



SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

E-NEWS MAY 2024

Salesian Missions

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

Dear Friends forgive the delay in sending out this newsletter for the month of May. Our Lady's month and the month of the Holy Rosary. Our Blessed Lady is very dear to my heart, and she has been knocking on my door for a while now telling me to send out her news. I even had a call from the other side of the world asking me why I had not sent out the Spotlight during this important month. My excuse will be for another time and another place. I must thank our donors and friends (those known and the anonymous kind ones), once again, for your constant loyalty, prayers, donations and dedication. Please dear friends, say your rosary this month especially for a favourable outcome for the elections on the 29th. We also need prayers for those who have gone before us, and for all those who are suffering in any way and have asked for our prayers. May God bless and reward you one and all. Pray for me too please, as I do for you. Much love. Denise

13TH MAY OUR LADY OF FATIMA AND ST MARIA DOMENICA MAZZARELLO

Our Lady of Fatima is the title of Mary, mother of Jesus, based on the Marian apparitions reported in 1917 by three shepherd children at the Cova da Iria in Fátima, Portugal. The three children were Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto. Our Lady of Fatima has served as a beloved Marian devotion of protection and hope for those suffering, offering comfort through times of uncertainty. As we observe this Feast we can find peace in reflecting upon the Guidance of Our Blessed Mother.



Mary was born in Mornese, a small, hidden town in Northern Italy. Her family was poor and simple, but rich in faith-life and work ethic. Maria Domenica Mazzarello, FMA was an Italian Catholic nun who co-founded the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco. Mary was elected as the first Superior General of the Congregation, but she called herself the



Vicar, because, she said, "the true superior is Our Lady."

20TH MAY MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

(Latin: *Mater Ecclesiae*) is the title given to Mary, as officially declared by Pope Paul VI in 1964. The title first appeared in the 4th century writings of Saint Ambrose of Milan, as rediscovered by Hugo Rahner. It was also used by Pope Benedict XIV in 1748 and then by Pope Leo XIII in 1885. Pope John Paul II placed it in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Pope Francis inserted a feast by this title into the Roman Calendar. The Mosaic of *Mater Ecclesiae* in St. Peter's Square bears the personal arms and motto of Pope John Paul II, who approved the installation of the image and blessed it personally.



24TH MAY MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

has attained special renown since St John Bosco, founder of the Salesian Congregation, dedicated his foundation to *Our Lady, Help of Christians*, the mother church of his congregation at Turin on 9 June 1868. The Salesians have carried the devotion to their numerous establishments. It was established due to the great appreciation of Don Bosco for this Marian title and the development of the Salesian works in many countries since the second half of the 19th century. Saint John Chrysostom was the first person to use this Marian title in year 345 AD. It is also associated with the defence of Christian Europe (Latin and Greek), the north of Africa and the Middle East from non-Christian peoples during the Middle Ages. During the expansion of the Islamic Ottoman Empire who intended to invade Christian Europe in 1571, Pope Pius V invoked Christian armies and the victory achieved was consequently attributed to the intercession of Mary under this devotional title.

