



SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

E-NEWS APRIL 2025

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SALESIAN MISSIONS IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 36 YEARS

Salesian Missions

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Dear Friends it is a while now since I last spoke to you. However, the time has gone so quickly that it is hard to believe that we are once again looking forward to Easter and the Resurrection. Nevertheless, Holy Week is just around the corner and we need to ponder on the Passion of Christ. The Gospels tell us that His Precious Blood was shed seven times for our salvation. Pope John XXIII said: "Unlimited is the effectiveness of the God-Man's Blood — just as unlimited as the love that impelled Him to pour it out for us, first at His circumcision eight days after His birth, and more profusely later on in His agony in the garden, in His scourging and crowning with thorns, in His climb to Calvary and His crucifixion, and finally from out that great wide wound in His side which symbolizes the divine Blood cascading down into all the Church's sacraments. Such surpassing love suggests, nay demands, that everyone reborn in the torrents of that Blood adore it with grateful love."



And once again, I quote from Fulton Sheen: Taken from his book: *God's world and our place in it*.

"The world was wrong, and Christ was right. He who had the power to lay down His life had the power to take it up again. He who willed to be born, willed to die. And He who knew how to die knew also how to be reborn and to give to this poor tiny planet of ours an honour and a glory that flaming suns and jealous planets do not share: the glory of one forsaken grave.

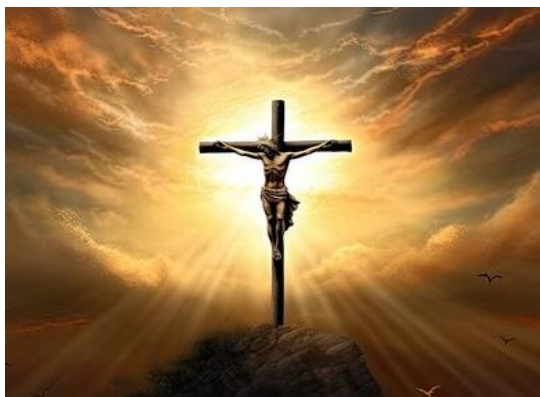
The great lesson of Easter Day is that a Victor may be judged from a double point of view: that of the world and that of God. From the world's point of view, Christ failed on Good Friday. From God's point of view, Christ had won. Those who put Him to death gave Him the very chance He required; those who closed the door of the sepulchre gave Him the very door that He desired to fling open; their seeming triumph led to His greatest

victory. Christmas told the story that Divinity is always where the world least expects to find it, for no one

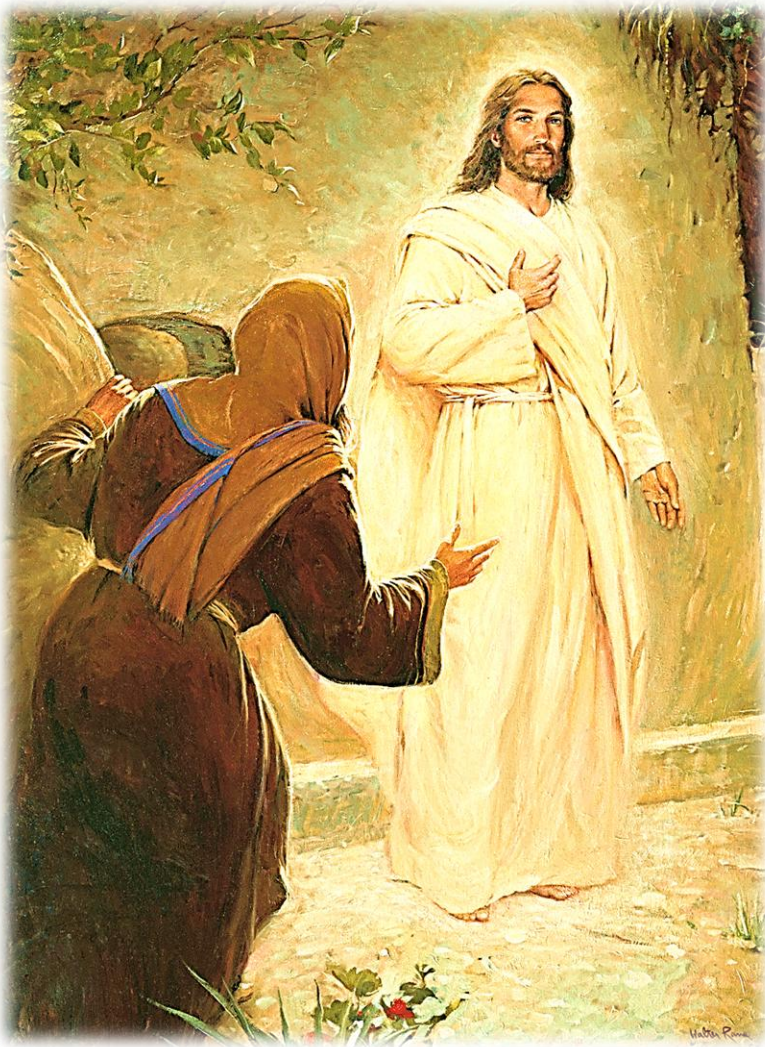
expected to see Divinity wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Easter repeats that Divinity is always where the world least expects to find it, for no one in the world expected that a defeated man would be a victor, that the rejected cornerstone would be the head of the building, that the dead would walk, and that He who was ignored in a tomb should be our Resurrection and our Life.

