

Salesian Missions

Trading under the name of
Salesians of Don Bosco

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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT



E-NEWS SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Dear Friends It is September and once again we celebrate Our Lady's birthday on the 8th. I hope that everyone has remembered to ask for her intercession. My prayer is that Our Blessed Lady will ask Her Son to reward and bless all of our donors – those who give monthly, those who give sporadically and those who give anonymously – and all our readers and loyal friends and especially those who pray for all the needs of the children in our care. Also please remember to pray for me as I do for you. May God bless and reward you all. Denise.

THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September the 8th date helped determine the date for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However the apocryphal Protoevangelium of James fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but

PRAYERS PLEASE

For all readers, donors and friends of the Spotlight.
For an increase in reverence for the Blessed Sacrament.
For peace in our country and an end to corruption.
For starving children the world over.
For all women and children who are used and abused.
For the protection of our Blessed Mother and her Son.



"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."

Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation, and asks for an increase of peace. Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.



"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: Kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile. St Mother Teresa."

FEAST DAYS

- SEPTEMBER 2024 -



14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



St Teresa of Calcutta



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The Most Holy Name of Mary



St John Chrysostom



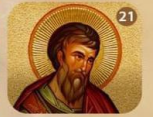
Our Lady of Sorrows



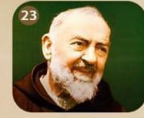
St Joseph of Cupertino



Our Lady of La Salette



St Matthew



St Pius of Pietrelcina



Our Lady of Mercy



St Vincent de Paul



Sts Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

Saint Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer of the

There Is Always



A Little Truth Behind Just Kidding
A Little Emotion Behind I Don't Care
A Little Pain Behind I'm OK
A Little Need Behind Leave Me Alone

LANSDOWNNE - CAPE TOWN - CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE

SOUP KITCHEN A few weeks ago, Our Lady Help of Christians Lansdownne Parish, held a soup kitchen to honour the Salesians in their Centenary year, and to give back to a Community that had served them for the last 100 years. We were overwhelmed by all the donations and support received. The Cape of Good Hope Lions Club donated 100 litres of Food - 60 litres of soup and over 50 loaves of bread. They came with 6 of their members and served food from the doorsteps of the church in Lansdownne to Southfield. The community of Our Lady Help of Christians donated ingredients and made over 200 litres of soup and a 1000 sandwiches to the surrounding indigent community. Very enthusiastic volunteers served from the church location, and many



drove out to the surrounding areas serving over 1000 people with soup and sandwiches for the day. It was a bitter sweet moment for all as we served the food, to see the pain and hunger in our communities, but also uplifting, in that we could make a difference for a day. So many donations were received that it was decided that we should plan for another soup kitchen very soon. God is Good! We wish to thank the Salesians for instilling in us the love of servitude and of giving back. *"Charity is what sets the sons of God apart from the sons of Satan and of the world."* Don Bosco

BLISTERS FOR BREAD Father Christopher Sharpe and 133 Parishioners from Our Lady Help of Christians (all carrying their flags to show the Salesian connection), took part in the Blisters for Bread Charity Family Fun Walk in Green Point. Father Francis Preston, a Salesian, was a founding member of the Blisters for Bread Charity Walk.



BLISTERS FOR BREAD
CHARITY FAMILY FUN WALK

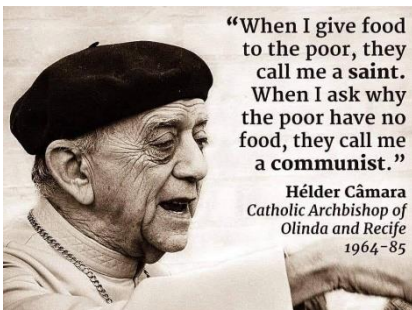
Fr. Francis Preston a Salesian was a founding member of the Blisters for Bread Charity Walk (see Ed.9 of Centenary inserts). To honour the Centenary Year of the Salesians of Lansdownne, please support Blisters for Bread. We would like the Salesian presence to be felt at the event this year.

SUNDAY 25 AUGUST
7:30 (5KM) OR 8:15 (10KM)

Entry Fee: R100 pp

Closing date: 11 August
Lets make this event a memorable one for the ages!

