



SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

E-NEWS MAY 2025

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 36 YEARS

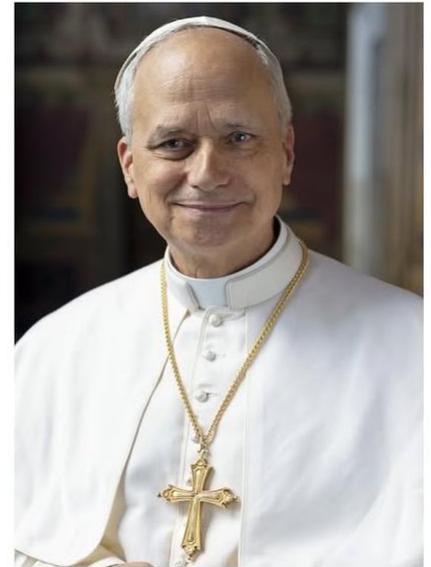
SALESIAN MISSIONS

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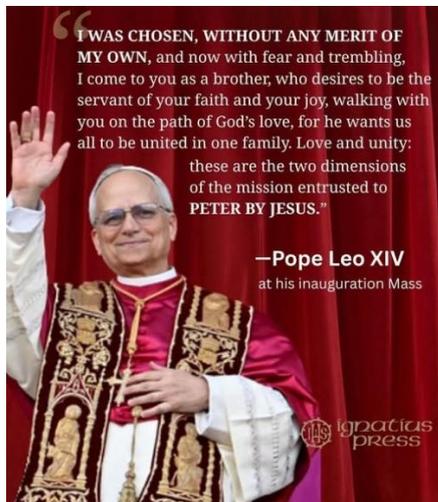
WE HAVE A NEW POPE - LEO XIV

CARDINAL ROBERT PREVOST IS THE 267TH PONTIFF OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Leo P.P. XIV

The new pope's first message emphasized the greeting of peace of the risen Jesus "who gave his life for God's flock," giving "an unarmed and disarming peace." Leo said he wanted to continue the kerygmatic blessing of Pope Francis: "God cares for you, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! We are all in God's hands." The themes in his first message included Jesus as light needed by the world, becoming a missionary church through dialogue and openness, fidelity to the Gospel, walking together in synodality, working as a united church for peace and justice, closeness to the suffering, and praying to Mary. Twice he mentioned the need of not having fear, and emphasized God's help to "build bridges" for "all of us to be one people always in peace." A Pope of the people he is seen here in



his parish in Peru. On the first evening Pope Leo said "we must look for ways to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges and encourages dialogue, a Church ever open to welcoming, like this Square with its open arms".



POPE LEO XIV'S COAT OF ARMS

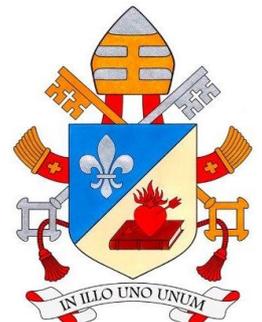
The shield is divided diagonally into two sections. The upper half features a blue background with a white lily. The lower half of the shield has a light background and displays an image that recalls the Order of Saint Augustine: a closed book with a heart pierced by an arrow. This is a direct reference to the conversion experience of Saint

Augustine himself, who described his personal encounter with God's Word using the phrase: "Vulnerasti cor meum verbo tuo" - "You have pierced my heart with your Word."

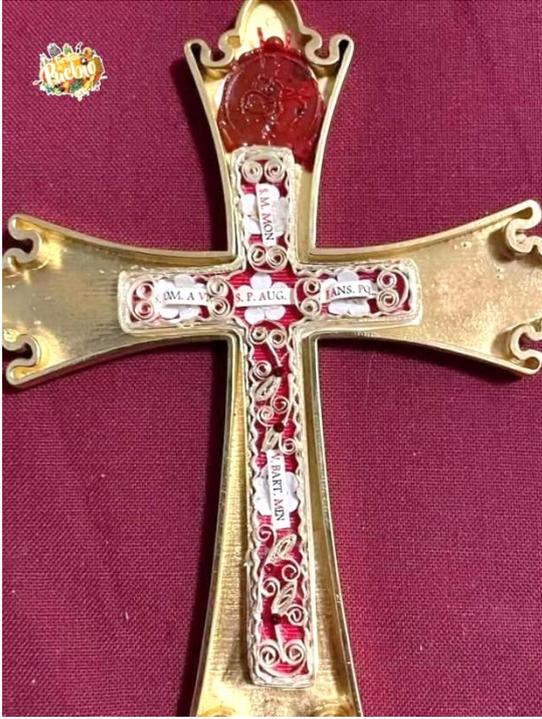
Pope Leo XIV has also chosen a motto that reflects this Augustinian tradition: *In Illo uno unum*, which means "In the One, we are one." The phrase is taken from Saint Augustine's *Exposition on Psalm 127*, where he explains that "although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one."

