

Winter/Spring 2015

SALESIAN®

*Hope for the
Children of India
- See page 10*



Escaping Poverty Through Tea . . . 4

The Salesian

Clean Water Initiative 8

Notes From the Field:

A personal account by Salesian

Lay Missioner, Matt Pirrall 10

Salesians in the U.S. and Canada –

Holy Cross Parish,

Champaign, Illinois 15

Salesian Snapshots 20

The Salesians in Bethlehem . . 25

**Want to know who we are,
where we began,
and who inspires our work?**

Visit us at our website:

www.salesianmissions.org

We'll send you to over 130 countries where the Salesians are working for the young, the poor and the abandoned.

You will discover the many ways the Salesians offer a path for partnership.

Hope to see you soon!

Leave a Legacy of Love and Hope...



And Help Make the World a Better Place.

One person, like you, can make a significant difference. Your decision to remember Salesian Missions in your Will can bring positive change to the future of thousands of needy children struggling each day just to survive.

Our programs around the world are saving these precious lives... and helping to make the world a better place.

By including Salesian Missions in your planned giving, your heart and soul are forever part of these good works.

So consider leaving a legacy of love and hope that will live on in generations to come.

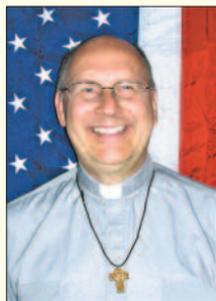
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Letter from the Editor

Dear Friend and Partner in Mission!

Every January 31st, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. John “Don” Bosco, our founder.

As you know, his life-long devotion to poor and needy children has inspired thousands of missionaries to follow in his footsteps, and numerous caring friends like you to support our work. Thanks to you, we are making a profound impact in more than 130 countries worldwide.

It gives me great satisfaction to share the success stories made possible by your kindness and generosity.

In this issue of Salesian Magazine, you’ll learn how the Bosco Tea Project is enabling impoverished families to lead self-sufficient lives by cultivating their own land. You’ll see a list of recent accomplishments resulting from the Salesian Clean Water Initiative – evidence of how something so simple can make such a big difference. You’ll read how we’re rescuing child slaves from the brickfields of Bangalore, providing emergency food and water to drought-ravaged Guatemala, and saving thousands of children a day in our nearly 100 Salesian Medical Clinics.

The spirit of St. John Bosco is behind everything we do. He provides us with the strength to endure challenges and crisis that are seemingly impossible. And he offers us the faith and hope that everyday miracles are possible. The evidence of his inspiration is featured on the pages that follow.

In particular, I think you’ll enjoy the tribute to St. John Bosco found on pages 28-29. It comes from the second graders at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick, Maryland. They honor their class saint for helping poor and needy children.

In similar fashion, I extend my sincerest gratitude to you – for making our work possible and for perpetuating the vision of Don Bosco.

God Bless,

Fr. Mark Hyde, S.D.B

P.S. Throughout this issue of Salesian Magazine, you’ll discover a number of ways you can continue to demonstrate your love, compassion and kindness for the world’s neediest children and families. Whether it’s clean water, a chapel in your honor, a gift that will be multiplied 14 times, or a charitable gift annuity that can provide you with guaranteed income for life, your outstanding generosity will make a huge difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thanks so much for caring.

Escaping Poverty Through Tea



In India, tea – its production, cultivation, marketing and sale – has evolved into one of the country's largest industries and has also grown to become a global empire. Yet, the very people who help make this industry successful – the laborers who toil long hours in the fields – are consistently exploited by plantation owners in favor of high profit margins at any cost.

Many of these workers do own small plots of land, but demanding and exhausting work outside the home leaves little time to cultivate it for their own benefit. Further, most tea laborers earn less than \$1 per day– leaving them unable to cover basic expenses, let alone get



ahead. Forced to leverage their land for the cash loans they need to survive, they become permanently trapped in the cycle of poverty.

In 2008, Salesian missionaries serving in the Indian province of Assam recognized this injustice and resolved to do something about it. From there, the “Bosco Tea Project” was born. With funding from AIDA – the development arm of the Dimapur Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco – the proj-

ect today assists more than 700 families seeking to establish self-sufficiency and an independent livelihood.

Project participants receive start-up support to begin cultivating their own land – either through financial contributions, the donation of tea saplings, or both. They also attend classes and workshops to learn the business and technical skills required to succeed in the tea industry. Coupled with their established



Men pack tea leaves for transport. The leaves are sold by weight so speed and efficiency are imperative to make a profit.



