

## Salesian Missions

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# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

## E-NEWS NOVEMBER 2024



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 35 YEARS

*Dear Friends* the book of Wisdom, Ch. 1 Vs. 12-15 speaks of death and I find this very interesting especially during this month, and also when I hear people saying that they are angry with God because He has taken a loved one from them. Wisdom tells us, "Death was never of God's fashioning; not for His pleasure does life cease to be; what meant His creation, but that all created things should have being? No breed has He created on earth but for its thriving; none carries in itself the seeds of its own destruction. Think not that mortality bears sway on earth; no end nor term is fixed to a live well lived."

Partings are always painful. The closer the bond we have with someone, the more we feel the pain of parting. "Love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation." (Kahlil Gibran) And death is the most irrevocable parting of all. We know that our loved ones will not be returning. However, our faith tells us that our loved ones have not gone from us forever. They have not ceased to exist. They have merely departed for that farther shore on the other side of life. That shore which is the final destination of all of us. They have gone before us to see, to worship, to love and to intercede for us. When we reach that farther shore, we will meet them again. St. Paul tells us that those who die in grace go no further from us than God, and God is very near to us.

So, take heart and let us pray for all those who are mourning a loved one. My thanks, once again, to all you wonderful people, for your kindness, your prayers, your loyalty and your donations. Pray for me as I do for you. Much love. Denise

### FEAST DAYS - NOVEMBER 2024 -

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

01	All Saints Day	02	All Souls' Day
04	St. Charles Borromeo	05	Sts. Zachariah & Elizabeth
11	St. Martin of Tours	15	St. Albert the Great
21	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	22	St. Cecilia
25	St. Catherine of Alexandria	30	St. Andrew, Apostle

### PRAYERS PLEASE

**For** an increase in reverence for the Blessed Sacrament.  
**For** world peace, especially in the Middle East.  
**For** an end to all corruption especially in South Africa.  
**For** all those who are sick and suffering and for those in need of our prayers.  
**In** honour of Our Blessed Lady and for mothers the world over, who have to give good guidance to their children in a world of turmoil and immoral values.  
**For** Priests, that they will give good example to those with whom they come in contact.  
**For** children everywhere – who are abused, unloved, abandoned, given up to slave trafficking, poisoned...  
**For** all the souls of the faithful departed, especially during this month of the Holy Souls. May they rest in peace.  
**For** retired pensioners and all who are suffering from loneliness. Many are cooped up in small rooms whilst their families are far away or overseas.  
**And** we pray for more donors to help us to help the children in our projects.  
*"Almighty, ever-living God, whose love surpasses all that we ask or deserve, open up for us the treasures of your mercy. Forgive us all that weighs on our conscience, and grant us even more than we dare to ask. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."*

### "DILEXIT NOS"

is Pope Francis' fourth Encyclical and traces the tradition and relevance of thinking "on the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ," inviting us to renew authentic devotion so as not to forget the tenderness of the faith, the joy of putting ourselves at the service and the fervour of the mission.

Opening with a brief introduction and divided into five chapters, the Encyclical on devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus brings together the precious reflections of previous magisterial texts and a long history that goes back to the Sacred Scriptures, to re-propose today, to the whole Church, this devotion which is full of spiritual beauty.





# Bosco Youth Centre Walkerville, Johannesburg

## Assembly of the Salesians of the Southern African Vice-Province

### A focus on accompaniment in mission



The Salesians of Don Bosco in the Southern African Vice-Province (AFM) comprising South Africa, Lesotho and eSwatini, gathered for their Annual Assembly. Thirty participants including Priests, Brothers and young Salesians in practical formation gathered to celebrate their patron, Blessed Michael Rua (1837-1910), the first successor of Don Bosco, who sent the first Salesian missionaries to southern Africa in 1896. The rich program of the event included vibrant multicultural presentations from 18 different countries; the Golden Jubilee of priesthood celebrated by Fr Edmund O'Neill; the reception of new missionaries from other African Provinces; the profession of faith by the new rectors of the communities located in all three countries; and participation in a Braai. Two days

of sharing and bonding, focused on building the culture of accompaniment, a Salesian way of expressing the new synodal way of being Church. Three Salesians who attended the "Salesian Accompaniment School" tutored the participants in the formation phase, to spread the basic skills in personal spiritual accompaniment of Salesians and young people. ANS.

