

Salesian Missions

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SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

E-NEWS OCTOBER 2025



Can you not see that if Christ himself willed to be physically formed in her for nine months and then be spiritually formed by her for 30 years, it is to her that we must go to learn how to have Christ formed in us?

— Ven. Fulton Sheen

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

Dear Friends. Whilst speaking to an elderly lady recently I was saddened to hear that she would not say the Rosary, as she became confused when she said the prayers. She is suffering from a dark depression and has a constant pain from this ailment. Depression is a serious mood disorder that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest in daily activities. Most of us would not agree, but Fulton Sheen maintains that the Rosary is the best therapy for distraught, unhappy, fearful and frustrated souls, precisely because it involves the simultaneous use of three powers: the physical, the vocal and the spiritual. Hence my decision to “give” the Rosary to those who have forgotten how to pray it; to those who have never learned how to pray it; to those who would like to get to know the Rosary; and to those who know the Rosary and should pray it more often, whilst meditating on the following journey from the Bible. God Bless you all. Denise.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES are prayed on Mondays and Saturdays:

- 1st The Annunciation of the angel Gabriel to Mary
- 2nd The Visitation of Our Lady to Elizabeth her cousin
- 3rd The Birth of Jesus
- 4th The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
- 5th The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple



THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES are prayed on Thursdays:

- 1st The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan
- 2nd The Wedding Feast at Cana
- 3rd Jesus' Proclamation of the Coming of the Kingdom of God
- 4th The Transfiguration
- 5th The Institution of the Eucharist

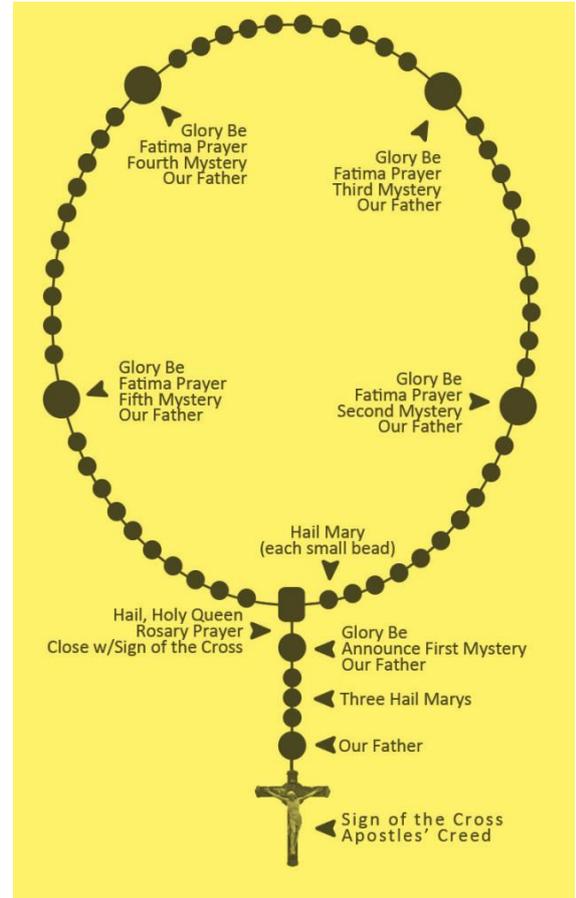
THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES are prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays:

- 1st The Agony in the Garden
- 2nd The Scourging at the Pillar
- 3rd The Crowning with Thorns
- 4th The Carrying of the Cross
- 5th The Crucifixion



THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES are prayed on Wednesdays and Sundays:

- 1st The Resurrection of Christ
- 2nd The Ascension of Our Lord
- 3rd The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles
- 4th The Assumption of Our Blessed Lady into heaven
- 5th The Coronation of Our Blessed Lady in heaven



THE FATIMA PRAYER

Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, "*The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see, and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description.*"