The workday is long and exhausting, but the families are content to finally earn enough money to support themselves.

expertise in working the land, participants are therefore well-equipped to develop a sustainable income and envision a brighter future.

“This project has been a miracle,” says Lawrence Kerketta, one of the project’s recipients in Golaghat, Assam. “I could not have afforded the initial investment, but Don Bosco motivated me to establish my own tea garden instead of only working in someone else’s.” Last year, Mr. Kerketta harvested close to 1,000 kilograms of tea leaves worth 18,000 rupees – enough money to cover his

family’s living expenses and pay for his son’s studies.

Thanks to the vision and dedication of our missionaries – and the many friends like you who make our work possible – many former plantation workers have discovered a renewed sense of self-worth and dignity. They are now able to break the chains of poverty, one tea sapling at a time. ♥

Learn more about this work! Visit www.salesianmissions.org/tea

What was once sticks and straw...

Millions of people throughout Africa, Central and South America, India and Asia are celebrating Mass and worshipping God in the most primitive conditions. Salesian missionaries are in desperate need of funds to build simple and decent houses of worship.

You can have a Memorial Chapel built in honor of your favorite saint and dedicate it to anyone you wish – living or deceased. What a wonderful way to remember a loved one – and help the Lord's most impoverished followers.

EACH CHAPEL IS A UNIQUE DESIGN THAT REFLECTS THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IT SERVES.

You can make an individual gift to build a Memorial Chapel, or groups or organizations can pool their donations. If you wish, you can also specify in your will that a chapel be erected in your honor or for anyone you choose.

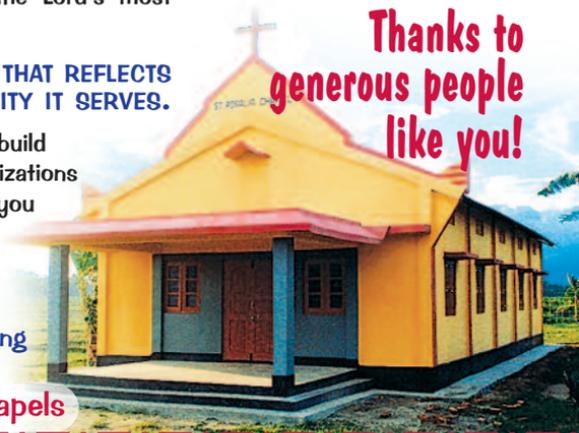
Read more about our Chapel Building Program by visiting us online at:

www.salesianmissions.org/chapels



Is now this!

Thanks to
generous people
like you!



Enclosed is my gift of \$16,000.00 to build a Village Memorial Chapel.

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Enclosed is my gift of \$21,000.00 to build a Memorial Chapel in a remote and difficult area.

Enclosed is my gift of \$26,000.00 to build a Memorial Chapel in the most far removed and neglected area.

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NAME: _____

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The Salesian Clean Water Initiative is saving lives.

We need you to do even more ...



Above: A well being drilled and a new water treatment facility supported by the Salesians and you!

Thank you! Your support of our clean water program is saving many lives, especially those of precious children. Throughout the globe, waterborne illnesses are the second leading cause of death for children under five.

Together, we are providing children and families access to clean water and sanitation facilities while promoting safe hygiene practices. You have helped our Salesians fund various water projects throughout the world which are either completed or currently under construction.

You have helped make this happen...

- **Tumba Sector, Huye District, Rwanda, Africa:** A modern plumbing system and new bathrooms are under construction at the Salesian Youth Center. The youngsters will be able to use a clean, sanitary facility which will help reduce the risk of illness.



- **Port-Au-Prince, Haiti:** A water purification system is being built to combat disease and promote the health of children and their families in the slums of Port-Au-Prince.
- **Punganur, India:** A water treatment and mineral water plant has been built to provide clean, healthy water to poor villagers.
- **Moshi, Tanzania:** A deep bore well was reconstructed to once again supply clean water to this impoverished area.
- **Goalpara District of Assam, India:** A Salesian school educating 1,000 children now has a new bore well to supply precious water. Previously, drinking water had to be brought into the school from distant sources.
- **Karen, Nairobi, Africa:** A deep bore well at Bosco Boys Town now brings life-saving water to students who come from a very poor and desperate segment of Kenyan society.

*You can help us do even more by joining the **Salesian Clean Water Initiative**.*

Help bring clean water to those who need it most!

For as little as \$10 a month you can participate in the Salesian Clean Water Initiative to help build wells and supply other sources of fresh water to those who so desperately need it.

