In the tradition of our founder, Saint John Bosco, the Salesian objective is to teach young people various trades that will help them find decent jobs and become self-sufficient, contributing members of society.

The Salesians insist that the needy help themselves in whatever way they can, even minimally. They do not encourage dependence or paternalism but strive to live up to the working maxim, “helping others to help themselves.”
Dear Friend and Partner in Missions,

Our 2011 Annual Report illustrates the progress we have made in helping the many poor and needy children in our missions. I know this would not be possible without your support and we are blessed to have good friends like you.

Although 2011 was a tough year for fundraising due to the economic downturn, our missionaries persevered. We stayed confident and positive, fully focused on doing as much as we could for as many poor children as possible. This report is a testament of our commitment – and yours – that the welfare of children in need is always foremost.

Thanks to your generous spirit, Salesians have helped give dignity and purpose to thousands of youth who have only known poverty and despair. In over 130 countries around the world where our missionaries serve, they are cared for in a supportive environment, while learning vital skills that give them a sense of self-confidence and independence. Through our global programs that nurture the body, mind and spirit, poor youth have hope for a better future.

Your kindness, love and prayers have helped bring smiles to the faces of children who are so grateful to know that you care about them. I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done, especially during these financially challenging times. Through our continued partnership, we’re hoping to eradicate the terrible grip of poverty which affects so many precious young lives.

Please be assured that Salesian Missions will continue to be trustworthy stewards of your gifts. At the same time, we will continue to keep you and your loved ones in our prayers. Please join us in praying for the protection and well-being of all children, especially those who are living in poverty and despair. Once again, the children, our missionaries, and I thank you for your friendship and the sacrifices you have made to better the lives of others.

To witness firsthand how you are helping to change lives, please visit our Website: www.salesianmissions.org. I’m sure the stories and images you see will make an especially profound impact, knowing that you have helped make all this possible.

May God bless you for caring.

Gratefully yours,

Father Mark Hyde, S.D.B.
the beginning

It was the mid-1850s and times were bad for religion. The radical government in Italy was closing convents and monasteries and showing contempt for religion.

In the midst of this turmoil, a young priest wanted to begin a religious society of Brothers and Priests to help him care for poor youth. He knew that the government would never allow this. So with gospel shrewdness, he made friends with the Minister of Internal Affairs (who had written the anti-religion laws), and learned how he could get around the laws and establish a religious society.

Finally, on December 18, 1859, this young priest named John Bosco and eighteen young men – who were once poor street children he cared for – began a new society. John Bosco called them the “Salesians” after St. Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, whom he had always admired for his kindness and apostolic zeal.

A new era in caring for young people had begun.

the mission today

With Priests, Brothers, and Sisters numbering more than 34,000, the Salesians serve almost three million youth in over 130 countries. The Salesians improve the lives of poor youngsters through the teaching of skilled trades and scientific agriculture. There are 225 Salesian orphanages and shelters, 216 hospitals and clinics, 850 nurseries and 3,408 schools. Of these, 559 are vocational and technical, 91 agricultural, 1,440 high schools, 23 colleges, and 1,295 elementary schools.

In all these various programs, the spirit and the memory of John Bosco live on. The men and women who have followed in his footsteps have dedicated their lives to be friends, counselors, and educators of poor young people.

the mission

John (Don) Bosco was more than a priest from northern Italy. He was a priest who heard a special call to bring all young people to the awareness that God truly loves them. But John Bosco was not a man who was content only with words. By his actions he stood against an anti-religious age and reached out to the orphaned and abandoned children of the streets. He taught them working skills, restored their dignity, and gave them direction towards a positive and moral life.

John Bosco's philosophy was practical: Love what the young love! This sincere identification with the young effected a confidence and trust that would reach thousands of poor children in his lifetime, until his death on January 31, 1888, at age 72. Forty-six years later he was declared a saint. Saint John Bosco's legacy lives on today in a way that even he – a man of great vision – may have never imagined.
2011 PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

In 2011, the Don Bosco Polytechnical Industrial Institute opened in the Dominican Republic. The institute features 24 classrooms, workshops, computer rooms and science laboratories. Students receive eight hours of instruction daily, hands-on training, and the school has been celebrated as a model of educational excellence by local government officials.

2011 PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

In 2011, almost half of the Salesian-run “Little Schools” that were destroyed during the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti reopened. Thanks to the generosity of countless organizations and caring friends like you, the Salesians are planning to rebuild even more schools. The goal is to restore normalcy and provide hope to the many children whose lives were shattered.

2011 PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Without the Salesian Chapel Program, many people in the most remote and rural areas would not have a proper place to worship. With the help of good people in the USA, Salesian missionaries around the world were given the funding to start construction on 40 new chapels in 2011.

trade and agricultural schools

A strikingly distinctive contribution of Salesian Missions is its 559 Trade/Technical schools and 91 Agricultural schools serving youth in developing countries. Through the teaching of job skills and agricultural science, poor youngsters are able to earn a decent living while contributing to the betterment of their own communities.