Fourth AFM Provincial Congress of Salesian Co-Operators



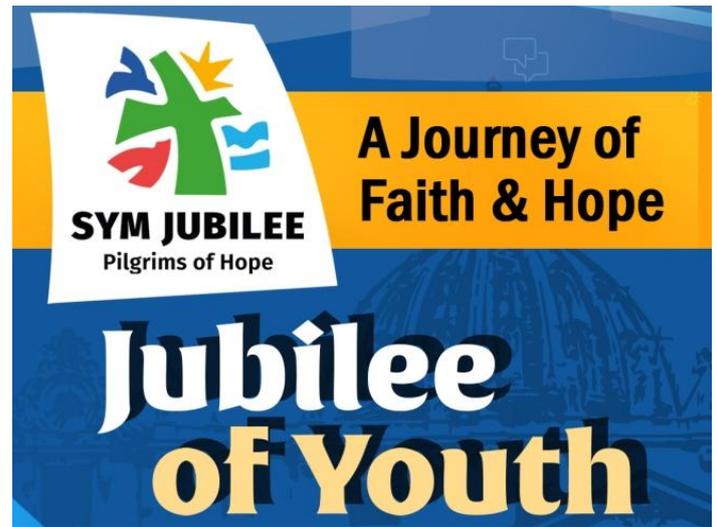
From October 2–5, 2025, 42 Salesian Co-operators, aspirants, and delegates from Lesotho and South Africa convened in Cape Town. Led by Fr Vaclav Klement, Superior of the AFM SDB Vice-province, this marked the fourth AFM Provincial Congress since the province’s foundation in 2018.

Key highlights included daily Mass, sharing of mission experiences, and discussions on co-responsibility and economic solidarity. The event also focused on relaunching the Association of Salesian Co-operators in preparation for its 150th anniversary in 2026. Participants visited Salesian communities in Cape Town to explore the roots of the Salesian charism in Southern Africa, active since 1896.

The Congress concluded with the election of a new provincial council, led by Ms Imelda M. as Provincial Coordinator. Key results emphasized lifelong formation for aspirants and enhanced communication strategies among local centres. The next Congress will be held in October 2026 in Johannesburg. ANS

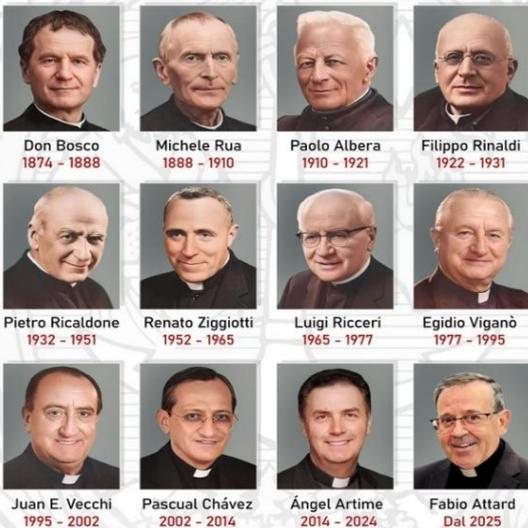
Reminiscing the Jubilee of Youth: A Journey of Faith & Hope

(ANS – Rome) – Two months have passed since the Jubilee of Youth 2025, an extraordinary gathering that brought together nearly 5,000 young people from the Salesian world, in Rome from July 29 to August 3rd. These vibrant days remain etched in the hearts of the participants, who were guided by animators, Salesians, FMA’s, and other members of the Salesian family. For the young people who came and participated, the Jubilee was much more than an event - it was a profound journey of faith, communion, and spiritual renewal.



Rettori Maggiori della Congregazione Salesiana

Successori di Don Bosco



Salesiani di don Bosco
Società di S. Francesco di Sales



THE POSTER OF THE 12 RECTORS MAJOR OF THE SALESIAN CONGREGATION

(ANS - Rome) - A simple but highly striking tool, designed to immediately visualise - and to share and spread throughout the vast Salesian Family - the figures who have animated, guided and directed the Salesian Congregation in its more than 165 years of history. With this objective in mind, the Social Communication Sector of the Salesians of Don Bosco has created and made available a poster portraying the 12 Rectors Major from St John Bosco to Father Fabio Attard.