WIN/SPR 2015

Return this coupon today to join the Salesian Clean Water Initiative!

YES, Fr. Mark, I want help bring life-saving water to the poor. I enclose my first monthly gift of:

\$20 \$15 \$10 \$_____ a month.

I understand I'm not obligated to continue, but will try to help on a regular basis.

Charge my credit card number:

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To make a secure, immediate donation on-line, go to: www.salesianmissions.org/cleanwater

Notes From the Field:

**A personal account
by Salesian Lay Missioner, (SLM)
MATT PIRRALL**

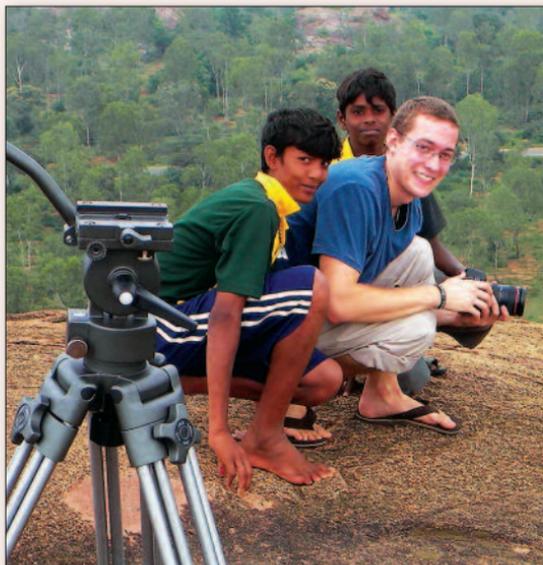
The Light of Truth



Sunrise. I'm awake, prepping my equipment and loading it into the jeep before heading to the brickfields of Bangalore. The Salesian priest accompanying me says we need to get an early start, because this is when the children are working – before the heat of the Indian sun becomes too intense.



Slavery isn't something we often think about in a modern context. But here, in 2014 – bouncing along the cracked pavement toward monstrous brown kilns looming in the distance – I was heading to witness that very thing. Here children are forced into hard labor with little or no pay, without education and with little hope for a better future. And, as a volunteer photographer and videographer, I would bear that witness to the greater world – capturing and doc-



Matt, an accomplished photographer, with a couple of local friends.

umenting this modern social injustice for others. *Children in slavery.*

Six months previously, the Catholic Volunteer Network had led me to the Salesian Lay Missioner (SLM) program, which works closely with children in impoverished regions around the globe. My desire to serve was strong, though I didn't expect to discover my own mission behind the lens of a camera. However, Adam Rudin, my SLM program director, was enthusiastic about finding me a placement where

I could apply my filmmaking and photography skills to advance the Salesians' work.

That placement was BREADS Bangalore (a Salesian project) which runs rescue and rehabilitation centers for child laborers and street kids throughout South India. Unlike typical volunteers, who serve in specific centers as caretakers and teachers, I was instead assigned to visit each one. I would learn the children's stories, give them a voice, and provide BREADS the means to visually repre-

sent and share these stories with the world.

These stories were at once harrowing and heartbreaking: children – abandoned or sometimes even sold by their families – forced into dangerous jobs or out onto the streets. But, with the help of the Salesians through BREADS, and the power of education, they were now happy, healthy and eager to learn. It was incredible to see the transformation that had occurred in their lives.



The Salesians provide schooling to the children of the brickfields and work to educate parents about exploitation and options for a brighter future.

Still, there is another kind of story I need to share – the story of those children not yet rescued.

Lisa Kristine, an acclaimed humanitarian and photographer, recently observed that “people fall into slavery, not because they’re willing, and not because they’re stupid. It’s because they’ve been lied to.” This resonated with me, because it reflects exactly what I saw that day in the brickfields. When parents aren’t always paid more for their children’s efforts, even though their children’s faster, smaller hands make twice as many bricks – they are being lied to. When parents are told their chil-

dren cannot attend school, and that instead the whole family must travel from brickfield to brickfield “because they are migrants” – they are being lied to. And, when parents who are brick workers are told their children must always and forever be brick workers themselves – they are being lied to. Families and children are fed lie after lie by dangerous and exploitive people who risk losing significant money should the truth be known.

As we entered the brickfields, these people were who we faced. We feared we would be confronted and chased away with no stories to share. In fact, the opposite was true. As we moved among the seemingly endless piles of mud and rows of bricks, the children and families working there welcomed us.