In a previous interview Pope Leo spoke about the significance of this motto: "As can be seen from my episcopal motto, unity and communion are truly part of the charism of the Order of Saint Augustine, and also of my way of acting and thinking," he said. "I believe it is very important to promote communion in the Church, and we know well that communion, participation, and mission are the three key words of the Synod. So, as an Augustinian, for me promoting unity and communion is fundamental."

Saint Augustine's reflection on Psalm 127 highlights the theological foundation of this idea. "Christ - head and body - is one single man. And what is the body of Christ? His Church," Augustine writes. He then adds, "Although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one. We are many and we are one - because we are united to Him, and if our Head is in heaven, the members will follow."



THE PECTORAL CROSS OF POPE LEO XIV



A SYMBOL THAT TRANSCENDS TIME

Pope Leo XIV wears a very special pectoral cross? It's not just any cross: it contains relics of Saint Augustine, Saint Monica, and other Augustinian saints! This beauty was designed by Father Joseph Sciberras to celebrate the appointment of Monsignor Robert Prevost as cardinal. A very meaningful detail!

The cross stands out for its incredible design: a double cross in fine moiré and papier-mâché details that are pure art. Not only is it beautiful, it also symbolizes the Church's deep spiritual heritage and commitment to the faith since the 13th century.

For Pope Leo XIV, wearing this cross is a constant reminder of his Augustinian roots and his spiritual mission. It also reflects a message of hope and light under the guidance of the Virgin Mary and Saint Augustine. A symbol that not only adorns, but inspires!

At the centre of the cross is a relic of Saint Augustine, the great Church Father who taught that looking inward is key to encountering God and understanding His Word - something to be embraced with both faith and reason, so it may be shared with others. The cross, which Pope Leo XIV wore when he first appeared to the world from the central balcony of St

Peter's Basilica, is rich in symbolism. Alongside the relic of the Bishop of Hippo - spiritual father of the Augustinian Order and enduring guide through his Rule and writings - are fragments from four other saints: Monica, Thomas of Villanova, Blessed Anselmo Polanco, and Venerable Giuseppe Bartolomeo Menochio.

The relics were chosen by Fr Josef Sciberras, Postulator General of the Augustinian Order, as a present from the General Curia to their confrère, Cardinal Robert Prevost, when he was created cardinal on the 30th of September 2023. Each relic represents a figure whose life reflects a key aspect of sanctity within the Augustinian family. Speaking to Vatican Media, Fr Sciberras said he was overjoyed at the election of the new Pope. He recalled that Cardinal Prevost was "very moved" when the cross was



given to him during a celebration at the refectory of the International College of Saint Monica. He knew that he would be carrying close to his heart relics of both Saint Augustine and his mother, Monica.

"The day before the conclave," Fr Sciberras shared, "I sent him a message, encouraging him to wear the cross we had given him, for the protection of Saints Augustine and Monica. I don't know whether it was because of my message or not, but when I saw he was wearing it when taking the oath - and again when he stepped out onto the balcony of the basilica - I was deeply moved."



The parchment certifying the authenticity of the relics in the pectoral cross worn by Leo XIV.

Pope Leo XIV at his Inauguration Mass: 'Let us walk towards God and love one another'

POPE FRANCIS LEAVES US – THE TRANSITION

17 DECEMBER 1936 – 21 APRIL 2025



Dear friends,
last night I had the privilege of going to the Vatican and visiting the body of Pope Francis with time to pray, first sitting, gathering in my heart all that he has meant to me since the first moment we met, since he was Archbishop of Buenos Aires and I was Rector Major, then the weeks we spent together in Aparecida on the occasion of the Fifth Assembly of the Latin American

Bishops' Conference.

Finally, when I went to visit him as soon as he was elected Pope, together with Fr Adriano Bregolin, to bring him a wooden statue of Mary Help of Christians as a gift, knowing that he had been baptised in the



Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Almagro and that he used to go every 24th of the month to honour her and that as soon as he was made bishop he had returned to entrust her with his episcopal ministry.

After the time of seated prayer, I approached him and stood in front of him and I said thank you on my behalf and on behalf of all of you who wish to remember him and thank him for what he was and what he leaves us as a legacy:

A true Shepherd with the smell of sheep, Witness to the Gospel, Apostle of God's Mercy, Prophet of Peace, Friend of the Poor. From the House of the Father, now Pope Francis, who always asked us to pray for him, prays for us.