## SALESIAN INSTITUTE CAPE TOWN

(ANS) October marked Mental Health Awareness Month, a time dedicated to shedding light on the importance of mental well-being. For organizations like the Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP), this was a particularly crucial period to highlight the essential role of psychosocial support in its holistic formation methodology. This approach ensures that every young person attending Salesian programmes receives the support needed to overcome and cope with challenges, whether they stem from socio-economic hardships or psychosocial struggles.

The last couple of years have vividly illustrated the need for increased psychosocial support for students and learners, as most of them have faced significant disruptions to their education and personal lives, creating barriers to their future aspirations. Recognizing this, SIYP has made a concerted effort to ensure that its beneficiaries not only continue their education and training, but also build the social and emotional resilience necessary for success in both the classroom and the workplace.

In 2023, SIYP made a significant advancement by launching the SIYP Wellness Centre, staffed by a multidisciplinary team of mental health professionals. Through strategic partnerships with institutions like the South African College of Applied Psychology (SACAP) and the University of Cape Town (UCT), the school provides hands-on experience for final-year students in occupational therapy, social studies, and psychology. These students complete part of their practical training at SIYP centre, which at the same time offers personalized support to its beneficiaries. The Wellness Centre offers a range of services, including one-on-one counselling and psychosocial workshops. The Centre also



benefits from dedicated on site full time qualified Registered Counsellors, Occupational Therapists and a Social Worker as part of its team.

"The impact of the Wellness Centre on our beneficiaries has been immeasurable. By offering work readiness and integration programmes, as well as psychosocial support, the centre helps young people build the necessary social skills to navigate both academic settings and professional environments with more confidence. These services ensure that our beneficiaries are not just surviving but thriving, equipped with the tools to manage stress, build positive relationships, and maintain a hopeful outlook on their futures" says Gabriel Hamuy the NEETs Programme Manager and Head of the SIYP Wellness Centre.

"Having observed Mental Health Awareness Month, SIYP remains committed to supporting the mental well-being of our students through tailored, compassionate care. We believe that by addressing the psychosocial needs of our youth, we empower them to unlock their potential and achieve sustainable success in all areas of life," he finally adds.



# WAVES OF CHANGE – MARITIME PROGRAMME – SALESIAN YOUTH – CAPE TOWN



**Manager, Abraham Lottering with a Programme Beneficiary**

**(ANS – Cape Town)** – Amidst the economic challenges faced by South Africa’s youth, the Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP) is offering a beacon of hope through the Waves of Change Maritime Programme. Set against the backdrop of a critical national need for meaningful employment and skills training, this initiative specifically targets young men and women, aged 18 to 35, who come from disadvantaged backgrounds in and around Cape Town. With limited educational and career opportunities, many of these young individuals struggle to support their families and build promising futures.

The journey begins with a 3-day Orientation session, followed by a 10-day Life Skills Programme. These initial stages are crucial for instilling essential life skills and preparing participants for the challenges and responsibilities of maritime work. The programme then guides them through the formal

maritime training required to enter the industry, covering everything from safety protocols to technical skills. By the end, participants gain crucial SAMSA Medical Certificates, seafarer’s logbooks, and certificates of discharge—key qualifications that open doors to seafaring careers.

“The Waves of Change Maritime Programme isn’t just about providing training; it’s about creating a pathway to stability and self-sufficiency for youth who may otherwise have no access to such opportunities,” says Father Francois Dufour, CEO, Salesian Institute Youth Projects. “We’re not only giving them skills; we’re instilling hope and enabling them to change their lives and positively impact their communities.”

## All Saints Catholic Church - Ennerdale



The Sodalities and Salesian Youth in Action at the Archdiocesan Leadership Conference 2024 under the theme Synodality in Action. Our voices, ideas and concerns have been heard. The Holy Spirit is alive and active in the Church, in her body and in her members.

**And All Saints Rosary Procession**



***Farewell to Mubanga*** who leaves SPDO to follow his dream. Every good wish to him and all God’s blessings.



He will be sorely missed. Go well friend and good luck to you. God bless.







## ECO-UBUNTU PROJECT

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 the official launch of the AFM Eco-Ubuntu project took place at Lumko Institute in Boksburg South Africa. This workshop served as the official launch of the Salesian AFM (Southern African) Province's response to the Pope's encyclical *Laudato si'* as well as the Salesian General Chapter's call for Province's to be green compliant before the year 2032.