Trade schools feature regular four-year courses designed to result in qualified workers able to take their place in industry. Some skilled trades commonly taught are tool and die-making, printing, mechanics, electronics, welding, dressmaking, woodworking, computer and office skills.

In rural areas, knowing how to farm can make the difference between eating and going hungry. Since their beginning, the Salesians have made special efforts to help those in rural areas do a better job of feeding themselves and others in their communities. Agricultural schools have become centers for training people in modern farming methods and new marketing techniques.

education

By far the most important contribution that Salesian Missions has made to the youth of the world is in the field of education. In 3,408 schools around the world, the Salesians help over two million young people develop their personalities to the fullest so as to attain intellectual, emotional and spiritual maturity.

No stronger and more effective means of breaking the cycle of poverty and underdevelopment exists than education. For well over a hundred years, the Salesians have experienced how education gives the impoverished a sense of personal dignity and worth through their skilled work and consequent contribution to society.

moral and spiritual development

John Bosco was a zealous priest who believed that the only way to truly battle poverty, illiteracy, and hunger was with reason, religion, and kindness. His educational process was a pathway of prayer, liturgy, sacramental life, and spiritual direction. To this day, this is the foundation on which all our youth programs and school curriculums are built. The result, hopefully, is young people with good morals, a respect for life, and a lasting faith. Also, our Seminaries around the world are shaping young men into future Salesian Fathers and Brothers who will be tomorrow’s leaders of faith and morality. Currently, we are fortunate to have over 3,300 candidates in our Seminaries who have been called by God to serve His church.
In the last 28 years, the Salesian Lay Missioner (SLM) program has sent over 350 lay men and women to work alongside Salesian missionaries in over 20 different countries, such as: Bolivia, China, Ethiopia, India, Myanmar, Rwanda, and Sudan. It is a unique opportunity to give one’s talents, skills, and time in the hopes of giving new hope to some of the poorest children on earth. But as it is with all Salesian works, the ingredient most essential to having success is a caring and loving presence.

The Salesians extend their work to the ill and disabled through 216 clinics and hospitals located mostly in rural areas. These facilities offer children and families a source for emergency medical care, routine check-ups and medications.

The Salesians also manage counseling, treatment and community outreach programs relating to HIV/AIDS, hygiene, mental illness and even Hansen’s disease (leprosy) which is still present in South America, Asia, India and Africa.

One of the ever-growing activities of Salesian Missions is emergency relief. Time and again, the Salesians have become involved in emergency efforts wherever there are victims of natural disasters, tragic circumstances or civil strife. Some of the current activity includes relieving famine in Africa, assisting flood victims in India, offering refugee assistance in Europe, and feeding undernourished children in the Philippines and in the slums of Haiti.

In 2011, the SLM program doubled its commitment and presence at the Salesian site in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The “Don Bosco Vocational Training Center for Girls” provides employment skills and general education to young Cambodian women so that they may be self-sufficient and good citizens. Also in 2011 the SLM program deepened its partnership with the Salesian Home Missions Program.

In 2011, a free medical bus service was launched in Sierra Leone. It was developed by Salesian missionaries and volunteers who were determined to stop the inhumane treatment suffered by vulnerable street children. Now, the bus travels throughout the neighborhoods giving these forgotten children much needed medical care and counseling.

In 2011, the Salesian community assisted famine victims in East Africa. More than 150,000 victims were provided with food and necessary medicine at five refugee camps throughout the region. Several wells were also constructed to give thousands of children and their families access to clean water.
family assistance and development of women

Guidance, counseling, and assistance for troubled families are important features of the Salesian social outreach programs. This activity is centered in 850 nurseries and in the many Salesian parishes and youth clubs. A stable and happy family life is the foundation for a healthy society. That is why it is one of the main concerns of the Salesians.

Half of the Salesian Family is composed of dedicated women, the Salesian Sisters, who give their lives for the education and advancement of women. In a variety of programs from elementary schools through college, the Salesian Sisters provide excellent educational opportunities for girls and women. The outstanding quality of their training enables their alumnas to qualify for jobs on every level of production and management. In addition, the Salesian Sisters are active in many social programs directly geared to working women, their issues and their advancement.

children of the streets

One of the phenomena of modern times is the great increase of children living on the streets in the cities of underdeveloped countries around the world. The Salesians have addressed this problem by providing youth shelters and homes, which offer food, clothing, counseling and educational opportunities. Efforts are also made to reunite these children with their families if possible.

The Salesians are also active in communities with educational seminars and child-advocacy programs that promote and protect the well-being and the rights of these vulnerable boys and girls.

youth clubs

Youth clubs are a very important sector of Salesian service to the young. Generally, they function side by side with Salesian schools and serve all the youngsters of an area, whether or not they attend the schools.