I met a boy who makes 800 to 1,000 bricks for his family, every day, for less than \$5 US. I filmed a



video of a 6-year-old girl wearing a yellow dress, expertly turning rows of drying bricks in the hot sun all day. I met their families – deliberately kept unaware of other options for their children – and recognized their naiveté in the face of the lies they’d been told. I hope the stories I documented will lead to greater awareness of their plight – and that one day, they will receive the justice they deserve.

I have learned that education is the single most important tool in fighting the conditions that lead to modern-day slavery. When chil-

dren and parents learn there is another way, when people around the world see the horrors that exist, and when individuals are motivated to take a stand – only then can Salesian programs like BREADS, and others in the Catholic Volunteer Network, effectively counter lies with the truth. To the children and families I met that day in the brickfields, I wish to share the message of John (8:32): “*The truth will set you free.*” ♥

God bless!
Matt

**Watch an emotional video of Salesian work in the brickfields of India.
Visit: www.salesianmissions.org/brickfields**

The *Salesian Lay Missioners* is a faith-based volunteer program that offers a unique opportunity to serve the poor children of the world. We sponsor domestic and international placements and require a 1 or 2 year commitment.

If you would like more information about this life-changing program, please write to:

Salesian Lay Missioners
Attn: Adam Rudin
2 Lefevre Lane
New Rochelle NY 10801-5710

Or visit our website at:
www.SalesianLayMissioners.org
or email us at: slm@salesianmissions.org



You can be part of a modern-day Loaves and Fishes miracle!

Every \$1 = \$14



Several organizations have partnered with Salesian Missions because they have tons (*literally!*) of essential items that they want to donate free of charge... but they need our help to get them in the hands of poor children and families who need them the most.

That's where you come in!

We can pack a large container – about the size of a tractor-trailer truck – with \$70,000 worth of donated food, medicine, clothing or school supplies. But we need your help to pay the \$5,000 overseas shipping cost.

Simply put, every \$1 you give enables us to ship \$14 worth of life-changing – and life-saving – supplies!

What's more, your generosity will be a testament to the Loaves and Fishes miracle when Jesus multiplied seven loaves of bread and a few small fish into enough food to feed four thousand people!

So much is at stake. Thank you for whatever you can give today!

YES! I want to be part of this modern-day Loaves & Fishes miracle!

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Enclosed is my gift that will multiply 14X! \$10 \$15 \$25 \$_____

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Salesians In the U.S. And Canada

In 1897, the first Salesian missionaries set foot in California. The going was tough and slow – but the spirit of Don Bosco was with them and work progressed. Today over 335 Salesians are present and working with the young throughout the United States and Canada.

2009 saw the merging of the Salesian Eastern U.S. and Canadian Provinces. The hope of the Salesians in both countries is that this union, based in New Rochelle, New York will provide a more effective means of expanding Salesian works for the young and needy in North America.

Holy Cross Parish, Champaign, Illinois

Salesian Operated. Youth Focused. Family Centered.

Such has been the motto of Holy Cross Parish in Champaign, Illinois, ever since Bishop Daniel Jenky of the Diocese of Peoria entrusted it to the Salesians in 2013. Having been on the lookout for a permanent place in the community for quite some time, four Salesian priests and four Salesian sisters are now happily settled in their new parish – and have assumed instrumental roles in a variety of programs both within the parish, and on the University of Illinois campus.

In all of their works, they remain focused on improving the lives of young adults and families through education and practical spirituality.



Father Dave Sajdak, SDB and the Salesians of Holy Cross Parish.

Salesian Sisters are enthusiastic supporters of the University of Illinois sports teams!

Parish Activities at the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Father Dave Sajdak, SDB, is pastor of Holy Cross. First established in 1912, more than 1,000 families – many of whose ancestors were founding members of the parish – participate in a full complement of religious and community programs throughout the year.

From weekly to daily Mass, adult and children's choir and other religious education classes, to Bible study, family formation programs and more, parishioners enjoy a welcoming environment where they can explore and deepen their faith, and learn to "Live Jesus."

Holy Cross School

For 101 years, Holy Cross School has educated pre-K through 8th-grade children in the Champaign-Urbana area. Its mission focuses on being a faith-centered community fostering lives of service, integrity, and life-long learning for girls and boys.



Salesian and lay teachers work to ensure that each child is prepared – both spiritually and intellectually – to succeed in high school, as well as to be responsible adults throughout their lives.

St. John's Catholic Newman Center

The St. John's Catholic Newman Center has enjoyed a long and positive relationship both with the City of Champaign, and with the students, faculty and staff of the University of Illinois – on whose campus the Center is located.