What care we if the road of this life is steep, if the poverty of Bethlehem, the loneliness of Galilee, and the sorrow of the Cross are ours? Fighting under the holy inspiration of One who has conquered the world, why should we shrink from letting the broad stroke of our challenge ring out on the shield of the world's hypocrisy? Why should we be afraid to draw the sword and let its first stroke be the slaying of our own selfishness?

Marching under the leadership of the Captain of the Five Scars, fortified by His sacraments, strengthened by His infallible truth, divinized by His redemptive love, we need never fear the outcome of the battle of life. We need never doubt the issue of the only struggle that matters. We need never ask whether we will win or lose. Why, we have already won — only the news has not yet leaked out!"



'Unless there is a Good Friday in our lives, there will never be an Easter Sunday.'



JESUS SAID TO MARTHA:
“I AM THE
RESURRECTION.

IF ANYONE BELIEVES IN ME
EVEN THOUGH HE DIES HE
WILL LIVE”

JOHN: 11.25



**EASTER BLESSINGS AND THANKS TO ALL OUR
READERS, DONORS AND FRIENDS**



The resurrection of Jesus changes the history of salvation and gives our suffering purpose. We have the freedom to live our lives as God intended and experience real joy and happiness. Even when we are buried in our sorrows, we can hold onto the hope that eternal joy is coming, and God will comfort us in our sufferings.

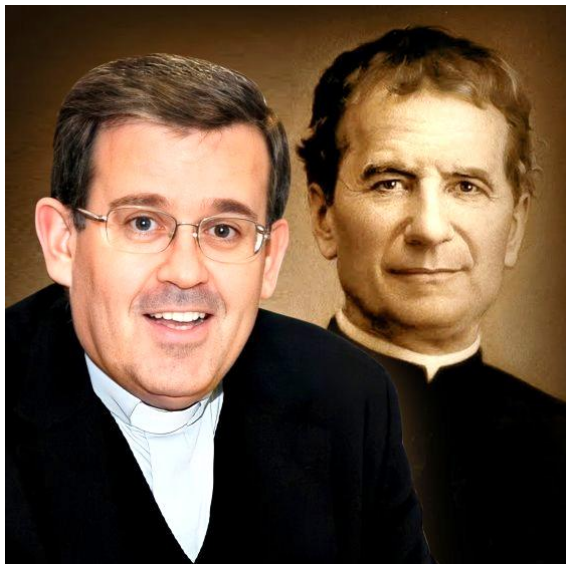


PRAYERS PLEASE

For an increase in reverence for the Blessed Sacrament
For all Readers, Donors and Friends of the Spotlight.
For PEACE in our families, in our country and worldwide.
For those who are suffering from illness.
For starving children and families, the world over.
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 an end to corruption in our Government.
For our dedicated Priests, Brothers and Religious.
For all those who have gone before us. May they rest in peace.
**In Your Love Lord, answer our humble prayer. Give us the grace to
see what we have to do and the strength to do it.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO HAVE A NEW RECTOR MAJOR



The 29th General Chapter of the Society of St Francis of Sales has elected the new Rector Major, Father Fabio Attard.

He is the 11th successor of Don Bosco, called to lead the Salesian Congregation and to perpetuate its charism in the service of young people, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, in 136 nations around the world.