Their objective is to keep the young occupied in constructive activities during their leisure time and, through organized projects suited to age, to contribute to their growth and maturity. Several of the youth clubs have small medical clinics and, where needed, a lunch program to prevent children from malnutrition.

2011 PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

In eastern India, Salesians provide young women with a formal education, an opportunity most have never had. They not only attended the school, but with financial assistance offered by the Salesian community in 2011, many were able to set up their own small businesses. These women are now more independent and contributing members of society.

In 2011, the Salesian Social Reception Center opened in Comayagüela, Honduras. Over 400 youngsters participate in computer workshops and athletic events. Under the guidance of caring volunteers, the children develop academic and social skills. Salesians empower these children by instilling moral values needed to make responsible decisions in life.

In 2011, the Gatenga Youth Center in Rwanda helped street children who are now being cared for in a safe and caring environment. These youngsters now have an opportunity to participate in recreational and educational activities. They are able to make new friends through interaction with other children and learn valuable job skills that will lead to a more promising future.
These individuals also serve on the Board of Trustees. They do not receive any salary or pay.

PRIVATE SUPPORT

The generous offerings of individual Americans account for most of the aid dispensed by Salesian Missions. They are received primarily through direct mail solicitations.

Schools, community groups - both secular and religious - foundations, private agencies and companies which offer matching funds account for the remaining portion of private funding.

SUPPORT FROM HOST COUNTRIES

In line with the Salesian policy of not creating a passive dependence on outside help, Salesian Missions has fostered an attitude of “helping people help themselves.” Salesian Missions seeks and obtains local funds, as well as assistance for its social programs from individuals, businesses and governments of host countries. These funds are not reflected in the distribution chart above.

BILATERAL, INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Salesian Missions expresses its gratitude to the following agencies for partnering with us in our vital life-saving and life-changing mission around the globe: Cross International, Feed My Starving Children, Mission Relief Services, Order of Malta, USAID Excess Property Program, World Vision, Kids in Distressed Situations, Stop Hunger Now, and others.

Salesian Missions has also received assistance from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Centers for Disease Control, KOCH and several other U.S. Foundations. Matching contributions have also been received from the Belgian Government through COMIDE (now called Via Don Bosco), a Salesian European NGO.
Making a World of Difference

Your love is being put into action around the world by more than 34,000 Priests, Brothers and Sisters known as Salesians. Salesian Missions touched the lives of over three million poor young people in 2011 through the orphanages, shelters, hospitals, clinics, nurseries and schools it operates in more than 130 countries.

Your Gifts at Work in over 130 Countries

AFRICA
Angola
Benin
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Canary Islands
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo (Brazzaville)
Congo (Democratic Republic)
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabon
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea Conakry
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
South Sudan
Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

MIDDLE EAST
Azerbaijan
Iran
Israel
Kuwait
Lebanon
Syria
Turkey
Yemen

ASIA
Bangladesh
Cambodia
China
People's Republic
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Japan
Korea
Macao
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Taiwan
Thailand
Vietnam

AFRICA
Angola
Benin
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Canary Islands
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo (Brazzaville)
Congo (Democratic Republic)
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabon
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea Conakry
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
South Sudan
Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

MIDDLE EAST
Azerbaijan
Iran
Israel
Kuwait
Lebanon
Syria
Turkey
Yemen

ASIA
Bangladesh
Cambodia
China
People's Republic
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Japan
Korea
Macao
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Taiwan
Thailand
Vietnam

NORTH AMERICA
Canada
United States
Mexico

CENTRAL AMERICA
Costa Rica
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Nicaragua
Panama

SOUTH AMERICA
Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Paraguay
Peru
Uruguay
Venezuela

CARIBBEAN
Cuba
Curacao
Dominican Republic
Haiti
Puerto Rico

EUROPE
Albania
Andorra
Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
England
France
Georgia
Germany
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Lithuania
Madeira
Malta
Montenegro
Netherlands
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Scotland
Serbia
Sicily
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Ukraine
Vatican

OCEANIA
Australia
East Timor
Fiji
Guam
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Solomon Islands

Salesian Missions Accountability and Good Stewardship Responsibility Pledge
Salesian Missions is committed to the highest standards of good stewardship and accountability. Salesian Missions is separately incorporated according to the not-for-profit laws of New York State with its own active Board of Trustees. An independent public accounting firm, reviewed by the Board of Trustees, conducts an annual audit of Salesian Missions’ finances. We are strongly committed to assuring our donors that their donations are used wisely where the need is greatest. Funds are maintained in separate accounts and not commingled with those of any other Salesian entity. Salesian Missions is a founding member of the National Catholic Development Conference, whose members must adhere to strict codes of ethics. Salesian Missions complies with all applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding discrimination.