At the same time Bishop Jenky invited the Salesians to Holy Cross Parish, he also welcomed them to join the staff at the Newman Center, where they form an integral part of its administration and ministry.



All of the Center's activities are organized around the tenet of **"LIVE, SERVE, LEARN."**

Students who **LIVE** at Newman Hall discover a new understanding and appreciation of their faith through volunteerism, social events, and spiritual growth opportunities supported by a communal living environment.

Congregants of St. John's Catholic Chapel advance their faith through **SERVICE** of God and humankind. The Chapel promotes ministries and programs that enable participants to explore their spiritual paths through prayer, fellowship and social justice. In addition to liturgical services, the Chapel offers retreats, Bible study, adult religious education, rosary groups and other opportunities for connection.

And, students of the Institute of Catholic Thought **LEARN** – by engaging in teaching, research and intellectual exchange. The ICT



Fr. Dave is proud of the children's accomplishments at Holy Cross Elementary School.

engages in scholarly research and publishing centered around Catholic theology and encourages academic dialogue within the public university environment.

Both at the Newman Center, and in Holy Cross Parish, the Salesians have been graciously and enthusiastically welcomed. During the years to come, they look forward to remaining a pillar of faith, compassion and enlightenment to this community, especially to its young people. ♥

The Cost of Restricted Donations



At times, some of our friends decide to give a **restricted donation:** *a donation that the donor wants sent only to a specific Mission work or Missionary.* This donation must be applied as requested by the donor and cannot be used for any other purpose, even if there is an emergency somewhere in our Missions.

A restricted donation must be kept separate and given special attention. It requires a dedicated staff member, additional handling and specific processing which result in bank fees and service charges.

Over the past several years there has been a significant increase of restricted gifts. As more and more people request that their donation be restricted, our costs increase and less dollars reach the poor youth we serve.

The Mission Office has always absorbed these costs which, over time, has created a hardship for us.

Beginning January 2015 we need to ask anyone wanting to make a restricted gift to add a service fee to cover the applicable processing and bank costs.

This was a very difficult decision for us to make and we are sorry if it upsets anyone or causes any inconvenience. We pray for your understanding.

***We don't want to discourage restricted gifts
but we just cannot afford to take money away from
our Mission work to cover related costs.***

I am informing you of this new policy in keeping with our promise to always be open, honest and transparent with our supporters.

Thank you for understanding... and thank you for all you do for the poor in our missions.

God bless you,

GIVE and RECEIVE!

A **SALESIAN MISSIONS CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY** not only helps poor children all over the world, but it can provide the donor/annuitant with a very attractive stream of income for life. For example, with a gift of \$10,000, an individual, age 75 will receive a rate of 5.8%; at age 80, the rate is 6.8%, and at age 90, the rate is 9.0%.

In addition to a **guaranteed annual income**, other benefits include:

- A current income tax deduction
- Tax free income on a portion of the income received
- Reduced capital gain tax (on gifts made with appreciated securities)
- Possible reduction of estate tax
- The opportunity to make a significant gift to Salesian Missions and make a real difference in the lives of poor children by doing God's work

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PLANNED GIVING:

- Visit our website at: www.salesianmissions.org/giving
- Call or Email our Annuity Officer, Anna Maria Lang:
Tel: 914-633-8344 Ext. 206 or Email: amlang@salesianmissions.org
- Fill-in and return the form below.



YES! SHOW ME HOW I CAN HELP THE CHILDREN AND MYSELF!

WIN/SPR
2015

Send me more information about the returns and tax deductions I would receive under the Salesian Missions Annuity Plan. I understand that all personal information you receive about me will be kept absolutely confidential. (Minimum amount for a gift annuity is \$5,000 and the minimum age requirement is 55 deferred to age 60, or age 60 for immediate annuity)

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NAME OF OTHER PARTICIPANT: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH _____ DAY _____ YEAR _____



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Salesian Snapshots

... a scrapbook of stories
from around the Salesian world

GUATEMALA: A Devastating Drought

The Guatemalan government has declared a state of emergency after a devastating drought this past fall ravaged the crops – and livelihoods – of more than 256,000 families. In a country already battling one of the world's highest rates of chronic malnutrition in children under the age of five, the situation is desperate. Salesian missionaries have rushed in to help.

Up to 80 percent of corn and beans – staples of the Guatemalan diet – have withered on the stalk this past season. Sadly, as a result, an estimated 500,000 children



Children are most affected by the food shortage in Guatemala. The Salesians are there to help.

under the age of five are at imminent risk of starvation, and people all around the country face a critical loss of food security.