The 220 Provincials and Delegates gathered at the historic Mother House of Valdocco in Turin, and after an intense journey of synodal discernment, chose Father Fabio Attard. With his charism, Father Fabio will animate and govern a community composed of 13,750 consecrated members, organised into 92 provinces across five continents.

We support him in prayer as he takes on this important role.



Father Fabio was born in Gozo, Malta. He grew up in Victoria where he attended public primary and secondary schools. His religious vocation began during his years at the Major Seminary of Gozo. He later entered the Salesian aspirantate at Savio College in Dingli, Malta, before preparing for the novitiate in Dublin.

He made his religious profession as a Salesian of Don Bosco on September 8, 1980, in Maynooth, Ireland. He earned a degree in Theology from the Pontifical Salesian University and a Licentiate in Moral Theology from the Alphonsian Academy in Rome. He was ordained as a Priest on July 4, 1987.

From 1988 to 1991, he was part of the pioneering group of Salesians who established the congregation's presence in Tunisia. After returning to Malta, he served as Rector of St Patrick's Salesian School and the Salesian Oratory, in Sliema, from 1993 to 1996.



In 1999, he completed his doctoral research on conscience within the Anglican sermons of John Henry Newman at the Milltown Institute of Philosophy and Theology. He subsequently joined the faculty of the Pontifical Salesian University and co-directed doctoral theses at the Alphonsian Academy.

In 2005, he founded and became the rector of the Institute of Pastoral Formation in Malta. His global leadership role expanded in 2008 when he was elected as the General Councillor for Youth Ministry during the 26th General Chapter, a position he held for 12 years after being re-elected in 2014.

During his tenure as General Councillor, he:

Published the Salesian Youth Ministry Framework (2013)

Organized the International Congress on Youth Ministry and the Family (Madrid, 2017)

Coordinated initiatives addressing marginalization, poverty, and migration

Strengthened missionary volunteer programs

Consolidated technical and vocational education through programs like Don Bosco Tech Africa and Don Bosco Tech ASEAN

In 2018, Pope Francis appointed him as a Consultant to the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life.

He also participated in the Synod on Young People that same year.

For his first public meeting, the new Rector Major of the Salesians, Fr. Fabio Attard, chose the Ferrante Aporti juvenile prison in Turin. On Thursday, April 3, he visited the incarcerated youth at Corso Unione Sovietica. Behind juvenile delinquency, the Salesians of Don Bosco see the suffering of poor and abandoned young people.

“This is where Don Bosco’s Preventive System was born,” Fr. Attard explains, “and from Turin, where the Salesian charism was born, we want to continue standing beside young people who have received less, because, as our founder recommended, *in every young person, even the most unfortunate, there is an accessible point of goodness, and the first duty of the educator is to find this point, this sensitive chord of the heart, and make use of it.*”



ACTIVITIES FROM THE PROJECTS

SALESIAN INSTITUTE



DOMINOES

1ST YEARS
TEAM
BUILDING

TUG-OF-WAR-
LEARN TO
LIVE

WAVES OF
CHANGE



JUBILEE

YEAR 2025

Is the anniversary of the Birth of Jesus. The theme of the Jubilee Year is Pilgrims of Hope, from the Papal Letter of Pope Francis: Hope does not disappoint. Romans 5:5 It is the 150th anniversary of the first Salesian Missionary expedition sent by Don Bosco to Argentina. Hope sets the missionaries on a journey as pilgrims.



CHILDREN AT PLAY IN MAPUTSOE, LESOTHO



CLERIC REECE HEUVEL is at Mavuso Sports Centre, **MANZINI, ESWATINI**. He says: "The feast of don Bosco was a day to remember. The rain poured nonstop, but so did the blessings. So proud of our boys who ran, competed and gave their very best. Well done Salesians."

AFM VICE PROVINCE - ONE HEART ONE SOUL



Open to be guided
and to become better guides.
Courageous involvement of lay people
as mission partners.
Promote our missionary zeal
and spirit.



The work of Salesian Missions is supported by the generosity of benefactors, whose contributions small or large make a difference to the young, especially the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised. This is most effectively manifested through education and evangelisation. Please consider giving us a donation. We would be grateful if you could also send us an email message, so that we can "THANK YOU."

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THANK YOU

My special thanks to all of you for your kind prayers, donations and loyalty. Also, to all our anonymous donors. May God bless and reward you all. May I wish you all a Blessed and Holy Easter with the gift of Love and Peace in your families, and the protection of Our Blessed Lady. Pray for me as I do for you. Much love. Denise Hards