The poster presents 12 extraordinary leaders: a Saint (Don Bosco), two Blessed (Father Michael Rua and Father Philip Rinaldi), and a Cardinal (Father Ángel Fernández Artime). Above all, it tells of 12 men of God, called with a special vocation to care for young people most in need and to carry forward, each with his own talents and intuitions, a charism of education and evangelisation.

SPDO OFFICE PROMOTES ECO-UBUNTU VALUES AT BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE



The AFM Salesian Planning and Development Office hosted a Green Camp at the Bosco Youth Centre, in Randvaal. One hundred and twenty young people from Cape Town, Lesotho, eSwatini and Johannesburg participated. As part of the Eco-Ubuntu project, the camp concentrated on renewable energy, sustainable cultivation, hydroponics and waste management, equipping participants with practical tools for environmental stewardship. A key highlight was the planting of 60 trees around the centre, leaving a lasting legacy of care for creation. ANS



Father Jonathan Daniels SDB

Silver Jubilee 2 September 2025

Ad Multos Annos

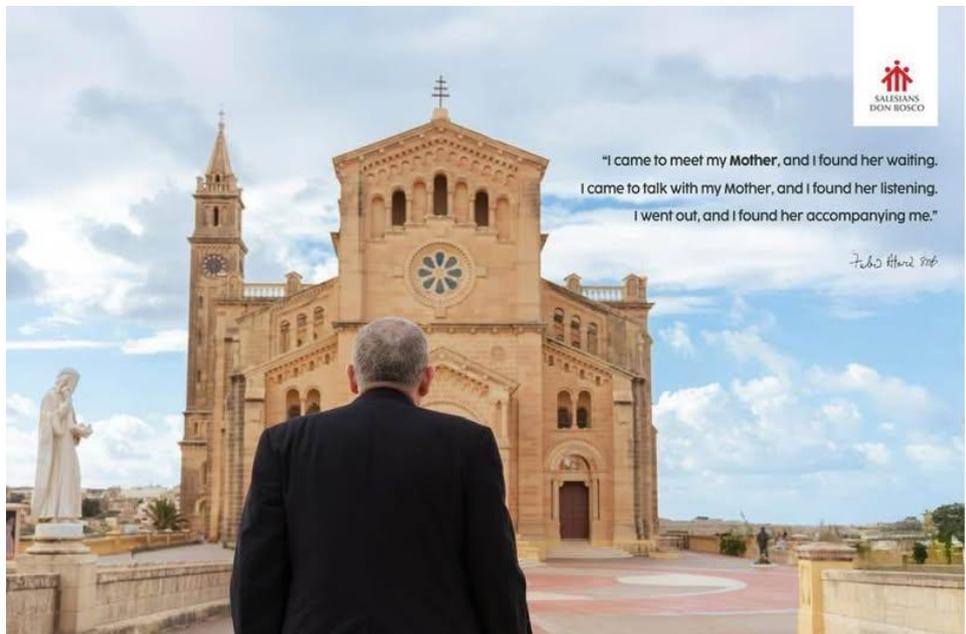
Father Jonathan is seen here at the entrance to Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Lansdowne. He is with Father Christopher Sharpe and the Don Bosco Choir members. The young lad in the back row on the left, is Fr Jonathan's nephew Aretino, who also paid tribute on behalf of the Daniels family. *Patricia Abrahams*

Father Fabio Attard the Salesian Rector Major, was at St. Patrick's Church in Sliema, Malta –

"I came to meet my Mother, and I found her waiting,

I came to talk with my Mother, and I found her listening

I went out, and I found her accompanying me



"I came to meet my Mother, and I found her waiting.
I came to talk with my Mother, and I found her listening.
I went out, and I found her accompanying me."