In response to the crisis, Salesian missionaries on the ground in the municipalities of Alta Verapaz, Peten and Quetzaltenango have mobilized to assist more than 130,000 people in desperate need of basic assistance. Their



immediate concern is to provide rice, beans, clean water and medicines to address malnutrition. These missionaries also hope to expand relief efforts so they can help more people and provide additional services to those in need.



SAMOA: **Channeling the** **Spirit of Don Bosco**

Inspired by St. John Bosco's tenet of "practicing what's been taught," students at the Don Bosco Technical School in Samoa have helped furnish the libraries of 117 primary schools. This project, in collaboration with several Rotary Clubs throughout the islands, helped achieve the goals of a nationwide literacy program – while providing hands-on experience for fourth-year carpentry students.

During an intensive four-day project, students constructed more

Samoa carpentry students are rightfully proud after building bookshelves for 117 grammar school libraries!

than 350 bookshelves using new tools and technology. "This has been an opportunity for students to improve their skill sets and resumes, which in turn will better their chances of finding work when they graduate," said Father Chris Ford, principal of the school.

Just as important, the students' craftsmanship supports the Samoan community at large. The new bookshelves will soon house more than 1,000 books – which will foster literacy development in the earliest stages of childhood. For poor and vulnerable children, a

solid foundation in reading and writing can be the first step in breaking the cycle of poverty.

INDIA: Former Dropouts Turned Cultural Ambassadors

Former students from the Mising tribe are taking center stage to promote youth leadership in northern India. A Mising youth group was asked to participate in the prestigious Northeast Music festival, held at Shillong, on September 23, 2014.

At the same time, they were completing the first phase of an extensive vocational educational program run by the local Salesians. The program was designed to promote youth leadership and social entrepreneurship in their remote villages. The Salesian program serves as a training opportunity for school



Former students and members of the Mising tribe participate in a Salesian cultural training program.

dropouts between the ages of 16 and 25.

“Marginalized youth can be transformed into leaders, who in turn, transform their own communities. Through this program, students are steeped in and rooted in their own culture, turn into ambassadors and promoters, are proud of their identity, and lead their villages to economic prosperity,” says Father Thomas Kalapurackal, SDB, founder of the program.

Fr. Thomas has been honored internationally for his work with the Mising people.



SALESIANS: Serving the Whole Person

Every three seconds, a child dies from a preventable disease – simply because of a lack of access to basic medical care. In nearly 100 medical clinics and hospitals operated by Salesian missionaries around the globe, we are taking small steps to change this heart-breaking reality.

Such “diseases of poverty” – malaria, tuberculosis, dysentery and more – flourish in developing nations where unsafe drinking water, malnourishment and poor hygiene encourage their spread.

For example, in East Timor (*a country that suffers the second-highest rates of tuberculosis in the Asia and Pacific regions*) the Salesians operate the Maria Auxiliadora Medical Clinic. Here, they provide preventive care and



Salesian Medical Clinics serve thousands of children throughout the world every day.

dispense medicine for children and their families.

According to the most recently available statistics, in 2012 alone, more than 8,000 people – half of the area’s population – attended the clinic. For just one dollar, patients receive a check-up and any medicine and treatment they may need. Recently, clinic staff identified and successfully treated 24 cases of tuberculosis. As challenging health issues continue to face the people of East Timor, this service will remain a crucial part of the clinic’s work. ❤️

The Salesians in Bethlehem



In 1863, two years after Salesian missionaries first arrived in Bethlehem, Father Antonio Belloni established the Salesian Orphanage – where young, impoverished or abandoned youngsters from all over the Middle East found a safe, welcoming home and discovered new hope for the future through learning a trade.

In the century and a half since, the mission (*now known as the Salesian Institute*) has broadened to include a full complement of integrated programs and activities designed to improve social conditions and economic prospects in and around Bethlehem. From training artists and craftspeople for in-demand careers, to guiding at-risk youth through the many challenges of becoming good, honest citizens, these programs and activities are available to all, regardless of race, gender, religion or background.



Children learn tolerance, acceptance and caring at the Salesian Institute.

The Salesian Oven and Bakery

One of the first trades available for study at the Orphanage was bread-making – a craft that has remained significant to this day and, in certain years, has played a pivotal role in the health and stability of the community at large.

