

# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

E-NEWS JANUARY 2025



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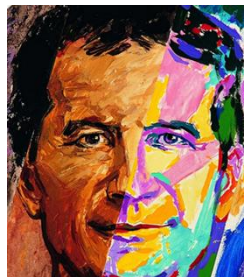
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
 SALESIAN MISSIONS IN  
 SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 36 YEARS

*Dear Friends* may I wish you all a Very Blessed and Happy New Year. May this year bring us all the Peace, Grace, Love and Kindness that we all crave so much.

My thanks, once again, go to all our donors, friends, and families who helped us during 2024. There are those who are known and who receive a "Thank You" email when they donate, but there are also many who donate anonymously and we cannot send them an email. And there are those whom we do not have an email address for and therefore cannot thank them either. To all of you, know that we pray daily for you, and we are grateful for all donations, prayers and kindness which is shown to us. God bless and reward you all. Pray for me please as I do for you. Much love. Denise Hards.



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**John Melchior Bosco** was born on 16 August 1815 and died on 31 January 1888. He is popularly known as **Don Bosco**. He dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, delinquents and other disadvantaged youth. His teaching methods were based on love rather than punishment, a method that became known as the Salesian Preventive System. A follower of the spirituality and philosophy of St Francis de Sales, Don Bosco was devoted to Our Blessed Lady under the title of Mary Help of Christians. He founded the Salesians of Don Bosco and together with Maria Domenica Mazzarello he founded the Institute of the Daughters of

Mary Help of Christians, now commonly known as the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco. His many good works, together with the promotion of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacred Heart are to be seen throughout the world. Don Bosco was not ashamed to speak of his three loves: Mary, the Eucharist and the Pope. He was canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1934. His Feast on the 31 January, is celebrated by all Salesians worldwide.

Salesian Mission Day 2025



**150** GIVE THANKS  
 RETHINK  
 RELAUNCH

Cape Town, South Africa – December 2024 – The Salesian Institute in Cape Town, the first Salesian presence in South Africa, is probably the longest established Salesian house in the entire Africa-Madagascar Region. Already in 1917 Fr Louis Versiglia, now a Saint, stayed at this house during his trip from Italy to Macau. On the occasion of his Canonisation in 2000, a plaque was placed in front of the room where Louis Versiglia stayed. Now, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the first Salesian missionary expedition, Fr Francois Dufour, Rector of the Salesian Institute in Cape Town, has committed himself to making the hall something more. In recent months, a Memorial Hall has been established which preserves photographs, books, images and objects referring to the first missionaries. This simple but significant Hall of Memory



to Saint Louis Versiglia also seeks to be an inspiration for other Salesian houses, to remember all the missionaries and local Salesians who have died in South Africa, Lesotho and eSwatini and to prepare similar initiatives in other communities.

*Happy Feast Day to all from Salesian Missions.*



DO THE BEST YOU CAN;  
 GOD WILL DO WHAT WE CANNOT DO.

SAINT JOHN BOSCO



Salesians of Don Bosco invite  
 you to join the Novena to  
 Saint John Bosco starting on the  
 22 January 2025

The link is below:

