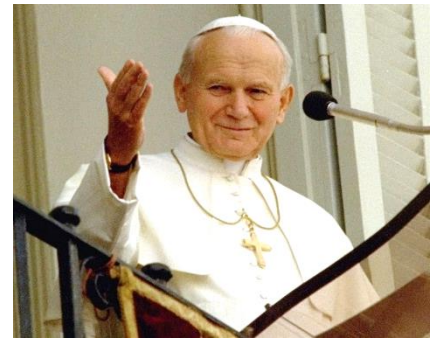
Lent is a time of truth, which, as in the case of the Good Samaritan, makes us pause, recognize our brothers and

sisters, and put our time and possessions at their service in daily sharing. The Good Samaritan is the Church! The Good Samaritan is every man and woman! By calling! By duty! The Good Samaritan lives charity. Saint Paul says: “So we are ambassadors for Christ” (2 Cor 5:20). It is here that our responsibility lies. We are sent to other people, to our brothers and sisters. Let us respond generously to the confidence that Christ thus places in us.

Yes, Lent is a time of truth. Let us examine ourselves sincerely, honestly and simply. Our brothers and sisters are there among the poor, the sick, the outcast, the aged. What sort of love do we have? What sort of truth?

On the occasion of Lent, in all your dioceses and churches an appeal is going to be made to that truth of yours, to that charity which is the proof of it.

So, open your minds to look around you, open your hearts to understand and sympathise, open your hands to help. The needs are vast, as you know. I therefore urge you to take a generous part in this sharing.



Special Days in February

- 02nd Feb The Presentation of the Lord
- 11th Feb World Day of the Sick (Our Lady of Lourdes)
- 14th Feb Ash Wednesday
- 22nd Feb Chair of St Peter

Prayers Please

For all Readers, Donors and Friends of Salesians.
For Priests, that they may have an increase in reverence.
For all those suffering with cancer and other illnesses.
For all those who have gone before us. May they rest in peace.
For world peace and an end to corruption.
“Through our Lenten observance, Lord, deepen our understanding of the mystery of Christ, and make it a reality in the conduct of our lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



VATICAN CITY

A stamp and a special stamp cancellation for the bicentenary of Don Bosco's Dream at Nine Years of Age



The Vatican also joins the Salesian Family in celebrating the dream that St John Bosco had at nine years of age, which inspired all his work and his charisma; and it does so through a stamp and a special stamp cancellation dedicated to this important anniversary. **ANS**

SALESIAN INSTITUTE

THE LEARN TO LIVE SCHOOL OF SKILLS, a flagship initiative of the **SALESIAN INSTITUTE YOUTH PROJECTS**, proudly hosted a spirited Mardi Gras-themed concert this week, delighting guests of honour from the Neighbourhood Old Age Homes (NOAH) in Cape Town.

LANSDOWNE - CAPE TOWN - CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 1924 – 2024



Our Lady Help of Christians, Lansdowne, invites you to the centenary celebrations of the presence of the Salesians in Lansdowne.

We are planning to celebrate this Centenary with numerous events, tributes and displays all over the Parish, during the year, to remind us of the great contribution and impact the Salesians have made, not only in Lansdowne, but also to the greater Cape Flats, especially Mitchells Plain and Hanover Park. Our first banner on the Salesians was displayed on 28 January 2024.

We give thanks to God and His Blessed Mother, for the many blessings that we have received. We hope that you will all participate joyfully in thanksgiving for this special Centenary.

Fathers Vaclav Klement and Eddie O'Neill.

FIRST SALESIAN HOME – CLAREMONT – 1924

The home was bought from the O'Connor family who returned to Ireland. The original name of the home and farm was the Fermanagh Estate and Dairy. This was the first of the two purchases of land by the Salesians that was to become the **Salesian Agricultural School Claremont**. It is recorded that when Fathers Tozzi and Pappalardo arrived on the 20 February 1924, the farmhouse was "in a state of considerable disrepair." But thanks to hard work and generous benefactors it was refurbished and remained in use for many years. The present presbytery now occupies the site of where the original farmhouse was.



ONGOING PROGRAMS AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

Many of our schools and youth centres have programs and courses that require ongoing support such as:

- Expenses for food
- Tools and equipment for trade courses
- Sporting equipment for extracurricular activities and oratory programs
- Proper material and resources for Evangelical Training.

OUR BANK DETAILS ARE:

STANDARD BANK CLAREMONT 025109
ACCOUNT NUMBER 07 256 1572
ACCOUNT HOLDER – SALESIAN MISSIONS

SNIPPETS:

"The Greatest Healer is Love and the only true medicine is compassion." Anon.

"It's only with the heart that one can see clearly. What is essential is invisible to the eye." The Little Prince.

"We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee, because by Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world."