Pope Francis in his encyclical inspired by the words of his namesake St Francis of Assisi "*Laudato si', mi Signore*" (Praise be to you, my Lord) reminds us that the Earth is our "Common Home". What is further shared in this message is that we as people should not be indifferent to what we do to the Earth, that we should stand united in its preservation and that there is an urgent need for a mind shift in society towards environmental conservation.

His words inspired a large part of the Salesian General Chapter 28 (GC28), to reflect on the state of the environment. One of the guidelines that was of key interest was number 8, "Accompanying the youth towards a sustainable future". This guideline could be viewed as the foundation to the

conceptualization behind the Eco-Ubuntu Project.

The Eco-Ubuntu Project's main concept is the accompanying of the AFM youth in a mind shift towards being more aware and responsible of their impact on the environment. "Ubuntu" is a Nguni Bantu term for "humanity" and Eco is a shortened term for ecology that deals with the relationship of creatures with their environment. These are the concepts that underpin the "Eco-Ubuntu" project in the hope that after 3 years it will create "Green Centres" that empower and strengthen local communities in Southern Africa for the improvement of environmental and climate protection.

The project is meant to impact 15,000 beneficiaries across 3 countries, South Africa, Lesotho and eSwatini. Within these countries the focus is mainly on 7 communities, Ennerdale, Cape Town, Delft, Maseru, Maputsoe, Manzini and Malkerns. The project has 5 key pillars that are renewable energy, water access, waste management, hydroponics, and sustainable cultivation. We believe that the project will achieve success in these pillars through capacity development initiatives, training of



community members, green investment in community sites and community awareness campaigns.

Capacity development will happen in the way that programmes are developed for each of the pillars.

Facilitators identified in the 7 communities will undergo training in these programmes that are aimed at youth to be able to empower them to be green citizens. A green life skills manual has been produced to assist



facilitators in imparting green life skills to the youth. These community

sites will also be physically equipped to run these programmes, this means the installation of borehole systems, investment in sustainable gardens, etc. Once equipped the onus is on facilitators to continue training youth in green skills that will hopefully translate into the youth's adoption of green livelihoods which will eventually benefit local communities.

The SPDO are the main executors of the project in Southern Africa and have constantly been engaging with local communities to ensure alignment with project aims. The AFM is very hopeful that the project will have a lasting impact on the communities and there is a strong belief that communities will be more aware and empowered. This will ensure that their impact on their local environment is one that is positive and leaves a good legacy for future generations.

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



Even in Booyens the small 'Laudato si' garden is growing





# South African Heroes' Award 2024



**Mubanga, Cassandra, Maryann and Father Alberto**

The South African Heroes Awards (SAHAs) is a celebration of unsung heroes. 2024 marks the 6<sup>th</sup> installment of these awards. The awards recognise and celebrate the work done by community builders in South Africa. These awards celebrate ordinary South Africans who are doing extra-ordinary things to uplift their communities. Nominees are chosen from communities by those who benefit from the services rendered by these heroes and winners are voted for by the public via sms, telephone or email. *"We are celebrating people who go out of their way to make a difference in their communities. These are unsung heroes; they take care of orphans, they train and mentor young people, they help the poor, the elderly and the vulnerable," says Amanda Matshaka, SA Heroes Awards Founder.*

The **Eco-Ubuntu** project was nominated and won the 2024 Green Award (honours people who run projects/programmes for environmental preservation) for outstanding achievement, in projects that look to preserving the environment and educating communities in ways in which they can become active green citizens. The project focuses on the creation of "Green Centres" in select local Southern African areas which will lead to the empowerment and strengthening of these communities for the improvement of environmental and climate protection. It empowers through 5 green pillars which are; waste management, renewable energy, water access, sustainable cultivation and hydroponics. What underpins all these pillars is a green life skills course that is meant to change the mindset of the community.

The project is the first organisation to win the inaugural Green Award. Eco-Ubuntu was nominated by one of its community representatives, the vice-Principal of Fred Norman High School (in Ennerdale), Mr. Cowen Adams. The project has mainly engaged the Fred Norman school in the areas of waste management and community awareness. It should be noted that the project is also active in renewable energy, sustainable cultivation hydroponics and green life skills initiatives. The award represents the impact and inroads the project and its team of coordinators, delegates, and green clubs are making in the communities they are active in. It recognises the work being done by community members in educating people in their local communities, of the importance of protecting their local environment. **Mubanga Changa, SPDO Booyens**



**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:

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# THANK YOU

## 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) 72 299 2809  
We would be extremely grateful.

**"Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Walk beside me and just be my friend." - Albert Camus**



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.