Fabio Attard SDB

TEN INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION

'DILEXI TE'



The first Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Leo XIV has been published, a work initiated by Pope Francis on the theme of service to the poor in whose face we find 'the suffering of the innocent'.

1 - The title

Dilexi Te means: 'I have loved you' and is a title taken from the Book of Revelation *Rev 3:9*).

2 - The date

The document was signed on 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

3 - Pope Francis

Pope Francis himself had begun work on the apostolic exhortation in the months before his death. As with Benedict XVI's *Lumen Fidei*, collected in 2013 by Jorge Mario Bergoglio, this time too it is his successor who will complete the work that represents a continuation of *Dilexit Nos*, the Argentine Pope's last encyclical on the Heart of Jesus.

4 - St Francis

St Francis of Assisi is the main source of inspiration.

5 - The Poor

The Apostolic Exhortation underlines how strong is the 'nexus' between love of God and love for the poor. And it recalls the theme of the 'preferential option' for the poor, an expression created not to indicate 'an exclusivism or discrimination towards other groups', but rather 'God's action' that moves to compassion for the weakness of humanity.

6 - A church poor and for the poor

The desire for 'a church that is poor and for the poor' is recovered.

7 - Culture of waste, freedom of the market, pastoral care of elites

It is recalled that there still persists - 'sometimes well disguised' - a culture of discarding that 'tolerates with indifference that millions of people die of hunger or survive in conditions unworthy of human beings'. What the Pope calls for is a 'transformation of mentality'.

8 - Work

Access to dignified work and the means of social transformation is defended.

9 - Charity

Over the centuries, saints, blessed, missionaries have embodied the image of 'a poor Church for the poor' (35). From Francis of Assisi and his gesture of embracing a leper (7) to Mother Teresa, universal icon of charity dedicated to the dying of India 'with a tenderness that was prayer'.

10 - Women

Our thoughts go out to all those women who are 'doubly poor', who live in 'situations of exclusion, abuse and violence, because they often find themselves with fewer opportunities to defend their rights'.



Pope Leo XIV spent the day, August 17, with homeless individuals and families in need, celebrating Mass and sharing lunch with them, along with over 100 guests and volunteers from the Diocese of Albano's Caritas programs.

Pope Leo XIV: 'Defeating hunger is the path to peace'



"Be a Catholic: When you kneel before an altar, do it in such a way that others may be able to recognize that you know before **WHOM** you kneel."
St Maximilian Kolbe



Canonisation of Sister Maria Troncatti



Tomorrow morning, Sunday 19th October, Blessed Maria Troncatti FMA, will be Canonised by Pope Leo XIV. The canonisation of the first Daughter of Mary Help of Christians (FMA) after the co-founder of the FMA Institute, Saint Mary Domenica Mazzarello, is a joy for the entire Salesian Family and for anyone who shares the missionary spirit and attention to those most in need – traits that characterised her entire life and in particular her service among the sick and indigenous people in Ecuador. Sr Maria spent a most of her life on Mission in Ecuador working with Shuar tribes in the Amazon rainforest. Before she was sent on Mission, Maria was a nurse during the First World War and she tended to those that were ill or injured. She was killed in a plane crash on the way to the capital city, Quito, for the Sister's annual retreat. Sr Maria will be Canonised a Saint with 6 other Blesseds.

ENNERDALE, ALL SAINTS PARISH ROSARY CAMPAIGN



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. 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

PRAYERS PLEASE

For all readers, donors and friends of the Spotlight.
For an increase in reverence for the Blessed Sacrament.
For world peace and an end to corruption.
For starving and abused families, the world over.
For the protection of our Blessed Mother and her Son.
For all the faithful departed. May they rest in peace.
"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.

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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.



**"When one is convinced that his cause is just, he will fear nothing."
St John Bosco**