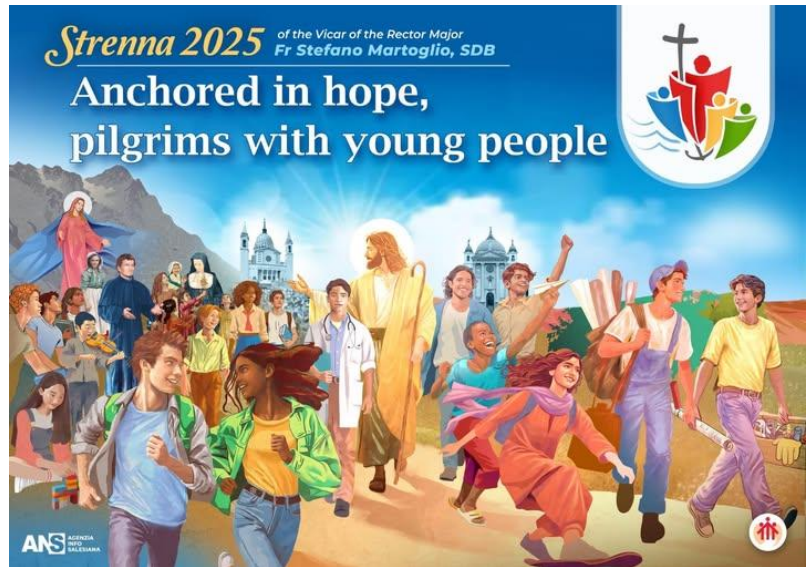
[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa9Bf7nKz85TgitQCzINyURwA-BBfDGyT&si=sixu9NM0-\\_pk9U0](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa9Bf7nKz85TgitQCzINyURwA-BBfDGyT&si=sixu9NM0-_pk9U0)

## ANCHORED IN HOPE STRENNA FOR 2025

At the end of the General Council's summer plenary session, the Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime, announced the theme of the **Strenna for 2025**, which is entitled: "**Anchored in hope, pilgrims with young people**". The theme was chosen in collaboration between the Rector Major and his Vicar, Fr Stefano Martoglio. The basics that helped identify the theme are two important anniversaries:

the Church's Ordinary Jubilee for the Year 2025, which the Holy Father Pope Francis called with his bull *Spes Non Confundit* (Hope does not disappoint, Rom 5: 5);

and the Salesian 150th anniversary of the first Salesian Missionary Expedition, sent by Don Bosco, to Argentina. All this has led us to think that the Strenna for 2025 must have "hope" at its core, and the path that we will follow with the young. This justifies the title "Anchored in hope, pilgrims with young people" the Rector Major writes.



### PRAYERS PLEASE

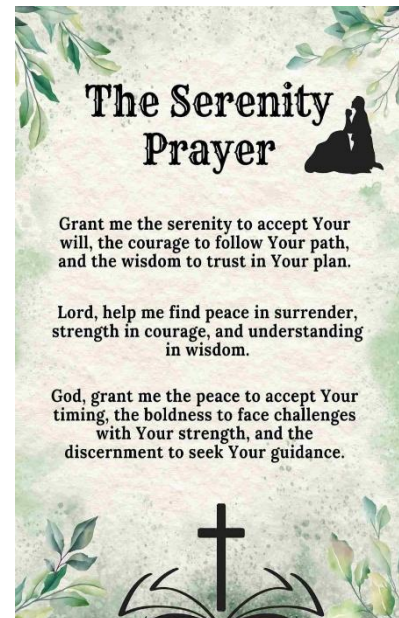
- For all Readers, Donors and Friends of the Spotlight.
- For PEACE in our families, in our country and worldwide.
- For those who are suffering from illness.
- For starving children and families, the world over.
- For all women who are used and abused.
- For children who suffer at the hands of abusive 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.**

### FEAST DAYS

- 01 Jan Mary Mother of God
- 03 Jan The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- 05 Jan Epiphany of the Lord
- 08 Jan Blessed Titus Zeman SDB
- 12 Jan Baptism of the Lord
- 15 Jan Blessed Luis Variara, SDB
- 22 Jan Blessed Laura Vicuna
- 24 Jan St Francis de Sales
- 25 Jan Conversion of St Paul
- 28 Jan St Thomas Aquinas
- 30 Jan Blessed Bronislaw Markiewicz SDB
- 31 Jan St John Bosco

### 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.



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."

**OUR BANK DETAILS ARE:**  
 STANDARD BANK CRESTA 01820592  
 ACCOUNT NUMBER 07 256 1572  
 ACCOUNT HOLDER – SALESIAN MISSIONS

**THANK YOU**

**PLEASE NOTE  
 THE  
 ACCOUNT IS  
 NO LONGER  
 CLAREMONT  
 IT IS NOW  
 CRESTA**