Don Pascual Chavez, SDB (9th successor of Don Bosco)

Pope Francis was baptised in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians and St Charles in Argentina by Salesian Priest Father Enrico Pozzoli, who arranged for Jorge Mario and his brother to be admitted as boarders at the Salesian College in Buenos Aires. There he attended 6th Grade. His time in the Salesian classrooms was decisive as Pope Francis himself recalled: "I first felt my vocation in Ramos Mejia, during my 6th year, and I spoke about it with the famous Fr. Martinez. Pope Francis challenged us when we needed it most. May his dear soul rest in peace.



Our Salesian Family commemorates in a special way each 24th of the month, our Mother, Mary Help of Christians, with her blessing, composed by Don Bosco himself...



Mary Help of Christians, pray for us!

EASTER SUNDAY BAPTISMS IN ST JOHN BOSCO PARISH, MALKERNS, eSWATINI



Father Michael Whelton

Neophyte: 'See how I'm not letting my new shoe get wet'.
Ngabona ngakholwa, John.20:8

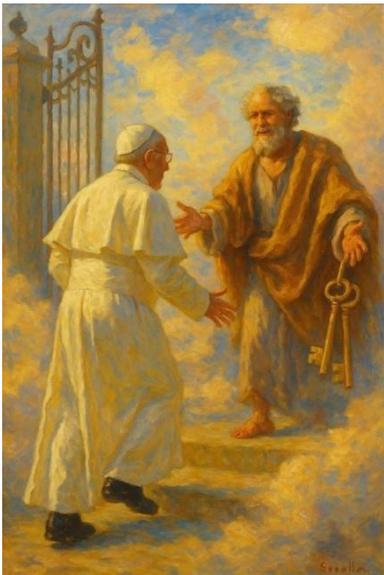
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY IN BOOYSENS CHAPEL



CAPE TOWN, LION'S HEAD

Father Francis Dufour

Easter morning Mass with the Young people who celebrated the Easter Triduum with the Salesians. CHRIST IS ALIVE.



ST LUKE'S MISSION MAPUTSOE LESOTHO



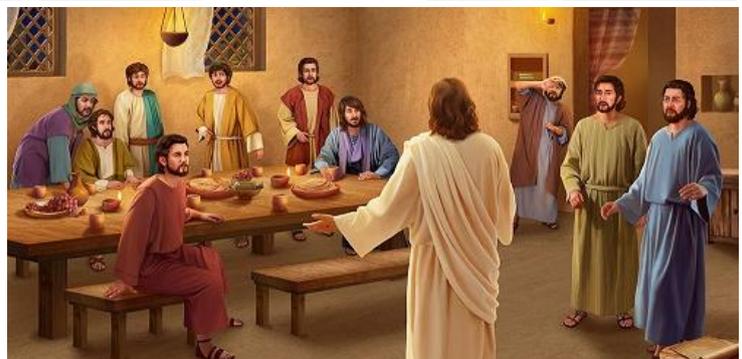
Austrian volunteers
and Easter joy



"Thomas why do you doubt?"

"Service must be lived in a credible and visible way, first and foremost by the General Council. We are there as an example of synodality, communion, fraternity and fatherhood.

We are there to serve - nothing more, nothing less.
Don Fabio Attard. Rector Major and 11th Successor of Don Bosco



DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL CENTRE - ENNERDALE

SKILLS CURRENTLY OFFERED AT DECLAN COLLINS SKILLS CENTRE

The Centre currently has 135 Learners who are actively participating in 7 different skills programs, namely: End User Computer Training, Hairdressing, Welding, Construction, Plumbing, Consumer Studies and the Electrical Trade. All Learners have been taken through the Life Skills program which serves to guide them in the workplace as well as on starting their own business ventures. We have partnered with companies in the nearby area who are willing to give Learners exposure to workplace-based learning, where they obtain hands-on experience as part of their training and development.

Please convey our gratitude to Salesian Missions donors for their generosity to our Learners. Warren Napier, Principal



HAIRDRESSING



COMPUTERS



WELDING



CONSTRUCTION



CONSTRUCTION



On Sunday, 11 May, **ALL SAINTS PARISH IN ENNERDALE**, Johannesburg, welcomed two new members to the Association of Salesian Co-operators. Married couple Lauren and Ricardo Bikhani made their promises after completing two years of formation. During the ceremony, they pledged to “live the Christian faith and the apostolate in the manner of Don Bosco and to realize their vocation to holiness according to the spirit of Don Bosco.” The couple proudly held a special banner in anticipation of the 150th anniversary of the Salesian Co-operators, which will be celebrated in 2026. Their commitment marks a joyful step in strengthening the Salesian presence and spirit within the parish community.

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. Please continue to assist us as we can't 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