Since the bakery first opened in 1863, students have trained around the Salesian Oven – practicing what they've been taught in the classroom, and perfecting their craft and skills for stable employment. Bread and pastries baked by students are available for sale to the general public. The proceeds provide an important source of income to support the Institute's vocational training programs and other activities. When not in use by students, the oven



The Salesian Oven has been feeding needy families in Bethlehem since 1863.

is available to area charitable organizations as well.

In the early 2000s, during an extended siege of the city, the Salesian Oven was one of the few – if only – fully operating ovens in Bethlehem, and provided critical sustenance for area families with little to eat. This response set a precedent of charitable food distribution that endures to this day. Each year, the Salesians distribute free bread, underwritten by generous benefactors, to as many as 200 poor, hungry families.

Don Bosco Youth Center (DBYC)

One of the oldest, most established centers for youth in Bethlehem, the DBYC enjoys a positive reputation within the community as a place where children, teens and young adults can gather to learn. Through organized sports, cultural and artistic pursuits, summer day camps, scouting groups

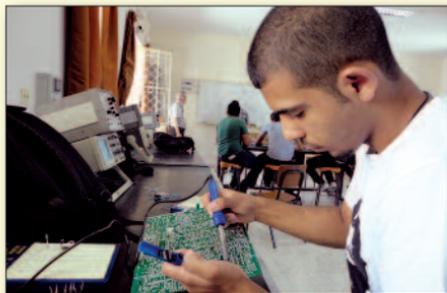
and other activities, they learn values of teamwork, cooperation and peaceful co-existence.

Approximately 235 boys and girls, ages eight and above frequent the center on a weekly basis.

During the summer, the number of participants increases as does the variety of activities offered – all of which focus on fostering youth to become good, honest citizens.

The Salesian Technical School (STS)

This secondary day school for impoverished and at-risk boys trains students for in-demand vocations, as well as for professions with significant labor shortages. The six-year curriculum comprises coursework in mechanics, electricity and electronics, with new subjects added according to demand. In order to ensure the highest



quality of education, the school also prioritizes efforts to upgrade the skills and knowledge of its teachers. It emphasizes modern instructional and communication techniques. Currently, 138 students are enrolled in STS; 50 graduate each year, ready to secure long-term employment and stable futures.

Vocational Training Center (VTC)

Since at least the 13th century, arts and crafts have been central to Bethlehem's cultural heritage – which, in turn, has influenced the artistic traditions of the Middle East as a whole. It is for this reason that the Vocational Training Center exists. The Center prepares disadvantaged youth for careers that will not only provide a stable source of income, but will also contribute to the preservation and promotion of the region's craftsmanship.

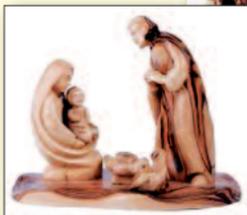
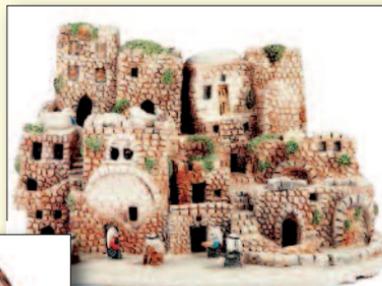
Upon graduation, students earn a certificate accredited by the Ministry of Labor – which competitively positions them for employment. More than 95% of enrolled students graduate each year.

International Nativity Museum and Salesian Artistic Center

Housed in the basement of the Salesian Institute, this museum exhibits close to 200 Nativity scenes from 60 countries around the world.

Adjacent to the museum is the Artistic Center – which offers both professional-level and summer courses in the areas of olive wood carving, ceramics painting, and Mother-of-Pearl crafting. While hobbyists are encouraged to attend, the Center places specific emphasis on graduating certified artisans capable of generating income in their selected field.

In addition to the activities of the Institute, the Salesians in Bethlehem run Sacred Heart Parish – where they support the greater community through a variety of pastoral works. In all that they do, the Salesian community endeavors to convey, and foster, a universal message of peace and coexistence. ♥



The beautiful art created at the Artistic Center is a source of income for many talented young men and women.



Throughout 2015,
Masses will be
offered for our
benefactors at the
Basilica of Jesus
the Adolescent
in Bethlehem
and here at our
Salesian Chapel.

