

## Salesian Missions

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# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

## E-NEWS AUGUST 2025



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 36 YEARS



*Assumption of the Virgin (1637) by Guido*

The Assumption of Mary is one of the four Marian dogmas of the Catholic Church. Pope Pius XII explicitly invoked *ex cathedra* papal infallibility and defined it on 1 November 1950, in his Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* as the Assumption of Mary, body and soul, into heaven.

### HOMILY OF SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II

Friday, 15 August 1997

Today's liturgy sets before us the radiant icon of the Blessed Virgin who was taken up into heaven in the integrity of her body and soul. In the splendour of heavenly glory shines the One who, by reason of her humility, was made great in the sight of the Most High, to the point that all generations call her blessed (cf. Lk 1:48). Now, as Queen, she sits beside her Son in the eternal happiness of paradise and looks upon her children from on high. With this consoling certainty, we turn to her and call on her for the Church and for all humanity, so that everyone, by imitating her faithful following of Christ, may reach the definitive homeland of heaven.

In her, assumed into heaven, we are shown the eternal destiny that awaits us beyond the mystery of death: a destiny of total happiness in divine glory. This supernatural vision sustains our daily pilgrimage. Mary teaches about life. By looking at her, we understand better the relative value of earthly greatness and the full sense of our Christian vocation.

From her birth to her glorious Assumption, her life unfolded on a journey of

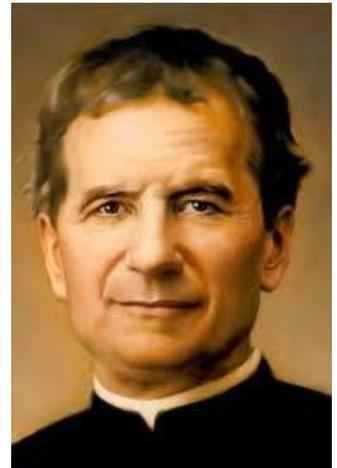
faith, hope and charity. These virtues, which blossomed in a humble heart abandoned to God's will, are those adorning her precious, incorruptible crown as Queen. These are virtues which the Lord asks of all believers, if they are to share in his Mother's glory.

The passage from Revelation speaks of the enormous red dragon that represents the perennial temptation facing man: to prefer evil to good, death to life, the easy pleasure of disengagement to the demanding but rewarding journey of holiness for which everyone has been created. In the fight against "the great dragon ... that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world" (Rv 12:9), there appears the great sign of the victorious Virgin, Queen of glory, seated at the Lord's right hand. And in this spiritual battle her help to the Church is decisive for attaining the ultimate victory over evil. Mary, Woman clothed with the sun, help us to fix our gaze on Christ amid the inevitable sufferings and problems of everyday life. Help us not to be afraid of following Him to the very end, even when the cross seems unbearably heavy. Make us understand that this alone is the way which leads to the heights of eternal salvation. And from heaven, where you shine forth as Queen and Mother of mercy, watch over each one of your children. Guide them to love, adore and serve Jesus, the blessed fruit of your womb, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

## St John Bosco's Birthday – 16 August

This day marks the celebration of the 210th Anniversary of the birth of St John Bosco.

**John Bosco's Motto: Da mihi animas, caetera tolle.**



Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, holiness spread all around him. His motto, the Salesian motto is, "Da mihi animas, caetera tolle," which is Latin for, "Give me souls and take away the rest".

(ANS – Rome) – The long-awaited theme of Strenna 2026 has been officially unveiled by the Rector Major, Fr Fabio Attard, who offers the Salesian Family a detailed and heartfelt overview of this year’s choice and the spiritual journey ahead. The new theme, **“Do whatever He tells you” – Believers, free to serve**, is deeply rooted in the Gospel and the heart of the Salesian charism, inviting every member to a renewed experience of faith, freedom, and generous service.

## STRENNA 2026



**“FATE QUELLO CHE VI DIRÀ”  
Credenti, liberi per servire**

## ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE FMA



(ANS – Rome) – On 5 August 2025, of the Anniversary of Foundation of the Institute of the

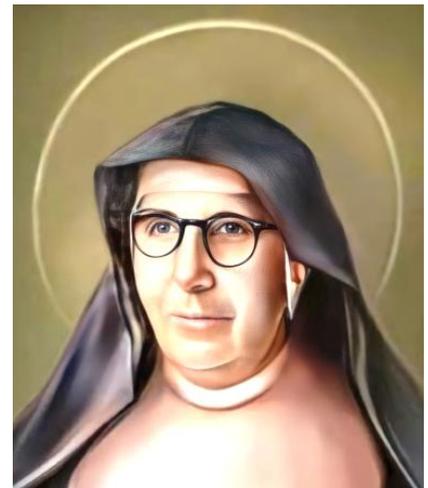
Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Mother General, Sr. Chiara Cazzuola, reaches all the FMA through a video-message from Rome, where the Youth Jubilee has just taken place.