If you are interested in entering this charitable event, please contact:
Tania Grey: 084 888 8882
Jillian Bailey: 082 823 3548



"When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist."
Hélder Câmara
Catholic Archbishop of Olinda and Recife
1964-85

Sent in by one of Salesian Missions donors



Distribution of parcels to the poor. Lesotho



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

On the 15th 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 called *Laudato si'* as well as the Salesian General Chapter's call for Province's to be green compliant before the year 2032.

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 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.

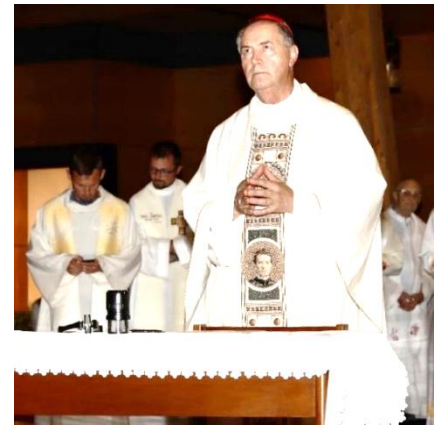


DON BOSCO GREEN ALLIANCE – ECO UBUNTU PROJECT



BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE RANDVAAL. 300 young people from all Salesian presences in the Salesian Vice-Province of Southern Africa (AFM) comprising South Africa, Lesotho and eSwatini, accompanied by Salesians, Educators, consecrated members of the Salesian Family, staff of the Projects and Youth Ministry Office, had a wonderful experience at the Ubuntu-Youth Synod from 29 August to 1 September. Only two weeks after the closing of the Youth Synod in Turin - Colle Don Bosco (11-16 August) with participants from all over the Salesian world, the young Salesians from AFM also experienced a similar event in their environment. This event was also a merger of the Laudato Si 'Movement, thanks to the ongoing AFM "Eco Ubuntu" project (2023-2026) in all three AFM countries. The various group workshops also included interactive sessions on green and environmental skills with university lectures. Involving all the groups of the Salesian Family of the AFM Vice-Province (SDB, FMA, MSMHC, Salesian Cooperators, Past Pupils of Don Bosco and ADMA aspirants), it was also a good opportunity for a vocational workshop, with a round table and sharing of vocation stories by the respective groups of the Salesian Family. ANS

COMMUNICATION FROM CARDINAL ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME REGARDING THE END OF HIS MANDATE AS RECTOR MAJOR OF THE SALESIANS



My dear brothers and sisters: Please accept my fraternal and affectionate greetings on this day when we remember our Father Don Bosco's birth. I am sending you these words a few minutes after solemnly celebrating the liturgical feast of Don Bosco's birth at the Becchi, Colle Don Bosco, where he was born on 16 August 1815. This child was a wonderful instrument of the Spirit of God to give life to the great movement that is the Don Bosco Family.

When I was elected as Rector Major I remember that in my poor Italian of that time I said, not without deep emotion, that "trusting in the Grace of the Lord and in faith, with the certainty that I will always be supported by my Salesian confreres, and because I truly love the young people whom I carry in my Salesian heart, I accept what is asked of me." Today, with these words of thanks, I can tell you that everything I had hoped for has come true with God's grace.

Now that I have been called by the Holy Father to another service, my final words are addressed to our Father Don Bosco and the Help of Christians. There is no doubt that Don Bosco has watched over and supported his Congregation and his Family over



these years. And I have no doubt that in all this time what he himself had assured us has been achieved: "She did everything". This was the case with Don Bosco. This has been the case in the recent years to which I refer, and this will undoubtedly continue to be the case. To her, our Mother and Help of Christians, we entrust ourselves. From the bottom of my heart, thank you and greetings from this brother of yours who is and always will be a Salesian of Don Bosco. With all my affection, Ángel Fernández Cardinal Artime

While continuing my service as Vicar in the coming months, quietly, very simply, and completely in continuity, I'll replace the Rector Major in leading the Congregation to the General Chapter, the 29th, of February 2025. Father Stefano Martoglio SDB



Ennerdale Altar servers on retreat with Sacristan Uncle Greg leading by example



Hanover Park Parish Bingo Fundraiser.

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.

OUR BANK DETAILS ARE:

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

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) 11 476 8315

We would be extremely grateful.

BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

1. The right to life, including for the unborn.
2. The right to live in a united family and in a moral environment conducive to the growth of the child's personality.
3. The right to develop one's intelligence and freedom in seeking and knowing the truth.
4. The right to share in work which makes wise use of the earth's material resources, and to derive from that work the means to support oneself and one's dependents.
5. The right freely to establish a family, to have and to rear children.