Please send us your prayer requests:

Please fill in below and return to:



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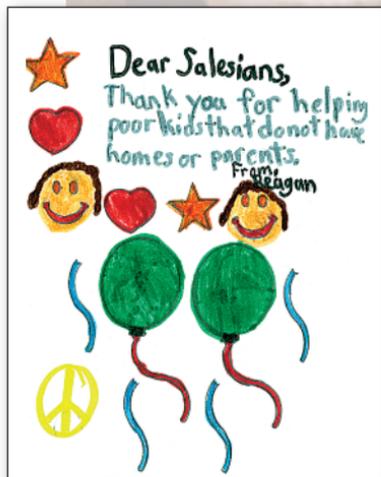
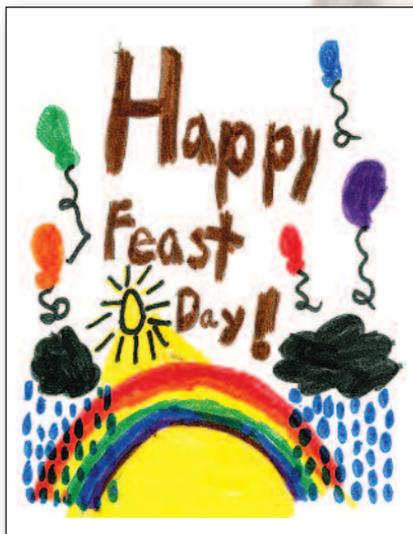
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Young Hearts for Don Bosco



Second-graders were taught about our founder and created colorful cards to celebrate his feast day this year on January 31st!

Dear Father Mark,

The enclosed cards were made by second graders at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick, Maryland.

St. John Bosco, your founder, is our class saint. We celebrate his feast day every year.

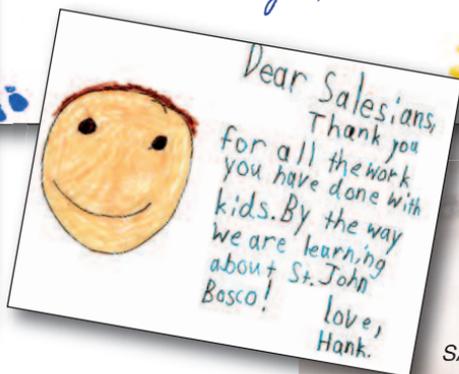
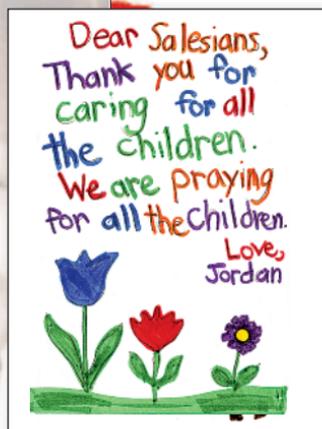
This year we explored your website to see some of the places where you continue his important work.

We thought you would like to know that we are thinking about you and praying for you. Our cards say this for us.

God bless you in this work!

Your friends in Christ,
Students at SJRCS

Mrs. Kyle, teacher



CURRENT SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
OCTOBER 31, 2014
MRS. ANN CROWN, MILFORD NJ

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2014
JANICE PINKERTON, SUNNYVALE CA

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
AUGUST 31, 2014
JOSEPH N. JACQUES, JAY ME

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
JULY 31, 2014
ROBERT MARTIN, CLYDE OH

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
JUNE 30, 2014
ELAINE C. SOPKO, TAMIMENT PA

WE RESPECT YOUR PRIVACY...

In our efforts to raise additional funds to support our worldwide work for the poor and needy, we periodically make your name and address available to other mailers. These include similar charitable and humanitarian organizations and also companies which offer services and products that we think you may be interested in. We are extremely selective in choosing the organizations and companies we associate with in this way.

If you prefer not to have your name and address made available for this purpose and/or you want to modify any mailing preferences, please call, write or email your request to:

Attn: Donor Relations
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2 LEFEVRE LANE, PO BOX 728
NEW ROCHELLE NY 10802-0728
TEL: 914-633-8344
Email: info@salesianmissions.org

A Loving Memorial...



December 12, 2014 marked the one year anniversary of the passing of Fr. Edward Cappelletti.

As some of you know, Fr. Edward was a unique and visionary Salesian Priest. He devoted his life to establishing this mission office and his good work over the years has benefitted the lives of millions of poor children.

With the approval of the New Rochelle City Council, we have been able to place an honorary street sign in his memory. The street leading into our mission office now reads *“Fr. Cappelletti Way.”*

Order on-line at www.salesianmissions.org/throws



Heavy Cable Knit SALESIAN THROW

Designed especially for Salesian Missions, it prominently features our new Mission logo.

Our throw is knitted of soft, warm and comfortable machine washable cotton and measures a generous 48" x 63." Natural color.

*Suggested offering
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