*“We celebrate August 5th as the date of birth of our Institute 153 years ago, in the Jubilee of Hope and a few months before the canonization of Sister Maria Troncatti, the first Daughter of Mary Help of Christians who rises to the honours of the altars after Mother Mazzarello. We also recall another event that characterizes this Jubilee and that is the closing, a month ago, of the diocesan inquiry into Mother Rosetta Marchese, VII successor of Mother Mazzarello.”*

## Canonization of Blessed Maria Troncatti:

### A Joyful Milestone for the Salesian Family

The Salesian Family worldwide rejoices with immense gratitude and joy at the announcement of the **canonization of Blessed Maria Troncatti**, a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians (FMA), scheduled to take place on **October 19, 2025**. This eagerly awaited announcement was made on **June 13, 2025**, during the celebration of the **Third Hour and the Ordinary Public Consistory for the Canonization of the Blessed**, presided over by **Pope Leo XIV** in the **Consistory Hall of the Apostolic Palace in Vatican City**. With the consent of the Cardinals, it was confirmed that **Blessed Maria Troncatti** will be canonized alongside other Blesseds on this momentous date.



Carlo Acutis  
Canonisation  
Date

Sunday 7th  
September 2025



young  
people.

“ HIS HOLINESS  
POPE LEO XIV

remember  
that God has created each  
one of you with a purpose  
and a mission in this life

# Salesian Institute Cape Town



Cape Town, South Africa - June 2025 - at the Mutualpark campus in Old Mutual, Cape Town, there was a proud moment as 175 NEETs (i.e. young people not in education, employment or formation) gained SETA (*Sector Education and Training Authority*) accredited certificates in different sectors such as wholesale and retail sales, business start-up and solar installation. The NEET programme of the Salesian

Institute of Youth Projects (SIYP) is the brainchild of Fr Pat Naughton and over the years has become a dynamic vehicle for youth empowerment. The Director of SIYP, Fr François Dufour, commented: 'It is about restoring dignity and hope. We believe in the resilience and potential of every young person who crosses our threshold. These graduates are now equipped with the skills needed to create opportunities, not only for themselves, but also for the whole community. ANS

## South African Pilgrims create historic mission in the heart of Rome

In a stirring display of faith and evangelization, South African pilgrims were in the Eternal City. As part of a larger international mission, pilgrims from South Africa led a powerful procession and public testimony event in the very heart of Rome culminating in a never-before-seen moment on the iconic Spanish Steps. The mission, brought together



members of the Neocatechumenal Way from across the globe, including delegations from India, South Korea, and the United States. United in song, prayer, and witness, the faithful began their walk in Piazza del Popolo, singing joyfully and proclaiming the Word of God, drawing the attention of both tourists and locals along the historic Via del Corso. As the mission concluded with prayer and songs of praise, the message was clear: the Gospel is alive, and the youth are not afraid to proclaim it, even in the most unexpected places. **Rachele Hochhouser**



## ENNERDALE PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding ( child protection) Day, of the Vaal Deanery at All Saints Salesian Parish, in Ennerdale, Johannesburg, with 400 youth animated by a joint team.

A call for action!



# SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

Vice-Province of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland

Provincial Secretary, 66 Nelson Rd, Booysens, 2091 South Africa

## Mojela Ntsane Colern Fihlo

It is with deep sorrow that the Salesians of Don Bosco announce the death of Br Mojela Fihlo SDB, which occurred on 14 August 2025 at the Salesian House in Ennerdale. At the time of his passing, he was the Provincial Delegate for Youth Ministry and part of the AFM Provincial Council.



Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul rest in peace.



## BROTHER MOJELA FIHLO SDB



Astrid echoes the sentiments of all those with whom Brother Mojela came in contact with. "We give thanks for his faithful service, his dedication to the young people and his joyful witness to the Gospel. His presence, kindness and tireless commitment will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him"



## Green Maputsoe Lesotho

With thanks to the Eco Ubuntu team

## BOOYSENS JOHANNESBURG Aspirants Salesian Co-operators, in action among the young people

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

*The Rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see, and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known. Fulton Sheen*

*Dear Friends* It's August! Can you believe it. This rollercoaster ride is not one that can be enjoyed. Today is Don Bosco's birthday and with him we have much to celebrate, so we can think of fun fares, popcorn, ice cream and lots of laughter. It is also the Feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Lady into heaven. What joy there must have been on her arrival. Yes, we have much to look forward to.

THE PRAYER REQUESTS THIS MONTH: Peace in the world. For the hungry, the bereft and the lonely. For Brother Mojela, Father Peter Doherty and all the faithful departed. May they rest in eternal peace.

For a lady who has been kidnapped for ransom and for one suffering from stress. For all our donors, friends and relatives, and for all those who have asked our prayers, those who need them and those we have forgotten to pray for.

*"Give us perfect peace Lord, so that we may delight in serving you all the days of our life, and at last, with our Lady's help, come safely to your presence.* 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. Please continue to assist us as we cannot do without you and as you can see the children in our projects are flourishing. May Our Blessed Lady place her mantle round you and your families and keep you safe. Pray for me as I do for you.

Much love. Denise Hards

## Joke of the Month

A man checked into a hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send a mail to his wife. He accidentally typed the wrong email address, and without realising he sent the mail to a widow who had just returned from her husband's funeral. The widow decided to check her mail, expecting condolence messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message she fainted. The son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor and saw the computer screen which read:

To my loving wife, I know you are surprised to hear from me, they have computers here and we are allowed to send mails to loved ones. I've just checked in. How are you and the kids? The place is really nice but I am lonely here. I have made necessary arrangement for your arrival tomorrow. Expecting you darling. I can't wait to see you.

